

Yeshiva crazies try to spark new religious war

by Joseph Brewda

The ongoing illegal occupation and desecration of a Greek Orthodox Church property in the Christian quarter of Jerusalem by a terrorist cult passing itself off as a Jewish religious school, or yeshiva, has dramatically heightened the danger of religious warfare in the Middle East. The real story behind this provocation reaches into some very kooky—and high-level—circles in international freemasonry, the masterminds of the “Temple Mount” project to blow up the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and rebuild Solomon’s Temple on the site. *EIR* was the first to expose this strange project, and its international controllers, in a Special Report published in 1983, titled “The Jerusalem Temple Mount: A trigger for fundamentalist holy wars.”

The yeshiva, Ateret Cohanim, was formed in 1978 by three active duty officers of the Israeli domestic intelligence agency Shin Bet. Since 1983 it has been caught on several occasions attempting to blow up the Al Aqsa Mosque.

Ateret Cohanim’s latest provocation began on April 11, when 150 of its religious students moved into a Greek Orthodox-owned 72-room hostel adjacent to the Greek Orthodox-managed Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The yeshiva had illegally purchased a lease to the property by posing as a Christian religious community. The timing of the occupation, in the middle of the Christian Holy Week marked by Palm Sunday and Easter, could not have been more provocative. The church, which is the traditional site of Christ’s burial, and where the crucifix is still housed, is one Christianity’s holiest sites.

In response to this takeover, the church ordered the Jewish settlers to leave, but Israeli courts granted an injunction allowing them to stay in the building at least through Easter weekend. To further inflame the situation, the Jewish settlers covered up the crosses on the church hostel’s facade with Jewish Stars of David, as the Greek Orthodox community prepared for Good Friday.

On Maundy Thursday, the day before Good Friday, a Greek Orthodox priest reached up and tore down a Star of David from the illegally occupied building’s facade. Israeli troops charged the gathering crowd. The aged Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, Diodoros, was overcome by tear gas. Still later that day, Israeli police fired tear gas and rubber

bullets into the Church of the Holy Sepulcher itself, claiming that it was being used to safe-house stone-throwing Palestinian youths.

Shortly after the violence, Israeli Housing Minister David Levi, a rabid Israeli expansionist, publicly gloated that the leasing of the church property had been financed by the Israeli government. The yeshiva claimed that \$2 million in Israeli government funds had been covertly conduited to Panamanian front companies to disguise its origin. The Israeli government issued a statement dismissing the lease purchase as “an ordinary commercial real estate transaction.”

A freemasonic conspiracy

Although Israeli expansionists, especially of the religious fundamentalist variety, have never been noted for sanity, the ultimate origin of the yeshiva’s lunacy is not found in Israel, but in England.

Shortly after the Israeli Army seized control of East Jerusalem in 1967, one Asher Kaufman, an operative of London’s Quatuor Coronati Freemasonic lodge, arrived in Jerusalem to oversee an assault on Jerusalem’s holy places. Quatuor Coronati’s lodge, the “research” lodge of the mother London Grand Lodge headed by the British Royal Family’s Duke of Kent, has long been dedicated to rebuilding Solomon’s Temple on the Temple Mount, currently the site of the Al Aqsa Mosque. Upon his arrival, Kaufman began sponsoring “archeological work” related to rebuilding the Temple and building a religious-terrorist network.

A related purpose of Kaufman’s deployment is that the London freemasonic lodge has also been intent on taking control over Jerusalem’s Christian holy sites, all of which have been under the control of the Roman Catholic Church or Eastern Orthodoxy. To a significant degree, Britain’s historic patronage of Zionism has been linked to the expectation that a Jewish state would eventually allow various freemasonic-controlled Protestant churches to displace Catholic and Orthodox control of these holy places.

Ateret Cohanim was formed in 1978 with the avowed purpose of blowing up the Al Aqsa Mosque, and rebuilding Solomon’s Temple. This idea had first been proposed within Jewish circles as far back as 1921 by Rabbi A.I. Kook. Kook later became the spiritual mentor for the terrorist Stern gang and Irgun, out of which the Israeli parliamentary Likud bloc was formed. Former Stern gang assassin Yitzhak Shamir, who is now attempting to form a new Likud-controlled Israeli government, is one of the more prominent supporters of the yeshiva.

The yeshiva soon began receiving large amounts of funds from some of the more kooky U.S.-based Protestant sects, centered in the American Jerusalem Temple Fund. These sects are distinguished by their fervent hope for an apocalyptic Middle East war, a battle of Armageddon, which would bring on the Second Coming—and also kill many Jews in the process.