

MUNICH IN A BLAZE OF COLOUR - The Overture

WHEN A JEW SAYS "MUNICH" HE KNOWS, OR OUGHT TO KNOW, THAT THIS IS THE CITY OF THE NAZI MOVEMENT. HERE WAS THE INFAMOUS BROWN HOUSE WHERE THE PARTY TIED TOGETHER ALL THE LOOSE STRINGS OF JEW-HATRED, ORGANIZED THEM IN THE BEST BAVARIAN TRADITION, AND EMPLOYED THEM DURING THE TWELVE YEARS OF NAZI RULE BEGINNING WITH GERMANY AND SPREADING THROUGHOUT EUROPE.

We say "tied together" because hatred of Jews was not born here. It had existed a long time, in different places and under a variety of motivations. But in Munich's Brown House it was organised "scientifically", because the German loved order: "Ordnung muss sein!" ("There must be order!") This is his slogan - in annihilation as well. This was.

Today Munich once again makes an entry in the chronicles of Jewish blood - twice in one week, in two separate acts which do not appear to have any connection with one another: The murderous Arab attack on El Al's passengers in Munich's airport and the frightful burning of a Jewish old aged home in the city. A sort of overture before the first official visit of an Israel Foreign Minister. And the surrealistic counterpoint - the "Committee of New Jewish Communities" on German soil.

Although the El Al attack was definitely not made by Germans, and although there were similar attacks in Switzerland and Greece (and tomorrow it can happen in other countries as well) - still and all, the Germans were particularly sensitive to the crime, especially so because THEY were unable to prevent the incursion of the terrorists because THEY did not fulfill their task in a place as sensitive as their airport.

The police arrived late.

And if not for the strength and swiftness of an Israeli officer the disaster would definitely have been far greater.

The crime in the old age home was the more serious by far; the number of victims, the type of institution it was, the lack of political motivations of the sort which, after all, the Arab terrorists who attacked El Al, did have and in the centre of Munich. Of the three possibilities, two in any case point to German hands.

In the same Munich.

It would be in order to investigate these acts even more deeply, beyond the human horror and the criminal-security aspects. There are three factors which must be explained and learned from.

ISRAEL AND JEWS

Within a few days, eight Jews were murdered in Munich, and many more injured in two dissimilar attacks. The first attack was directed against THE STATE OF ISRAEL and the second against ORDINARY JEWS.

There was a time, and there were places, and people, and organisations which believed that the front of the State of Israel and the front of the Jewish People were two separate things. In Israel, too, there were some superficial and ridiculous attempts at de-Judaisation not only from the spiritual - historical standpoint, but from the ethnic-nationalistic one as well.

"Yesterday", they would say, "they hated us because we were diasporic and evoked hatred of our characteristics (look at the secular self-hatred of Philip Roth in Portnoy's Complaint), but we, the Israelis, we are a new nation which evokes respect and admiration."

Then the enemies converge from every side: From Arabia, Russia, and lately from France - ISRAEL MUST BE DESTROYED - an agreement over and above their political differences. "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" is being published in Egypt like in every anti-semitic organisation the world over. Yet there were Jews in the diaspora who felt that all these troubles arose because of Israel.

DR YISRAEL ELDAD

"Israel is the reason why they suspect us of double loyalty."

"If we don't identify with Israel we can appear like Egyptians, Frenchmen, Germans, Russians and Americans."

To no avail! In Cairo the majority of the Jews, who had no connection with Israel, were arrested; in Russia every Jew is suspected of being a Zionist agent; in France, Pompidou threatens renewed anti-semitism, and in Munich old Jews are fried alive only a few days after the 'political' attack on an Israeli jet.

The Heavens decree and the earth confirms, politics say and history confirms - there is no distinction! Haters of Jews are haters of Israel, and enemies of Israel are enemies of the Jewish people. Anyone fighting for Israel, and those campaigning for Israel are warring in behalf of world Jewry.

Those who cannot destroy Israel and vanquish her audacious officers and pilots, vent their wrath and hatred on a Jewish old aged home...

COUPLING OF RIGHT AND LEFT

This does not mean that the murderers in the old aged home were Arabs also. This has not yet been indicated, and is only one of the three possibilities. The other two possibilities being followed up by the Munich police are: "The extreme right and the extreme left."

Now, behold what is going on here! What a fantastic miracle is taking place! One object of hatred and three potential haters; three which are totally different from each other yet still have a unifying characteristic - their hatred of Jews.

Anti-semitic theory - which sprouted from the right, was directed in the beginning against the "semitic race", which was supposedly inferior. Furthermore, there were among the first anti-semitic theoreticians those who regarded the Jews as an exception to the rule; "despite their being semites they were not inferior." Soon enough this theory changed, and anti-semitism was directed against Jews alone. Furthermore, it allies itself with the ultra-semitic Arab. Jamal al Hussein, Mufti of Jerusalem during the '30's, spent the holocaust years in Berlin advising the Munich Institute of Anti-Semitism on how to destroy Jews. And Degrelle, the Belgian Nazi leader, has now found refuge in Egypt.

And now we have seen an additional miracle in our days - the extreme left. The old Moscow-style classical leftism, the new Peking-type extreme left, and the new non-classical leftism of the New Left - all of them hate Israel, all are disciples of Fatah and are willing to support the blackest of black reactionaries, Moslem fanatics, and Arab chauvinists, feudal monarchies and the ugliest most murderous terrorists - on condition that they hate Israel.

Because even those mid-eastern governments which branded themselves progressive - like Egypt and Syria - are as far from socialism and true equality as is east from west. But who, today, can distinguish between right and left? The very meaning of east and west has been lost in outer space. The Nasserite Egyptian imperialism is a progressive government fighting for freedom while unfortunate Biafra is reactionary because, for diverse reasons, Russian and Egypt support Nigeria. And the Black Panther (who are black not only in skin colour) find support among all sorts of Edomites.

No wonder the German police are having a tough time tracking down the arsonists; they don't know where to look, whether in the extreme right or the extreme left. From both a political and a psychological standpoint it is not difficult for an ex-Nazi or a neo-Nazi to become a New Leftist or a disciple of Mao Tse Tung.

In any case, with regard to Jews one thing can be agreed upon: The green colour of the Arab Fatah, the blacker than black of the right, and the red of the left mix into THE BROWN MUNICH, which burned seven old and helpless people.

BELATED IMMIGRANT AND EMIGRANT

It can be assumed, out of hand, that the residents of that old aged home were not the happiest and strongest people. Pride and health did not send a person into such an institution. Behind every one of those sacrifices was a weak soul with a tragic history. But we will focus on two of these, - figures whose tragedies were particularly deep:

One of them had been to Israel, but could not adjust. A new life, a new existence, a new climate, new conditions. Difficult, really difficult. He got up and left. He returned to his German "homeland," to the "different" Germany, of course. Not the Nazi one, God forbid. In Israel the air is warm, but there is a lack of warmth; the atmosphere in the Fatherland is warmer, better, more gemutlich. And one day it is too warm; the flames of wilful arson.

And the second figure, the Jew who was ready to come to Israel, not only planning. His belongings were already on the way and he too, was ready to fly. But the Sabbath came and he postponed his flight because he would not desecrate the Sabbath.

And he didn't know, and he couldn't know that his life was in danger and that danger to ones life takes precedence over observance of the Sabbath. Because, had he known, then even the most orthodox rabbi would not only have told him to fly, he would have ORDERED him to fly in order to save his life. But he didn't know, and no rabbi knew.

But the Jewish People should know by now, and all the Rabbis both here, and in the diaspora - orthodox, conservative and reform - are duty-bound to know: such a fire can be expected in any place from Moscow to Buenos Aires to Brooklyn. And it is forbidden to use religious arguments and theories to prevent the saving of Jewish lives, which are holy above all else.

POLICE AND POLITICIANS

The entire nation is in a state where lives are endangered. The Munich POLICE are placing guards at all Jewish institutions (why not at private houses as well?) while POLITICIANS everywhere promise to guard our lives. But we cannot rely on them and it is beneath our dignity to do so.

A Jewish officer named Uriel Cohen and a security man named Rahamim - they saved Jewish and Israeli lives, from the right and the left, which are united in their lust for murder.

This too, is the lesson of Munich - may it be understood.

He saved the situation

Captain Uriel Cohen, whose heroism thwarted the hi-jacking of his El Al jet in Munich, was a fighter in the ranks of the Irgun Zvai Le'umi more than 20 years ago, during the British occupation of Israel.

During a daring action in Jerusalem in 1947, he was wounded then, as now, in the leg, and rescued from prison by his Irgun comrades.

On the establishment of the State he served in the Israel Air Force and graduated to become a jet pilot. He is now 40 years old and the father of five children aged 13 years to four months.