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PLO terrorism condemned

It started off as a normal Saturday in Israel, but when the day was over 36 Israelis, one American and 9 PLO terrorists were all dead on the highway between Haifa and Tel Aviv. Aside from the dead, over 80 people were wounded, some of them critically. Another act of violence had been perpetrated by the PLO against Israel.

This act of violence by the Al Fatah wing of the PLO is similar to many of their activities since its inception in 1967. The difference between the occurrence on March 11, 1978, and the bloodbaths at Lod, Maalot, Nahariyah, and Munich, is that this act occurred on the eve of Prime Minister Menachem Begin's trip to Washington to try and put the Mid-East talks back into order.

Eleven PLO terrorists, armed with an awesome arsenal of Soviet guns made their way ashore at Maagan Michael near Haifa. Their

first act was the murder of an American wildlife photographer on the landing beach. Next the terrorists proceeded to hijack a taxi and two tourist busses whose passengers were mostly women and children. It has been known before that the PLO like to wage their wars against one specific sector of the Israeli population, women and children. They also like to use their own civilian populations in the refugee camps of Southern Lebanon as a shield against Israeli retaliatory tactics.

In explaining Israel's retaliation against the PLO, Benjamin Peled pointed out that although innocent bystanders are killed they must realize that "Those that bed down with dogs should not be surprised when they wake up with fleas".

So far the Arab states have hailed the "courageous" PLO attack. How can one ever take even the

moderate Arab regimes seriously in their quest for peace, when they laud the brutal, senseless murder of innocent people. It is absolutely unthinkable in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, a state will arise that will be ruled by Yassir Arrafat and his Palestinian murderers.

A week ago Saturday's PLO attack has put Egypt in a very precarious position. Egypt now has four very distinct options. The first is to applaud the PLO and remain adamant for the creation of a self-determined Palestinian state within Israel's present borders.

The second alternative is a condemnation of the PLO's actions and continued negotiations without any provision for a Palestinian state. The third option is to condemn the PLO and remain unwavering on their positions in regards to Palestinian self rule. The final option is to condemn the PLO and try to create a separate peace with Israel.

In lieu of recent events in Nicosia when the PLO murdered Sibai the last option would seem like the best choice for Egypt. Not only was he a personal friend of President Sadat and editor of the official newspaper *Al Haran*, but he was a friend of the Egyptian people. The ensuing protest over this violent action is a good indication that the Al Fatah has long overstayed its welcome in Egypt. Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon should realize that their "brothers" have done irreparable damage to the Arab cause for middle eastern peace. The events of last week, last month, last year, and last decade have all pointed to the fact that the PLO cannot be considered as legitimate spokesmen for the Palestinian people. If peace is ever to preside over the Middle-East, it will not rise as a result of terrorist efforts. The U.N. must come to realize that by giving the PLO status as observers they have helped to edify the cause of terrorism.

With an outright condemnation of the PLO's tactics, the world would be well on the way to an active fight against terrorism.

Robert Gasner and Ken Gaughan
 (submitted March 11, before the invasion of Lebanon)

Paul Kellogg

The terrorist tactics of the Palestine Liberation Organization are stupid, inhuman and contemptible. There can be no justification for actions such as their suicide raid two weeks ago on a highway in Israel, which resulted in the murder of over 30 civilians.

The Toronto Star, among others, condemns the PLO's terrorism. But, last Thursday, in its lead editorial as well as condemning the PLO *The Star* came out publicly in support of the invasion of Lebanon by the Israeli armed forces, an invasion which is supposedly in retaliation for the PLO raid, an invasion designed to "purify" southern Lebanon, and create a "buffer zone" for Israel.

It seems to me, that *the Star* is being, at the least hypocritical.

The editorial says, to be sure, that the invasion is a "grim and bloody business, certain to cause the deaths of many innocent people". But, says *the Star*, "the Israeli government cannot reasonably be blamed for undertaking it. In recent years the Palestine Liberation Organization has been using south Lebanon as its main base for terrorist attacks on Israeli citizens...these raids — like all PLO operations — have been marked by the most savage brutality. Men, women and children . . . have been indiscriminately butchered."

The Star's position is carried in subtle forms of editorializing off the editorial page. In a front-page headline last week, *The Star* speculated that the "butcher of Munich" was behind the PLO terrorist raid. There was no headline, however that said that Menachem Begin, "the butcher of Dier Yassin" was behind the invasion of Lebanon by the Israeli armed forces.

The PLO raid was indeed "grim and bloody" But what makes the invasion of Lebanon by the Israeli armed forces any less of a "grim and bloody business"?

In fact it is grimmer and bloodier. The PLO raid resulted in the deaths of 30 innocent people. The furious war the Israeli government has unleashed on South Lebanon has resulted in the slaughter of over 1,000 people, most of them Palestinian and Lebanese civilians, "men, women and children" to use *The Star's* words.

The Israeli army has shown that it takes second-place to no-one when it comes to "savage brutality". Witness the savagely brutal machine-gunning last week of 21 unarmed refugees fleeing the holocaust in the south. Over 160,000 people have been made homeless as a result of the invasion. Indiscriminate bombing and shelling of towns and villages have led to the maiming and wounding of far more people than ever were wounded and maimed in the worst PLO terrorist assault. If the numbers game has any meaning when applied to human lives the Israeli armed forces are far more

efficient terrorists than the PLO.

And that's not to be wondered at. By *the Star's* own admission the Israeli war machine is by far the best-armed, best-trained one in the Middle East. Militarily, the PLO isn't even in the same league.

Since 1948, when the Palestinians were forced from their homes in what is now Israel, into the refugee camps, they have had to fight wars with not just the Israeli army, but the armies of Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Somehow though, in papers like *The Star*, it is always the mighty Israeli war-machine which is portrayed as the underdog, fighting the "just" war of "self-defence", while the PLO is portrayed as the "barbarous aggressor". Yet it is the Palestinians who have no home, and who have all the military cards stacked against them.

The terrorism of the Israeli government, like the terrorism of the PLO, offers no solution to the Middle East's problems. For anyone interested in a just solution to the 30 years war in the Middle East, the Israeli government's invasion of Lebanon must be condemned.

Democracy denied...

The result of the CYSF election last week has rendered unproductive any exercise considering whether Harvey Pinder might have won had his name rather than Mary Marrone's appeared on the ballot.

I should like, therefore, to focus on more important discussable matters of principle, issues which draw upon the past but are more important for the future.

At the outset I should make clear my view of Garfield Payne's concern for and manner of justifying his decision not to permit Harvey Pinder's name to appear on the ballot (it's undeniably true that Pinder was *not* thrown off the ballot, also true that the CRO did not invoke the retroactive resolution — he didn't need to since there was another criterion — with a slight but important change from former years — making the earliest date when Harvey was a member of Calumet irrelevant since he hadn't *technically* proved by the only newly declared "determinative" evidence that he was a member of Calumet even on March 6). Clearly Payne perceived his responsibilities in the only way he was permitted to — if he was to retain his credibility as a CRO who must necessarily execute the regulations and resolutions as they exist at the time of nomination and election. That the controversial ones were decided upon only a few days before the election by the body whose constitutional election he was insuring put him in a Catch-22 situation.

Retroactivity was not the issue for Payne since the new resolution in effect insured that Pinder could not prove technically by the Registrar's

print-out that he was a member of Calumet on March 6 — perhaps a relief, not to have to test the retroactive regulation. (Anyone knowledgeable about what is involved in getting time outside the regular scheduled computer programming, — if phone confirmation from a Master was ruled out as acceptable evidence — would realize that Harvey Pinder could *not* have qualified by the CRO's deadline, given the fact that there were at most only 48 hours, counting nights when offices are not working.) The implication in Payne's letter that Pinder was somehow at fault that he had not effected the change in the Registrar's record strikes me as disingenuous; changing an official record between 9 a.m. March 2 and 5 p.m. March 3 would be well near impossible.

I do not quarrel with the assumption that the Registrar's record *should* be an appropriate source of evidence, but not the *only* one — and in this instance at this time, not the *best* to establish College membership. The truth was, that Pinder did in fact meet constituency requirements, and no form of legalistic explanation can change that reality. But let us *suppose* that Harvey Pinder had by some remarkable combination of connections got the printout or a letter from the Registrar in time then clearly the *retroactive* regulation would have to have been considered.

In this context — assuming strict adherence to the letter of the resolution, and that is the only kind

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