

After Hebron, battle lines sharpen in the U.S. Jewish community

by Harley Schlanger

"There are Kahane incubators inside the Jewish Federations," warned a Member of the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, in a speech to members of a Los Angeles synagogue. The speaker was Hagai Meirum, a leader among the young generation of Israeli Labor Party activists; his speech exemplified the intensity of debate which has erupted in the Jewish community ever since the massacre of Muslim worshippers at the mosque of the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron on Feb. 25 by the terrorist Baruch Goldstein. Meirum expressed his concern that many supporters of the terrorists live in the United States.

The brutal terrorist act by Goldstein, a Brooklyn-born follower of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, who had been a leader of Kahane's Kach Party, has led to fundamental changes in the discussion of the peace process that was launched with the Sept. 13, 1993 signing in Washington of the Israel-PLO accord, changes which go far beyond debate over the terms of peace. For the first time, Israel's leaders are openly calling the fundamentalist terrorists by their real name, Jewish Nazis. Further, they have begun to identify the networks in the United States which provide financial and political support for them, and how these networks have perverted Judaism as a religion to justify their racist, genocidal actions.

Before Feb. 25, the line-up for and against the peace process reflected the traditional alliances in Israeli politics, with the Labor coalition government, including forces associated with Peace Now, in favor, and a coalition of Greater Israel parties—including the main opposition, Likud, and various factions of the "settlement" movement—opposed.

Opponents insisted that Arafat and the PLO were terrorists and, therefore, not legitimate negotiating partners, that negotiations threaten Israel's security. The more extreme among them, including Gush Emunim ("Bloc of the Faithful," established after the 1967 war to settle and hence permanently seize the territory won in that war, which they claimed as a Biblical promise to Israel) and the parties associated with the racist Meir Kahane, were unwilling to give up the goal of Greater Israel.

Covertly backing these fanatics is a grouping centered around the Hollinger Corp. publishing empire, which owns the *Jerusalem Post*, and networks associated with "Dope, Inc.," which oppose the accords for British geopolitical rea-

sons. As first exposed in *EIR* in 1982, and then in an *EIR* Special Report released in March 1986 ("Moscow's Secret Weapon: Ariel Sharon and the Israeli Mafia"), this grouping ran the settlers' movement to drive the Arabs out of the West Bank territories seized in 1967, opening them for speculative real estate deals.

Among those prominently involved in this "land-scam" were Henry Kissinger and Lord Carrington—both of whom are on the international advisory board of Hollinger. Their chief operative on the scene is Ariel Sharon.

In the United States, the allies of Peace Now and some factions historically tied to Labor backed the Rabin government. However, while some among the "mainstream" Jewish organizations paid lip service to the accords, most took up positions (sometimes covertly) against it.

The Kissinger-allied "neo-cons," centered around the American Jewish Committee's *Commentary* magazine, led the chorus of nay-sayers. Their official position was reflected in an article by Yigal Carmon, former Counter Terror adviser in Israel, who concluded in the March 1994 issue of *Commentary* that "the likelihood was that the deal would fall apart at an earlier stage . . . bringing bitter and angry disappointment to Israelis and Palestinians alike, and leading not to peace but to a full-scale and very bloody showdown."

Goldstein forces the issue

The opening salvo against the Kahane groups was fired by Prime Minister Rabin when he described those who defended and praised Goldstein's act as "foreign to Judaism . . . a foreign implant . . . an errant weed. . . . You placed yourself outside the wall of Jewish law. You are a shame to Zionism and an embarrassment to Judaism."

This was followed by a barrage from Israeli political scientists and sociologists, who have been watching the growth of the terrorist networks with increasing horror. Ze'ev Sternhell, a professor at Hebrew University, said it is accurate to describe them as "Jewish Nazis."

"There is no gene which immunizes Jews against various forms of racism, of xenophobia, of the cult of violence, and it is that which we find in Kahaneism," he told the French daily *Libération*. "Kahaneism seeks to purify Israeli society from all foreign elements, not only by expelling all Arabs from the land of Israel, but also by preventing mixed mar-

riages. We find, in this, the essential elements of Nazism. If there was a Kahaneist majority in the Knesset, the laws which it would promulgate would not be different from those of Nuremberg," he added, referring to the Nazi race laws used to exterminate Jews.

This theme was expanded upon by Hebrew University sociologist Janet Aviad, who described Kach as a "fascist group born in Brooklyn out of the tensions between Jews and blacks, [and there] mixed with the most narrow interpretation possible of Judaism seeing Jews as the chosen people against the world."

U.S. origins of terrorists

In the Los Angeles speech cited above, Knesset member Hagai Meirum spoke of the great hopes raised by the peace process. His father's dream, he said, was that his son would not have to serve in the army. Though he did serve, he held the same hope for his children; now they are members of the Israeli Defense Forces. "We have not lost our hopes or our confidence," he said. "We just want to become a normal country, to live in peace and pursue our dreams." He said that Israel is "taking a calculated risk" in pursuing peace, but there is no alternative. When challenged by a hostile defender of Kach, who accused the Labor government of "selling out Israel" and "ignoring the deaths of 30 Jews killed by Palestinian terrorists," Meirum asked him where is his concern "for the 3,000 who died in the 1973 war, or the 20,000 or more who would die in the next war if we don't have peace?"

When asked about the outlawing of Kach and Kahane Chai, Meirum said the Rabin government had no choice. "A democracy must take steps to protect itself, its laws, and its people." He continued: "I am sorry many of their supporters are living in the United States." He said his speeches in Miami, Boca Raton, and Sarasota were disrupted by Kach supporters. "I am terribly concerned by what's happening in the Jewish community in the U.S." He urged American Jews to investigate what is occurring in Jewish schools. "It is very, very dangerous. There are Kahane incubators inside the Jewish Federations. Maybe it comes from the teachers. . . . You must be very careful about what is happening in your community."

Meirum's sentiments were seconded by Former Israeli President Chaim Herzog in the *Jerusalem Post*. Herzog charged, "The U.S. is the breeding ground for Jewish extremists: religious, secular and nationalist. . . . All these extreme organizations, right-wing and religious, collect money from naive Jews for their own purposes, while taking advantage of the tax exemption granted to donations for certain purposes in the state of Israel."

The religious debate

Perhaps the most important aspect of the investigation into the extremist groups has been the commentary from rabbis. While some, such as settler leader and convicted

murderer Rabbi Moshe Levenson, defend terrorism as required to remove Arabs for the expected "redemption" (i.e., coming of the messiah), and justify murder of Arabs as fulfilling a Biblical commandment, others are stepping forward to challenge this perversion of Judaism.

Kach apologists cite Deuteronomy 25:17 as a commandment from God to annihilate the enemies of Israel, identified in that passage as "Amalek." Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller criticized this in an op-ed in the *Los Angeles Times*, writing that "Amalek has most often been identified with the particular foe that persecuted the Jews in each generation. . . . Recently, it has become common for some Jews to refer to Palestinians as the contemporary incarnation of Amalek. This viewpoint leads to only one logical outcome—Baruch Goldstein and the Hebron massacre."

Seidler-Feller added, "When scriptural doctrine is bound to temporal ideology—and to a gun—the combination is often explosive. For this reason it is incumbent upon religious teachers to publicly condemn Goldstein's literal application and declare it immoral and contrary to Torah. Not to do so is to be an accomplice to the deed and to implicate the Jewish tradition—and even God."

An Orthodox rabbi, David Hartman of Jerusalem, made the same point in attacking the literal fundamentalist interpretations of scripture which guide the crazies. He noted that Kahane and Goldstein were guided by the same scripture that guides him. "The difference between myself and them is that an Orthodox Jew never builds his life on the literal meaning of the Bible. The Bible never speaks unless it is filtered, mediated via the living traditions of the community. This is called the oral tradition.

"You can't go back to the Book of Joshua and the Book of Deuteronomy and say, 'That's the way it's written.' You have to ask, 'How was this understood later, how was it applied to Jewish life?' What Goldstein did was he heard the Bible and forgot what the Mishnah said—that he who saves one life is as if he saves a whole world. He forgot that the rabbis and others later on in Jewish history tried to develop within Jews the consciousness of the sacredness of all human life—Jewish and gentile."

The political and religious reevaluation heralded by the above statements is critical if the Middle East is to be pulled back from being a launch pad for World War III.

But there is one step further that must be taken.

The next issue of *EIR* will feature a report on "Palmerston's Zoo," which analyzes in detail the phony nationalist and religious ideologies spawned by the British in the mid-19th century which enabled them to build an empire on which, Palmerston boasted, "the sun will never set." Those who truly desire peace must study these ideologies and the networks created to push them, and act to destroy them, as it is Palmerston's heirs—the Kissingers and Carringtons—who are at present the only benefactors from the actions of the Goldsteins and his ilk and are thus the true source of evil.