
Israel-Palestine Crisis

Events outpace the scriptwriters

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The headline-grabbing veto by Secretary of State Shultz of Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat's visa to come to New York to speak before the United Nations, temporarily drew the spotlight from even more ominous developments that threaten to hasten Israel's delivery into the hands of Mikhail Gorbachov.

On Nov. 29, Dov Eytan, one of Israel's most respected attorneys and a former senior military judge, was murdered on the eve of his representation, before the Israeli court of appeals, of John Demjanjuk, the former Cleveland auto-worker falsely accused of being a Nazi war criminal. Eytan's death, immediately labeled as a "suicide" by the Israeli government and press, was, according to Israeli military sources, a case of cold-blooded murder, aimed at blocking the release of critical information that would have likely blown the lid off a vast Soviet-Israeli treasonous arrangement linking the Demjanjuk frame-up and the espionage efforts of accused KGB spy Shabtai Kalmanowitch to ongoing joint Moscow-Tel Aviv machinations.

According to these Israeli sources, Dov Eytan's recent joining of the Demjanjuk defense team signaled that an entire faction of Israeli military and intelligence seniors traditionally opposed to the Ariel Sharon hard-core "crazies" had determined to break up the Soviet-Israeli operations.

According to U.S.-based representatives of Demjanjuk, Eytan was optimistic about the pending appellate hearing, in discussions just hours before he plunged from the 15th floor of a Tel Aviv building.

As if the Eytan assassination were not sufficient to warn his collaborators to back off from the planned exposé, on Dec. 1, at the funeral for the deceased attorney, a second Demjanjuk attorney, Yoram Sheftel, and a female companion, were attacked with battery acid by an assailant described as a "deranged" Holocaust survivor.

Israeli sources emphasized to *EIR* that it was unclear

whether the authors of these two terrorist attacks were Israeli nationals or, alternatively, Soviet agents of some stripe acting to cover up the same jeopardized structure of operations.

The murder of such a respected public figure as Eytan is a measure of the intensity of the factional warfare now gripping Israel as the Likud and Labor blocs continue to jockey for control for control over the still-unformed Israeli government. Eytan resigned from the military court in 1979 in protest over continued atrocities against Arabs by Israeli Defense Forces soldiers in the occupied territories. In 1982, while serving as a High Court judge, Eytan signed a public statement denouncing Israel's Ariel Sharon-ordered invasion of Lebanon, even though he knew that it would mean his automatic firing from the court. His death is not expected to deter the release of the documentation of the Israeli-Russian perfidy.

Shultz, Arafat, and the Bush transition

Nor is George Shultz's veto of Yasser Arafat's visa expected ultimately to deter the PLO chairman's presentation of the Palestinian case for statehood before the world body. As one Palestinian spokesman in Washington, D.C. put it, Shultz's action was read by many as being directed as much against President-elect George Bush as it was against the PLO.

According to one version of the Shultz action, the outgoing secretary of state did not wish to deliver the global spotlight to Arafat while Israel had still not resolved its government crisis. Shultz reportedly threatened Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that he would grant Arafat the visa unless Shamir agreed to invite the rival Labor Party into a new coalition government that would either diminish or eliminate altogether a role for the religious fundamentalist or right-wing fringe parties that scored impressive electoral gains on Nov. 1.

Shultz then reportedly went to President Reagan—after the fact—seeking his backing by explaining that to give Arafat the red carpet treatment at the United Nations would have driven the Sharon faction inside Israel to go for an immediate war confrontation and mass expulsion of all Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied territories.

In short, Shultz sought to play out the same "crisis management" games that have doomed the Middle East since the heyday of Henry Kissinger, and once again painted a picture for all to see of a U.S. government bowing to the suicidal whims of Israel.

Events at this point, however, are out-racing all of the scenarios and scripts. As the consequence of Shultz's outrageous moves, the entire moderate Arab world is united behind Arafat and the Palestinian statehood cause. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's trip to Cairo in the immediate aftermath of the Shultz move, was unprecedented, as was Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar's reported walkout from a private discussion with Shultz when he learned that the secretary of

state was about to veto the Arafat visa after Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Jordan had placed immense pressure on the PLO to wrestle the recognition of Israel's right to exist from the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers.

An Arafat appearance before the United Nations is now all but certain. Whether it takes place in New York City or in Geneva, the event will be spotlighted worldwide.

Perhaps the greatest toll has been levied against the incoming administration of George Bush. Shultz's shameless pandering to Israel's intransigence on the Palestinian statehood question, and his ignoring of CIA and other U.S. intelligence estimates that Arafat is not linked to Palestinian terrorist circles, casts Washington as a slave to Tel Aviv, and throws new impediments in the way of a Bush administration seeking to chart a new policy course in the Middle East.

Shultz and Bush have been at odds for several years on a range of policy issues, especially revolving around Middle East policy. Shultz made it a point on several occasions in recent years to ignore Bush policy suggestions. When the vice president announced his choice of James Baker III as his secretary of state hours after his election last month, few people missed the message to Shultz: Pack your bags now and make way for the new team.

Chaos back in Tel Aviv

As this issue of *EIR* goes to press, Prime Minister Shamir is faced with a 72-hour deadline for putting together a new government coalition. At that point, he must either win an extension from President Chaim Herzog, or the mandate to attempt to create a new cabinet may be passed to Labor. On Dec. 1, the executive council of Labor voted 61-57 against joining a new coalition with Likud. Such a government would have retained Yitzhak Rabin as defense minister and would have given Shimon Peres either the finance or foreign ministry portfolio. While Labor is horsetrading with the religious crazy parties in an effort to form a coalition free of the Likud, the entire political process in Israel is rapidly devolving into chaos in which all serious policy issues are ignored.

Ultimately, whatever governing combination takes charge in Israel, it will be immediately confronted with a string of pressing decisions: how to handle the mounting pressure to reach an agreement for a Palestinian state; how to respond to Moscow's accelerating efforts to stake out a major role in all future Eastern Mediterranean matters by, among other things, reaching a series of bilateral deals with the government in Tel Aviv; how to resolve the social decay that has unleashed a growing wave of Jewish fundamentalism.

How Israel handles these crises will itself be in large measure determined by the kind of Middle East policy crafted by the incoming Bush administration in Washington, and how that policy is conveyed to the new government in Israel. Astute observers will keep close tabs on the Demjanjuk front, where some startling developments may figure prominently in the playing out of all these crises.

Book Review

Professional insight into Demjanjuk trial

by Mark Burdman

Identifying Ivan: A Case Study in Legal Psychology

by Willem A. Wagenaar

Harvester Wheatsheaf, Hempstead,

Herefordshire, U.K. 1988

£14.95 hardbound, 187 pages with index.

In June 1989, the Israeli Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the appeal of John Demjanjuk, the man who has been sentenced to death in Israel, after being convicted in April 1988, of having been the infamous "Ivan the Terrible," the guard at the concentration camp Treblinka who committed mass murder and acts of vicious sadism. Demjanjuk, a retired Cleveland autoworker, was illegally deported to Israel for the trial. It is almost certain that Demjanjuk's appeal will be denied.

Whatever verdict is given, the newly issued book, *Identifying Ivan*, should be required reading internationally, to give a sense of what kind of frameup and legal travesty the Demjanjuk case has been. It gives the reader a precious insight, from one useful standpoint, into how the Soviet Union, the U.S. Office of Special Investigations, and complicit elements in Israel can manufacture a frameup. It is chilling reading, and therefore all the more necessary, especially as this combination of forces is also behind the ongoing frameup of Lyndon LaRouche and of others.

Author Willem A. Wagenaar, a Professor of Experimental Psychology at the University of Leyden in Holland, was a witness on behalf of the defense, an act which in and of itself took courage, given the enormous hysteria built up around this case, and given his own hints that he was subjected to pressure not to testify on behalf of Demjanjuk. He does not write with the prose of a crusader, but rather adopts the understated tone of an accomplished, but humble, professional, doing his job. His professionalism extends to refusing to make an explicit condemnation of the Israeli court verdict, since that is not his brief. He lets the facts speak for themselves.

Professor Wagenaar is an expert in what is called "identification" procedure, i.e., what are the rules, or methods, by