

**RECENT WAVE OF TERRORISM HAS CAUSED WEST BANK PALESTINIANS TO BE OPENLY CRITICAL OF THE PLO**  
By Yitzhak Rabi

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- The recent wave of terrorist attacks -- the Achille Lauro hijack and the murders of Israelis in Larnaca, Cyprus and Barcelona -- have proven to be counter-productive as far as Palestinian Arabs are concerned.

The Palestinians are beginning to realize that such outrages actually damage their cause and, for the first time, local Palestinians have openly criticized the Palestine Liberation Organization. Col. Ephraim Sneh, head of the West Bank civil administration, told a breakfast meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations at the Jerusalem Hilton Hotel.

According to Sneh, West Bank Palestinians are becoming more moderate. A majority of them no longer talk of pushing the Israelis "into the sea" and most speak of negotiations with Israel on the basis of the June, 1967 borders, not the borders of the 1947 UN partition resolution as they have in the past. The Palestinians also recognize that Jordan is a necessary partner in any negotiations with Israel, Sneh said.

But, he cautioned, if militancy is on the wane among West Bank Palestinians -- the territory was relatively quiet in November which in the past has been a very violent month -- they are sinking into pessimism and despair. They are disappointed because Jordan has not offered much help and because Israel has not been more forthcoming with compromise.

It would be dangerous, however, for Israel to draw the wrong conclusions from the apparent apathy of the Palestinians, Sneh warned. This situation can lead to desperation and desperation can erupt in violence, he said.

**Impressed With Settlers' Cause**

The 75 members of the Presidents Conference delegation made their first official tour of the West Bank today. They visited the Jewish settlement, Ariel, in the Samaria district where they were greeted by flag-waving school children who serenaded them with a medley of Hebrew songs. In addition to the school, they visited a hi-tech factory and met with the Mayor, Ron Nahman.

The American Jewish leaders obviously were impressed. Some said later that they had gotten "a different feel" for the settlers' cause. One member of the delegation told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he got a new perspective on Israel's security when he found he could see the Shalom Tower, a high rise office building in Tel Aviv, from Ariel.

**Future Of The Territories Debated**

Only last night, the Presidents Conference delegates heard a vigorous debate over the future of the territories, a problem that divides Israelis and also American Jews. The Labor Party's case for territorial compromise as the way to peace was presented by Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee and a former Foreign

Minister. Likud MK Dan Meridor argued his party's stand that the territories are an indivisible part of Israel and any compromise would threaten its survival.

According to Eban, the real issue is not where Israel's borders will be but what kind of state it will become in the future. Israel, he said, "must disengage itself from the Arab population of the West Bank and Gaza in order to remain a Jewish state."

Meridor claimed that regardless of objections by the Arab population, "we must deal with reality, not with wishful thinking." Giving up any part of the territories would pose a major security threat to Israel, he said.

**The Pollard Case**

Considerable time was devoted by the Jewish leaders yesterday to the case of Jonathan Pollard, the U.S. Navy counterintelligence analyst arrested for allegedly spying for Israel. Addressing the group, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin rejected as "total nonsense" and "completely incorrect" reports that Israel used information provided by Pollard to carry out its air raid on the PLO base in Tunisia October 1.

"Israel would have been in bad shape if it had to depend on such sources to carry out such a raid," Rabin said. He said that while the Pollard case has "overshadowed" U.S.-Israel relations, he believed the solid friendship between the two countries will not be affected in the long run.

Speaking on security matters, Rabin said the most powerful threat to Israel now comes from Syria. He warned that while Israel took serious risks by reducing its defense budget by \$650 million this year, the Arab countries are re-arming themselves on a massive scale, spending more than \$20 billion a year on Soviet and Western arms.

Rabin acknowledged that terrorism cannot be eliminated altogether. But he vowed that Israelis, who have to cope with terrorism daily, will continue to fight it with the goal of "minimizing our damage and maximizing their (the terrorists) damage."

**IDF PATROL KILLS FIVE TERRORISTS**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force patrol killed five terrorists in Lebanon last night and captured an undisclosed number, a military spokesman reported today. The terrorists were identified as members of Ahmed Jibril's Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and were believed to have been planning an operation against Israel.

They were discovered by the patrol several miles from Hatzbaya, at the southern end of the Bekaa Valley, just east of the south Lebanon security zone. Weapons found on the terrorists or cached in nearby caves included Kalachnikov assault rifles and ammunition, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, anti-tank mines, mortars, grenades, explosives, protective vests and gas masks.

**ISRAELI WOMAN WOUNDED BY HIJACKERS RETURNS HOME**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- Tamar Artzi, the 24-year-old Israeli woman who was the first passenger

shot by the hijackers of Egyptair Flight 648 in Malta November 23, returned to her home in Kibbutz Revivim in the Negev last night to a joyous, tearful welcome.

Although apparently well on the way to recovery from her wounds, she was transported from Ben Gurion Airport in an ambulance. Strung up over the entrance to the kibbutz was a large sign with the words "Tamar, we hug you on your return." Her parents, who flew to Malta when they learned she was shot, were with her on her return.

The young woman left last month on what was to have been a carefree vacation tour of Egypt and the Far East with a travelling companion, Nitzan Mendelson. She spoke highly of her treatment at St. Lukes Hospital in Valleta, Malta. As for the hijackers, she told reporters, "I don't know what the hijackers wanted or who they were. They had a nasty smile and frisked us and then shot us."

Mendelson, 23, was the second of the passengers shot. A bullet lodged in her brain and she remained in a coma on a life-support system for more than a week. She died in Malta Sunday night. Her body will be flown to Israel later this week for burial at her home, Kibbutz Hulata in Galilee. Artzi and Mendelson were the only Israelis on the hijacked plane.

#### MADRID DENIES THAT TIES BETWEEN SPAIN AND ISRAEL WILL BE DELAYED

NEW YORK, Dec. 3 (JTA) — The Spanish government has denied a report published recently that Spain has decided to postpone the establishment of formal diplomatic relations with Israel, the World Jewish Congress disclosed.

According to the WJC, Ambassador Manuel Sasset, the Spanish Consul-General in New York, assured WJC executive director Israel Singer during a private meeting last week that there will be no delay of any kind in the establishment of formal ties.

Wire services reports on November 20 said that Jorge Dezcallar, Spain's Director General of Foreign Policy for the Middle East, told officials in the United Arab Emirates that Spain would postpone the announcement of full ties with Israel until at least October, 1986.

Sasset told Singer that he has been assured by the Foreign Ministry in Madrid that the report is incorrect, and that the commencement of relations would take place, as originally planned, during the current legislative session in Spain. According to Sasset, this means that relations will begin well before October, 1986.

Sasset also told the WJC that officials of the United Arab Emirates apparently released the inaccurate story in order to prepare their countrymen for what the Arab officials view as the inevitability of Spain-Israel ties. Israel has long had diplomatic relations with the members of the European Economic Community (EEC) which Spain is scheduled to join on January 1.

The WJC also said it learned that Spanish security officials have visited their Embassies in the Middle East to make final preparations for the establishment of formal relations between Spain and the Jewish State.

#### ISRAELI DONATES \$7,000 TO CHURCH AFTER ITS COLLECTIONS ARE ROBBED

NEW YORK, Dec. 3 (JTA) — Israeli peace activist and philanthropist Abie Nathan yesterday

donated \$7,000 to St. Patrick's Cathedral after he viewed media reports on a robbery there last weekend. "Last night I saw the story on TV and I was just mad, angry that people should do that," Nathan told reporters. "There are so many places to steal from, I can't understand it. It's terrible, absolutely terrible."

Two gunmen robbed the Cathedral last Saturday night of more than \$7,000 in poor box, votive candle and collection plate donations. He reportedly called his bank in Israel and had the donation wired to New York.

Nathan was here returning from a visit to Colombia where he aided victims of the volcano eruption last month. Nathan has been involved in various peace campaigns and relief efforts through the years.

Nathan, a former Israeli fighter pilot, operates the "Voice of Peace" radio station from the Mediterranean that broadcasts music and political messages, urging peace between Jews and Arabs.

#### U. S. SAILORS SPEND SHORE LEAVE IN HAIFA TO HELP KIDS AND ELDERLY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 3 (JTA) — Sailors from the visiting U.S. aircraft carrier Coral Sea volunteered much of their shore leave in Haifa last week to do good deeds for local children and the elderly and to apply fresh paint to shabby homes in rundown neighborhoods. They also raised money to send a young Haifa girl to the U.S. for a life-saving operation.

But the sea did not reward their kindness. High waves whipped by winds howling across Haifa Bay swept away the landing stage and gangway, making it impossible for the men to rejoin their ship Saturday night. Many were invited by Haifa families to spend the night. Others were provided with beds at a nearby Israel Navy base. Some slept at dockside.

The storm forced postponement of a show aboard the Coral Sea by entertainers flown from the U.S. by the Defense Department. Also put off was a ceremony at which a check was to be presented to 11-year-old Moshit Shabo to fly her and her mother to the U.S. for an urgently needed liver transplant, an operation that cannot be performed in Israel because it is forbidden by the Orthodox religious authorities.

The show will go on, however, Moshit will be in the audience, and parts of Haifa will look a good deal better because of the Coral Sea's visit. Her men were only completing a job started by their fellow-sails from the carrier, USS Saratoga, which berthed in Haifa two weeks ago.

About 40 seamen went to the Rothschild Hospital to finish painting popular cartoon characters on the walls of the children's ward. Later they visited an old aged home to help cheer up the residents.

The Coral Sea's skipper, Capt. Bob Ferguson, said the work done by his men in their free time was of benefit to all concerned. The children and the aged were helped and the sailors had a chance to meet people other than their shipmates with whom they live in close quarters for long periods of time.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) — A 69-year-old resident of Acre, known locally as the pickpocket champion of the Soviet Union, was Tuesday sentenced by the Acre magistrate's court to five months in prison and a 250,000 Shekel (nearly \$200) fine—for pickpocketing. Asked by the judge why he continued picking pockets from passers-by after he had come to Israel he replied: "That's my profession."

## POLICE SEEKING MOTIVE FOR MURDER OF WEST BANK POLITICAL MODERATE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- The police have not yet determined whether the murder of Aziz Shehade, a prominent Palestinian lawyer and political moderate, outside his home in Ramallah last night was an act of terror intended to warn all moderates in the West Bank or a criminal assault motivated by one of Shehade's intricate, far-flung and often mysterious business deals.

The 73-year-old lawyer, described by some as a multi-millionaire, was killed by a knife slash across the left side of his neck after parking his car in his garage. He died instantly. The weapon was found 50 meters from Shehade's home.

The police deduce from the nature of the wound that at least two assailants were involved, one to hold the victim while the other wielded the knife. But there are no clues and so far no arrests. Police said today that for the moment they were giving equal weight to political or criminal motivation.

Shehade was considered one of the leading Palestinian moderates in the West Bank. Though he advocated a Palestinian state which he saw living in peace side-by-side with Israel, he favored dialogue over violence. In 1968, he was the first West Bank lawyer to break a strike called by Palestinian lawyers to protest Israel's occupation of the territory after the Six-Day War.

In 1977, before President Anwar Sadat of Egypt visited Israel, Shehade was one of a group of Palestinians who met with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and presented him with a position paper outlining a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

Shehade was known to have close contacts with senior Israeli officials which, alone, would make him a likely target of Palestinian extremists. But in recent years he has shied away from politics, devoting himself full time to his law practice and business which he conducted with both Jews and Arabs. For that reason, many observers doubt the murder was politically inspired.

West Bank moderates have been badly shaken and see the killing of Shehade as a threat to those Palestinians who speak out for a negotiated settlement with Israel. According to Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem, it was a warning which will make most of the moderates in the West Bank more cautious.

## MARIE WAIFE DEAD AT 94

NEW YORK, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- Marie Waife, the last surviving child of Sholom Aleichem, died Saturday at the Jewish Home for the Aged. She was 94 years old. Waife, who sometimes used the name Marie Waife-Goldberg after her marriage to B.Z. Goldberg, the Yiddish journalist who died in 1974, was the author of "My Father, Sholom Aleichem" in 1968.

As the last of Aleichem's six children, she faithfully carried out the request in his will that his descendants assemble with friends on the anniversary of his death, to read his stories and to conclude the gathering by serving tea and cookies.

The sessions in Waife's West Side apartment became an institution attended by those who had

gained recognition in arts and letters, Yiddish and English. Aleichem's descendants will continue this tradition in New York. Sholom Aleichem, whose real name was Solomon Rabinowitz, died in New York City in 1916.

## U.S. HITS SOVIET UNION'S 'SERIOUSLY FLAWED' HUMAN RIGHTS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration charged today that the Soviet Union and its East European allies continue to have a "seriously flawed" record in human rights.

This assessment was made by the State Department as it released the 19th semiannual report on compliance with the Helsinki Final Act. The report, which covers the period April 1 to October 1, 1985, was submitted to Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R. NY), chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

"Although the record of compliance varies among the Eastern states during the six-month period covered by the report, overall performance remained seriously flawed in the human rights and humanitarian area," State Department deputy spokesman Charles Redman said.

For Jews, the main area of concern continues to be the Soviet Union where persecution by Soviet authorities continues and only 457 Jews were allowed to emigrate from April 1 to August 31.

"Individual Jewish refuseniks have responded in various ways to official intransigence on emigration," the report noted. "Some in resignation have currently stopped applying to leave, while others apply as frequently as possible -- once every six months."

## Report Cites Continuing Crackdown

The report points out that during the period it covers there was "a continued crackdown on Jewish, primarily refusenik, cultural activists and teachers of Hebrew." Describing the June trial and "confession" to Zionist and anti-Soviet activities by Moscow Hebrew teacher Dan Shapiro, the report concludes that it "was widely interpreted as a stern warning against assertion of Jewish culture and identity."

The report outlines the arrest of other Hebrew teachers and said "the number of Hebrew teachers and other Jews imprisoned for political reasons was conservatively estimated at 22 at the end of the current review period."

## Hostile Anti-Zionist Rhetoric

During the six months covered there has been "a continuation of past patterns of thinly-veiled and hostile 'anti-Zionist' rhetoric," the report said. "Soviet propaganda maintains that Israeli and Western intelligence agencies encourage emigration in order to obtain state secrets from Soviet citizens."

"It further alleges that 'Zionists' collaborated with fascists during World War II to send many innocent Jews to their deaths. These 'Zionist elements,' so the argument goes, now comprise the ruling circles of Israel, which have inherited Hitler's fascist mantle."

"The anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet public, an officially sanctioned group, continues to lead the propaganda against Jewish refuseniks and 'Zionists.' A Soviet TV documentary and a new Soviet 'White Book' have alleged links between 'Zionist' activities and Western intelligence organizations."

## SPECIAL INTERVIEW

## A VICTORY, BUT POSSIBLY PYRRHIC

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Dec. 3 (JTA) — The Jewish catacombs of Italy, which are to leave the custody of the Vatican and become the responsibility of the Italian government, has placed the Italian Jewish community on the brink of an historical cultural victory — which might turn out to be a pyrrhic victory unless there is sufficient support from world Jewry.

This is the message Tullia Zevi, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, brought here in a speech to the Jewish Museum and in a later interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The meeting at the Jewish Museum marked the beginning of the Italian Jewish Heritage Foundation of America.

"This is our common roots, because, after all, the roots of American Jewry are in Europe," Zevi said in an interview in a New York cafe. "Your roots are our roots and we want to be the custodian of our common roots with your help." Zevi specifically is seeking financial support and archaeological expertise to aid in Italian Jewry's maintenance of the catacombs.

It is difficult to determine the amount of money needed for the catacombs, Zevi said, before detailed plans are drafted on the extent of conservation and exploration needed for the project. "Experts have indicated \$5 million as a realistic basis for a well structured project over a three to four year period," she said.

There are about a dozen major Jewish catacombs — underground burial networks going back to the first century BCE and spanning the next five — known to have existed in Italy. Archaeological explorations dating back to the 1600's testify to their existence in Rome, Sicily, Sardinia and the southern region of Apulia — especially Venosa and Bari.

Priceless Information About The Past

Scholars estimate that in Imperial Rome, underground labyrinths were lined with up to 100,000 tombs. The tombs provide priceless information on the daily lives of Jews in the earliest European diaspora. "We are your past, you are the great present," said Zevi.

Since Italy's reunification in 1870, and more formally since the 1929 Concordat between the Italian government and the Holy See, some Jewish and Christian catacombs in Italy have been under the control of the Vatican's Pontifical Commission for Sacred Art.

In February 1984, the Secretaries of the State of Italy and of the Vatican signed a revised version of the Concordat under which the Holy See agreed to relinquish its management of all "non-Christian" catacombs.

Though Italy's 35,000 Jews had long and anxiously awaited this move, they now fear that lack of funds and archaeological know-how might well impede the restoration, further exploration and, above all, conservation of the catacombs.

"We are gratified by our victory, but we fear that this victory, unless we find the help of our fellow Jews in the United States and Canada, may turn into a defeat because we may find ourselves with something we can't take care of because we don't have the means and the know-how," Zevi said.

According to Zevi, in the first century CE perhaps seven percent of the Roman Empire's total population was Jewish, and Rome alone had about 40,000 to 60,000 Jews and 13 synagogues.

The epigraphs in the catacombs — about 75 percent in Greek, most of the rest in Latin and a small number in Hebrew — reveal the wide range of arts, trades, and professions of early Italian Jews: from the artists, actors and scribes to lawyers, bankers, physicians, merchants and sailors — as well as their family, social and religious community.

A 1981 archaeological excavation of the catacombs of Venosa — since closed for safety reasons — revealed the interesting fact that Jewish and Christian sections were located in "such proximity to one another" as to suggest "a high level of interaction in their communities" up to the ninth century, according to Prof. Eric Meyers of Duke University, who co-directed the Italian American Archaeological team with Prof. Cesare Colafemmina of Bari University.

Most of the Jewish catacombs were plundered in the long centuries before the Vatican authorities took over their supervision, and their treasures still surface at private auctions. These thefts stopped with the Vatican take over in 1929.

Preserving Jewish Libraries And Archives

Zevi also spoke at the Jewish Museum for the need to preserve Jewish libraries and archives, as well as synagogues in small towns in Italy. Some of these synagogues are located where once flourishing Jewish communities no longer exist. "There, conservation poses a problem," said Zevi.

"In a number of cases we were able to apply a formula which is proving satisfactory: the synagogue is sold to the municipality for a symbolic sum, so that funds can be allocated for its restoration. In exchange, we are assured that the Jewish character will be maintained, and that it be used only for cultural activities of a high standard, such as lectures and concerts," Zevi told the Jewish Museum gathering.

For example, she cited the city of Pioggiano, once described as "the little Jerusalem," according to Zevi, where an agreement was recently signed with the municipality for the restoration of a synagogue destroyed by a landslide 25 years ago, and of the old Passover oven nearby.

In an effort to rescue at least some of the books, documents and other archival materials, an old car repair shop near Rome's main synagogue has been purchased for a proposed Italian National Jewish Library and Heritage Center. About \$350,000 has been allocated already by Rome's regional and provincial authorities for restoration of the building. Zevi estimated that about \$3 million is needed for the Library and Heritage Center.

TWO JEWS ELECTED IN QUEBEC

MONTREAL, Dec. 3 (JTA) — Two Jews were re-elected in yesterday's overwhelming Liberal Party victory over the Parti Quebecois, which has been in office for nine years. Herbert Marx, the son of Jewish immigrants from Lithuania and a Harvard Law School graduate, was re-elected with more than 20,000 votes in the D'Arcy McGee district. He is slated to become the first Jewish Justice Minister in Quebec. Also re-elected to the Provincial National Assembly was Maximilien Pollak, representing the Saint Ann district. He received more than 12,000 votes.