

**25 SUSPECTED JEWISH TERRORISTS CHARGED**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 23 (JTA) -- Twenty-five suspected members of a Jewish terrorist underground on the West Bank were formally charged today with a wide range of criminal offenses aimed against Arab civilians. The names of the suspects continued to be withheld by court order but most are believed to be residents of the West Bank with close ties to the Gush Emunim and other militant settler groups.

The court deferred until next Thursday a decision on the prosecution request that all of the suspects remain in custody pending trial. The court session at which the charges were read was held in camera.

Six of the suspects were charged with murder and attempted murder in connection with the machine-gun and grenade attack last July on the Islamic College in Hebron in which three Arab students were killed and 33 were wounded.

Nine suspects were charged with attempted murder, attempted sabotage, illegal possession of arms and causing serious bodily harm. All were charged with membership and activity in an illegal terrorist organization.

**Background Of The Charges**

The sabotage charges stemmed from the planting of powerful explosives in five Arab-owned buses in East Jerusalem, timed to explode at the peak of rush hour last April 27. The attempt was foiled at the last minute by security agents acting on inside information.

The bodily harm charges were believed related to the June, 1980 car bombings that maimed Mayor Bassam Shaka of Nablus and Mayor Karim Khallaf of Ramallah. The accused were believed acting in retaliation for the murder of six yeshiva students by Arab terrorists in Hebron a month earlier.

Several suspects were charged with planting bombs in mosques in Hebron and others with conspiring to blow up the El Aksa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, two of the holiest shrines of Islam, on the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem.

The indictments handed down today marked the close of one of the longest and most sensitive criminal investigations in Israel's history that apparently confirmed the long-rumored existence of a Jewish terrorist underground among the settlers in the occupied territories. The settlers, numbering some 30,000, are a major constituency of the ruling Likud-led government.

**Message From One Of The Suspects**

Yesterday, 300 settlers and supporters of the Gush Emunim staged a rally outside Jerusalem police headquarters in solidarity with the suspects. A message, purported to have come from one of the suspects, was read at the rally. It referred to the detained persons as "innocent Jews whose lives are dedicated to Zionist action" and claimed they were arrested "for action they have taken for the sake of the security of the State of Israel and its citizens."

The message complained that the suspects were being treated as "terrorists" and urged their supporters to "protest against this distortion" and to convince the authorities that whatever actions were tak-

en, albeit illegal, were the result of weakness and ineptitude on the part of the government in protecting Jewish settlers against Arab violence. The message was signed "Prisoner of Zion."

**Blame Former Defense Minister Weizman**

A Maariv reporter who claimed he gained access to the detainees in the Jerusalem jail during visiting hours, reported today that they told him they did not consider their acts criminal. They blamed former Defense Minister Ezer Weizman for creating a situation in which Jews had to defend themselves.

They accused Weizman of building up a Palestinian state on the West Bank through PLO representatives, members of the outlawed National Guidance Council. They also charged that under Weizman, the policies of Sheli were implemented in the territories, Maariv reported. Sheli is a small, now defunct, leftist faction.

**WEINBERGER SAYS THERE IS NO REASON FOR 'ANTIPATHY' TO HIM IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 23 (JTA) -- Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger denied today that there is any reason for "antipathy" toward him in the Jewish community.

"I don't know why there should be any antipathy, there is certainly none on my part," he said in response to a question after his address to the 42nd annual meeting of the American Jewish Press Association (AJPA) at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel. He said his talk to the AJPA and other Jewish groups should have "long ago" cleared up his position.

While there was no direct mention of the belief in the Jewish community that Weinberger is anti-Israel, AJPA president Jerome Lippman, publisher of the Long Island Jewish World, touched the subject indirectly in his introduction of Weinberger.

American Jews know that "what is good for Israel is good for America," Lippman said. He added that it seems some times that this is "not sufficiently appreciated by the Administration or the Pentagon."

**U.S.-Israeli Relationship Stronger Than Ever**

In his prepared remarks, Weinberger stressed that the U.S.-Israeli relationship "has never been stronger." He noted the U.S. "continued commitment to Israel's security and well-being" as evidenced by the record of foreign aid to Israel and the new strategic and political cooperation that is going on.

Weinberger particularly seemed to stress the new agreement for using Israeli medical facilities. He noted that a marine badly injured in an accident as well as a premature infant born to an Air Force family were recently taken to Israeli hospitals where they recovered.

When he was asked why the U.S. did not use Israeli hospitals after the marines' barracks were blown up in Lebanon in October, 1983, he repeated his often stated assertion that the commanders at the scene felt that other facilities were adequate.

Weinberger stressed that the U.S. was concerned about the threat of Soviet intrusion into the Middle East and the danger this posed to Western oil supplies. He said the new strategic agreements with Israel demon-

stated that both countries were determined to "do something about" deterring the Soviets. At the same time, he stressed, "we must maintain security assistance programs with the moderate Arab governments in addition to Israel." He said they were threatened by terrorism from Syria with the backing of the Soviet Union. "U.S. assistance to counter terrorism makes an important contribution to regional security" and is in "the long-term interests of Israel."

However, Weinberger stressed that security comes from peace. "Israel cannot make peace by itself and we understand the United States cannot impose peace and should not try," he said. But he said the U.S. should try to provide the security and the help to bring about peace. He stressed that President Reagan's September 1, 1982 Middle East peace initiative was the "only workable prescription to accomplish" this.

#### U.S. Not Responsible For Soviet Jewry's Plight

In a speech last night to the opening session of the four-day conference, Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, denied that it was the "tough talk" of the Reagan Administration that has resulted in the Soviet Union's harsh treatment of Jews.

"Let us stop looking everywhere but the Kremlin for explanations," he said. "Jews are in jail in the Soviet Union, Jews are forbidden to leave the Soviet Union, Jews are persecuted for practicing their religion in the Soviet Union because of decisions made in Moscow, not in Jerusalem or Washington. The Soviets are orchestrating a vicious and escalating anti-Semitic propaganda campaign under the guise of anti-Zionism."

#### Extreme Left Poses Main Threat To Jewish Survival

Abrams said that the "principle threat to Jewish survival now comes from the extreme left." He said while there are still rightwing anti-Semitic groups, they "do not pose nearly as great a threat to the survival of the Jewish people as does Soviet anti-Semitism on the one hand and the anti-Semitism of left-wing Arab extremists of the Libyan or PLO variety on the other."

Abrams held out little hope for improvement this year, noting that the USSR does not want to do anything that would help re-elect Reagan. But he stressed that public opinion in the West does put a check on Soviet oppression of Jews.

Asked about Ethiopian Jewry, Abrams said that the situation is "better than it has been in a few years" and that there is now a steady flow (of Ethiopian Jews) going to Israel.

#### DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE KNESSET CONDONES VIOLENCE AGAINST ARABS WHO ATTACK JEWS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 23 (JTA) -- Remarks by Meir Cohen-Avidov, the Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, condoning violence against Arabs who attack Jews, triggered an angry public reaction today and demands for dismissal of the Likud MK.

Cohen-Avidov spoke at an emotionally charged rally of West Bank settlers here yesterday in solidarity with 25 suspected members of a Jewish underground terrorist organization who were indicted today for criminal offenses against Arab civilians.

Demanding tougher punishment for Arab terrorists, the Deputy Speaker declared, "I would poke out

the eyes of Arab murderers and tear out their guts." He made similar statements in a Haifa court several weeks ago during the trial of Arabs charged with the murder of a Jewish boy.

Mapam MK Mohammad Wattad demanded that Knesset Speaker Menachem Savidor immediately remove Cohen-Avidov. According to Wattad, the Deputy Speaker represents the entire Knesset and cannot be allowed to express himself in the vocabulary of the very murderers he condemns. He expressed surprise that nobody in Likud seemed to take exception to Cohen-Avidov's remarks.

Tzali Reshef, leader of the Peace Now movement, said the attitude expressed by the Deputy Speaker only breeds violence. "People who make the distinction between the killing of Jews and killing of Arabs, saying that one was semi-legitimate and the other should be condemned, these people do not have the minimal understanding of what the rule of law is. Such atmosphere created by persons of high rank in the Israeli establishment is what makes a Jewish terrorist organization possible," Reshef said.

On Monday, Premier Yitzhak Shamir strongly condemned the purported Jewish terrorist underground. He told the Knesset that it is "of concern and regret that after 36 years of our independence there are those among us who challenge the authority of the State and do not accept and honor the basic principle that the government of Israel, and the government only, is responsible for the security of Israel."

#### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND JOINS JEWISH GROUP IN CONDEMNING ANTI-SEMITISM

GLASGOW, May 23 (JTA) -- The Church of Scotland has joined the Jewish Representative Council of Glasgow in a strong condemnation of anti-Semitism and an acknowledgement that the Christian church has been guilty over the centuries of fostering anti-Semitic attitudes.

The joint statement issued here also affirmed the place of Zion in Jewish theology as an expression of the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. It declared that the Christian and Jewish communities must combat "the evil of anti-Semitism" and act together in support of the right of all to freely practice their religion. The statement expressed concern for human rights in general and opposition to all forms of racism.

It said in part: "We are agreed that anti-Semitism must be combatted in all its manifestations. Those of us who are Christians recognize our need to acknowledge the Church's guilt through many centuries in fostering anti-Jewish attitudes and to seek forgiveness of God and of our Jewish brothers and sisters."

The statement also noted that "As a group of Christians and Jews, we have paid particular attention to the evil of anti-Semitism which in its extreme form resulted in the Holocaust in which six million Jews died in Europe."

The statement was issued after a series of discussions between ministers of the Church of Scotland and leaders of the Jewish community who have been meeting regularly since October, 1982. In addition to its condemnation of anti-Semitism, the statement said:

"We have also become aware of the enduring quality of Zion in Jewish liturgy and theology throughout the ages, and of how Zion is seen as an expression of the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy, a hope for the dispersed, and a spiritual center."

# ADMINISTRATION WITHDRAWS REQUEST FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF PLAN TO EQUIP A JORDANIAN STRIKE FORCE

WASHINGTON, May 23 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration has withdrawn its request for Congressional approval of a \$220 million plan to arm and equip a Jordanian strike force, pending review, State Department spokesman John Hughes announced today that Congress was asked to defer action "without prejudice" following consultations between the U.S. and Jordan.

The purpose of the proposed strike force was immediate response to any emergency that might develop in the Persian Gulf states. It was strongly opposed by Israel and its supporters in Congress on grounds that the weapons could be used by Jordan against Israel. Israel is technically in a state of war with Israel.

Hughes said that the U.S. and Jordan had agreed that the proposal should undergo further review, including a re-estimation of its cost. It is the second Administration proposal for arming Jordan that has been dropped this year. Last March the Administration withdrew its request for Congressional approval of the sale of shoulder-fired Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Jordan. It too was opposed by Israel and its Congressional supporters.

The Stinger sale was abandoned a week after King Hussein of Jordan ruled out peace talks with Israel on grounds that U.S. support for Israel compromised Washington's credibility as a fair mediator in the Middle East dispute. The Administration acknowledged at the time that the sale was dropped because of political opposition in Congress.

Hussein reiterated his charges of U.S. bias in favor of Israel in a British Broadcasting Corp. interview a week ago. But the State Department denied that the Jordan strike force plan was suspended as "punishment" for Hussein's refusal to enter U.S. sponsored peace talks with Israel.

"Our request to Congress followed close consultation and agreement between the governments of the United States and Jordan. It was agreed the program should be reviewed and its costs re-estimated. The United States expects to continue to work closely with Jordan on peace and security issues of mutual interest. Our relationship continues to be close and cooperative, as befitting friends," Hughes said.

## SPECIAL TO THE JTA FROM ISRAEL, WITH JOY By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, May 23 (JTA) -- Their voices were joyful, their footsteps confident, their smiles heartwarming -- as a troupe of 13 mentally-handicapped Israeli young people, brought to the U.S. by Aikim, the Israeli Association for the Rehabilitation of the Mentally Handicapped, last night performed a program of songs and dances at a dinner reception at the home of Joel and Randi Meisel in Potomac, Md., a Washington, D.C. suburb.

Their performance in colorful folk costumes was entitled, "Hearts and Flowers," a musical tribute to the widely different songs, dances and traditions embodied in present day Israeli culture. It was a preview of their performance to be given on Friday in the 1984 national very special arts festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, held May 23-26, under the leadership of chairperson Jean Kennedy Smith.

This festival has been hailed as "a celebration of disabled and non-disabled children and youth, who will unite to share their accomplishments in the arts."

## A First For The Israel Group

This is the first time the Israeli group will take part in the festival which has attracted participants from all parts of the U.S., Puerto Rico, Scotland, Spain, New Zealand, and Japan. Many distinguished artists and educators will also take part in the four days of workshops, performances, demonstrations and art exhibits. The young Israeli artists will also perform another special preview for the international press conference in Washington today.

The dinner reception at the home of the Meisels was under the patronage of Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne and his wife Vera Rosenne and was sponsored by the Friends of Akim-USA which was established in 1983 to assist Akim-Isreal, established in 1946, in financing its work with the mentally-handicapped in Israel. Akim-USA now has chapters in a number of large cities across the U.S.

After their beautiful performance, Ambassador Rosenne praised the young performers in Hebrew and called them "the best ambassadors that Israel could send, and we are really proud of them."

Yair Gilboa, executive director of Akim, and Paul Zuckerman, president of Friends of Akim-USA, Inc., and other friends of Akim leaders from many parts of the U.S. flew to Washington to encourage their young proteges before their first international performance.

## 'Strong Will To Live a Decent Life'

Yitzhak Genigar, chairman of Akim, told the gathering: "They represent many thousands of youngsters, adults, and old people who have a very strong will to live a decent life, and we are here to do everything to make it possible for them ... We are trying to build a bridge between the past with all those inadequate services to a future with adequate services for the mentally handicapped and for all the other people who are not like everybody."

Genigar stated that these young people "are determined to show everyone that they can participate, be active, can and want to do as everyone does to give his share to society." He added:

"They are the bridge itself and they have done the utmost possible to show you what mentally handicapped can achieve. Only several years ago there was a general misconception: they cannot study, learn, work, live together with others in the community. They have succeeded in showing you they can."

With the help of Akim, the 13 young people now in the U.S. work at full-time jobs, most in the open market. Two are carpenters, one a cook at a kibbutz, one works in a publishing firm, one in a sheltered workshop. Some live in residential homes, but many live at home with their families.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- The National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported Wednesday that Vladimir Tsukerman was released on schedule from a labor camp near the Mongolian border, and has returned to his hometown of Kishinev. Having served three years for "violating public order," the 47-year-old emigration activist has been waiting since 1978 to rejoin his wife, Inna, and son, Aleksandr, in Israel.

## UNIQUE ILLINOIS BURIAL LAW CONSTITUTIONALITY TEST UNDERWAY

By Ben Gallab

NEW YORK, May 23 (JTA) — An unprecedented court test is underway in Illinois concerning the validity of the nation's only state law, designed to accommodate religious needs of Jews for prompt burials, which makes it illegal for any labor contract between a gravediggers union and a cemetery trade group to ban burials on Sundays, a Jewish legal aid expert said today.

The Illinois law, in which Agudath Israel of America had a key role in bringing about passage, was challenged in a lawsuit filed by Local 106 of the Service Employees International Union against the Cemetery Association of Greater Chicago, according to Dennis Rapps, executive director of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA).

Local 106 strongly fought the measure in the state legislature, contended that it violated the National Labor Relations Act, and that it was unconstitutional on three grounds: that it mandated "involuntary servitude" by forcing gravediggers to work on Sundays against their will; that it impermissibly promoted the religious wishes of one group; and that it forced some gravediggers to accommodate the religious wishes of others.

Judge Arthur Dunne of the Circuit Court of Cook County upheld the statute in a ruling issued May 16. He had previously issued a temporary restraining order on January 4 which was limited to a ban on dismissal provided by the new law against any union member refusing to dig a grave on a Sunday.

### Union To File An Appeal

Officials of Local 106 promptly announced an appeal would be filed with the Illinois Court of Appeals, the state's highest court.

Rapps said that Erwin Katz, a COLPA member and Chicago-based trial attorney; State Sen. Howard Carmel; and State Attorney General Neil Hartigan, are attorneys for intervenors in the case. Katz represents Chicago area rabbinic and congregational groups, such as the Chicago Orthodox Rabbinate, an umbrella group.

At the request of Agudath Israel, State Sen. Carmel, the law's main legislative sponsor, represented other Jewish organizations as intervenor-defendants in the case.

### Necessity For Intervention

Rapps told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that such intervention was necessary to insure the Jewish community's interest in prompt burials, as required by Jewish Law. He said court documents indicated that the cemetery association could not be relied on to represent the special Jewish interests of the intervenors because the cemetery association had not, in the past, supported efforts by observant Jews to have cemeteries opened for burials on Sundays or legal holidays when asked to do so by observant Jews.

Hartigan's intervention, Rapps said, is the usual practice of the attorney general's office when a state law is challenged as possibly unconstitutional.

Rapps said the cemetery association was the only defendant named in the union's suit because, under the new law, it had notified Local 106 that on the January 1, 1984 effective date of the new law, any gravedigger refusing to work on Sunday could be subject to dismissal.

Judge Dunne decided the case without trial, on the basis of briefs filed by both sides who had agreed there was no factual issues to be determined. The judge held that the law did not violate the local's collective bargaining rights because, as he interpreted the contract, it did not ban work on Sundays by union members.

While he upheld the law, Dunne stayed implementation of its provisions pending outcome of the appeal by the union, which must be filed within 30 days of his decision, by June 16. Officials of COLPA and of the Chicago Commission on Legislation of Agudath Israel said they were prepared to defend the protection of the new law to the full.

Rapps said Dunne did not directly rule on the other charges filed by the union local but, he declared, by ruling in favor of the defendants in generally upholding the law, Dunne also had to find for the defendants on those issues as well.

The only other state to provide such accommodation to the burial needs of observant Jews is New York. Rapps said that, in 1972, as a result of a COLPA effort, the New York State Cemetery Board promulgated a regulation providing for legal holiday burials when cemeteries are normally closed. He said Sundays are not a problem in New York since Sundays are regular workdays for gravediggers in that state.

### CUBAN JEWS THANK CANADIAN JEWS FOR PASSOVER SUPPLIES

MONTREAL, May 23 (JTA) — The Jewish community of Cuba has sent a telegram to the Canadian Jewish Congress thanking the "entire Jewish community in Canada" for Passover supplies which the Jews of Cuba received in time for the holiday.

The telegram from Dr. Jose Miller, president of the Commission Coordinadora de las Sociedades Religiosas Hebreas de Cuba, the representative body of Cuban Jewry which maintains its full membership in the World Jewish Congress, stated:

"The Cuban Jewish community extends warmest greetings and wishes for peace and happiness to the CJC (Canadian Jewish Congress) and the entire Jewish community in Canada on the occasion of Passover. We are pleased to inform you that the Passover supplies arrived in time and were distributed before Pesach."

The 1,000-member Jewish community in Cuba continues to maintain five synagogues and a Jewish public library. However, the community has had difficulty in meeting its own needs for several decades. After the United States severed its relations with Cuba in 1960, the CJC has looked after the needs of Cuba's Jews.

This year, more than \$30,000 worth of religious supplies, including kosher meat, tea, matzos, and prayer books were sent to the Jewish community in Cuba.

### ARENS RULES OUT ANOTHER IDF REDEPLOYMENT IN SOUTH LEBANON

JERUSALEM, May 23 (JTA) — Defense Minister Moshe Arens has ruled out another redeployment of the Israel Defense Force in south Lebanon. He told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee today that a move to new lines would not reduce the number of attacks on Israeli soldiers. According to Arens, the security situation in south Lebanon has improved because the local residents, including the Shiite Moslems, realize that the IDF's presence "is not so temporary" and are therefore more willing to enter into dialogue.