



# daily news bulletin

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## ARAB DESTRUCTION OF RELIGIOUS ARTICLES, INCLUDING SIFREI TORAHs, AT MACHPELA CAVE IN HEBRON LEADS TO CLASHES BETWEEN JEWS AND ARABS

By Gil Sedan and David Landau

HEBRON, Oct. 5 (JTA)--The government was trying desperately today to cool inflamed passions that erupted over the Yom Kippur weekend in a bitter clash between religious Jews and Arabs in this West Bank town, site of shrines sacred to both the Jewish and Moslem faiths. The events touched off rioting in other West Bank towns and villages yesterday and today during which numerous Arabs were arrested and several wounded in skirmishes with Israeli troops and border police. (See separate story.)

They also resulted in a sharp polarization of opinion among Israeli Jews with potentially far-reaching political repercussions for the Rabin government. (See separate story.) The Cabinet is scheduled to meet in special session tomorrow to examine the situation. The Knesset will also convene.

The violence was precipitated by the destruction of Jewish religious artifacts in the Machpela Cave (Tomb of the Patriarchs) where Jews and Moslems are permitted to worship, but at separate times. According to eye-witnesses, the cave was entered Sunday morning by a "frenzied mob" of about 200 Arab youths who left the Jewish area in shambles, ripping Sifrei Torahs and prayerbooks and smashing and scattering the furnishings. Those acts followed what local Arabs charged was the deliberate desecration of the Koran, the Moslem holy scriptures, by Jews from the nearby Orthodox township of Kiryat Arba.

Jewish worshippers arriving at the cave later Sunday for prayers to usher in Yom Kippur, were greeted by the scene of destruction. According to eye-witnesses, they were stunned and then infuriated. One eye-witness reported that a fistfight developed between two Jews and several Arabs inside the shrine when Jews discovered that an altar cloth had been torn.

### Arabs Charge Destruction Of Koran

Soldiers intervened to keep the clash from spreading. But tempers were already running high because of an incident the previous day when Israeli soldiers prevented Kiryat Arba Jews from conducting Sabbath services at the old Ohel Avraham synagogue a few yards from the Machpela Cave.

Their purpose was to avoid a Jewish-Arab confrontation such as have occurred frequently in recent weeks. Jewish worshippers were removed bodily from the site in the presence of Arab onlookers. Israeli troops feared the Arabs might be tempted to join in hustling Jews away and the Military Governor thereupon declared the entire market area adjoining the shrines closed to all.

At about the same time, rumors spread like wildfire among Hebron Arabs that Jews had torn and trampled the Koran in the Machpela Cave. The Military Governor, Gen. David Hagoel, visit-

ed the scene. According to Military Government sources, a Koran was found on the floor though not damaged. Nevertheless, "the sight was definitely provocative," a military source said. It was viewed by Mayor Fahed Kawassme of Hebron, Sheikh Hilmi Al Muhattasib, head of the Moslem Council in Jerusalem and Hassan Tabbub, director of the Waqf, the Moslem religious organization which is the legal owner of the cave.

The Jewish officers and Moslem dignitaries reportedly agreed on the need to calm tempers. The Moslem leaders, however, prepared a memo condemning the act which was broadcast by radio throughout the Arab world. Thus, according to Jewish sources, some sort of sanction was given the Arab youths who entered the cave the following morning to destroy Jewish religious artifacts.

The Moslem leadership published a condemnation of those acts yesterday. Muhattasib expressed painful regret over the desecration of Jewish articles as well as of the Koran. Kawassme urged all parties to act with restraint, an appeal echoed in the East Jerusalem Arab newspaper Al-Quds.

### Over 50 Arabs Detained

But the grief and anger of Orthodox Jews was boundless. Israeli military sources said the Arab invasion of the cave and desecration occurred too quickly to have been prevented. Police reinforcements forcibly broke up the mob. Sixty Arab youths were injured in the melee, four of them requiring hospitalization.

Security sources reported today that more than 50 Arabs are being held in custody on suspicion of having participated in the desecration. Many were said to have been apprehended inside the cave. A special police task force has been set up to investigate the incident with the aim of bringing to trial those Arabs found to have been directly involved.

### Ritual Burial Due Tomorrow

A curfew has been clamped on Hebron which was still in effect today. The army replaced the desecrated articles and permitted Kiryat Arba Jews to conduct Yom Kippur services at the cave. Immediately following the holiday, plans were made for the ritual burial of the mutilated Sifrei Torah and prayer books which, according to Orthodox tradition must be mourned in the same manner as a deceased person. Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren visited the cave shortly after Yom Kippur to begin the delicate task of retrieving the remains. Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef was also at the scene.

The army planned to conduct the burial at the Jewish cemetery here today but the services were postponed at the last minute until tomorrow when, it is hoped, tempers will be somewhat calmer. The Kiryat Arba Jews have protested the military's involvement and demand that the ceremony be a purely religious event. The army, on its part, fears a new outbreak at the burial which is expected to be attended by Orthodox Jews from all parts of Israel.

**SPECIAL ANALYSIS****HEBRON EVENTS BRING INTO FOCUS  
SMOLDERING PROBLEMS ON WEST BANK**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 5 (JTA)--The ugly events in Hebron over the Yom Kippur weekend have brought into sharp focus the long smoldering problem of Jewish-Arab relations on the West Bank. If anything, they have hardened opinions among those Israelis who believe the government must be scrupulously even-handed and others who insist that Jewish rights are paramount and that the Arabs must be dealt with harshly, in effect, "taught a lesson."

The wide gap between "hawks" and "doves" has serious political ramifications, especially with national elections due to be held next year. The government has been walking a tightrope, firmly putting down Arab rioting on the West Bank while at the same time, restricting Jewish access to towns like Hebron which contain shrines holy to religious Jews and Moslems alike.

The government's hope, is to avoid violence between Jews and Arabs. Critics on both sides have accused the Rabin administration of procrastination. The "doves" are angered by the government's reluctance to take action against the militant Gush Emunim, whose base is the Orthodox township of Kiryat Arba adjacent to Hebron and who have consistently defied government orders to keep out of the Arab town.

**Gush Emunim's View**

The recent failure of the military authorities to enforce their arrest of Kiryat Arba's leader and prime agitator, Rabbi Moshe Levinger, who entered Hebron last week in direct violation of the Military Government's orders, is cited as a case in point. The continued presence of Gush Emunim squatters at Kadum in the heart of Arab populated Samaria is another. The Cabinet decided last May that the squatters would be removed to an alternative settlement site approved by the government. But so far, no attempt has been made to implement that edict.

The Gush, supported by religious and nationalist elements, insist that the West Bank belongs to Israel by divine mandate and that Jews have the right to settle anywhere in that territory and, especially, to worship freely at Jewish shrines there. Although Kiryat Arba is a separate township, its residents have been demanding the establishment of a permanent Jewish presence in Arab Moslem Hebron.

They say they are merely reclaiming Jewish property destroyed by Arab rioters in 1929 when 63 Hebron Jews were massacred and the rest driven out of the town. The most recent confrontations between Kiryat Arba Jews and Hebron Arabs occurred when the former laid claim to the ruins of the ancient Ohel Avraham synagogue razed by the Arabs 47 years ago.

The desecration of Jewish religious artifacts in the Machpela Cave on the eve of the Day of Atonement understandably enraged Jews all over Israel. The damage done by Arab vandals was shown on television and in newspaper photographs. While for many Jews their initial sense of wrathful indignation gave way to more pensive bitterness, the Gush have seized on the episode to castigate the government for alleged "appeasement" of the Arabs and to demand "iron-fisted" measures against the latter.

They are pressing their demands for access to the Ohel Avraham synagogue and for total Jew-

ish control of the Machpela Cave where Jews and Moslems are permitted to worship at different times. The Gush now insist that the cave be closed to Moslem worshippers until after the Succoth festival after which the government should review the entire matter of dual prayer rights.

**Described As A 'Real Pogrom'**

Religious Affairs Minister Yitzhak Raphael of the National Religious Party, visited the cave after Yom Kippur. He described the desecration as "a real pogrom." He said later on a radio interview that if there had been Jewish acts of "foolhardiness" they didn't compare to what he called a deliberate, premeditated Arab attack motivated by hatred.

Liberal opinion was equally predictable. "Doves" linked the vandalism to "incitement" by Levinger and his followers. The independent newspaper Haaretz sharply criticized the government today for "appeasement" of Levinger and his followers and accused the government of a "flabby" stance toward the militant Orthodox group.

The Likud opposition bloc, which supports the Gush, has called the Knesset into special session tomorrow to debate the Hebron violence. The Cabinet is scheduled to meet on the matter before the Knesset convenes. Defense Minister Shimon Peres, who was at Hebron yesterday in an unusually grim mood, met today with Welfare Minister Zevulun Hammer of the NRP's "young guard." Hammer is close to the Gush and to the Kiryat Arba residents. Peres apparently is trying to enlist his support to cool tempers.

Security sources said today that no changes were planned at present in the prayer procedures at Hebron. At any rate, changes would have to be decided on the Cabinet level, not by the Military Government.

**SPORADIC VIOLENCE ON WEST BANK**

TEL AVIV, Oct. 5 (JTA)--Sporadic violence continued on the West Bank today in the aftermath of the events in Hebron. A curfew imposed on Nablus yesterday was lifted this morning only to be followed by a new round of disturbances by Arab students who poured out of their classrooms to clash with border police. The latter fired tear gas bombs, forcing a mob of some 200 youngsters to retreat into the narrow alleys of the old town.

Similar demonstrations occurred in Tulkarem today where firemen were occupied extinguishing blazing piles of rubber tires while dodging stones hurled by Arab youths. Trouble also broke out anew in Jenin where the local notables said they were powerless to restore order as long as the volatile situation remained in Hebron. A wave of demonstrations, tire-burning and road barricades also took place in Ramallah and in the Balata refugee camp near Nablus.

The events in Hebron brought the major West Bank towns to a standstill Sunday. Schools and shops were closed and youths ranged through the streets stoning Israeli soldiers and hurling rocks at any passing vehicle. Three Israeli drivers were injured in Nablus, one of them seriously. The incidents continued yesterday, ending only after a curfew was imposed. At the Balata refugee camp, Israeli border police found themselves surrounded by hundreds of Arab youths who reportedly advanced on them with stones and iron bars. The police fired a number of shots. Three Arab youths were wounded.

**TAX REFORM BILL SIGNED INTO LAW**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5 (JTA)--President Ford had no comments on the anti-boycott provisions contained in the Tax Reform Bill he signed into law yesterday. But the White House released a fact sheet defining the Administration's view of what constitutes boycott activity prohibited under the act and experts of the Senate Banking Committee offered further clarification to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Meanwhile, the 94th Congress adjourned Saturday without acting on the Export Administration Act extension bill which contained strong anti-boycott measures. The failure to act was attributed to successful parliamentary maneuvers by the Ford Administration and its allies in the Senate.

According to the White House fact sheet, "boycott activity consists of 1) discrimination on the basis of nationality, religion or race in terms of hiring or selecting employees, managers or directors; 2) participation in a 'secondary boycott' i.e. a company agrees to refuse to do business with a specified country; and 3) participation in a 'tertiary' boycott, i.e., a company agrees to refuse to do business with other companies which do business with a specified country."

The Senate Banking Committee experts told the JTA that the definition of a boycott activity is not intended to deny tax benefits where a country prohibits bringing into such country goods produced in any second country. Nor, they said, does it deny tax benefits where a country prohibits the export of products obtained in such country to any specified second country.

Under these qualifications, Saudi Arabia, for example, could direct an American company not to bring to it any Israel-made product or to provide Israel with Saudian oil. Furthermore, companies can comply with the Arab boycott without penalty if they are prepared to accept the loss of tax benefits for that part of their operations involved in business with the boycotting country.

Under the new tax bill, the Treasury Department is not required to make public the reports of companies that so comply with the boycott at the cost of certain tax benefits. Under the Export Administration Act extension bill that died with adjournment, the Commerce Department would have been required to make public disclosures and companies failing to report boycott compliance would have been subject to criminal penalties.

**ALLON MEETS WITH PORTUGAL'S FM**

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Oct. 5 (JTA)--Israel's Foreign Minister Yigal Allon met here today with Portugal's Foreign Minister Jofe Medeiros Ferreira and discussed with him the taking of further steps towards the normalization of relations between the two countries. Ferreira, it was reported, is scheduled to visit Israel in the near future for talks with Israeli officials and to conduct negotiations concerning exchange of technological know-how and agricultural aid between Israel and Portugal. The meeting between the two foreign ministers lasted 45 minutes.

The situation in the Mideast was discussed today at a luncheon given by Israel's UN Ambassador Chaim Herzog, hosting Allon, Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, General Assembly President Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe of Sri Lanka and other top UN officials. During the luncheon, which was held at the UN dining room, the UN officials

brought up the recent Soviet bid to the parties in the Mideast conflict calling for an early resumption of the Geneva peace conference. No details as to the nature of the discussion on this issue at the luncheon were available. Tomorrow morning Allon will have a "working breakfast" at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

**UNESCO URGED TO STOP BEING POLITICAL**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Oct. 5 (JTA)--Some 160 prominent scientists, writers and intellectuals from 25 countries called on UNESCO and other specialized international agencies Saturday to stop the politicization of their organizations and anti-Israel discrimination. This call was addressed to such bodies as the World Health Organization, the International Labor Office and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) after a one-day conference.

Among the participants were Nobel Prize winners such as Prof. Christian Anfinsen, Werner Forssmann, Andre Lwoff, and Carl Cori; labor leaders, including a vice-president of the AFL-CIO, Albert Shanker, and writers and philosophers such as Simone de Beauvoir and Herbert Gold.

The conference was held a few weeks before the UNESCO General Conference opens in Nairobi, Kenya. That conference will consider Israel's application to join the European Regional Group. Observers close to the international symposium said they were hopeful Israel's application to rejoin UNESCO's work will be successful. The sources said that several countries previously uncertain of their vote, now intend to support Israel's admission to the European Regional Group.

Former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban said: "I urge the intellectual community to declare its non-cooperation with any organization which violates its own constitution by discrimination. If the UN held a conference on locust plagues the participants would adopt a resolution against Zionism and leave the locusts intact." He added, "We urge the Arab states to regard the United Nations as the appropriate area of struggle and to allow the humanitarian enterprises of the specialized agencies to be carried on."

Elie Wiesel suggested a second, and real UNESCO, true to its original charter, be started. He urged intellectuals the world over to cooperate with the new body he suggested be established. No other speaker, however, followed his suggestion.

Prof. Raymond Aron, French philosopher and political writer, warned, "We should not imagine that the efforts to manipulate the UN agencies will vanish by magic. We must defend these organizations against the states which want to manipulate them."

TEL AVIV (JTA)--The Tel Aviv Zoo and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is about to inherit millions of Israeli Pounds from the estate of Avraham Litvinsky, whose father was one of the founders of Tel Aviv. Litvinsky, who died recently in Switzerland without any heirs, left all his money to the zoo and the society. But his brother, Chaim Litvinsky, a Tel Aviv lawyer who was bequeathed only one Pound, has challenged the will, claiming that his brother was under psychiatric treatment at the time of his death and did not know what he was doing.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### THE WEST GERMAN ELECTIONS

By Jon Fedler and Tom Segev

BONN, Oct. 5 (JTA)--Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's re-election by a slim eight-seat majority in the West German Parliament Sunday is expected to bring no change in Bonn's policies toward Israel. Schmidt's Social-Democratic Party (SDP) and its coalition partner, the Free Democratic Party (FDP), headed by Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher, won 252 seats. The opposition Christian Democratic Union-Christian Social Union (CDU-CSU) won 244 seats. Schmidt and Genscher pledged yesterday to continue their alliance for another four years starting Dec. 14.

Israeli and Jewish sources in Bonn had expected no change in Middle East policy no matter who won. As Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress and a long-time student of German politics said recently: "Germany will continue to follow more or less the same lines of even-handed policy, no matter who wins the election."

Things weren't always this way. The predecessor of the present government, the CDU, under the late Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, conducted a policy of strong and unambiguous moral and material support for Israel, based on the acknowledged guilt of the Germans for Nazi persecution of European Jewry.

When Bonn formally recognized Jerusalem in 1965, 10 Arab states broke off diplomatic relations in protest. This led to a vacuum in the West German government's Middle East policy, since Bonn for its part refused to establish relations with any country--Arab or other--which had diplomatic ties with East Germany.

The SDP-FDP coalition which came to power in 1969 continued to uphold the "special relationship" established by Adenauer and the late David Ben Gurion, but introduced the concept of "neutrality" towards Mideast issues as a whole.

### The Role Of Economics

There were strong economic motives for this approach. East German promises of aid to the Arabs had not materialized. By contrast, Arab-West German trade had expanded to the point where the Federal Republic was the Arabs' second most important trading partner after France. The Arabs, like Israel, hoped Germany would use its strong influence in the European Economic Community to press for preferential trade agreements. And with Germany's likely entry into the United Nations, both sides saw benefits in resuming relationships.

In spite of occasional setbacks in German-Israeli relations--especially after the massacre of Israeli athletes at the Olympic Games in Munich in 1972--and in spite of a vast increase in German-Arab trade in the past five years and German dependence on Arab oil imports, ties with Israel have perhaps never been better than they are today. Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon visited Germany (including Berlin) five times in the past 15 months and several German and Israeli Cabinet ministers and other delegations have exchanged visits.

The flood of telegrams and donations received by the Israeli Embassy in Bonn after Israel's daring Entebbe raid testifies to the deep public sympathy for Israel.

Israeli dependence on Germany results partly

from the fact that the Federal Republic--the economic giant of Europe--is its second biggest supplier of goods and its third biggest customer after the United States and Britain. A big export offensive is currently underway to cut back Israel's massive \$550 million trading deficit with Germany, and a treaty was signed recently to promote mutual trade and investment.

Since the oil crisis of late 1973, Bonn has adhered more or less to the EEC line on the Middle East, namely calling for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories (this was recently "elaborated" to "all" the occupied territories) and establishment of a Palestinian state in return for recognition of Israel's right to exist in secure borders. Observers considered it unlikely that a CDU-CSU government would have changed this.

### Charges And Counter-Charges

Helmut Kohl, who was the opposition's candidate for Chancellor, is believed to have no well-defined opinions on Mideast matters. His designated Foreign Minister, Prof. Karl Carstens, is considered a friend of Arab oil-producing countries. But CSU leader Franz-Josef Strauss, who, as shadow-Finance Minister, would have been the real strong man in any CDU-CSU government, has supported Israel in the past.

One interesting aspect of the recent bitter campaign is that speakers for both parties frequently accused each other of using National-Socialist propaganda tactics, of following Nazi ideas or having ex-Nazis among their party leadership.

Both Schmidt and Kohl repeatedly mentioned the persecution and extermination of the Jews under Adolf Hitler in their speeches as part of their efforts to present themselves as liberal, tolerant men. "I feel that mentioning the Jewish Holocaust gets me a very positive response," the Chancellor told a correspondent for the Israeli paper, "Maariv."

"I mention the Auschwitz, Treblinka and Maidanek death camps in order to point out the moral burdens of our time," Kohl told the same correspondent.

### JEWISH HISTORICAL MATERIAL INCLUDED IN BICENTENNIAL TIME CAPSULE

WILMINGTON, Del., Oct. 5 (JTA)--A Bicentennial time capsule which included material related to Jewish history was buried on Sept. 30 in Wilmington Square. According to the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware, the capsule contained "The History of the Jews in Delaware" by Rabbi M. David Geffen and the Jewish Historical Society's publication "Jewish Delaware: History, Sites, Communal Services." Arthur Krieger, chairman of the event, also enclosed a mezuzah in the hope that there would be peace for the world in the next century. Krieger, according to the Society, was the only Jew in the U.S. to be chairman of such an event during the Bicentennial year.

PARIS (JTA)--French Socialist leader Francois Mitterand is due to pay a three-day visit to Israel this month. Mitterand, a former contender for the French Presidency and leader of the opposition, is due to meet with Premier Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Yigal Allon and other top Israeli leaders.