

Submission to terrorism only extends tyranny

AS WE REFLECT upon the latest terrorist attacks in the Rome and Vienna airport terminals, perpetrated against innocent travelers at the height of the Christmas season, we are outraged by the savage character of the Palestinian Arab terror organization. The targets chosen were defenseless civilians. While there were a few Israeli casualties, most of those killed and wounded were of diverse nationalities — Americans, French, Austrian, Italian and others.

President Reagan has alerted the American people to the gravity of this international crime and has adopted policies intended to punish Libya, the country that provided resources and training for these "Abu Nidal" terrorists. It is important that Americans address the truths that this tragedy has so painfully dramatized.

1) IN OUR time, terrorism has become a new form of tyranny. The tyrant recognizes no other principle but his own power. He rejects the rules of civilization for he feels that his grievances justify the wanton killing of passengers in airline terminals.

Submission to terrorism becomes an extension of tyranny for it condones and thereby confirms the lawlessness of international criminals. Can the civilized order itself long endure if national



moral perspectives
Rabbi Irwin Groner

al governments yield to such intimidation, as their horrendous acts are met by silence and passivity?

2) TERRORISM respects no boundaries, for its ultimate purpose is the subjugation of Western democracies. The sites chosen this time were Italy and Austria, despite the fact that these two countries have recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization (P.L.O.) as a credible organization.

No country is immune to terrorist strikes. Terrorism is part of a continuing war by the radical, fanatic Arab-Muslim world (including the countries of Libya, Syria, Yemen and Iran) against Israel, the United States, and the democracies of Western Europe. It should also be noted that these acts have the tacit support of the Soviet Union.

3) TERRORISM is evil. So called

"Middle East experts" explain that terrorists commit their despicable acts because of grievances arising out of the Palestinian refugee issue or "political concerns," a veiled reference to Israel. Israel is thus blamed for crimes committed by its most blood-thirsty enemies.

In reality, the carnage that erupted at European airports was caused by those who use violence as an end in itself. The followers of Abu Nidal have no ideology, no plan for the Palestinian people, no program. Their violence is an expression of mindless rage. They are the "hit men" of Mafia-like Arab governments.

4) PALESTINIAN terror is indivisible. The P.L.O. that is the source of international terrorism and the originator of attacks against international aviation cannot now evade a major share of its responsibility for the Rome and Vienna airport attacks by the expedient of condemning these attacks.

The record is full of instances (the case of the Achille Lauro is only the latest) where Arafat and his henchmen have vehemently denied any involvement, only to have such involvement clearly demonstrated later. Whether the P.L.O. was directly involved in these two attacks or not, the master-terrorists of the Middle East must share the blame.

Elie Wiesel recently wrote: 'Peace is not God's gift to His creatures. It is our gift — to each other.'

5) WESTERN democracies should unite in mounting a concerted effort against terrorism. President Reagan has called upon our Western allies to institute an embargo against Libya on the exchange of goods and services, similar to the American ban; Italy, West Germany, Spain and Austria are major trading partners of Libya.

Their participation in sanctions against Colonel Khadafi and his regime would exercise a deterrent effect on further terrorist plots. Even though such measures will probably be rejected for economic reasons, western democracies could undertake other actions to declare Libya a "Pariah-state" such as closing Libyan embassies, blacklisting Libyan airports, and scrutinizing those carrying Libyan passports.

6) THE PEACE process should not be impeded. In recent months, Shimon Peres of Israel, King Hussein of Jordan and Hosni Mubarak of Egypt have held public and private discussions about advancing the cause of peace in the re-

gion. Progress has been made and we may be on the threshold of an important breakthrough. The goal of terrorism is to disrupt this progress toward peace. Arab fanatics have resorted to terror for the last 50 years, everytime peace loomed as even a remote possibility in the Middle East.

Terrorists derive perverse pleasure in "shooting down the dove." We support those responsible leaders who seek to nurture the fragile growth of peace. We affirm our trust in all the men and women of the Middle East who are resolved to overcome the barbarism of fanaticism with reason, moderation and profound concern for the welfare of their people. Elie Wiesel recently wrote: "Peace is not God's gift to His creatures. It is our gift — to each other." Let us combine wisdom, prudence and strength as we seek to bestow this gift to a suffering humanity.

Pre-planned funerals best, Jo says

Dear Jo:
Are there any alternatives to our present-day funeral rituals? The last elderly relative that died was put through the usual — funeral home — impersonal church service, etc. Isn't there some better way to say goodbye to those we love? I would like you to address this subject in your newspaper column and I would also appreciate some ideas and comments from your older readers.

Mrs. L. Southern reader

Dear Mrs. L:
I agree that the present-day funeral rituals are impersonal and do not seem to meet the needs of those left behind. My thoughts on the matter are fairly simplistic.

I prefer no viewing of the body except by immediate family members followed by a memorial or personalized church service.

I am very much in favor of planning one's own funeral including hymn selection, the ordering of the casket and/or whatever. I, too, will be very interested in hearing from the readers of this column on this subject.

Dear Jo:
I am a pensioner over 75 years old. I am having a problem with telephone answering machines. I go to a pay phone — dial a number — and a high speed "talking machine" takes my breath away. Sometimes I panic and hang up, losing my quarter. I phoned the telephone company but they can't help me. Please give my frustrating problem your consideration.

Mr. W.M.

Dear Mr. M:
I asked a group of seniors how they handle the problem of answering machines. They agreed that the electronic age has its frustrations, but suggested that rather than hang up, simply state your name and telephone number, then hang up. Hopefully, the company or the person will return your call. They also suggested that if (before you make the call) you are suspicious that you might get a recording be

Realty women meet

Thomas A. Duke Jr., a fourth-generation commercial broker, will be speaker when the Women Commercial Real Estate Association meets for lunch at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21. Meeting place is Jacques Restaurant, Telegraph north of 12 Mile, Bingham Farms.

Reservations should be called to Sue Harrison at 363-8307. The group is open to women commercial real estate agents and sales personnel, and other interested persons.

A specialist in investment properties, Duke is a past president of the Western Wayne Oakland Board of Realtors, board chairman of Metrobank of Farmington and a member of the Farmington Hills Planning Commission.

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A. Jolayne Farrell

ready by having your message written down. Like you, I find answering machines frustrating. Unfortunately they are here to stay and I guess we'll just have to learn to cope with them.

Dear Jo:
I found your reference to wrinkles as being the patina of life rather amusing. On the same subject, I would like to quote Mark Twain who said, "Wrinkles

should only indicate where the smiles have been." Enjoy your column. M.G.B.

Dear Jo:
Thank you for sharing part of my recent letter on being blind. I would like to make one correction, I did not have five operations, just one transplant. Otherwise, in printing my letter, you gave others hope as I have had many calls to that effect. I can't say it enough — every moment of sight is priceless! Marjory Langstaff Milan, Mich.

Dear Mrs. Langstaff:
One correction, if I may, it was you who gave others hope. Thank you for my reply. Please keep in touch — you have a fantastic philosophy of life and we can all learn from you.

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