

## Middle East Report by Robert Dreyfuss

### Muslim Brotherhood-Israeli ties

*Speculation increases on the odd alliance between Menachem Begin and extremist Israeli Arab Muslims.*

Since the ascendancy to power of Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran, *EIR* has created considerable controversy with its claim that a faction of Israel's intelligence services has been aiding and abetting the Muslim Brotherhood terrorist organization that runs Khomeini.

Now, however, revelations are appearing in the French and West German press which not only confirm *EIR's* claim, but show that the governing party around Prime Minister Menachem Begin is encouraging the Brotherhood's expansion within Israeli's own pre-1967 borders among Israeli's Arab citizenry.

The groundbreaking exposé in this respect was a piece in the March 4 daily *Die Welt* of West Germany. The newspaper's Jerusalem correspondent revealed the shocking statistic that no less than 15-20 percent of the youth among Israel's 600,000 Arabs are avid supporters of a fanatical group that calls itself "Sons of the Village," and which is committed to dismantling the state of Israel and its replacement by a theocratic Muslim state modeled on the Khomeini dictatorship.

*Die Welt's* correspondent attributed this phenomenon to the even more shocking reality that Israel is virtually the only country in the Middle East in which the Brotherhood is allowed to operate legally! Activists of the Brotherhood-linked "Sons of the Village" group

have been allowed to preach and organize freely among the Arab population, much to the dismay of both traditional Arab leaders tied to the Israeli Labour Party and members of the Arab-majority Israeli Communist Party.

*Die Welt* further reported that the "Sons" activists have gotten access to extensive arms supplies from official Israeli army caches. The supplies, the West German paper indicated, have been acquired through underworld transactions.

*Die Welt's* revelations have been buttressed by news reports from Shalom Cohen, Israel correspondent for the French *Le Matin* newspaper. According to Cohen, Israeli television over the past months has frequently shown bearded "Sons" activists in long robes preaching to Arab audiences against the evils of modernity.

In allowing these filmclips to go through, the Begin government could be under no illusion that the "Sons" were anything but Brotherhood-run terrorists. Citing Israeli intelligence sources, the New York-based *Jewish Week* reported that the "Sons" are an outgrowth of an extreme fundamentalist group called Al-Tahrir, which operated in the 1950s and 1960s in Jordan and Iraq and was responsible for numerous assassinations against government officials.

Given its track record of cultivating the Sons of the Village, the Begin government's recent highly

publicized "crackdown" against well-armed "Sons" cells can hardly be taken at face value. Informed Israeli sources, in fact, see the crackdown as putting into operation a planned race riot scenario between Israeli Arabs and Jews that is aimed at accomplishing both electoral and strategic purposes for the Begin mafia.

If Jewish-Arab relations in Israel and in the West Bank territory can be exploded, extremists in Begin's camp calculate, a hysterical national atmosphere can be created in the weeks leading up to the June 30 national elections. This mood could seriously undermine the Israeli Labour Party's now almost assured capability of winning a majority of voters in the election campaign.

At the same time, manipulated unrest could create the conditions for the expulsion of masses of Arabs from the West Bank settlements and/or pre-1967 Israel, partly under the excuse of relieving "demographic pressure" in Israel, which is itself undergoing economic devolution.

The shock waves of such expulsions would also have serious destabilizing effects on neighboring Jordan, thus possibly "relieving" any future Israeli government of having to negotiate with Jordan's King Hussein.

Hence, Begin is building up the Sons/Tahrir crowd as a counterweight both to the Labour Party's Arab supporters and to the Arab-majority Israeli Communist Party (Rakah). Despite its KGB-"Comintern" ties, Rakah supports the existence of Israel as a state. Begin's Muslim fanatics don't, and are therefore much more useful for his plans.