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BBC Summary of World Broadcasts

October 9, 1996, Wednesday

## Palestinian police reported to have arrested would-be **suicide bomber**

**SOURCE:** 'Yedi'ot Aharonot', Tel Aviv, in Hebrew 7 Oct 96

**SECTION:** Part 4 The Middle East; THE MIDDLE EAST; MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS; OTHER REPORTS; ME/D2738/MED

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Israel TV reported on 7th October that Amin al-Hindi, head of the Palestinian General Intelligence Service, had commented on reports that the Palestinian Security Service had detained four Islamic Jihad activists in the Bethlehem region, one of whom planned to carry out a suicide operation in Jerusalem. The TV said that Hindi had told one of its correspondents that "despite the political impasse and despite Israel's non-adherence to and procrastination in implementing the Oslo agreement, the Palestinian security services were carrying out fully their duty to protect the agreement and prevent any action that could affect the credibility of the Palestinian position in its commitment to the peace process, as this was the strategic choice of the Palestinian people" .

The Israeli newspaper 'Yedi'ot Aharonot' reported on 7th October that " an Arab youth from the [occupied] territories" had been arrested by Palestinian police in Bethlehem "in the middle of last week" . He had been "recruited by the rejectionist organizations" and although he was not carrying explosives when arrested, it was believed that he was " supposed to receive the explosives from Hamas activists in East Jerusalem" . The report added that the man, who had made a confession during interrogation, had planned to **disguise** himself as a soldier and detonate a bomb on a crowded bus.

The same report added that a large-scale manhunt was under way for two Hamas members who had escaped from Nablus prison the previous week and were believed to be "on their way to carry out terrorist attacks in Israel" . Palestinian security forces had managed to capture two other prisoners who had escaped at the same time.

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