

Israel's Netanyahu caught deploying assassins

by Joseph Brewda

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been caught red-handed, attempting to murder Hamas official Khalid Mashaal, in Amman, Jordan, on Sept. 25. The purpose of the attempt was to provoke another Hamas bombing spree, while also creating the conditions for Israeli assassins to carry out bombings of Jewish targets, which would be attributed to Hamas. At issue is the peace process. Ever since he was installed in office by the British, following the British-orchestrated assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Nov. 4, 1995, Netanyahu has been operating under British orders to destroy the Oslo Accords at any cost.

Netanyahu's latest attempt to destroy the peace accords, should make it clear that this madman has got to go. Because, unless Netanyahu is forced out of office soon, he may succeed in provoking a new Mideast war, or at least general chaos in the region.

Netanyahu's latest actions also confirm what *EIR* has long been reporting: that Britain, and the circles around Netanyahu typified by Gen. Ariel Sharon, are at the center of international terrorism. In fact, there is no important terrorist organization operating anywhere in the world today, which is not controlled and deployed by British intelligence, and, in the Mideast, through Israel. This fact, admitted and proclaimed in the British House of Commons, was the subject of a April 4, 1997 *EIR* feature, "Levy Sanctions on Britain for Harboring Terrorists."

British intelligence orchestrated the murder of Prime Minister Rabin, in an effort to destroy the Oslo Accords, understanding that peace in the Middle East would vastly weaken British domination over the region. British intelligence also installed Netanyahu into power, after organizing a Hamas and Islamic Jihad terror wave in Israel, to discredit the peace process among Israelis. The British chose Netanyahu for this role, not only because of his ideological and

psychological profile, but also because he, like his father, Benzion Netanyahu, a secretary to Zionist ideologue Vladimir Jabotinsky, has always been a British asset.

Anatomy of a hit

During mid-September, Netanyahu gave the final order to the Mossad to murder Khalid Mashaal, the Jordanian-based political director of the Hamas. According to Netanyahu, in comments in a televised address to the nation on Oct. 6, the purpose of murder was to stop the ongoing Hamas terror wave, typified by two Jerusalem market bombings in late July and August, which left a score of Israelis dead. According to the Israeli press, Mossad chief Danny Yatom vehemently opposed the operation, considering it counterproductive, and only complied with it under direct orders. The Mossad station chief in Amman was also opposed. Netanyahu did not inform the heads of Shin Bet and Military Intelligence, or the defense minister, fearing similar opposition.

As a result of Netanyahu's order, a team of Mossad agents attempted to murder Mashaal in Amman on Sept. 25, spraying his ear with an exotic poison. Two assassins were caught in the bungled attempt, and Netanyahu was forced to supply Jordanian physicians with the antidote — after receiving direct threats from Jordan's King Hussein, and, reportedly, American President Bill Clinton.

When Netanyahu finally owned up to the fiasco in his Oct. 6 address, he attempted to justify it, saying that killing terrorists was a necessary "battle without compromise," in order to defend the Israeli population.

This is an old favorite of Israeli madmen, in justifying actions meant to keep the region in a state of chaos and at the brink of war. But history shows otherwise, and sane Israelis ask: Just what would have been accomplished, if the Hamas target had been eliminated?

Moreover, it has since been reported, and confirmed by Netanyahu's office, that Hamas had made a cease-fire offer to the Israeli government 48 hours before the murder attempt. This raises the further question of Netanyahu's motivation.

Hamas's cease-fire offer was not a run-of-the-mill offer. According to the Israeli Prime Minister's Office, it was formally conveyed to the Israeli government by King Hussein personally, on Sept. 23, two days before the murder attempt. King Hussein communicated the offer to the Mossad station chief in Amman, who, in turn, communicated it to Mossad director Yatom, in Jerusalem. In other words, the message was sent through the same channels who, within hours, attempted to kill the Hamas official.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, Netanyahu never received the message, through some unexplained foul-up, until after he gave the final go-ahead for the murder. Just when Netanyahu supposedly did receive King Hussein's message from Hamas is unclear, but from various Israeli press accounts, it appears he claims to have received it on Sept. 24, one day before the hit attempt, when it was, supposedly, too late to cancel the hit.

In reporting on this alleged chronology, the British-owned *Jerusalem Post* reported that it has "opened a new Pandora's box in the counter-intelligence flop, which some experts rank as the most serious in the nation's history." Left unsaid, is that the attempt was meant to discredit any Hamas faction inclined to strike a peace deal with Israel, while also provoking a new round of terror.

Arafat now a target

In the aftermath of the fiasco, Netanyahu was forced not only to supply an antidote to his intended victim, but also to submit to a complex and humiliating deal with Jordan and Hamas, to secure the captured Mossad agents' freedom.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Israeli government released Hamas founder and leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, from the Israeli jail where he had been held since 1989. Yassin was deported to Jordan in early October, and was allowed to return to Gaza on Oct. 6.

Israel also released 20 Palestinian prisoners, many from Hamas, who had been convicted of smuggling explosives, shooting Israelis, and the like. Israel has also promised to release 50 more. In return, Jordan allowed the captured Mossad agents to return to Israel, without trial, also on Oct. 6.

Although this decision was apparently forced on the Israeli government, it is already clear that Netanyahu intends on using the freeing of the Hamas officials to create the circumstances to get rid of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, the only viable negotiating partner Israel has.

The triumphant return of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin to Gaza, to a desperately impoverished population, routinely brutalized by the Israelis, has now dramatically revived a weakened organization, whose most extreme elements have always called for a war to the death with Israel, until "all of Palestine" is completely "liberated." Typifying this view is Gaza Hamas leader



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. His recent terrorist actions in Jordan, on orders of London, were meant to provoke a new war in the Mideast. The madman has to be removed from office, now.

Abdel Aziz Rantisi, who provocatively told Israeli reporters what Hamas's terms for a cease-fire now are, in the aftermath of the attempt on Mashaal's life and Yassin's release.

Hamas is willing to end its terror war, temporarily, if Israel withdraws from all the West Bank and Gaza, dismantles all the Jewish settlements, and releases all Hamas prisoners, Rantisi reports. But the cease-fire, in Hamas's view, will only be a momentary pause on the way to the elimination of all of Israel, that is, including within its pre-1967 borders, and its replacement by Palestine. "The Jews are occupiers," he said. "It's impossible to make peace with them, when they are still occupying your home." It is because of such self-defeating rhetoric, and related actions, that Netanyahu has always been a Hamas booster.

Yet, while releasing Hamas officials from prison, Netanyahu continues to harshly demand that Arafat arrest Hamas leaders. Reflecting on such surreal contradictions, the Israeli daily *Maariv* editorially asked: "How can Netanyahu criticize Arafat for releasing terrorists from his prisons, when the Netanyahu government, as part of a deal, also releases terrorists, as well as the man who founded Hamas?" Netanyahu again put forward this demand, that the Oslo Accords remain suspended until Arafat cracks down on Hamas terrorism, in his meetings with U.S. envoy Dennis Ross on Oct. 7. Such demands create "a fantastic dilemma, that cannot but destroy real confidence between Israel and the Palestinian Authority," according to Palestinian Authority official Nabil Shaath. The evident aim of such demands is to smear Arafat as being a mere Israeli policeman, making his elimination by Israeli-run Hamas hit teams, or the Israelis directly, that much easier.