

November 19, 1993

FIBS MY FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD

A famous story from South African Jewish folklore forces itself on our attention.

One morning, in friendly conversation in the kitchen, the black servant confides to the housewife that "the day will come when we black people will kill all the white people." Mrs Cohen is horrified. "John," she exclaims, "how can you say that? I can't believe that you would do such a thing. You surely have nothing against us. Haven't we always treated you like one of our own family?" "Of course not," says John. "What do you take me for? I wouldn't dream of hurting you, but I and my friend next door, we have an agreement."

And so, Yasser Arafat, leader of the PLO, negotiating for "peace" with the sovereign government of Israel in the name of "the Palestinian people" looks on with equanimity as Palestinian terrorists go on murdering Israelis. Those Palestinians, however, are members of a different Palestinian party; so as far as Arafat is concerned, they may kill as many Jews as they find possible.

He does not dream even of denouncing them. Thus, though he struts around the world, and conducts negotiations with the Israelis, playing the role of leader of the "Palestinian people" - when it comes to taking action against Hamas to put an end to its Palestinian terror, Arafat turns out to be no more than the chieftain of a minority clan (The Jerusalem Post recently estimated mainstream PLO strength in the Palestinian Arab community at 30 percent). Arafat finds himself explaining that in accordance with the decisions of the all-Arab conference at Rabat in 1974, he is only acting out the first part of the two-phase program for the elimination of Israel.

(Indeed, the veteran Fatah murderers who were captured earlier this week told their captors that they had been ordered, because of the "peace negotiations," to lay off killing Jews "for the time being within Israel, even inside the government, who do not hide their support