

Likud, Hamas: children of one evil mother

by Hussein al-Nadeem

On Aug. 21, a powerful bomb killed six Israelis and wounded more than 100 in Jerusalem. The attack marked a dangerous escalation on the ongoing British efforts to collapse the Middle East peace process.

The terrorists' target is the peace makers in the Middle East, namely the Rabin-Peres Labor Party government of Israel, and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat. It reveals the concert of action among the enemies of peace on both sides, Arab and Israeli. The militant faction in Hamas, Iziddin Qassam Brigades, was promoted by the factions on the Israeli right including British stooge Ariel Sharon as a counter-element to the Palestine Liberation Organization. In a recent radio interview, American statesman Lyndon LaRouche observed, "During the period when the right wing was in power in Israel, in the attempt to destroy Yasser Arafat's PLO, London, together with Syrian cooperation, and the cooperation of Sharon and his friends, created a counter-organization against the PLO. This was called Hamas. It had backing by Syrian and Iranian interests, the right-wing Israelis back it, and the British run it." LaRouche asserted that the Arab Bureau of the British intelligence has been in charge of this long-term operation in the Middle East.

Both Israeli extremists led by former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu, and the Palestinian terrorist bombers, have made it clear that they share the goal of toppling the Labor government, wrecking the peace talks, and throwing the region into chaos. It comes as no surprise that the IQ Brigades issued a communiqué claiming responsibility for the attack, and making clear their target: "Prime Minister of the Israeli enemy, Rabin 'terrorist number one' must know that from now until the elections, next year, the Brigades will see to that adequate response is given to the war Rabin declared on Hamas."

Speaking the same language, only two days later, Likud leader Netanyahu and former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, interviewed by the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*, excoriated the peace negotiations, the PLO, Rabin, and Peres. Netanyahu said, "We must immediately block relations with the PLO, and have elections." He added, "Dealing with Arafat, in the way the Israeli government is doing, is as if the Italian government, 15 years ago, granted the Red Brigades the right to have 'autonomous enclaves.'" Shamir claimed that "Israel is in danger, because of the discussion with the PLO. . . . There is no space for a Palestinian state.

Rabin is making a big mistake, by promoting and supporting these false hopes."

This latest outrage occurred within two weeks of the initialing by Peres and Arafat of the Taba agreement on extending Palestinian self-rule. One week before the bombing, the Israeli daily *Haaretz* reported that Sharon called for the formation of "militias" to "protect Jewish settlers in Judea and Samaria" (the West Bank) against what he called "terrorists in PLO uniform." Eliakim Hatzni, of the Jewish Settlers Council, proposed that these militias be commanded by Sharon himself. An insight into Sharon's bloodthirst was revealed in a recently released official history of the 1956 Israeli-Egyptian war. The Israeli Defense Ministry report charged that Sharon and Rafael Eitan, leader of the right-wing Tsomet Party, killed, in cold blood, almost 50 Egyptian prisoners of war, a "class A" war crime. The JSC is mobilizing 10,000 anti-peace activists "to put a blockade around the Israeli government's headquarters, in order to stop the implementation of the peace accords."

Forging ahead with peace

Rabin, Peres, and Arafat have reiterated their determination to continue on the agonizing road of peace. In his first statement after the Aug. 21 attack, Rabin asserted that "Israel must step up, rather than cut back its cooperation with the Palestinians who want peace, in a common bloc against the enemies of peace." He was quoted by the French daily *Le Monde* of Aug. 23, saying, "We are fighting a war against the enemies of peace. This war is being fought, today, in cooperation with the Palestinian Authority, against those who are also its enemies."

Rabin drew attention to the IQ Brigades statement, saying: "The issue is . . . as they say . . . fighting the government of 'Rabin the terrorist.' They want us to fail in the next election, because they know we can bring peace." Meanwhile, Arafat confirmed that cooperation with the Israeli government will be increased to achieve peace. He charged that foreign interests were involved in supporting the terrorists, and that these attacks are timed with the progress of the negotiations. "Where is the higher purpose in receiving orders and money from abroad, be it Iranian or not?" Arafat exclaimed. "Is it a coincidence that every time we get closer to Jerusalem all this happens? I have proof of the opposite." He told the German daily *Bild Zeitung*; "We have enemies on the Palestinian side as well as the Israeli, and we know them. They want to stop the peace, but there will be peace."

It is evident now that the terrorists gave momentum to their counterparts in Israel in their fight against the government. President Ezer Weizman and Police Minister Moshe Shahal were attacked and prevented from visiting the bombing site by a crowd of right-wingers. Weizman was booed by the angry crowd who screamed "Death for the Arabs" and "We don't want peace." That was precisely what suicide bomber had in mind before he went on the bus.