

The Israeli Terrorists and Their Abettors

By Meir Vilner

This article is based upon a speech delivered in the Israeli Knesset on January 31, 1984 by Meir Vilner, M.K. and general secretary of the Communist Party of Israel.

On Sunday this week, two and a half years after the establishment of the Surveillance Commission, headed by the Deputy Attorney, lawyer Yehudit Karp, and one and a half years after the Report had been presented to the Minister of Justice and to the Attorney-General, the Karp Report was tabled to the government.

The terrorist actions in the occupied territories against Arab citizens and houses of worship and places holy to Christianity and Islam, which lately have been carried out, add special topicality to the Karp Report.

The explosives which were planted in the Al-Aksa and Dome of the Rock mosques on Friday night (January 27) were a most serious terroristic act. We must ask ourselves: What would have happened if the terrorists had succeeded in blowing up the Al-Aksa mosque, which is one of the most holy places for hundreds of millions of Muslims?

Those who planted the grenades and placed explosives had a political aim. By an unprecedented explosion of that sort they wanted to provoke among the inhabitants of the West Bank and in the Arab and Muslim world an outbreak of anger, which would be used as a pretext for implementing a plan for expelling the Palestinian people from the West Bank, from their homeland. Reference is to a plan whose existence was several years ago revealed by Aharon Yariv, (a former chief of the Israeli army intelligence).

The planned explosion was liable to be used also as a pretext for certain circles, to declare a special state of emergency within the State of Israel.

The attempt at blowing up the mosques in Jerusalem, just as other terroristic actions, was carried out by a terroristic underground movement, which is motivated by nationalist and fanatic-religious attitudes. Historical experience has proved that extremist nationalism and religious fanaticism are liable, under certain circumstances (occupation, oppression, the war in Lebanon, grave socio-economic and moral crisis) to lead to

the seizure of power by a fascist dictatorship.

Who Stands Behind Them?

Government circles and political circles in the Knesset try to underestimate the severity of the problem. They deny the existence of an organized terroristic underground and claim that it is only a question of several madmen. But at least several actions of terror were carried out in a most professional form, and simultaneously at various places. Without operative military skill, it was impossible at all to carry out these actions of terror.

Consider the attempt on the lives of the mayors (in the occupied West Bank — IB), which was carried out in a clearly professional way, with attention given to the smallest detail and the use of army vehicles. The same goes to the massacre in the Islamic College in Hebron.

Those who play the innocent, must be reminded of what two persons, who in the past served as heads of the Security Service, said: One of them, Isser Harel, said as follows: "Begin prevented the adoption of certain steps which would have enabled to deal with the Jewish underground as should be done. It is possible that the Security Service wanted to take measures against Jewish underground organizations, but the government did not permit them to do so."

The second one, Ahitov, said that the colonial settlements constitute "an incubator for the breeding of terror" and added "Those who have now turned to the path of terror possess a good operative level. Their conspirative behavior seems to be faultless and the political environment, which is close to them, provides cover."

The planning, the organization and the carrying out of terroristic acts and the fact that their perpetrators are not brought to justice, all these lead to the conclusion that somebody stands behind the terrorists, somebody from the military and political establishment.

The facts which are included in the Karp Report only strengthen this conclusion. In the Report it is stated that "Jews are suspected of carrying out severe criminal acts in the (occupied) territories — including acts of murder, attempt at murder, shots fired at Arabs, stealing arms, arson and hurling hand grenades — were not detained by the police and not brought to trial; and this was so because of the intervention from 'above' — among others of senior army officers — who impeded the policy in carrying out investigations of those actions" (according to "Yediot Ahronot," February 3, 1984).

In a number of cases, in which inhabitants of the

West Bank were murdered by colonial settlers, including by the head of one of the settlements, the police received an instruction not to carry out detentions, or the investigation file was transferred to the military police and the person was not detained. In the Karp Report it was also mentioned that the colonial settlers erect obstacles in face of the carrying out of investigations. And it is known that in the colonial settlements there are vast quantities of arms — both registered and unregistered — and that the settlers exchange among themselves weapons, in order to prevent the identity of those who had fired shots.

The lack of treatment, the severe deficiencies in the investigations against colonial settlers, the cover given them by authorities — all these testify to a basic political conception which attempts to rely on terror against Arabs, in order to achieve their goals.

Tear Up By Their Roots

The Likud governments and the security agencies which are controlled by them did not only fail to take steps for capturing the Jewish terrorists and expose their organizations, but they themselves have in practice, created the conditions which enabled the establishment of such underground movements and the carrying out of such unprecedented acts of terror. Moreover, the occupation authorities persecute the victims of the terror. This was the attitude towards the mayors in the West Bank, whose legs had been severed. They were subsequently removed from their office. And now they are prevented to move freely or to go abroad for medical treatment.

The terrorist underground is liable to undermine the foundations of Israeli society. If they will not be extracted from their roots, the nationalist and fanatic religious underground movements are liable to act also among the Jewish population, and the murder of Emil Grunzweig is an alarm signal.

The terroristic underground is liable to imperil our very existence here. Therefore we need a government which will not provide political support to the acts of terror but will act against the terror. Therefore it is important to topple, as early as possible, the Shamir government, which provides cover to terror, that causes victims and endangers the State of Israel, and to establish a new government which will conduct a new policy. □