
ISRAEL

Terror wave plays into Sharon's hands

by Joseph Brewda

On the morning of April 2, a five-man terrorist team of Abu Nidal's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) opened fire with machine guns and threw hand grenades on shoppers gathering at an intersection in downtown Jerusalem. But for the prompt action of nearby authorities in overwhelming the PFLP team and killing one of them, a hideous slaughter would have resulted. Although 48 were wounded, the attack resulted in no deaths.

Among the greatest beneficiaries of the incident was former Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, who is challenging Prime Minister Yitshak Shamir for the leadership of the Herut party at an upcoming convention on April 12. Sharon's calls for counter-terrorism, invasion of neighboring countries, and other provocative actions achieve credibility only through the type of atrocities attempted by the PFLP.

While it is not expected that Sharon will win the leadership, and thus lead the Likud coalition list in the July general elections, Sharon might secure a new appointment as defense minister if the Likud wins over the Labour coalition in those elections.

Significantly, the latest terrorist attack occurred just at the point that a number of military, police, and political figures in Israel were moving to crush the Jewish terrorist gangs and rabid expansionists who are protected by Sharon and form his strongest political base.

In response to the latest incident Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the Jewish Defense League (JDL) and its Israeli affiliates, the Kach Party and Terror Against Terror (TNT), put out press releases calling for "ridding Israel of all Arabs." Only "counter-terror" will work, Kahane raved, fueling further Arab terrorist attacks.

The Jewish terror drive

For weeks before the latest incident, the Israeli press was dominated by revelations demonstrating that the attempted bombing of the Al Asqa mosque in Jerusalem by Kahane's followers was under the protection of elements of Israel's National Police Department.

On Jan. 26, six Jewish terrorists were surprised by a Muslim guard at Al Asqa Mosque on the Temple Mount—the holiest Islamic site in Jerusalem—attempting to carry 262 pounds of dynamite up the mosque's steps. Three of the terrorists were apprehended. Members of the Jewish funda-

mentalist Lifita sect, they were motivated in their attack by their belief that the Al Asqa mosque is a "Desecration of the Lord."

On March 4, several members of the Kach Party, including four Americans, shot at an Arab bus in the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah.

The leader of the attempt on Al Asqa mosque, Shimon Barda, is still at large. According to some sources Barda is also linked to the incidents in Ramallah.

In mid-March, the Israeli newspaper *Ma'ariv* first reported on leaked police documents revealing that the Tel Aviv police department had issued a memorandum as far back as Dec. 28, 1982, warning police headquarters in Jerusalem that Barda was involved in conspiracy to bomb non-Jewish holy sites in Jerusalem. Documents released to *Ma'ariv* further revealed that on Jan. 19, 1983, leading officers in the Israeli police headquarters ordered the investigation of Barda and his criminal sect "frozen."

The revelations are so explosive that Israeli Police Inspector General Arye Ivtzan suspended Tel Aviv detective unit head Assef Hafetz under suspicion of responsibility for the leak. In turn, Israeli Commander of Operations Zvi Bar has denounced Ivtzan for tapping Hefetz's phone in order to prove this charge.

Quite apart from memos issued from Tel Aviv, Israeli police would have known of a plot to bomb the Al Asqa Mosque on the Temple Mount through articles first published in the Jan. 18, 1983 *EIR*. The articles reported on a conspiracy of Ariel Sharon, Meir Kahane, and Christian fundamentalists in the United States affiliated with Terry Risenhoover's Temple Mount Foundation to blow up Al Asqa mosque. The articles detailed how Risenhoover was funding Kahane and his collaborators for such an attack, in part through Risenhoover's agent in Jerusalem, Stanley Goldfoot.

Since the content of the *EIR* story was picked up and reported by Israel's leading press such as *Davar*, *Ma'ariv*, and *Yediot Aharanot* on Jan. 20 and 21, 1983, it is absolutely clear that Inspector General Ivtzan and others know of the criminal conspiracy. They continued to suppress the Barda investigation and probes of the Temple Mount Foundation, because they knew that to follow the leads of *EIR* or responsible sections of the Tel Aviv police would lead to the doorstep of Ariel Sharon.

In fact, in order to ensure that Israeli police were vigorously investigating Sharon and Kahane and informed of the plot to destroy Al Asqa mosque, representatives of *EIR* contacted Ivtzan on March 6, 1983, warning him of the existence of the conspiracy.

The latest PFLP attack may enable Sharon to suppress revelations that elements of the Israeli police department acted to protect him by "freezing" the Barda and Temple Mount investigation. *EIR* suspects that yet another attack on the Al Asqa mosque is being organized, to provoke the terrorist counteraction in the Arab world that would justify Sharon's expansionary policies.