



GOVERNMENT TO PROBE WAY IN WHICH SECURITY FORCES HANDLED TERROR CARNAGE

By David Landau, Yitzhak Shargil, Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 13 (JTA)--The Cabinet met in special session this morning for a briefing by Police Inspector General Haim Tavori on Saturday's terrorist assault amid a rising chorus of criticism over the way security forces reacted in the emergency. The government has promised a full inquiry and Premier Menachem Begin was reported today to have asked a top reserves general to head an internal security probe.

At the same time Begin declared today to a somber Knesset that "innocent blood will not be shed with impunity." Opening a brief debate on the terror attack, Begin added: "We will defend our womenfolk and children. We will root out the arm of wickedness. We will under no condition resign ourselves to the prospect of an evil hand being raised against our children. We will do what is incumbent upon us to do..." (See related story.)

Speaking at a press conference here shortly after he emerged from the Cabinet room, Tavori rejected charges that police forces had failed to cope adequately with the attack though he conceded that in hindsight there were several instances "in which I would have acted differently." On the whole, he said, the police performed according to regulations and could not have done better given the circumstances and the limitations under which they operated.

Three questions are being asked: How were the heavily armed sea-borne killers able to evade Israel's off-shore defenses and land on a beach in one of the most heavily populated regions of the country? How were they able to proceed for 50 kilometers along Israel's main traffic artery before being stopped? Why was there a lack of coordination between the regular police and special anti-terrorist units trained to handle such situations?

Explanations Of What Happened

Explanations offered by some experts today indicated circumstances beyond anyone's control were partly responsible for the terrorists' successful landing. Yochai Bin-Nun, former commander of Israel's Navy, noted that rubber dinghies such as were used by the killers could make the trip from Lebanon to points along Israel's coast in a few hours. Because of their low silhouette they would not show up on radar screens, especially if the sea was rough as it was Saturday.

The rough seas imperiled amateur yachtsmen off the shore at Tel Aviv and police and naval patrol craft were concentrated there for possible rescue operations and to escort small boats safely back to the marina. The terrorists, who spotted this concentration, abandoned their original landing point which was to have been the Tel Aviv beach and went ashore instead at Maagen Michael, just south of Haifa, where the trail of bloodshed began.

Nevertheless, it was pointed out that Israel's sea defenses should have been more alert inasmuch as Saturday's landing was not the first by terrorists. An armed group landed on the Tel

Aviv beach in March, 1975 and attacked the Savoy Hotel. Sea defenses supposedly were improved after that.

A combination of poor communications, a lack of fast police cars and heavy traffic on the Tel Aviv-Haifa main highway were among the elements responsible for the terrorists' ability to race unnoticed from Maagen Michael to the so-called "country club crossroads," a busy intersection at Herzliya, north of Tel Aviv, where they were finally halted by a roadblock.

Tavori noted that the killers were stopped short of Tel Aviv and thus an even worse catastrophe was avoided. He said the police spotted the hijacked bus at several points along the 50-kilometer route but could not attack it for fear of hitting other vehicles in the heavy traffic. He said the police decided not to spread nails in the path of the bus because a tire blow-out might have killed all of the hostages in the vehicle that was traveling at 60 m.p.h.

Other police sources said today that the police jeeps and vans pursuing the bus were not fast enough to overtake it. In fact, the speed of police vehicles is inferior to that of any modern car, the sources said.

Poor Communications Cited

Poor communications were cited for the fact that the brunt of the roadblock shoot-out with the terrorists fell on a handful of regular policemen, many of them assigned to traffic duty. When the specially trained and equipped border police arrived, the battle was almost over. This was explained by the regional subdivision of Israeli police, each with its own radio wavelength. The radio sets in the regular patrol cars were unable to tune into the radios of the border police and contact had to be made through regional headquarters which resulted in precious time lost.

The communications gap was also apparently responsible for the fact that a helicopter carrying crack army units was flying in the direction of Maagen Michael when the terrorists were already nearing Tel Aviv. The hijacked bus could not be spotted and identified from the air.

Tavori explained that the helicopter, provided by the Air Force, had been ordered to fly to Maagen Michael because it was erroneously believed that the terrorist attack was centered there. After it was airborne, the pilot was re-directed to an airstrip at Sde Dov about five miles south of the point where the bus was stopped. By the time the unit arrived, the battle was over.

But Tavori refrained from attacking the army and referred to the traditional cooperation between the military and the police. Nevertheless, he remarked, "One should bear in mind that Israel's police is not alone in this battle," implying that the army and other security services shared responsibility for dealing with emergencies such as occurred Saturday.

One Of The Main Lessons

The police inspector said that one of the main lessons of the tragedy was that police forces needed more and better equipment. He said he had submitted some of the police needs to the government recently and they were granted but have not been supplied so far. He stressed the need for more sophisticated communications equipment and im-

proved transportation, including police helicopters or, alternatively, the assignment of one or two special anti-terrorist units to each region of the country.

Tavori provided an updated account of Saturday's events based on the stories of eye-witnesses and the interrogation of the two terrorists captured alive. He said 32 Israelis and nine terrorists were killed. He disclosed that 13 terrorists had set out from Lebanon originally but two drowned when their dingy capsized in heavy seas shortly before the landing Saturday. He also disclosed that 19 of the Israeli victims—not 25 as reported earlier—died in the bus. The rest, including one policeman, were killed by terrorist fire from the bus.

Tavori confirmed that, based on the interrogation of the surviving killers, the gang had intended to land at Tel Aviv, seize a hotel or other public place and hold hostages for the release of terrorists imprisoned in Israel. They planned to demand a plane to fly them out of the country. Tavori reported that the terrorists and their equipment left a Lebanese port aboard a merchant vessel, probably in the middle of last week. They were launched in their Soviet-made rubber dingies much further north of Tel Aviv than intended and were at sea for two days before landing at Maagen Michael Saturday afternoon.

BEGIN: ISRAEL WILL AVENGE THE DEATHS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 13 (JTA)—Premier Menachem Begin vowed today that Israel will avenge the deaths of the men, women and children slain in Saturday's terrorist attack and held the Soviet Union, its Communist bloc allies and other countries that support the PLO to blame for the carnage.

"Innocent blood will not be shed with impunity," Begin told a somber Knesset during a brief discussion of the terrorist attack. "We will defend our womenfolk and children. We will root out the prospect of an evil hand being raised against our children. We will do what is incumbent upon us to do," he said.

His determination to take some action against the terrorists received encouragement from the opposition Labor Alignment. Former Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, speaking for Labor, said, "Obviously we cannot go on as if nothing has happened. This (the Knesset) is not the place, of course, to discuss detailed measures. . . . But we wouldn't be ourselves if we went on as if nothing had happened. We must take defensive action to smash them (the terrorists) wherever we can reach them," Allon declared.

A resolution adopted by acclamation at the close of the session referred to the need to continue the peace-making process despite Saturday's outrage. It called on all countries to condemn the terrorist group that perpetrated it. The resolution did not include a call for an investigation of how Israel's security forces had reacted in the emergency. Labor had asked for such a statement but coalition members insisted that it be omitted.

Nevertheless, Begin said there would be an investigation into aspects of the attack. Sources said later that a military committee would be set up within the defense establishment by Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and a civilian panel by Interior Minister Joseph Burg in cooperation with the Police Ministry. It was announced tonight that Gen. Yona Ephraïm will head the military committee which will include a senior officer of the navy and a senior officer of the air force. The appointments were made by Chief of Staff Morde-

chai Gur upon the instruction of Defense Minister Weizman. The committee is expected to conclude its work by March 20.

Says Communists Trained Killers

Begin told the Knesset that Israel had information that the Soviet Union and other Communist bloc countries have been training PLO members in the use of weapons on Soviet and Soviet bloc soil. "I accuse the states which have actively aided the PLO and the many others that have passively condoned or applauded the PLO over the years," Begin said. He demanded that PLO offices in overseas capitals be closed down and PLO personnel ousted. "Can there be any doubt in any leader's mind of the true nature of that organization?" Begin asked.

The Premier will attend the funeral of one of the terrorists' victims tomorrow. More victims were buried today, all in state funerals conducted by military chaplains. Joseph and Cate Sousinski were interred in Ashdod. Rino and Dov Bushkenitz were buried in Haifa. Yaacov Paz, a Tel Aviv University student who worked as a part-time policeman, was buried at the Kiryat Shaul cemetery near Tel Aviv. A five-year-old boy was laid to rest in Tiberias. Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry Itzhak Peretz read a poem by Bialik over the grave. The verse said, "Even Satan has not invented a revenge for the blood of a small boy."

The Army Burial Society is still trying to identify some of the victims burned beyond recognition when the terrorists exploded their hijacked bus. Identification problems are believed responsible for discrepancies in the final death toll. The original reports said 37 died. Today, the figure was broken down to 28 Israelis and nine terrorists. But Police Inspector General Haim Tavori insisted that 32 Israelis perished. Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor told newsmen that 34 Israelis were slain.

DINNER TURNS INTO SOLIDARITY RALLY

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 13 (JTA)—An Israel Bond Inaugural Dinner, which was originally scheduled to pay tribute to Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, turned last night into a rally of solidarity with the Jewish State and a memorial service to the victims of Saturday's terrorist rampage in Israel.

More than 1000 Jewish leaders from the United States and Canada attended the dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. The general mood was one of grief and mourning over the tragic event in Israel. Overwhelming support for Israel was expressed by the speakers at the dinner to the applause of the audience. Approximately \$11,360,000 in Israel Bonds was purchased by the gathering.

Weizman, who left for Israel Saturday night after learning of the tragedy, declared in a broadcast message played last night that despite the recent atrocities by PLO terrorists the peace process will continue and that Premier Menachem Begin will soon be able to come to Washington for talks with President Carter. He said the raid on Saturday "is a reminder of what security means to Israel, what hostile countries around us can mean, how detrimental they can be to us."

Will Not Stop Desire For Peace

Simcha Dinitz, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, who replaced Weizman as the evening's principal speaker, declared that the terrorists and their atrocities "will not stop Israel's desire for peace." But he spoke bitterly about the recent anti-Israeli trend in the United States and

the charges that Israel was "preoccupied with security."

"It is a shame that we have to have 37 funerals to remind our friends (in the United States) of the true face of the PLO," Dinitz declared. He said that the massacre by PLO terrorists must make it clear once again what the dangers are for Israel from a Palestinian state and what is the true nature of the PLO. "The PLO has only one purpose: to kill Jews," the Ambassador said.

Asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency before he delivered his speech, if the Carter Administration is likely to take a more balanced approach toward Israel in the aftermath of the terrorist raid, Dinitz said: "it is hard to predict." He noted that Begin will be in Washington next week and Israeli-American relations will probably get clearer. He added that the media has "magnified" the talks of a "split between the two countries" and that he does not accept the interpretation of the media that Israel has backed off on Security Council Resolution 242. "Israel has never relinquished Resolution 242 as the basis for negotiation in the Mideast," he stated.

A declaration of solidarity with Israel by the Bonds leaders was read in the course of the evening. Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, said that, "Unfortunately, President Sadat's peace discussions with Israel do not end the destructive desires and murderous plans of the PLO, who say they want peace but instead murder innocent men, women and children, these uncontrolled Arab fanatics in the countries that surround Israel."

Jewish Leaders Condemn Attack

Meanwhile, American Jewish leaders continued to condemn the terrorist outrage. Jerold C. Hoffberger, president of the Council of Jewish Federations, declared that the ruthless murder of innocent Israeli civilians "is an affront to all humanity that must horrify every decent person everywhere and which must be condemned by every nation, as our President has immediately done. It reminds the world again how critical every provision is to assure Israel's utmost security."

Leonard R. Strelitz, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, said the latest terrorist attack "is an unspeakable atrocity. It is about time mankind recognized terrorism for what it really is—a medium of murder viciously obstructing the cause of peace—and that people stop dignifying it with 'moderate' labels."

Philip M. Klufznick, president of the World Jewish Congress, sent a message today to Begin, stating: "The anguish and anger of the government and people of Israel are shared by Jews throughout the world whose thoughts are with you. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to the bereaved families and to all Israel."

Burton M. Joseph, national chairman of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, also sent a message to Begin, stating: "We hope that leaders of civilized nations will recognize in this violent and bloody act that support of the PLO and its partners in terrorism is a threat to free peoples throughout the world."

Leaders of the Chicago Jewish community condemned the terrorist raid and said: "We must remind our Administration and its advisors that this (the PLO) is an organization which they seek to install as Israel's most intimate neighbor. That this unforgivable crime is openly called an act of 'heroism' by the PLO is a clear indication of the twisted madness that masquerades as the PLO political ideology."

The statement was signed by David Smerling, president, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago; Raymond Epstein, chairman, Public Affairs Committee (PAC) of the Jewish United Fund; and Gary P. Ratner, chairman, PAC committee on Israel and the Middle East.

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress, said the PLO attack "demonstrated why Israel and the United States have opposed the creation of a separate Palestinian state that inevitably would be controlled by the PLO. It also points up once again the essential element of any Middle East peace: Israel's need for security against military invasion and terrorist incursion."

Dr. Judah J. Shapiro, president of the National Committee for Labor Israel, told 500 delegates at the annual midwinter conference of that organization, that "if there were any political motives" to the latest attack, "they were misdirected against a population which can only conclude that the outlaws of the PLO cannot be included in any legal and rational solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict."

A resolution condemning the atrocity was adopted by acclamation at the 94th annual meeting of HIAS in New York last night. It proposed that the 1000 delegates present call upon "all free people and all freedom loving nations to apply massive pressure and take every conceivable measure to do away once and for all with this wanton slaughter of innocent people. The world must no longer stand by as it has done so often, so tragically, in the past."

A New York rabbi charged yesterday that President Carter was "indirectly responsible" for Saturday's terrorist outrage in Israel. Rabbi Avraham Weiss, of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, who organized a protest demonstration at the Israeli Wall opposite United Nations headquarters, alleged that the Administration's Middle East policies have "emboldened and encouraged the Palestinians to commit this kind of atrocity."

U.S. STANDS PAT ON MIDEAST POLICY

WASHINGTON, March 13 (JTA)—The Carter Administration made it clear today that Saturday's terrorist raid on Israel which it has strongly condemned, has not changed its position on the Palestinian question, Israeli settlements or the need for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, issues that have strained relations between Washington and Jerusalem in recent weeks.

The Administration affirmed that it is still committed to a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East and will not allow the latest terrorist outrage to disrupt the efforts to reach a negotiated settlement. At the White House, Press Secretary Jody Powell replied "no" when asked if the tragic events of the weekend had altered Administration policy.

At the State Department, chief spokesman Hodgson Carter said "We do not intend to allow this (terrorist) act to achieve its aim of undermining the peace process. Our efforts will continue. We hope that all those committed to a comprehensive and just peace settlement will also keep their eyes on this goal." He also said that "the violence which we deplore does not change the positions we have stated a number of times."

GENEVA (JTA)—The Ecumenical Council of Churches is organizing a seminar on the Bible here at which young Jewish and Israeli students will participate for the first time.

THE DEATH OF AN ARTIST**GAIL RUBIN, 39, KILLED BY TERRORISTS**

By Murray Zuckoff

NEW YORK, March 13 (JTA)--Gail Rubin had an irrepressible and inexhaustible zest for life. At 39 she was at the height of her artistry and at the top of her profession as a nature photographer. Her talents soared as high as the birds in flight and her love of life was as expansive and multifarious as the species of animals she photographed all over Israel.

She was a warm, responsive, sensitive exuberant, vibrant yet intrinsically shy person. She could embrace people with her infectious, spontaneous laughter, her bright-warm smile, her almost child-like curiosity and interest in everything and everyone. For the past seven years she lived and worked in Israel photographing wildlife and returned occasionally to New York to visit her family, friends, to get another free-lance assignment or to exhibit her photographs as she did last in February, 1977, at the Jewish Museum.

Several months later she decided to return to Israel for what she told some of her friends was an irrepressible urge to photograph more aspects of wildlife there, especially wildlife mentioned in the Bible, and to fill an assignment for Time-Life magazine. She was planning to return to the United States later this year.

Last Saturday she was dead--the first victim of terrorist vipers who wantonly and brutally murdered her and 36 other people in a rampage that began at Maagan Michael, south of Haifa, and ended just outside Tel Aviv.

Attracted To Life In Israel

Ms. Rubin was photographing birds on the beach at Maagan Michael when several men approached her and asked for directions. She had no idea, could not have suspected that they were terrorists. Several minutes later she was dead, shot by the killers who took her red car and then abandoned it when they found that it was too small to hold them and their weapons of death.

Ms. Rubin, who grew up in New York on the upper East Side and was a graduate of the Dalton School and Finch College, was attracted to Israel because of its beauty and its lure of Biblical wildlife, she used to tell her friends. Each time she came to New York she was impatient to return to wander through the vast reaches of wildlife habitats and to record them in motion or at rest. Her photographic exhibit summed up, in her own title of the assemblage, "The Birds of the Heavens, the Beasts of the Field--The Bible as Source."

Her photographs were alive with form and motion--graceful gazelles leaping through the Galiilee, ibex climbing up the cliffs of Ein Gedi, fluffy conies finding refuge under large rocks, pelicans skimming water and herons in flight. Each photograph was accompanied by her own poetic narrative. She was totally absorbed in her work, some of which appeared in recent months in the spring issue of U.S. Camera magazine and in the January issue of Natural History.

Before embarking on her career as a nature photographer she was a press and war photographer in Israel during the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War. Her career as a nature photographer zoomed after producing promotional photographs for Israel's Nature Reserves Authority. She won international acclaim for her work in that field.

Ms. Rubin was the only child of Jonathan and Estelle Rubin of 1016 Fifth Avenue. Her father is

vice-president and treasurer of Krasdale Foods. Her mother is a psychotherapist and co-author of "Part Time Father," a study of divorced parents. She was also a relative of Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D. Conn.). Last night the Senator denounced the terrorist carnage and termed the death of Ms. Rubin and the other victims "an indefensible act of terrorism that deserves universal condemnation."

According to friends of the family, the U.S. Embassy in Israel called the family yesterday and asked if they wanted Ms. Rubin to be buried in Israel. The family asked that her body be returned to the United States.

NAZIS CALL OFF MARCH

ST. LOUIS, March 13 (JTA)--Local members of the National Socialist Party of America called off a march and rally Saturday and a two-day Nazi "national" convention after they were pelted with snowballs, rocks, bottles and tomatoes by angry spectators.

According to Norman Stack, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis (JCRC), hundreds of persons lined up along the one-mile route of the planned Nazi march which was to be through a shopping district in a predominantly white working-class section. The Nazis had planned to march to Gravois Park and hold a rally. They then planned a convention yesterday and today which would be open to anyone who paid a \$10 registration fee.

But when the about 40 Nazis arrived aboard a flatbed truck dressed in various colored Nazi uniforms and carrying signs saying "White Power" and shouting "siege heil," the crowd began pelting them, Stack said.

He said that among the anti-Nazis present were 20 red-helmeted members of the "Black and White Defense Committee," a Trotskyite group from Chicago, who shouted "We hate Nazis." Stack said he saw no signs of the Jewish Defense League but was told by the police that some 20 JDL members, mostly young people 15-17 years old, had come from out of town. Also present was Bonnie Pechter, the head of the JDL, and her "security officer," Simon Greenstein. The JDL was unsuccessful in a last-minute effort late last week to secure an injunction to prevent the parade. Stack said the St. Louis Jewish community supported the recommendation of the JCRC to "quarantine" the march and not attend.

Maj. Joseph Kraft, who commanded the 175 police officers assigned to the demonstration, said that the decision by the Nazis to cancel their three scheduled events was made by the Nazis themselves. There were several arrests during scuffles but no injuries.

RULE NAZI MUST TESTIFY

NEW YORK, March 13 (JTA)--Federal Judge Constance Motley has ruled that Bolislavs Maikovskis, a 73-year-old retired carpenter living in Mineola, N.Y., must testify at a deportation hearing in connection with charges he concealed a wartime record of atrocities in his native Latvia when he entered the United States in 1951.

Judge Motley rejected Maikovskis' argument he could avoid giving testimony by use of the Fifth Amendment. She ruled that deportation was not a criminal liability which would allow the privilege against self-incrimination. The deportation hearing against Maikovskis is expected to resume here shortly before Francis Lyons, a judicial officer of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.