

**ISRAELIS PONDER POSSIBILITY OF  
NEW WAVE OF TERRORIST ATTACKS  
WITHIN THE NATION'S BORDERS****Security Precautions For Passover Tightened  
By Hugh Orgel and Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, April 15 (JTA) — Israelis are wondering this week whether they face a new wave of terrorist attacks within their own borders in the aftermath of the bus hijack Thursday night in which a woman soldier was killed and seven civilians wounded.

The four terrorists who seized the bus enroute from Tel Aviv to Ashkelon in an attempt to take hostages across the Egyptian border, were killed by Israeli troops who stormed the vehicle before dawn Friday after its fires were shot out in the Gaza Strip.

The hijack was the fifth major terrorist assault on civilians inside Israel since last December. Although more serious casualties were averted, tension is running high. Security precautions for the Passover holidays are especially strict. Hundreds of additional policemen are on duty and the volunteer civil guard has also increased its manpower. Cities and resort areas have been put on special alert.

**Houses Of The 4 Terrorists Dynamited**

Yesterday, Israel army engineers systematically dynamited the houses of the four dead terrorists, all residents of the Gaza Strip. Three had lived in Beni Shuheila village and one in Abassan near Khan Yunis. It has long been standard practice to demolish buildings where terrorists lived or found shelter.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a terrorist group headed by George Habash who broke with the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1974, claimed credit for the bus hijack. But Israeli authorities insisted that the terrorists were all members of the mainstream El Fatah, the PLO faction still loyal to Yasir Arafat, and in fact were acting on Arafat's order. (See related story.)

Premier Yitzhak Shamir said the terrorists were making "a desperate attempt to resume activity after having lost control over the terrorist theater in Lebanon." Defense Minister Moshe Arens observed that the terrorists are "trying to prove they still exist."

Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy hinted that the bus hijackers had been trained and armed on the West Bank where there is considerable support for the PLO but not for Habash's PFLP. The hijackers had demanded the release of 500 imprisoned PLO terrorists from Israeli jails in exchange for the bus passengers, and safe passage for themselves into Egypt.

**U.S. Condemns The Hijacking**

(The hijack drew swift condemnation from the Reagan Administration. In Washington Friday, State Department spokesman John Hughes said: "The United States condemns this wanton act of terrorism which struck at innocent

civilians. We remain relentlessly opposed to terrorism wherever it occurs, whoever is the agent. Israel has too long suffered the outrages of such dispicable acts. The United States has long maintained that only through negotiations, not violence can progress be made toward a just and lasting Middle East peace.")

**Recent Chronology Of Terror**

In the recent chronology of terror, civilians have been the targets. On April 2, three terrorists threw grenades and opened fire on crowds in King George Street near Jaffa Road, the busiest intersection in Jerusalem, wounding 48 persons. One of the assailants was killed and two were captured.

On March 7, three Israelis were killed and nine wounded when a bomb exploded on a bus in the port city of Ashdod. On February 28, 21 persons were wounded when two hand grenades exploded outside a mens' clothing shop on Jaffa Road. Last December 6, a powerful bomb demolished a bus in the Jerusalem suburb of Beit Vagan, killing six people and wounding 41.

The hijack Thursday, involving an inter-city bus, triggered memories of the March 11, 1978 coastal highway massacre in which 35 people were killed and 80 wounded by heavily armed terrorists who seized a bus on the Haifa-Tel Aviv highway and fired from its windows on passing vehicles.

The terrorists had come from Lebanon by sea and the mass killings were followed by Israel's invasion and occupation of south Lebanon in what became known as the Litani River campaign.

**Terrorist Groups Claiming Responsibility**

Responsibility for several of the more recent attacks inside Israel was claimed by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Marxist oriented, pro-Soviet group headed by Nayef Hawatmeh and currently based in Damascus. The Democratic Front is a breakaway from Habash's PFLP. Israeli experts on Arab affairs noted that both dissident PLO offshoots are vying for leadership of the badly divided PLO at the Palestine Council meeting next month.

For that reason, it is believed, the PFLP took responsibility for the bus hijack inasmuch as Hawatmeh's group claimed credit for the King George Street shooting earlier in the month. But Israeli sources, pointing to El Fatah, noted that Arafat's deputy, Khalil Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, told reporters in Amman last week that the PLO would take "many actions in the near future against the enemy who only understands force."

**Total News Blackout In Israel**

Israelis had no knowledge of the bus hijack and hostage-taking attempt until late Friday morning, hours after the incident had ended. There was a total blackout of news of the event domestically. Foreign journalists were allowed to cable abroad but their dispatches were heavily censored and no details were given.

The full story emerged on Israel Radio Friday morning. The bus, an Egged No. 300, left the

Tel Aviv terminal at 6 p.m. local time Thursday on its evening direct run to Ashkelon. Four young Arabs, described as Hebrew-speaking, boarded the bus at Tel Aviv. One of them carried an attache case, which, it was learned later, contained two booby-trapped grenades.

At the Ashdod crossroads, little more than half way from Tel Aviv to Ashkelon, the four men pulled out guns and ordered the driver to head at high speed toward the Gaza Strip and the Egyptian border. A woman passenger who is pregnant, told the hijackers she was feeling ill. They allowed her to leave the bus. She was picked up on the road by a truck driver and the police were alerted.

Police and army roadblocks were set up on the highway north of Ashkelon. But the bus broke through them at high speed. The police and soldiers were not fire at the vehicle for fear of hitting passengers. Sharpshooters at each roadblock tried to hit the tires and succeeded only as the bus neared the Arab town of Deir El-Balah in the Gaza Strip. The bus veered off the road and stopped.

It was surrounded by troops and police. Defense Minister Arens and Chief of Staff Levy both rushed to the scene. Evacuation helicopters and ambulances were stationed nearby as army officers heard the terrorists' demands and engaged them in what seemed to be negotiations in order to gain time.

#### Decision Reached To Storm The Bus

By midnight a decision was reached to storm the bus at the first light of day. The terrorists apparently were unaware of the preparations being made. At 4:45 a.m. the assault was launched. Troops smashed through the bus windows gunning down the terrorists. A woman soldier, tentatively identified as Irit Portugez, 19, was fatally wounded and seven other passengers were hit by bullets in the shooting melee.

Two of the terrorists were killed instantly. A third died shortly afterwards and another died on the way to the hospital. The four men were identified later as Sobhi Abu Jama, 18; Majdi Abu Jama, 18; and Muhammad Barake, 19, all of Beni Shuheila village; and Jamal Kavalan, 22, of Abassan.

#### ISRAEL EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN APPORTIONING BLAME FOR BUS HIJACK By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 15 (JTA) -- Israel has been extremely cautious in apportioning blame for Thursday night's bus hijack near Ashkelon. Despite intensive press speculation here blaming Syria for the terror attack, senior government policymakers and officials have studiously avoided pointing a finger of accusation publicly at Syria for this particular deed.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens set the tone in a television appearance last night. He spoke of previous tensions along the Israel-Syria line in Lebanon, caused by Palestinian terrorist groups working from behind Syrian lines. He noted that Israel has recently responded by shelling terrorist camps behind the Syrian lines -- and since then, he said, the situation had become calmer.

He warned that Israel would not passively suffer attacks of this kind in the future, either. He did not, however, link Thursday's attack to

the Syrians directly. He said Israel thought the El Fatah was responsible for it, but there was no conclusive evidence yet.

After the weekly Cabinet meeting today, at which Arens and Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy reported on the attack, Cabinet spokesman Dan Meridor also pointedly declined to be drawn by reporters into outrightly condemning Syria for the action. He indicated that Premier Yitzhak Shamir was being similarly cautious.

Shamir and other policymakers have commented over recent days on the wave of Soviet and Syrian "warnings" to Israel not to launch aggression against Syria, asserting that no such aggression is contemplated here and thus these "warnings" are unfounded. Israeli sources say the Soviet-Syrian effort to accentuate tensions is apparently linked closely to the ongoing instability in Damascus surrounding President Hafez Assad's uncertain state of health.

They say it would be "to play into Syria's hands" for Israel too to whip up tension by tough rhetorical statements -- especially since there apparently is no firm evidence connecting the bus attack to Syrian-backed terrorist groups, apart from the belated claim of responsibility by George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

#### EL SALVADOR MOVES ITS EMBASSY IN ISRAEL FROM TEL AVIV TO JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, April 15 (JTA) -- El Salvador became the second country, after Costa Rica, to move its Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said El Salvador's move on Friday was timed to coincide with a ceremony in San Salvador at which the new Israeli Ambassador to El Salvador would present his credentials. The spokesman recalled that the Israeli Embassy was closed about five years ago after it was attacked by rebel forces.

At a ceremony in Jerusalem on Friday, Ambassador Napoleon Armando Guerra of El Salvador, said that his country's decision to move its Embassy to Jerusalem was based "in the human and spiritual values which characterize Israel, which is considered like the countries of Latin America, a country that esteems democracy, freedom, peace and prosperity." He also said, according to Israel Radio, "I can promise with candor and honesty that the reasons (for moving the Embassy) were not mainly founded in material values."

(In Washington, the State Department said Friday that the United States had not "encouraged" El Salvador to move its Embassy to Jerusalem. Department spokesman John Hughes said it was entirely between the governments of Israel and El Salvador. Hughes said there was "no dilution" in the U.S. position on its own Embassy in Israel. The Reagan Administration has strongly opposed the effort now in Congress to force the Administration to move its Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.)

El Salvador was among 13 countries to move their embassies from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv in 1980 to protest the enactment of the Jerusalem Law, which formally declared Israeli sovereignty over all of Jerusalem and affirmed the city as the nation's united capital.

Yisrael Gur-Aryeh, a deputy director general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, said Friday at the ceremony that Israel "hopes and is working for more embassies to continue the path of Costa Rica and El Salvador and return to Jerusalem, our eternal city."

**CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES,  
DEVELOPED BY THE ADL, SIGNED BY GOP,  
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE HEADS**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 15 (JTA) -- The chairmen of the Democratic and Republican national committees signed a "Code of Fair Campaign Practices" pledging their parties to "condemn any appeal to prejudice based on race, creed, national origin, gender or sexual preference."

The code, developed by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, as it has done in previous Presidential election years since the 1950's, was signed in a ceremony at the B'nai B'rith building here.

"We hope that the very act of the chairmen of our two great parties solemnly signing our code of fair campaign practices will set a civil tone of political debate in the months ahead," Nathan Perlmutter, the ADL director, declared. He said the candidates also will be asked to sign the code.

Charles Manatt, the Democratic national chairman, stressed that "there is no place in politics for prejudice and unethical behavior."

Frank Fahrenkopf, the Republican national chairman, said the code should be adhered to by those running for Congress, state and local offices, as well as Presidential candidates. He said the issues facing Americans on all levels of government are complex and candidates should be judged "solely on their ability" to solve these problems.

**Irrelevant Rhetoric Cited**

Perlmutter stressed the point that "campaign rhetoric against one's opponent on the basis of race, creed, national origin or sex, is irrelevant to political ideology; is irrelevant to competency. Conversely, appeals soliciting support on the basis of race, creed, national origin or sex are likewise irrelevant." He said the two appeals "are flip sides of the same coin, a bad penny that depreciates America."

The two party chairmen agreed, although they appeared to absolve the Rev. Jesse Jackson of any charge that he was basing his candidacy on his race. Manatt said he understood the code to be aimed at ridding the country of prejudice.

But Perlmutter said that, just as it was wrong in the 1950's to appeal in the south on the grounds that a candidate was white, it is wrong to appeal today on the basis of a candidate being Black. "It's wrong because color is irrelevant to competency," he said. He added that appealing to one group on the basis of race "is a form of Lebanizing America." But he would not say if Jackson was doing this.

At the same time, Perlmutter said it was legitimate for Jackson to speak on civil rights to Black groups just as it was legitimate for candidates to speak to Jewish groups on Jewish concerns or to discuss farm issues in Iowa and labor in a Detroit auto plant.

Manatt noted it was "political reality for Blacks to be enthusiastic about a Black running for office, just as women were enthusiastic about women seeking office."

The code pledges the chairmen and the candidates who sign it to "immediately and publicly

repudiate support from any individual or group which resorts, on behalf of my candidacy or in opposition to that of my opponent, to the methods and tactics" condemned in the code.

**JACKSON REFUSES TO PUBLICLY  
DISAVOW BLACK MUSLIM'S SUPPORT**

NEW YORK, April 15 (JTA) -- Democratic Presidential hopeful Rev. Jesse Jackson refused to publicly disassociate himself from his militant supporter Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the Chicago-based Nation of Islam group, after the Black Muslim leader acclaimed Hitler as a "very great man" who "rose Germany up from nothing." (See full story, April 13 Bulletin.)

But speaking to reporters at a campaign news conference in Phoenix last Thursday, Jackson sought to distance himself from Farrakhan and his characterizations of Hitler, saying the Nazi leader was "despicable" and the expression of "consummate evil."

"I find nothing great about Hitler and everything about him despicable," Jackson said. "Hitler's greatness was great for some Nazis, but that's all. I find no pleasure in what he represented ideologically or what he did. He represents an expression of madness on the face of the human community."

While Jackson refused to disavow Farrakhan's support, he sought to differentiate between the role of a supporter and that of a "surrogate." Jackson said, "I do not think it is fair to impose upon our campaign the views of a given supporter, ones that we do not hold ourselves."

"Any candidate who becomes the nominee of the Democratic Party will have within that party strong extremes, the very hawks on the right, the very doves on the left and all of those in between. It is that sense of delicate balance that I am concerned about."

**FRENCH JEWS CELEBRATE 40th  
ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF CRIF**

PARIS, April 15 (JTA) -- French Jewry celebrated the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Representative Council of French Jewish Organizations (CRIF) by members of the Jewish underground in German-occupied France in 1944 as a symbol of their determination to survive and rebuild the Jewish institutions destroyed by the Nazis.

The principle ceremonies were held in Lyon where Klaus Barbie, the wartime gestapo chief there, is now in prison awaiting trial for crimes against humanity. They were attended, among others, by the Archbishop of Lyon, Cardinal Albert Decourtray, who stressed his solidarity with the Jewish people, and by Defense Minister Charles Henu who noted that Barbie, known as the "butcher of Lyon," is finally to be brought to justice.

There were also ceremonies in the village of Izleu where, 40 years ago almost to the day of the founding of CRIF, 43 Jewish children were arrested for deportation on Barbie's orders.

CRIF was founded in Lyon by a Jewish judge, Leon Meiss, who was in hiding from the Nazis at the time. Today it is the representative body of 50 major Jewish organizations in France. Its current president, Theo Klein, recalled the tragic past and urged the French Jewish community and Jews the world over to remain vigilant against all forms of racism.

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

1984 OBERAMMERGAU PLAY UNDER FIRE  
By Arnold Ages

TORONTO, April 15 (JTA) -- A Jewish historian and a Jewish philosopher are both highly critical of the 1984 version of "Passion Play" which will be staged this summer in the West German village of Oberammergau. It will mark the 350th anniversary of the first production of the play by the villagers.

Ever since 1634, the people of Oberammergau in Bavaria have kept a promise made at the time when their village was threatened by a plague "to keep the tragedy of the passion (of Jesus) every 10 years." The dominant theme of the play has been that the evil Jews crucified Jesus.

Saul Friedman, professor of history at Youngstown State University, the author of "No Hope for the Oppressed" and "Pogromchik," and the author of a soon to be released book on the Passion Play, says the play, which is expected to be seen by more than 500,000 spectators this summer, will be substantially the same version presented in the village in 1980.

"On the scale of anti-Semitism, where Der Sturmer is 100 and the Sermon on the Mount is 0, I would put the 1980 play at 40," Friedman says. "But it is much improved over 1970 where the text was 70 in anti-Semitism."

Some Improvements In The Play Noted

While Friedman is not totally satisfied with the new expurgated version of the play -- which tends to portray Jews as the people of Judas, rather than Jesus -- he says that many of the improvements came about as a result of the good will of the people of Oberammergau. That good will has not gone far enough, however, he observes, since there are still distinctly anti-Jewish resonances in the latest version.

Friedman indicates that the village's former mayor, Ernst Zwink, one of the most helpful forces in the purging of the original text, has died and his death has removed some of the urgency of the text's revision.

Says Nazism Penetrated Oberammergau

In a preface to Friedman's new book, "Oberammergau," philosopher Emil Fackenheim, a professor at the Institute for Contemporary Jewish Studies, says that the 1934 version of the play belies the assertion made by many defenders of Oberammergau that Nazism never really penetrated the play. He states:

"We say the 1934 Nazi version because, contrary to all the apologies offered after 1945, to the effect that Nazism never penetrated Oberammergau, the spirit of Nazism is unmistakably present in the picture of money-greedy, plotting, bloodthirsty Jews, coupled neatly with the claim that now, anno 1934, Christians are redeemed from them and their machinations."

Fackenheim concedes that the 1980 "cleaned up" version (which will be the text offered this summer) has eliminated some of the more overtly offensive expressions and ideas. But both Friedman and Fackenheim concur in their assessment of the real problem with the Oberammergau spectacle. The play shows no evidence of what Fackenheim calls "a fundamental metanoia." This term has been inadequately translated

in English as "repentance." Fackenheim says in his preface: "The 1934 version of the Oberammergau damns the Jews explicitly. In the 1980 version this damnation is still implicitly present."

Eight Anti-Jewish Stereotypes In 1984 Version

In his book, Friedman identified no less than eight clearly anti-Jewish stereotypes found in the Passion Play, including avaricious money-lenders, vengeful opponents of Jesus, spiteful rabbis and pharisees, and Jewish mobs shrieking for blood.

Friedman also reports in his book that in discussions with Catholic theologians, he was told that it takes time for reconsiderations about Jewish culpability to be reflected in the popular consciousness. The results of the Second Vatican Council in 1962 has not yet succeeded in reaching totally the Oberammergau phenomenon.

In his preface, Fackenheim scores this apologetic tendency. "Just how long will it take for the ordinary Christian or German to take notice. And in the meantime, are new seeds of the old hatred being sown, for some future explosion -- and a new catastrophe for Christianity, no less than for Judaism and the Jewish people?"

An Outstanding Catholic Theologian

Fackenheim identifies one Catholic theologian in Germany who has spoken out on the need for Germans to realize what they have done to their Jewish citizens, Johann Baptist Metz. Even after the war, Metz said that the Jews remained a vague cliché and that one's views were derived at best from Oberammergau.

Christians must at long last listen to Jews, says Metz. "This moral recollection of the persecution of the Jews touches lastly the relation of the people of this country to the state of Israel. In this respect we have no choice, and I insist in this point over against my leftist friends," Metz declares.

"After the Jews were carried in our most recent history to the brink of total annihilation, we should be the last people in the world to accuse Jews of an excessive desire for security.

"We should be the very first to claim that they defend their state, not because of 'Zionist imperialism' but rather as a 'house against death,' as the very last place of refuge of a people persecuted for centuries."

Fackenheim concludes his preface to Friedman's new book on Oberammergau by suggesting that it is doubtful whether the play could really survive the kind of metanoia or repentance demanded by theologians such as Metz. The only possibility for the survival of the play, says Fackenheim, is if the following words of Metz are heeded:

"We Christians will never get back behind Auschwitz. And we will get beyond it, not alone and by ourselves, but only in togetherness with the victims."

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The cost of living index rose during March by 10.7 percent, a new record for that month, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced Sunday. It brought the inflation rate to 42 percent during the first quarter of the year, with a 240 percent index rise during the past 12 months. The Histadrut and the Manufacturers and Employers Association signed a new agreement immediately after the announcement, fixing the C.O.L. increase to be paid with April salaries due for payment on May 1 at 38.2 percent.