



## **CARNAGE IN GALILEE TOWN: TERRORISTS STRIKE AGAIN**

**3 Terrorists Seize School Building And Hold 90 Children Hostage; Israeli Forces Kill The Terrorists But 16 Children Are Killed And 70 Wounded In Fierce Battle**  
By Tuvia Mendelson, David Landau, Yitzhak Shargil and Gil Sedan

**JERUSALEM, May 15 (JTA)**—At least 16 teen-aged school children were killed and 70 were wounded late this afternoon in a school building in the Western Galilee town of Maalot where they had been held hostage for more than 12 hours by three armed Arab terrorists. The terrorists were also slain when Israeli troops stormed the building at 5:30 p.m. local time. Premier Golda Meir announced the tragic toll to a stunned and shocked nation tonight in a radio and television broadcast. She said the casualty figures were still unconfirmed and not final.

It remained unclear tonight whether the children were killed by the terrorists or were caught in the cross-fire between the terrorists and attacking Israeli troops. According to Mrs. Meir, the terrorists exploded grenades before the Israeli soldiers entered the building. One survivor said later that they had opened fire on the children trying to escape. The wounded were rushed to hospitals in Nahariya, Safed and Haifa. Nine of them were reported in serious condition.

The young victims were high school students from Safad who were on a three-day camping trip and spent the night at the Netiv Meir school building in Maalot. The terrorists seized the building before dawn and demanded that Israel free 20 imprisoned terrorists by 6 p.m. local time or they would blow up the building. The three terrorists had earlier murdered three members of a Maalot family after gaining entry to their house by a ruse. Hours before, they shot up a truck carrying workers, mostly Arabs, killing a woman.

### **Code Word Never Arrived**

The Israeli government, meeting in tense emergency session this morning, agreed to the terrorist demands. A brief announcement broadcast at 2 p.m. local time said, "In order to secure the release of the pupils at Maalot, the Cabinet decided to release the terrorists as demanded." But a delay ensued involving the dispatch of the French Ambassador, Jean Hurly, to Maalot to serve as go-between. The terrorists had insisted that the French and Rumanian ambassadors serve in that capacity and that the French envoy identify himself by a code word arranged between terrorist representatives and French authorities in Paris. The code word never arrived from Paris.

As the deadline neared and the terrorists gave no sign that they would extend it, the government ordered troops to attack the building. Mrs. Meir said the authorities were convinced that the terrorists would carry out their threat to blow up the school. She said the terrorists were only wounded in the first assault and were thus able to explode grenades killing and wounding their hostages.

Information Minister Shimon Peres said at a news conference tonight that the government had no intention of tricking the terrorists. The prisoners were to be released and one, in fact, had been taken blindfolded from a Gaza Strip prison to Ben Gurion Airport as a gesture of good faith. But because of the "wild and barbaric planning which equalled the wild and barbaric execution," the ter-

rorists had no speedy means of transmitting their chosen code word to Paris from where it was to have been relayed to Hurly, Peres said. The same applied to the Rumanian envoy who was to have received an identifying code.

### **'A Bitter Day, A Day Of Horrors'**

Peres said the Cabinet's decision was a reversal of Israel's standing refusal to surrender to terrorists. But the unprecedented seizure of a large number of children as hostages forced the Cabinet to take an unprecedented decision, he said. Peres added that the government, however, refused another terrorist demand that half of the hostages fly out of the country with them to an Arab capital. Mrs. Meir said in her broadcast tonight that "the Cabinet decided it would not conduct wars on the backs of children."

When news of the Maalot outrage first broke here this morning, U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger cancelled his scheduled trip to Damascus today for continued disengagement talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad. A statement released here in Kissinger's name expressed "shock and outrage" at the terrorist acts and said "Our hearts go out to the families (of the hostages) and to all of Israel." (See separate story.)

The Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a terrorist group headed by Nayef Hawatmeh, claimed credit for today's outrage in a statement issued in Beirut. The attack on Maalot coincided with the 26th anniversary of Israel's independence (May 14-15, 1948). It occurred little more than a month after the terrorist massacre in Kiryat Shemona which claimed 18 lives. Maalot lies midway between Safad and the Mediterranean coast and about 10 kilometers from the Lebanese border. The terrorists are believed to have infiltrated from Lebanon.

Describing the day as "a bitter day, a day of horrors," Premier Meir expressed hope that the international community will once and for all recognize the true nature of the so-called Palestine liberation movement.

### **Chronology Of Tragic Events**

A chronology of events pieced together from reports indicates that the terrorists entered Israeli territory late last night. At about midnight they attacked a truck carrying workers home from the Ata factory in Kiryat Atta. They were mostly residents of the Christian Arab village of Fasuta. One woman was killed.

The terrorists entered Maalot some time after 3 a.m. local time. According to reports from residents, they knocked on the doors of several houses, announcing themselves as Israeli policemen searching for terrorists. They were dressed in Israeli army uniforms and at least one of them spoke Hebrew. Only one householder, Yaakov Cohen, 50, opened his door. He was shot to death by the terrorists who also murdered his wife, Fortuna, 40, and his four-year-old son, Elie. A year-old son, Yitzhak, was saved and was taken in by neighbors. The terrorists apparently knew

the Netiv Meir school was occupied by the campers, aged 14-16. They approached the building at about 3:50 a.m. local time, just as a monitor was taking out garbage cans. He testified later that the terrorists greeted him in Hebrew and asked how many children were in the building. When he told them, he was shot and wounded. As the terrorists entered the school room firing machine-guns, 10 students and two teachers escaped by jumping out of windows.

A woman officer of the Israeli army who was accompanying the students was released by the terrorists to carry their demands to Israeli authorities. Two students were also released later on. One of them, Rachel Lagziel, 16, reportedly delivered a note containing terrorist demands to Defense Minister Moshe Dayan who flew to the scene from a Cabinet meeting this morning. The terrorists, communicating by loudspeaker, warned that the grounds around the school were mined and that it would be blown up if troops tried to close in.

The terrorists demanded the release of 20 imprisoned terrorists who were to be flown to Cyprus or other neutral territory and thence to an Arab capital and safe passage for themselves out of Israel. Their list reportedly included Kozo Okamoto, the hired Japanese gunman of the May 30, 1972 Lod Airport massacre who is serving a life sentence in Israel, and two Israeli Jews imprisoned for spying. "Even if we had accepted the plan, we would not have been able to carry it all out before the 6 p.m. deadline," Premier Meir said tonight. "We did not have the slightest doubt that the terrorists would not extend the deadline even one minute after six."

For the close to six terror-ridden hours the children were kept crouched on the floor of the school under the menacing guns of the terrorists. Many of the children were sobbing or were in a state of shock. Many of their parents came to Maalot from Safad to follow closely any developments and wait for the release of the children. Young mothers brought food to Israeli police and soldiers posted outside the building.

Maalot was founded in 1956 primarily for new immigrants. It is home to some 650 families, a total population of 5100. Ninety percent are Moroccan families, the rest North Africans and a few Russian families. Half of Maalot's inhabitants are children and youths 18 years of age or younger. The Mayor of the town is Elie Ben Yaacov.

According to unofficial reports the death toll rose to 25 by late afternoon New York time.

#### Another Blood Bath Averted

In a development apparently unrelated to the Maalot outrage, an attempted terrorist bloodbath in the heart of Jerusalem was averted this morning when police found and disarmed three Katyusha rocket launchers. Two of the launchers were aimed at densely populated areas of the city. The third reportedly was aimed at the King David Hotel where Kissinger and his party are staying. The weapons were reportedly spotted by a local Arab who immediately called the police.

Israeli security authorities, anticipating a new wave of terrorist activity on the anniversary of Israel's independence, had warned the public to be especially alert. Police Chief Shaul Rosolio said in a broadcast last night that the public must be extremely cautious and report every suspicious act, even trifles. Security authorities reportedly had knowledge that a terrorist gang entered Israel some time on Sunday but lost track of them. It was reported yesterday that security forces arrested

nearly 100 West Bank Arabs in recent days on suspicion of planned terrorist activities.

#### KISSINGER, POPE DENOUNCE OUTRAGE

JERUSALEM, May 15 (JTA)—Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger reacted with unconcealed anger today to the terrorist outrage at Maalot and demanded that "all responsible governments...make clear that whatever their political differences, such inhuman acts must be condemned and those who carry them out dealt with severely." He said he was "shocked and outraged to learn of the attack by fedayeen terrorists against a teen-age campsite in Maalot early this morning and against other innocent civilians in the same area. Our hearts go out to the families and all of Israel," Dr. Kissinger said.

His statement was read to newsmen by U.S. Ambassador-at-large Robert J. McCloskey, a member of Kissinger's entourage currently attempting to effect an Israeli-Syrian disengagement agreement. "The U.S. government strongly condemns this mindless and irrational action and appeals to those holding innocent hostages to release them," the Kissinger statement continued. The statement which was made earlier in the day, concluded:

"Violence such as this will serve no cause but to undermine the prospects for peace in this area. We further believe that it is time for all responsible governments to make clear that whatever their political differences, such inhuman acts must be severely condemned and those who carry them out dealt with severely."

McCloskey was asked by newsmen if today's events caused second thoughts about U.S. support for the Security Council resolution condemning Israel's April 12 commando raid into Lebanon following the Kiryat Shmona massacre of April 11. McCloskey replied, "It is always the intention and desire of the United States to vote on the merits and no one incident may be the same as the other." He added that he would "not want to anticipate a vote. I think the sense of outrage is reflected in the Secretary's statement."

In Rome today, Pope Paul VI condemned the terrorist attack in Maalot. A cable sent by the Vatican Secretary of State Jean Cardinal Villot to the Papal delegate in Jerusalem Msgr. Pio Laghi, said the Pontiff was "saddened by the very grave act of violence in Maalot today which he profoundly deplores as repugnant to the conscience of humanity."

The Pope's message, issued this morning, added that the Pontiff was "particularly concerned" about the fate of the hostages and called on Msgr. Laghi to inform the Israeli authorities and through them, the families of the children, of his "participation in their anguish and the assurance of his prayers to the Most High." Pope Paul appealed for the avoidance of further bloodshed "so that the young hostages can be restored without delay, unharmed, to their homes."

#### WHITE HOUSE TERMS TERRORIST ACT MINDLESS AND IRRATIONAL VIOLENCE

WASHINGTON, May 15 (JTA)—The White House issued a condemnation in President Nixon's name today of the terrorist outrage in Maalot which it called "mindless and irrational" violence that "will serve no cause but undermine peace." The President's reaction was given to newsmen by White House Deputy Press Secretary Gerald Warren before news reached here that the terrorists were slain.

Warren declined to comment on whether Secre-

tary of State Henry A. Kissinger, now in Jerusalem, would end his activity in the Middle East aimed at achieving an Israeli-Syrian disengagement accord or whether the President would instruct him not to return to Damascus under the circumstances. A White House official told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency privately this afternoon that the President would not do anything at present that "might exacerbate the situation."

Warren told reporters that the U.S. position on terrorism "is well known" and that the U.S. is "working actively with other countries" on the problem. Replying to questions by the JTA which opened the subject at today's White House news-briefing, Warren said the President was informed of the circumstances and was following Kissinger's cables with "special interest." "I should not go beyond this," he said.

One reporter observed that in less than two years, 41 Americans have been killed by Arab terrorists, that the U.S. recognized Sudan although the killers of the American Ambassador there have not yet gone on trial, and that the U.S. approved a Security Council resolution last month condemning Israel from which the massacre of 18 Israelis at Kiryat Shemona was deleted. "What has the President done besides deplore" those killings, Warren was asked. The press secretary limited his reply to noting that the Council resolution "equally condemned all acts of violence" and reiterated U.S. efforts against terrorism. (By Joseph Polakoff)

#### SENATE CONDEMNS MAALOT TERROR

WASHINGTON, May 15 (JTA)--The U.S. Senate, appalled by the terrorist seizure of school children in Maalot as hostages, urged President Nixon and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger today to call upon all governments to condemn the "inhuman act of violence against innocent victims." The Senate also "strongly" urged "the countries where these groups and individuals are found to take appropriate action to rid their countries of those who subvert the peace through terrorist and senseless violence." Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D, Minn.) presented the resolution expressing the sense of the Senate and it was supported immediately by both parties and unanimously adopted without a word of dissent.

#### SECURITY COUNCIL BLAMED FOR ATTACK

UNITED NATIONS, May 16 (JTA)--Israel charged today that the recent censure of Israel by the Security Council encouraged terrorist attacks such as today's. "The Security Council resolution on the Kiryat Shemona massacre has only encouraged the Palestinian terrorists," Israeli UN delegation spokesman, Yaakov Morris, declared. "The release of terrorists by various governments has established separate standards for Arab terrorist murders."

Meanwhile, Secretary General Kurt Waldheim expressed shock by the Maalot outrage in a telephone call this morning to Israeli UN Ambassador Jacob Doron and said he hoped today's events would not endanger the current efforts for peace in the Middle East.

An official statement by Waldheim released by a UN spokesman said: "I was deeply shocked at the news of the terrorist action at Maalot.... Such violent actions are to be condemned whatever their motivations, especially when they involve innocent persons, including children. Coming at this crucial point in the search for a just and lasting peace in the area, they assume another dimension. I can only express my earnest hope that all the forces for peace which have been at

work in recent months will not be diverted from their course by such actions."

#### DEMANDS FOR ACTION AGAINST TERRORISM

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA)--Jewish and non-Jewish leaders in this country and abroad denounced the terrorist action in Maalot and demanded international action to end terrorist activities. Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, noted that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger "eloquently expressed our country's revulsion" at the seizure of 90 children, and added: "But it is not enough to condemn Arab terrorists. The government of Lebanon which gives safe haven to the terrorists must liquidate all terrorist activities launched from its territory. If Lebanon refuses to do so, it must face the quarantine of civilized society."

Mrs. Faye Schenk, chairman of the Executive of the American Zionist Federation, declared: "When, on April 24, the Security Council one-sidedly condemned Israel for retaliating against the massacre of unarmed people in Kiryat Shemona without mentioning the terrorist carnage, it was tantamount to the issuance of an open license to the terrorist bands to commit repeated atrocities as they have now done again in Maalot. There can be no peace in the Middle East until the United Nations takes appropriate and decisive action against these terrorists who find safe haven in Lebanon."

David M. Blumberg, president of B'nai B'rith, said in Washington that an Arab-Israeli peace settlement "would be meaningless" until terrorism is ended. "It is international banditry, and one awaits some decisive action by the UN Security Council--so quick to censure Israel in the past." He noted that the Arab states that have been "hospitable" to terrorists "are as responsible as the murdering gunmen" that held the 90 children.

In Ottawa, Mitchell Sharp, Canadian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, issued a statement at a press conference saying: "The holding of 90 innocent Israeli schoolchildren as hostages is a cowardly and degrading act. I can only condemn this repulsive deed which at this time is also an attempt to impede progress towards negotiations and peace. On behalf of the Canadian government I wish to express my deepest sympathies to the parents of these children." Statements of strong condemnations were also issued by Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau; Robert Stanfield, chief of the Conservative Party; and David Lewis, leader of the New Democratic Party.

#### Thousands Protest Against Lebanon

This afternoon more than 1000 students from Jewish day schools and colleges and high schools in the New York metropolitan area and adults from various Jewish organizations held a prayer vigil and demonstration of concern in front of the Lebanese Consulate. They marched in front of the building chanting, "Israel has a right to live," "Children have a right to live," and "Stop Arab terrorism." In Washington, several hundred people marched in front of the Lebanese Embassy in an action mobilized by the Greater Washington Jewish Community Council. In Montreal under a drizzling rain 1500 Jews gathered in Dominion Square to condemn the barbaric act in Maalot. Ninety children bearing on their chests the inscription, "I Am A Hostage," paraded in the square while a boy and a girl read a statement in French and English expressing the deep sorrow of the Jewish children in Montreal for the tragedy.

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# CATHOLIC EDUCATOR URGES MODERATE 3RD WORLD LEADERS TO WORK WITH JEWS, CHRISTIANS TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA)--A prominent American diplomat and Catholic educator today called on moderate Third World leaders to work together with Christians and Jews in combatting anti-Semitic attacks "by a small handful" of Arab and African political figures. Dr. Thomas P. Melady, former U.S. Ambassador to Uganda and Burundi and director of the Office of International Studies at Seton Hall University, addressing a dinner meeting of the Interreligious Affairs Commission of the American Jewish Committee, pointed out that unless overt anti-Semitism was successfully and openly opposed by men of good will, genocidal acts against Jews and Gentiles could result.

The Commission dinner, which was presided over by Leonard C. Yaseen, Interreligious Affairs chairman, was one of a series just prior to the opening of the American Jewish Committee's 68th annual meeting. The meeting starts tomorrow morning and continues through Sunday at the New York Hilton Hotel.

Citing personal experience while he was U.S. Ambassador in Uganda, Dr. Melady recounted that its President, General Idi Amin, had frequently made anti-Semitic statements, questioned the U.S. Ambassador about Jewish tourists and Jewish members of the Embassy staff, and expelled all Israeli citizens. While this was going on in 1971-72, Dr. Melady continued, "we placated General Amin. We acted under the assumption that he did not know any better. In those days we did not want to offend Amin as we did not want to offend Hitler in his early days of power."

Subsequently, the former Ambassador continued, thousands of people in Uganda had been killed "in what appears to be selective genocide. Again, verbalized anti-Semitism has been followed by brutality." Others who have openly preached anti-Semitism, Dr. Melady went on, have included King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, and Col. Muammar Qaddafi, the Libyan dictator. All their outbursts have been treated with silence by world statesmen, the speaker insisted. To develop an effective barrier to the spread of such attacks, Dr. Melady declared private and governmental leaders of the West, as well as African leaders who have demonstrated their commitment to human rights, should be mobilized. Among the latter he listed the leaders of Zambia, Tanzania, Nigeria and Senegal.

## Explore Christian-Jewish Concern

Turning to Catholic-Jewish relations in the U.S., Dr. Melady noted that one of the areas of what he termed irritation between the two groups that should be jointly explored is a feeling in "centrist Jewish communities" about a lack of concern by Catholics about Arab hostility toward Israel and Jews. "There is just Jewish concern about past Catholic inaction, not only in the Nazi era but, more recently, to some extent in 1967 and again in 1973," he said.

Pointing to the progress in developing fraternal feelings between Jews and Christians in recent years, the Catholic educator urged that the utterances of a few articulate anti-Semites should not be allowed to cast a shadow on such advances. "Catholics, Protestants and Jews have a responsibility to speak out and to act whenever prejudice is articulated or implemented in their respective communities," he declared.

## S. AFRICAN JEWS FEEL LONELY, THREATENED

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA)--A prominent Amer-

ican Jewish leader, who has just returned from a visit to South Africa, asserted here yesterday that although the Jews in South Africa are prosperous and a "very homogeneous community" they feel threatened and lonely. Addressing some 40 Jewish community leaders attending the first Luncheon Club meeting under the auspices of the American Section of the World Jewish Congress, Philip Klutznick, a member of the Governing Council of the WJC and a former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, said that this feeling that "they are on their own" and that their Jewishness is threatened has increased after the Yom Kippur War.

Klutznick, who was recently a guest of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, lauded the Jewish educational system in South Africa. "They have the best day schools," he observed, adding, "I pray we will have the equivalent here." But, he noted, the uncertainty about the future among the South-African Jewry is indicated by a sharp drop in the birth rate and the emigration of "the first and second sons" in many families.

Speaking about the political and social question of apartheid, Klutznick contended that there is no clear cut Jewish attitude on this issue. "The Jewish community is not 100 percent one way or other," he said, claiming that he had no way to measure Jewish activity against apartheid.

According to Klutznick, South African Jewry, which numbers about 118,000, is extremely generous as far as fund-raising for Israel is concerned and their devotion to the Jewish State is tremendous. The Jewish community itself "has enormous resources as a community," is well organized and "by and large we can be proud of it," he said. (By Yitzhak Rabi)

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Kalman Sultanik, acting chairman of the World Zionist Organization, American section, termed the terrorist action despicable and pointed to the irony that the "senseless and brutal outrage came just as progress was being made toward an understanding between Israel and Syria." Obviously, he said, "there are evil forces in the world who will stop at nothing to prevent peace from coming to the Middle East." Mrs. Henry N. Rapoport, president of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, said acts such as today's "must be condemned by the United Nations and the governments of the world. Lebanon must be severely punished for allowing these terrorists to operate from her territory so that she will be forced to cooperate in bringing an end to such barbaric behavior."

Seymour Graubard, national chairman of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, called upon the U.S. government to introduce measures in the UN imposing penalties on the Arab states which collaborate with terrorists. He said the recent refusal of the Security Council to condemn Arab terrorism at Kiryat Shemona was "an invitation to continue terrorist tactics throughout the world. What is required is not sanctimonious condemnation by governments and their spokesmen but concrete measures to stop Arab governments from giving support or tacit approval of the terrorist activities."

In Paris, the two Presidential candidates, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and Francois Mitterand, denounced the attack in which children were used as hostages in the conflict of Arabs and Israelis. Both said that everything should be done to prevent anything harmful to the children.