'Don't call terrorists ding-a-lings'

By Peter Worthington
Special To The Journal

TORONTO — At a recent editors and publishers conference in San Francisco, hosted by United Press International under the ghastly title EDICON, a half day was spent on the topic of terrorism and what to do about it.

It was a frightening discussion — not so much because of the subject matter, but because of the deep lack of knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the topic.

Political and ideological terrorism is an increasing threat to our present liberal, relatively enlightened democratic system. (Terrorism is mostly a left wing, perverted Marxist phenomenon that supports "socialist" totalitarianism.) I happen to be one of those who think that unless checked, terrorist acts could ultimately destroy free society.

People will gladly sacrifice freedoms in return for security, safety and order — even if it leads to a dictatorship. It has happened before, it can happen again — unless the terror strategy is correctly identified, adequately understood and effectively combatted.

The noteworthy participants of this particular panel included Reg. Murphy, editor of the Atlanta Constitution, who was the victim of kidnappers last winter and was ransomed for $700,000. (Understandably he is an outspoken advocate of giving in to kidnapper demands.)

Another panelist was Evelle Younger, attorney-general of California and the top law enforcement officer who has had to cope with the Patty Hearst fiasco and a variety of other terrorist blackmail and he and Murphy crossed swords on this. Younger mostly was a depressing waste of time who insisted on viewing terrorists as a "minor infection" and a bunch of "ding-a-lings, crackpots, naive ideological nuts."

Expanding force

The only one with something to say — the only one who has studied and understands the terrorist phenomenon — was Prof. David Rapoport, an academic of all things, who once did a series of six lectures on CBC radio on terrorism and assassination which was later published in book form.

CBC planned to do a TV documentary series, offensive to the prevailing ideology of CBC current affairs types. Pity.

Rapoport seems to understand terrorism and terrorists as no other academic (or cop or politician or journalist) and does not belittle it as a passing aberration. He sees it continuing and expanding.

In the past 100 years (since the days of the Czars in Russia), terrorist tactics have shifted, changed and become more effective. Terrorists don't require large numbers. Only organization and guts. And it works.

In Russia, terror was first applied against high officials — assassinations, etc. This was relatively easy to combat as officials could be protected. Terrorists were caught and hanged (Lenin's brother was one).

Then terror was used against the police, as symbols of state tyranny. The hated officials continued to survive in order to further alienate the masses.

Then the families of the police were victimized, wives and children, causing anxiety and panic. (Aden, Cyprus, Ireland). Eventually this leads to the army coming in, which is ill equipped to do police work.

Authorities panic

The most successful terrorist ploy is unmotivated terror against the masses. Killing bourgeois on sight. The innocent suffer, and the random nature of the terror quickly spreads alarm and hysteria, thus paralysing a community (Algeria, IRA, etc.). This also panics the authorities and when police and army react the government is blamed. This has worked well for the Tupamaros in Guatemala, once the "Switzerland" of Latin America, with an enlightened, liberal, political system. It is now a police state.

Of late, terrorist hi-jackings of aircraft have given way to seizing embassies and hostage-taking. Both have worked. (Word among certain Arabs is that plane hi-jackings are diminishing because some airlines are paying "protection" money to terrorist groups to avoid hi-jacking. This won't be admitted, but the rumor is that some airlines regard this as an insurance premium. If so, it is another victory for international terrorism — a continuing source of blackmail funds.)

Neither press, politicians nor police understand the terrorist mentality. To Attorney-General Younger, terrorists fall into three general categories:

1. Foreign-based terrorists.
2. Imitative terrorists.
3. Domestic terrorists, whom he calls varying degrees of "ding-a-lings."

Younger is wrong. The three broad terrorist types are, in my view:

1. Crackpot — the imitative nuts from whom there is no defence.

Reg. Murphy

2. Criminal — in that they are in it for gain, ransom, blackmail money, etc. They are a police problem.

3. Ideological or political terrorists — ones doing it for a cause, or a belief, who are the main threat and who may be fanatics but are not "ding-a-lings". In a way they are mindful of Second World War Kamikaze pilots who were nutty by Western standards but patriots to Japan. True believers.

The sooner the Evelle Youngers realize this — and realize that "minor infections" left unattended can be fatal — the sooner terrorism will be defeated.

Even the enlightened and refreshing David Rapoport seemed at a loss for solutions to terrorism. Yet the answer doesn't seem that tough.

One, terrorism should not be treated as an ordinary crime. It is a form of war. First, blackmail should never be given in to, despite the pain and the cost. Sure, negotiate, make any deals — but renege on these deals as soon as possible. Any promise or deal made under duress is invalid.

Terrorists who are caught should get summary trials and be executed on the spot. Other terrorists don't take innocent hostages in order to free dead comrades.

Sanctions should also be taken against countries that provide refuge for terrorists. Such countries should be boycotted diplomatically, economically, culturally.

Cut off aid, trade, don't let airlines land, their citizens visit other countries. Quickly these countries would respond by cleaning out terrorist pockets. Without a firm base, ideological terrorists simply become international bandits.

Tee-whiz!—27 miles of golf course

Fore-titude and all that

By Shav Glick
The Los Angeles Times

The rumor that a snake bite kit is the tee prize for the Pioneer Pass Golf Challenge just isn't true.

That's about all, though, that isn't true of the tales told about what is advertised as "the world's longest and most challenging golf tournament." And perhaps the most bizarre.

The "course" is 27 miles of sagebrush, Joshua trees, cactus, deep ravines and rocky ledges from Baldwin Lake (altitude 6,800 feet) in the San Bernardino Mountains in California to Yucca Valley (3,300 feet) in the Mojave Desert.

Sixty-six players (54 men and 12 women), plus an entourage of close to 300 spotters, judges (scorers and rules committee), sponsors, vehicle drivers and disbelieving friends, competed in this year's event recently — to the astonishment of deer hunters, motorcycle riders and forest rangers who also frequent that neck of the woods.

Aim at spotters

It's a tournament where:

You tee up every shot — with a spent shotgun shell, a rubber driving range mat, or a 6-inch wooden tee, more often an orthodox one;

You are allowed six club lengths relief, no nearer the hole, on every shot. This saves clubs — and yuccas;

Instead of yelling "fore" when you nearly hit someone, you smile at coming close. Players actually aim at spotters, groups of six to 10 people, mostly youngsters, fanned out in the brush 150 to 200 yards from where the balls are hit. Without spotters, players couldn't carry enough balls to finish the nine holes.

It's 65 miles from the first hole, a 50-yard chip shot in front of the Yucca Valley Masonic Temple, to second hole, a 600-yard monster near the eastern shores of Baldwin Lake. Players are transported in trucks, via Lucerne Valley and up the back road to Big Bear. It's 38 miles farther than going up Pioneer Pass, but it's quicker.

There's a 20-stroke penalty (that's right, 20) for using a "foreign ball." Each player receives five marked balls for his 27-mile odyssey. One stroke is added to his score for each lost ball.

One "hole" is a puddle of water where Arrastre Creek crosses a dirt road. All you need do is fly a ball out of dense scrub oak into the water to hole out.

More players wear hiking boots than conventional golf shoes.

Golfer Leo Freedman chips out of the 'Sloth Rocks' hole during the Pioneer Pass golf tournament

Holes, in addition to Arrastre Creek, range from 20-foot circles of lime in the sand, usually around a clump of cholla cactus, a Joshua tree or a pile of rocks, to a 5-gallon can to an orthodox 4½ inch cup on the ninth green of the Blue Skies country club.

The fourth hole requires a mile-long trek across a flat meadow, liberally spotted with sagebrush and wildflowers. When Gene Hardesty, who annually lays out the course, read in Guinness' Book of Records about the longest hole in the world, he complained that "it's only a measly 765 yards. They ought to see ours."

One hole calls for a 7 or 8-iron shot across a gully on the Pioneertown Ranch of Russell (Lucky) Hayden, a cowboy star of the Hopalong Cassidy era. One that sticks in a 20-foot circle perched on a parched hillside is rewarded by Hayden with a bottle of champagne. An errant hook, however, may end up in the saloon of Hayden's western-style movie set.

The match is sponsored by Yucca Valley merchants, such as Ed. Hardesty's Custom Floors, Florence Peet's Village Smart Shop or Russ Hayden's Western Museum.

A player can hit a near-perfect shot across a deep ravine called Freedman's Folly, barely missing a hole-in-one, only to have the ball ricochet off a rock into the ravine and out of sight. The next player can hit a shot that lands high on a hill, then tantalizingly rolls down the slope, picking up enough momentum to trickle into the circle for a hole-in-one. The hole is called Freedman's Folly because Leo Freedman once elected to play his ball out of the ravine and nearly didn't get out himself.

Will Hertzberg, editor of Fore magazine, overshot one hole and his ball landed on a nearby road. As he prepared to hit, a truck drove around the bend and the driver started honking.

"What in the devil are you doing?" screamed the driver. "Don't you know this is a road?"

"Can't you see I'm playing golf?" yelled back Hertzberg. "What are you doing on my fairway?"

For all its dusty difficulty, oldtimers claim the Pioneer Pass tournament has gone soft in its 16 years.

In 1959, its first year, 18 participants played nine holes at the Hi-Desert course (now Blue Skies) then whacked balls all the way up the pass, a single hole of 27 miles. It took three days, players went on horseback and camped overnight where their balls lay when darkness fell. The survivors concluded with nine holes at the Moonridge course in Big Bear.

The following year separate holes were laid out along the way, both up and down the pass. Baldwin Lake was dry then and one infamous hole was more than two miles long — straight across the lake — and took four hours.

Several years ago the rules committee softened it again, limiting play to nine holes — all down the pass — with a conventional 18 holes the following day at Blue Skies.

It sounds simple but nine holes in the pass still takes seven or eight hours.

Scores combined

The golf challenge was started by a group of citizens who wanted to draw attention to the need for a paved road down Pioneer Pass to complete a loop around Mt. San Gorgonio between Big Bear and the high desert. The road still isn't paved.

The spotters, checkers and judges are as important as the players. Each judge is assigned to one player. He (or she) marks down each stroke (it's easy to forget how many you take when a hole sometimes takes an hour to negotiate), helps the player find a place to swing without hitting a bush, and rules on lost balls.

Winners are determined by combined scores of nine holes on the pass and 18 at Blue Skies, with full handicap.

One of the strangest sights occurs on the final hole, 500 yards across two fairways on the Blue Skies course.

Rules of the pass extend to the hole, which means a player gets six club lengths relief — from behind trees, out of a trap or from the rough — and can tee up his ball for every fairway shot.

That lasts only one hole, however, The final 18 holes are played under strict USGA rules, no moving the ball, no picking it out of a trap, no teeing it up on the fairway..

After a day in the pass, it seems kind of humdrum.

Phosphates: key to Jordan's independence?

New York Times Service

In a desert camp 210 miles south of the Jordanian capital of Amman 60 West German engineers and surveyors are supervising the building of a new railroad from the port of Aqaba to a junction with the famous Hejaz line from Damascus to Medina.

Over 60 years ago the Germans helped the Sultan of Turkey to build the strategic Hejaz line which in the First World War was the main target for the romantic exploits of Lawrence of Arabia and the Bedouin tribesmen who revolted against Turkish rule.

The new line from Aqaba has not the same strategic significance as the old Hejaz line, the purpose of which was to supply the Turkish garrisons deep in the heart of Arabia. But nonetheless it is not without political importance.

Built on pay-dirt

Whereas on the old line, passengers trundle twice weekly in decrepit Turkish rolling stock between Damascus and Amman, the new line to Aqaba is designed for freight and principally for mineral phosphates.

Just as King Feisal's Saudi Arabia floats on an underground sea of lucrative oil, King Hussein's realm of Jordan is built on pay-dirt. Sixty per cent of his territory contains phosphate and the price of phosphate, after remaining stable for a decade, has quadrupled since October, 1973 in the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War.

Jordan, blessed by nature with little but desert land, is currently befuddled with dreams of phosphates — symposiums at the university, phosphate factories from the Japanese, phosphate millions to balance the country's permanent budgetary deficit and make it independent of charity from its richer brothers.

Following the challenge from the "oil sheikhs," the British "Economist" predicts a new blow to the West from the "phosphate-sheikhs." The new weapon is not likely to be so dangerous for the West however as the United States possesses 40 per cent of the world's reserves of the mineral.

For King Hussein, however, it could be decisive — provided he can get his phosphates cheaply and in large quantities down to the country's only port — at Aqaba. From this aspect the railroad being built by the Germans is a new factor in the Middle East conflict.

Despite the war hysteria of recent weeks the main contest at the moment is not between Arabs and Israelis but among the Arabs themselves.

King Hussein refuses to attend the Middle East conference in Geneva until Israel has withdrawn from the West bank of the Jordan. The Palestinians will only go to Geneva if they get a guarantee that the West bank will not revert to Hussein's rule after an Israeli withdrawal. In their eyes that would be just exchanging one occupation for another.

Finally, the Israelis want to stay on the West bank until they are certain that this area will not become a separate small State of Palestine.

Even moderate Palestinians have now come to accept the compulsive idea that the creation of a Palestine national state is the only hope of solving all their earthly troubles.

On the east bank of the Jordan, the only part of the country remaining in Hussein's hands after the Israelis amputated the West bank, there are today about 800,000 Palestinians and they comprise half the population of the country. They have full rights of citizenship and among the backward Bedouins the best chances of advancement.

They have exploited their opportunities so well that today only 570,000 are still registered as refugees, of whom less than half are living in camps. It is still far too many when one sees the crowded poverty-stricken huts and the filth in the unpaved lanes.

But when nearly a quarter of a million no longer wish to be regarded as refugees and nearly 400,000 have managed to get out of the camps the figures testify not only to the adaptability of the Palestinians but to the integration effort of Hussein's rump-state.

The Palestinians, most of whom have been there since 1948, today control the economy and trade of eastern Jordan. The Arab Bank, the most powerful of the Arab credit institutions, has its main headquarters in Amman and it is in the hands of Palestinians.

The success achieved by the pushful Palestinian immigrants does not make them popular with the native-born population.

"They sell their land in Israel to the Jews and buy new land for themselves here," said one rich Jordanian about the rich Palestinians.

The hostility felt towards Israel by the Palestinians and the Jordanians is very different. But they both become equally enthusiastic when the conversation turns from the unhappy conflicts of the present to happier recollections about the past and the alleged traditional German-Arab "friendship" of former days.

The poor Palestinians in the camps show no envy of their own countrymen who have got on in the world but they fear the resentment of the native-born Jordanians. "If they could they would murder the lot of us," said one old man in the Wahdat camp near Amman.

The Arab States do not give the camps very much money. West Germany is presently supplying the Bakaa camp (40,000 refugees) north of Amman with winter-proof prefabricated houses. The 63 Palestinian refugee camps are witness to the dubiousness of those Arab governments who devote their oil millions to the fight for Palestine, as they maintain, while leaving the Palestinians who are one day supposed to inhabit this land, to rot away in camps for 25 years.

What the Palestinians want to know after all this time is where does Palestine finally stand and what are its geographical limits.

Guerrillas defeated

King Hussein on his own cannot tell them. Palestine extremists murdered his grandfather, Abdullah, who founded the state, and two of his prime ministers. A dozen times they have tried to get rid of Hussein the same way.

When the commandos in 1970 tried to turn Jordan into a Palestine guerrilla base, Hussein's Bedouin troops suppressed them in bloody fighting. How many thousands were killed is still not known. The old people in the Wahdat refugee camp say that 10,000 died in that camp alone when Hussein's artillery bombarded it.

After that there seemed little chance of realizing the king's 1972 proposal to create a federation between an autonomous state of Palestine on territory evacuated by the Israelis, and an autonomous Jordan.

The Arab national revolutionaries fumed that Hussein was merely trying to save his throne while Israel was not farsighted enough to give the king a gesture of support.

Together Hussein and the Israelis were responsible for giving the militant Palestinians the idea of establishing a state of their own, to begin with on the thickly-settled West bank.

Henry Kissinger, who has refrained from intervening in the dispute between Greek and Turk over Cyprus, will not be able to avoid returning to the Middle East to point out to the Arabs and Israelis the form the future Palestine will have to take.

It can only be established on the territory of the former trans-Jordan state, linking the populous West bank with the empty spaces on the East bank. The Palestinians here already comprise a near-majority of the population and only submit unwillingly to the Bedouin ruling caste which consists principally of the royal house and the army.

Probably the majority of Palestinians desire neither a regime under the terror of the commandos nor the autocracy of Hussein but a liberal administration appropriate to the state of development of the people with a president or an elected monarch who could well be called Hussein.

At the moment Israel is only prepared to negotiate about the return of West bank territory with Jordan. And Jordan can only go into such negotiations when Hussein has reached an understanding with Yassir Arafat, the guerrilla chief of the Palestine Liberation Organization, empowering him to speak for the Palestinians too. And Arafat in his turn has to pay attention to his own radical wing.

For the first time Arab newspapers are indicating that Hussein and Arafat are moving towards a compromise. But if the gap between Hussein's feudalism and the social-revolutionaries in the PLO cannot be bridged, Hussein may be put under pressure by the superpowers to vacate the field in favor of a Palestine republic.

In view of the stubbornness which he has shown in the face of all catastrophes in the past it can scarcely be expected that he will yield voluntarily.

The curtain is going up on a new act in the Middle East drama. Meanwhile the spur track from Maan on the Hejaz railway creeps ever nearer to the port of Aqaba and every length of line that is laid in the $40-million project brings the day nearer when Hussein's kingdom could be financially independent for the first time in its existence.