Series D: International Relations Activities. 1961-1992
Box 73, Folder 6, Terrorism, 1972.
Pope Paul VI, in a message sent to President Zalman Shazar of Israel, condemned the massacre of 25 persons and the wounding of 77 others at Tel Aviv International Airport last Tuesday night, calling it a "tragic act of unheard violence against innocent persons" that leaves a thorn in the heart of everybody in the civilized world. Ambassador George Bush at the United Nations said he was "outraged by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's statement of glee and rejoicing. How callous and inhuman can mankind be?" he asked. Noting that 17 of these murdered were Puerto Rican Christians on a religious pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Congressman Herman Badillo declared that the killing of the innocent Puerto Ricans with others simply highlights the fact that we cannot ignore the constant harassment, intimidation, and assaults against Israel's territorial integrity and basic security by her Arab neighbors. At the other end of the political spectrum, the pro-Maoist Progressive Labor Party stated that "We feel that these Japanese fanatic killers are crazy fascists making war on workers. They're not Marxists. Terrorism doesn't win people."

These reactions reflect the universal sense of outrage against the cruel and insane bloodshed that victimized so many innocent people. But such outrage will evaporate in 24 hours and will mean little unless it compels the world community to face certain hard realities and to take concrete steps to deal with them. The first reality is that this massacre is a desperate act on the part of revolutionary zealots to thwart...
The first reality requires that all of us come to grips with the fact that this tragic event at Lydda airport does not grow solely out of the Israeli-Arab conflict. In 1966 an international conference of radical revolutionaries met at a Transcontinental Congress in Cuba and plotted a program for bringing down imperialist governments through systematic acts of guerilla warfare. Present at that congress were representatives of the radical left groups of Japan side by side with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which gloated last week over its murderous sham victory at that since its vicarious heroes were swaddled in the victory. It was no mere coincidence therefore that during the fedor of Lebanon, a week in which the Japanese terrorist members of their Red Army were obliterating the lives of 26 innocent people and wounding 77 others with Russian guns and hand-grenades that a group of West German leftist-anarchists belonging to the same Red Army internationale were captured in Frankfurt after carrying out a wave of bombings that killed four American soldiers and injured thirty persons last month. According to the New York Times, this German anarchist band reportedly received weapons training in the Middle East from Palestinian guerrillas during the summer of 1970.

Another hard reality which needs to be faced is that in recent months substantial progress has been made in advancing peaceful co-existence between Palestinian leadership on the West Bank and Israel through successful municipal elections of Arab officials, and through increased economic and educational progress for Palestinians. This massacre at Tel Aviv was a calculated attempt of Arab extremists to thwart that progress toward reconciliation by terrorizing moderate Palestinians leadership as well as Israelis.
the massive intrusion of criminal violence into the political process.

What these developments imply, it seems to me, are several convictions. First, such violence will escalate in many parts of the world unless leaders of every walk of life make a determined effort to deny it popular support and the media deprive it of any glamor whatsoever. Second, supporters of the Palestinian cause in this country and abroad must clearly recognize that the legitimate ends of Palestinian self-determination are in danger of being overwhelmed by means which are of greater relevance to the future peace of the Middle East and the world than the political ends themselves. Third, the mass victimization of innocent people in the air terminals of the world will not be halted unless governments undertake at once energetic action through legislation and severe punishment of those perpetrating acts of armed aggression against civil aviation. And finally, such violence will escalate in many parts of the world unless leaders of every walk of life and their constituencies make a determined global effort to uphold the rule of law and respect for the democratic process. Where law and constitutionality end, anarchy reigns, and justice for the Palestinians as every other group will be wiped out.
NEW YORK, March 4...Four experts on international terrorism agreed today that the world balance of power could be altered by the "surrogate warfare" currently being conducted by "small groups with direct or indirect state support who are able to conduct warfare at the national level."

Modern terrorism, they said, has become "part of the arsenal of geopolitics, and will be an important ingredient of international conflict in the coming decade."

The four experts appeared as a panel at a news conference sponsored by the Institute for Studies in International Terrorism of State University of New York, in association with the Institute of Human Relations of the American Jewish Committee. The conference was held at the SUNY office in Manhattan.

The panel included Dr. Ray S. Cline, former Deputy Director of the CIA, and now Executive Director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Georgetown University; Professor Seymour Maxwell Finger, former Ambassador and Senior Advisor to the U.S. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, and now Director of CUNY's Ralph Bunche Institute on the United Nations; Dr. Lawrence Z. Freedman, Director of the Institute for Social and Behavioral Pathology of the University of Chicago; and Professor Yonah Alexander, Director of the SUNY Institute for Studies in International Terrorism, and Editor in Chief of two international journals, Terrorism and Political Communication and Persuasion.

To counter the threats to democratic nations that the interlocking groups of world terrorists present, Professor Alexander offered the following recommendations, among others, to the United States government:

* "Support the creation of a non-governmental task force in order to mobilize all private and public forces in combating terrorism;"
* "Strengthen the prediction, prevention, contingency planning, and crisis management capabilities of the U.S. government;"
* "Develop a special technical assistance agency for combating terrorism at home and abroad;"
* "Encourage strong sanctions to enforce existing international law dealing with terrorism;"
* Initiate new international conventions to protect potential victims;
* Establish, with like-minded countries, a multi-national military force to respond to certain types of international terrorism."

Dr. Cline and Professor Finger added two recommendations in reference to two instances of international terrorism that have recently made headlines around the world, and still occupy national attention.

* Concerning the current situation in El Salvador, Dr. Cline maintained that "the Reagan Administration should demonstrate conclusively that the United States has both the will and the skill to suppress insurgency and terrorism backed by Cuba and the Soviets."
* Concerning the taking of American hostages by Iran, Professor Finger recommended that "the United States should without delay join with other nations at the United Nations in working out an international agreement that all countries will promptly and automatically cut off all diplomatic and economic relations with any government that takes diplomatic hostages or fails to act effectively against hostage takers.

In an analysis of the current state of terrorist groups around the world, Dr. Alexander pointed out that "terrorists operating today are better organized, more professional, better equipped, and more likely to take greater operational risks than their counterparts in the 1970s."

He added that "the major reason for the continuance and probable intensification of terrorism is the fact that many of the roots of ideological and political violence remain unsolved, and new causes will arise in the 1980s."

Dr. Cline maintained that "the USSR and, in supporting roles, Cuba, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, North Korea, Libya, South Yemen, and Syria, have developed terrorism as an international trouble-making system. In the Middle East, Central America and the Caribbean, the selective use of terrorism is becoming a basic risk-free aspect of Soviet strategy of taking steps toward an irreversible gain in the correlation of forces."

At the same time, he continued, "the United States has let its military forces and its intelligence services weaken in comparison to their Soviet counterparts."

"We must make amends quickly," he declared. "Time is not on our side."

Discussing the terrorist attack on the U.S. Embassy in Teheran and the holding of American hostages for 444 days, Dr. Finger pointed out that such actions ran counter to accepted protocol related to the treatment of diplomats, as well as specific conventions that Iran had signed. He stated:

"The 1972 U.N. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally Protected Persons calls such crimes 'a serious threat to the maintenance of normal international relations.' The 1961 Vienna
Convention on Diplomatic Relations commits all ratifying states to respect and protect the inviolability of diplomatic premises, and prohibits any form of arrest or detention of diplomats. The U.N. Security Council and the International Court of Justice unanimously condemned the taking of American hostages in Teheran and called for their release. Yet few countries took any action against Iran. Such a gross violation of international law and human values must not happen again."

The primary purpose of SUNY's Institute for Studies in International Terrorism is to provide unique opportunities for intensive study and research in understanding the problem of terrorism. It was established in 1977, with offices at SUNY (College at Oneonta, telephone 607-431-2535), New York City (60 East 42nd Street, telephone 212-687-6681), and Washington, D.C. (Suite 500, 1730 Rhode Island Avenue N.W., telephone 202-659-2330 or 1968).
STATEMENT OF REV. DR. DAVID M. STOWE, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, UNITED CHURCH BOARD FOR WORLD MINISTRIES.

Men in every religious faith are appalled by the horror the massacre of the innocent people in the Tel Aviv airport. The world cannot endure such senseless and unfeeling disregard of the sanctity of human life, nor such haphazard and hopeless attempts to settle political differences through terror.

It is not enough to make moves toward disarmament in Moscow and to leave a fire raging in the Middle East. The governments of the United States and the Soviet Union have a responsibility to follow their first steps toward peace with a determined effort to bring about a settlement of the differences between Israel and the Arab people, and to establish and help maintain a lasting peace in the Middle East.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New York, May 31...The following statement on the massacre at LOD Airport was made today by Philip E. Hoffman, President of the American Jewish Committee:

"The slaughter of innocents at Lod International Airport has shocked the world. No one now is safe from the cowards who attack defenseless people in the name of Arab nationalism.

"The time is long past for the legitimate Arab governments not only to condemn and disavow these acts but to take concrete measures to avert further disasters. Although these nations may not bear any direct responsibility for these acts, the situation surely demands that they take the lead in a concerted and cooperative effort to stop these outlaws by all means open to the international community.

"We are dealing with lunacy. The rational world must react quickly and effectively before madness claims another man, woman or child."
Statement of the Rev. Dr. David M. Stowe, New York, executive vice-president of the United Church Board for World Ministries, overseas missionary arm of the two-million member United Church of Christ, concerning the massacre at Tel Aviv Airport. Dr. Stowe, a former missionary in China, has also taught in the Near East School of Theology, Beirut, Lebanon.

Men of every religious faith are appalled by the horror of the massacre of the innocent people in the Tel Aviv Airport. The world cannot endure such senseless and unfeeling disregard of the sanctity of human life, nor such hazardous and hopeless attempts to settle political differences through terror.

It is not enough to make moves toward disarmament in Moscow and to leave a fire raging in the Middle East. The governments of the United States and the Soviet Union have a responsibility to follow their first steps toward peace with a determined effort to bring about a settlement of the differences between Israel and the Arab people, and to establish and help maintain lasting peace in the Middle East.

May 31, 1972