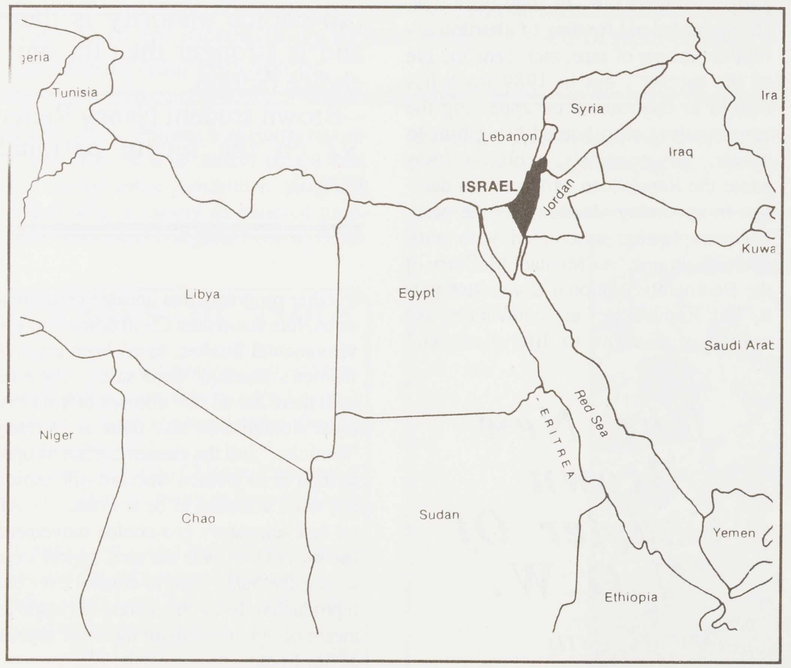
The PLO's Civil War

"Ten are the bullets of the revolution. Nine of them are for the collaborators and one is for the Zionist."
Yasir Arafat, 1989

by Leora Tanenbaum

Israel has accepted Secretary of State James Baker's plan for an Israel-Palestinian dialogue, which would include elections and negotiations in order to implement a form of Palestinian self-determination. Many who oppose Baker's plan fear that it would result in the creation of a Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)-led state. They feel that a PLO government would not only be a security threat to Israel, but that it would be a chaotic assortment of factions killing each other off in order to gain control.

The PLO is a bustling umbrella organization of extremist Palestinian Arab groups. A unifying element is a hatred of Zionism and a strategy to destroy all of Israel. It was created in 1964--before the 1967 Six Day War, when Egypt ruled the Gaza Strip and Jordan, the West Bank. The "Palestine" it seeks to liberate, therefore, is Israel within its pre-1967 borders.



Supporters of the PLO cite Arafat's December, 1988 Geneva speech as an example of the PLO's embrace of peace and recognition of Israel. However, since that declaration, PLO squads have continued to hit Israeli targets, and over 100 Palestinian residents of the territories have been killed by the PLO. Hundreds of Palestinian Arabs have also been wounded from failed assassination attempts by Fatah, Arafat's wing of the PLO.

It seems that the priorities of the *intifadah* (Palestinian Arab uprising) have changed. Though initially the uprising was an oppositional force against Israel, it has become a field for intra- and inter-PLO battles. Young PLO leaders are murdered by the aging ones stationed in Tunisia and Syria. And those Palestinians who don't share the PLO's approach at all are at the top of the assassination list. They are killed under the pretext of being "collaborators" with Israeli officials. As a result, the PLO has become entrenched with imposing its own will upon the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Palestinians cannot express themselves freely, though the *intifadah* is characterized in the media as "free" expression of frustrated Palestinians. Rather, they are intimidated into complying with senior PLO leadership, known as the United National Command.

The UNC distributes leaflets in the territories and broadcasts on the PLO radio station "Voice of Palestine." Leaflet #37 instructed residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to seize the property and strike those who work for the Civil Administration. Leaflet #38 called for residents to mark April 26, 1989 as a "Day of Judgment" against those suspected of cooperating with Israeli authorities. And #43 warned that "not a single national Palestinian should be meeting with anyone in the Israeli government."

Communication with Israeli officials should be welcomed, not impeded. The PLO is doing a grave disservice to the welfare of Palestinians by suppressing the opposing voices.

Celebrities And Their Parties

By David Schenberg

Democrats
Dean Stockwell
Jane Fonda
Rob Lowe
Justine Bateman
Warren Beatty
Morgan Fairchild
Mike Farrell
Willie Nelson
Robert Guillaume
Jack Nicholson
Joe Piscopo
Alan Alda
Burt Lancaster
Gregory Peck
Robin Williams
Richard Gere
Barbara Streisand
Hal Linden
Paul Simon
Phil Donahue

Republicans
Loretta Lynn
Tom Selleck
Charleton Heston
James Stewart
Bob Hope
Jacqueline Smith
Crystal Gale
Billy Dee Williams
Nolan Ryan
Mary Hart

Attorney General

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Fresh approaches and fundamental reform are needed, he said. "The criminal justice system in my view is totally bankrupt and needs to be overhauled."

Quayle Quizzing

An interesting book will soon be available in bookstores around the country. Jeremy Solomon and Ken Brady have compiled "The Dan Quayle Quiz Book." Here are three sample questions:

1. Shortly before he was released from the National Guard in 1975, Quayle took a written exam that tested him in such areas as "fundamentals of writing" and "Army information." The average test score was 75. What did Quayle score? (a) 96 (b) 86 (c) 76 (d) 66 (e) 56.

2. In 1976, when asked by an Indiana GOP county chairman to run for Congress, what was Quayle's response? (a) "Congress is for sissies" (b) "That's the big one in Washington, right?" (c) "Why would anyone vote for me?" (d) "What are the [golf] courses like down there?" (e) "I'll have to check with my dad."

3. What were the vice president's first words when he called Secretary of Transportation Samuel Skinner to invite him to the Indianapolis 500? (a) "Hey, Sammy baby, how about seeing some real transportation?" (b) "Vr-r-o-o-m, vr-o-o-m, vr-o-o-m." (c) "Bet my car goes faster than your car." (d) "Hello, this is Mario Andretti. Is Al Unser there?" (e) "Turbo-charged action. The screaming howl of cars out of control. The smell of sweat, beer, and burning rubber."

Although those who have spent time with Quayle claim that many of the preceeding answers are satisfactory, the correct answers are: 1-e, 2-e, 3-b.

The Quayle-watch continues...