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DOTE-00 DS-00 EB-01 EUR-01 FAAE-00 FBIE-00 FBO-01
HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 INSE-00 IO-16
LAB-01 L-01 ADS-00 M-00 NEA-01 NRCE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 OCS-06 OIC-02 OIS-01 OMB-01 OPR-01 PA-01
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INFO ISLAMIC CONFERENCE COLLECTIVE
ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 JERUSALEM 000691

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PBTS, PHUM, KWBG, PINS, PREL, KISL, JE, IS
SUBJECT: SITREP 10: SETTLERS CIRCLE THE WAGONS

REF: JERUSALEM 671 AND PREVIOUS

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: THREE DAYS AFTER THE ATTACK IN HEBRON
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EXTREMIST SETTLERS REMAIN DEFIANT AND UNREPENTENT, WITH
THE KACH PARTY PUBLICLY APPLAUDING THE MASSACRE.
MAINSTREAM SETTLER LEADERS ARE ENGAGED IN AN OFFENSIVE,
CONDEMNING THE ATTACK BUT HOLDING THE GOI, NOT
GOLDSTEIN, RESPONSIBLE. LEADERS ARE ALSO ACCUSING THE
LEFT-WING OF TRYING TO CAPITALIZE ON THE ATTACK TO MAKE
POLITICAL GAINS, AND ARE WORKING TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON
THE NOW EVEN MORE TENUOUS SECURITY SITUATION FOR
SETTLERS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. END SUMMARY.

.THE RADICALS: DEFIANT, UNREPENTENT, EVEN JUBILANT

3. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, EXTREMIST SETTLERS ARE OPENLY
DEFIANT, REFUSING (ON CAMERA) TO CONDEMN THE ATTACK OR
THE ATTACKER, WITH SOME GOING SO FAR AS TO PRAISE BOTH.
ACCORDING TO A JERUSALEM POST REPORT, KACH SPOKESMAN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

NOAM FEDERMAN LAUDED GOLDSTEIN, SAYING, "WE LOWER OUR HEADS BEFORE THE HOLY HERO, RABBI DR. GOLDSTEIN."

4. ON SATURDAY NIGHT FEBRUARY 26, ALMOST 1000 PEOPLE, INCLUDING KACH ACTIVISTS CURRENTLY BEING SOUGHT BY THE POLICE (INCLUDING FEDERMAN), TURNED OUT FOR GOLDSTEIN'S FUNERAL (NOTE: GOLDSTEIN'S WIFE HAD DEMANDED THAT THE BODY BE BURIED IN THE JEWISH CEMETARY IN HEBRON, BUT THE ARMY REFUSED. IN A "COMPROMISE" BROKERED BY ISRAELI PRESIDENT WEIZMAN THE FAMILY AGREED TO BURY HIM IN KIRYAT ARBA, WITH THE BODY TO BE MOVED TO HEBRON IN THE FUTURE. END NOTE.) BOTH IN JERUSALEM, WHERE THE FUNERAL PROCESSION BEGAN, AND IN KIRYAT ARBA, WHERE IT ENDED, THE PRESS REPORTS THAT GOLDSTEIN WAS EULOGIZED AS
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A MARTYR AND A HERO, A DEVOUT JEW AND DEDICATED PHYSICIAN.

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5. [REDACTED] AN EXTREMIST COMMENTATOR AND KIRYAT ARBA RESIDENT, TOLD POLOFF THAT HE AND MOST SETTLERS CONDEMNED THE ATTACK. "IT WAS AN ATROCIOUS ACT, I'M ASHAMED." AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, HE ADMITS THAT A MINORITY OF SETTLERS IN KIRYAT ARBA AND IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IS SATISFIED WITH GOLDSTEIN'S ACTIONS, AND THESE PEOPLE ARE "NATURALLY MORE VOCIFEROUS" THAN THE REST. [REDACTED] WHILE HE BELIEVES THE "VICIOUS LEFT-WING PRESS" IS UNJUSTLY FOCUSING ON EXTREMIST SETTLERS, ALSO BELIEVES THAT MANY NON-SETTLER ISRAELIS ARE VERY PLEASED ABOUT THE MASSACRE, AND CLAIMS THAT HE HAS RECEIVED COUNTLESS CALLS FROM ALL OVER ISRAEL FROM PEOPLE EXPRESSING THEIR SUPPORT. THIS GENERAL FEELING [REDACTED] BELIEVES, IS BEING SUPPRESSED BY THE MEDIA.

THE MAINSTREAM: CIRCLING THE WAGONS AROUND GOLDSTEIN

6. MAINSTREAM SETTLER LEADERS AND SPOKESMAN, INCLUDING THE YESHA COUNCIL, HAVE COMDEMNED THE ATTACK, BUT HAVE PLACED BLAME SQUARELY ON THE GOI AND SUPPORTERS OF THE PEACE PROCESS. GOLDSTEIN, ACCORDING TO YESHA COUNCIL LEADERS, WAS "A WARM AND CARING MAN, A WONDERFUL DOCTOR WHO SAVED BOTH ARAB AND JEWISH LIVES." GOI POLICIES, THEY SAY, HAVE BRED ANXIETY AMONGST THE SETTLERS AND FOSTERED CONTINUED TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST THEM, AND ARE TO BLAME FOR GOLDSTEIN'S INEXCUSABLE ACTIONS.

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7. FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER ARIEL SHARON, WHO RECENTLY CONCLUDED A YESHA FUND-RAISING TOUR IN THE U.S. ACCOMPANIED BY YESHA COUNCIL FOREIGN RELATIONS DIRECTOR YECHIEL LEITER, OFFERED THE FOLLOWING ANALYSIS IN AN OP-ED PIECE IN THE JERUSALEM POST FEBRUARY 28:

"WHEN THE SAFETY OF ISRAELI CITIZENS IS FORSAKEN, WHEN THE GOVERNMENT HURLS US DOWN A SLOPE AND, WITH ITS OWN HANDS, DESTROYS THE ZIONIST ENTERPRISE AND THE ESSENCE OF THE JEWISH STATE, IT'S LITTLE WONDER THAT JEWS LOSE HOPE, DIRECTION, AND SELF-CONTROL."

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8. [REDACTED] A YESHA COUNCIL MEMBER, SETTLEMENT ACTIVIST, [REDACTED] TOLD POLOFF THAT SETTLERS ARE LIVING IN A "PRESSURE COOKER ENVIRONMENT. WE WERE WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN, BUT WE'RE SHOCKED ANYWAY." THE GOI, HE SAID, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS ATTACK, AND ATTACKS BY PALESTINIANS AGAINST SETTLERS THAT LED UP TO IT. "THE PEACE PROCESS WILL ONLY LEAD TO MORE ANARCHY."

9. WHILE CONDEMNING GOLDSTEIN'S ACTIONS, [REDACTED] MADE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN RANDOM ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND POLITICALLY "JUSTIFIABLE" ACTS, SAYING "IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT IF HE HAD ASSASSINATED YASIR ARAFAT, FOR EXAMPLE. BUT SHOOTING 40 PEOPLE IN THE BACK IS INDEFENSIBLE." [REDACTED] NOTED THAT THE NIGHT BEFORE THE

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SUBJECT: SITREP 10: SETTLERS CIRCLE THE WAGONS

SHOOTING A VERBAL ALTERCATION TOOK PLACE AT THE TOMB OF
THE PATRIARCHS, WITH ARABS ALLEGEDLY CHANTING "KILL THE
JEWS." THIS, HE SAID, MIGHT PARTLY EXPLAIN THE
FOLLOWING DAY'S EVENTS.

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SETTLER PERSPECTIVE ON PROPOSED GOI MEASURES

10. ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT ISSUED FEBRUARY 27, THE
COUNCIL "REJECTS OUT OF HAND PROPOSALS BY IRRESPONSIBLE
POLITICIANS WITH WELL-KNOWN POLITICAL AGENDAS" TO DISARM
SETTLERS AND SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMISSION
OF INQUIRY EMPOWERED TO INVESTIGATE THE HANDLING OF THE
WHOLE INTIFADA. THE COUNCIL ALSO CALLS ON THE
GOVERNMENT TO HALT NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL ALL TERRORISM
CEASES, AND WARNS THAT RELEASING PALESTINIAN PRISONERS
WILL ONLY "ADD FUEL TO THE FIRE."

11. [] TOLD POLOFF THAT MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY THE
GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH THE ATTACK ARE ILL-ADVISED. HE
AGREED THAT IF SETTLERS OR ANYONE ELSE COMMIT CRIMES,
INCLUDING INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE AND SEDITION, THEN THEY
SHOULD BE PROSECUTED BUT HE CAUTIONED THAT THIS IS A
"DELICATE AREA OF LAW. WHAT IS EXTREME? TODAY IT'S
KACH AND KAHANE CHAI, TOMORROW MAYBE MOLEDET (A
RIGHT-WING PARTY CALLING FOR THE EXPULSION OF ALL ARABS
FROM THE TERRITORIES) AND LIKUD. IT BECOMES A QUESTION
OF INFRINGEMENT ON PERSONAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS."

12. REGARDING THE PROPOSED COMMISSION OF INQUIRY, []
SAID THAT WHILE THE SETTLEMENT LEADERSHIP OPPOSES ITS
ESTABLISHMENT, SINCE IT SINGLES OUT ONE ACT OF TERROR BY
A JEW WHEN SO MANY HAVE BEEN COMMITTED BY ARABS, THE
SETTLERS WILL USE IT TO "TURN THE TABLES ON THE
GOVERNMENT." "THE COMMISSION WILL BACKFIRE ON THEM. WE
WILL USE IT TO OPEN UP THE WHOLE HANDLING OF THE

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INTIFADA, WE WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY THE
COMMISSION OFFERS."

FEARS OF GAINS BY THE LEFT

13. SETTLER LEADERS AND SUPPORTERS ARE CONCERNED THAT THE LEFT WING AND PALESTINIANS WILL CAPITALIZE ON THE SHOOTING, GAINING CONCESSIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND SYMPATHY FROM THE WORLD, AND MAKING THE SETTLERS INTO THE VICTIMS. IN HIS EDITORIAL SHARON SAYS,

"THIS LOATHSOME ACT, DESERVING OF EVERY CONDEMNATION, COULD HAVE BEEN ORDERED BY ARAFAT AND THE ISRAELI LEFT. ARAFAT HAS ATTAINED HIS GOALS CHEAPLY (SIC): DIRECT AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PLO TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL. . . AND THE DEMAND FOR AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE TO "PROTECT THE PALESTINIANS." . . THE LEFT HAS ALSO GAINED FROM THE CHAOS. IT HAS CHANCED ON AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEFAME THE SETTLERS IT HATES SO DEEPLY AND HARM THEM. THIS HATRED FOR JEWISH SETTLERS BY ISRAELIS WHO ARE PARTNERS OF ARAFAT IS BOTTOMLESS."

14. [REDACTED] ARGUES THAT THIS IS A "GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY" FOR THE "RADICAL LEFT" TO MAKE DEMANDS, LIKE CALLING FOR THE DISARMING OF ALL SETTLERS AND THE EVACUATION OF SETTLEMENTS. "WE BLEW UP HOUSES, SEALED HOUSES (IN RESPONSE TO ARAB VIOLENCE). WE DIDN'T EVER SAY WE SHOULD EMPTY WHOLE VILLAGES (NOTE: IT IS UNLIKELY THAT [REDACTED] IS SUGGESTING THE GOI DEMOLISH OR SEAL THE HOMES

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OF GOLDSTEIN, HIS EXTENDED FAMILY, AND HIS ASSOCIATES.
END NOTE).

FEAR OF REPRISALS PRIMARY FOCUS

15. [REDACTED] WARNED POLOFF, WITHOUT A TRACE OF IRONY, "IMAGINE IF THIS HAD HAPPENED AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF 8000 ARMED PALESTINIAN POLICEMEN| THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN A TOTAL MASSACRE OF JEWS IN REACTION|" THE YESHA COUNCIL CALLED ON THE DEFENSE MINISTER TO "USE ALL POSSIBLE MEANS TO RESTORE ORDER SO THAT THE SECURITY SITUATION DOES NOT DETERIORATE. THE PAIN AND SORROW CAUSED BY

FRIDAY'S ATTACK DO NOT WARRANT THE ENDANGERING OF THE LIVES OF ALL THE JEWISH SETTLEMENTS OF YESHA DUE TO THE ACTIONS OF ONE MAN. MAKING PEOPLE MORE VULNERABLE IS NO WAY TO CALM THE SITUATION." ISRAEL TV'S AIRING OF SCENES OF ANTI-ISRAELI DEMONSTRATIONS IN EGYPT AND LIBYA, IS FUELING SETTLER PROPHECIES THAT, AS ALWAYS, THE ENTIRE ARAB WORLD IS AGAINST ISRAEL.
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