

NEW YORK TIMES
21 August 1985

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-12

Israeli Envoy Killed by Gunmen in Cairo Suburb

By JUDITH MILLER

Special to The New York Times

CAIRO, Aug. 20 — An Israeli diplomat was killed and two embassy employees were wounded in a Cairo suburb today when three men sprayed their car with submachine-gun fire.

A previously unknown group calling itself "Egypt's Revolution" took responsibility for the attack. A typewritten statement in Arabic slipped under the door of the Reuters office here vowed to continue such attacks until all "Israeli colonialists" had left Egypt.

"Our valiant armed men," the statement said, "in defense of our freedom and dignity, launched an attack against members of the Israeli intelligence in Cairo."

Egypt's Interior Ministry and an Israeli Embassy spokesman, Itzhak Bar Moshe, identified the slain diplomat as Albert Atrakchi, 30 years old. They said he was an administrative attaché who came to the embassy three months ago.

The two wounded in the attack were his wife, Ilana, 24, who worked part-time as a telephone operator at the embassy, and Mazal Menashe, 22, who was Mr. Atrakchi's secretary and the wife of another Israeli diplomat here.

Mr. Atrakchi was the first Israeli diplomat to be killed in Egypt since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1979. He was also the first diplomat of any nationality to be killed here since President Anwar el-Sadat was slain by Egyptian Muslim fundamentalists in 1981.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Israeli Government was "shocked and grieved" by the "heinous" attack, which comes at a delicate time in Israeli-Egyptian relations.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel, in a statement, called the slaying "a criminal terrorist act," but he refrained from placing any blame on Egypt.

Egypt, which has not publicly ac-

knowledged previous attacks on Israeli embassy personnel here, also denounced the assassination.

"We very strongly condemn this criminal act," said a Egyptian Foreign Ministry statement. "Egyptian authorities will take all legal steps to track down the perpetrators and bring them to trial."

Mrs. Atrakchi, who was shot in the face, underwent surgery at Al-Salam Hospital in Ma'adi, but doctors said they could not safely remove the bullet, according to Mr. Bar Moshe. He said she was in stable condition.

Mrs. Menashe, who had bullets removed from her leg and chest, was able to describe the attack in detail to Egyptian investigators, Mr. Bar Moshe said.

The two women and Mr. Atrakchi's body were flown home to Israeli tonight.

Mr. Bar Moshe said the attack happened at about 8:30 o'clock this morning, shortly after the three embassy employees left the staff residence in the suburb of Maadi, about six miles from the Israeli Embassy in Giza.

Mr. Atrakchi was driving on Street 18 in Maadi when one or more of three men in a red Fiat opened fire on his car, bringing it to a halt, Mr. Bar Moshe said.

He said an assailant with a submachine gun got out of the Fiat, raced over to Mr. Atrakchi's vehicle, and fired point-blank through the side window. He then ran back to his vehicle, which sped away, Mr. Bar Moshe said.

He said Mr. Atrakchi's car was found moments later by another group of Israelis on their way to the embassy.