

International terrorism debated

By Carolyn DeMarco
staff writer

"There is no solution for international terrorism," former ambassador Edward Marks told an audience of several hundred persons Sunday at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield. "It's something we're going to have to live with."

Marks presentation was part of a lecture series sponsored jointly by the Metro Detroit District, Zionist Organization of America, the Labor Zionist Institute and the Jewish Community Center.

Marks, a senior foreign service officer of the U.S. Department of State and former deputy director of the State Department's Office for Combating Terrorism, also served as envoy to the West African nations of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde. He currently is senior foreign affairs fellow at Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies.

In a speech titled "International Terrorism — Challenges to U.S. Foreign Policy," Marks told international terrorism differs greatly from domestic terrorism in that there is no specific law against it, no clear definition of it. The only definition agreed upon is that it is a phenomenon, which includes violence, politics and an objective.

THERE IS NO international central government, Marks said, no international sets of standards.

"The writ stops at the border. We have no authority to run the world. We cannot be policemen of the world."

"Terrorism, Marks said, is a complex moral issue, which forces the question — is violence ever acceptable? We are a country founded on violence, he said, but one that accepts the legitimate use of force only when the alternatives warrant it.

"(The man's freedom fighter is another man's terrorist. It's a moral judgment. We look at the act and the motivation."

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—Edward Marks
foreign service officer



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Marks said the American counter-terrorism policy "reflects the type of country we are." We have ethical, moral and legal restraints and wish them to remain as constraints, he said.

"Regardless of the provocation, we don't want to behave as they are behaving."

"In fighting terrorism," Marks said, "we have to recognize we're not Rambo, not the A-team. Real people are getting hurt. We come under attack because of it."

Marks likened the problem of dealing with world terrorism to that of world hunger.

"We can eliminate starving children by killing children. But what's the point?"

"We will have the problem the rest of our lives. It reflects and stems from the human condition. We have to deal with it as it comes up. We can manage it but we can never solve it."

MARKS SAID trends show a 10-20 percent increase in terrorist attacks in the past few years, although the regions affected have remained the same — Europe, the Middle East, Central America and northern South America.

The State Department is concerned about a number of other growing trends, including the growth of state support for terrorist groups.

"Seven or eight years ago this was no problem," Marks said. "Today governments are supplying training, financial support and passports, increasing their capabilities."

Other growing phenomena are liaisons with narcotics dealers, especially in Central America, which produce richer terrorists, able to buy more advanced equipment "to do nastier things."

It is socially more acceptable to be labeled a political activist than a narcotics dealer.

Finally, Marks said, the State Department is concerned about the increased fatalities, people indiscriminately killed by bombs in airports.

THE U.S. APPROACH to terrorism is one begun 12 years ago and constantly being worked on, Marks said. Essentially it is one of defense and prevention. Embassy barricades have been implemented, airport security beefed up, training increased and fact-finding efforts emphasized.

U.S. policy calls for managing each incident or threat singly. Traditionally that has meant a no-concessions policy.

Although it is admittedly a slow, long-term approach, Marks said, the government has been pushing for treaties, a consensus of international law.

"Every day we are trying to get more cooperation among countries," Marks said it has to be recognized that terrorism does not exist in isolation. There are risks and there are other considerations, he said, not the least of which is economic.

"We can't always do what we think we want to do."

Citing the Achille Lauro ship-hijacking incident, Marks said, "We crossed our fingers and that one worked. We could do that in other incidents and get the bastards, but other things sometimes take precedence."

MARKS SAID judging whether the government policy is successful is hard to judge.

"Success is when nothing happens. It's like trying to prove a negative. That's not a copout. We had more than 100 attempted terrorist acts that were pre-empted. That doesn't make the press."

"We don't see that success in any dramatic sense. There are no overnight results, but things are happening. . . . We are doing the best we can in an imperfect world."

"We don't have the right to impose our will on others. We make decisions. God and history will judge whether those decisions are the right ones."

Red Cross talks facts about AIDS

The American Red Cross has mobilized its national network of chapters and regional blood services to educate the public about AIDS. The goal of the American Red Cross AIDS Public Education Program is to spread facts instead of fear.

"The best weapon we have for fighting the fear surrounding the AIDS epidemic is a comprehensive education program to inform the public about AIDS," said Dr. A. William Shafer, executive director of the Southeastern

Michigan Chapter and director of the Regional Blood Services.

As of Jan. 17, 1986, 16,458 cases of AIDS have been diagnosed, and 8,361 people have died of the disease throughout the United States. As the number of fatalities rise, public fear escalates. There are 261 transfusion-associated cases of AIDS in the United States. In Michigan, 60 cases of AIDS have been reported for the same period. One case of AIDS has been categorized as transfusion associated Shafer said.

The goals of the new Red Cross program are to provide reliable factual information about the signs and symptoms of the disease, how it is transmitted, the risk factors associated with contracting AIDS, to demystify the disease, and reduce the unwarranted fear surrounding AIDS in order to slow the spread of the disease, Shafer said.

"We know that AIDS is an infectious disease, most commonly transmitted sexually. This virus that causes AIDS, HTLV-III, is transmitted by the exchange of body fluids, it is not airborne. The practices with the two highest

risks of transmission of the virus are anal sex and sharing of needles by intravenous street drug users Shafer said.

"Contrary to much current opinion, AIDS is not an easy disease to catch," Shafer said. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), AIDS is not spread by casual contact either with AIDS patients or with individuals who test positive for antibodies to the virus. And there is no evidence to suggest that the AIDS virus can be transmitted by casual contact in public places, such as, restaurants, swimming pools or health spas he said.

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