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ISRAEL-APPOINTED MAYOR OF NABLUS ASSASSINATED OUTSIDE THE CITY HALL By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 2 (JTA) — Zafer Al-Masri, the Israel-appointed Mayor of Nablus, was assassinated there Sunday two months after he took office. The Palestinian moderate, who had close ties with Jordan, was shot to death by an unidentified assailant as he stepped from his car outside the Nablus City Hall. Two extremist terrorist groups have claimed responsibility for his "execution" as a "traitor" to the Palestinian cause.

Israeli forces clamped a curfew on the area of Nablus where the killing occurred as troops searched for clues to the killer. Col. Ephraim Sneh, chief of the Israeli military administration in the West Bank, said Al-Masri, 45, was targeted by an extremist group but declined to identify it.

An anonymous telephone caller to the French news agency, Agence France Presse, in Paris on Sunday said Al-Masri had been "condemned to death" by the Fatah Revolutionary Council, a terrorist splinter group led by Abu Nidal, and that the execution was carried out by "The Nasser Abdel Azziz Martyr Group."

Two Terrorist Groups Claim Responsibility

The caller, who spoke Arabic with a Palestinian accent and said he was telephoning from Beirut, warned the Masri family to "cease at once all activities in political affairs."

A similar call was made to a foreign news agency in Beirut. But responsibility for the murder of Al-Masri was also claimed Sunday by the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Both terrorist groups have broken with the Palestine Liberation Organization wing headed by Yasser Arafat and fiercely opposed efforts by King Hussein of Jordan and Arafat to work out a formula to bring the PLO into the peace process with Israel. Hussein announced last month that he has abandoned the effort.

Al-Masri comes from a prominent Palestinian family which has been active in Jordanian political life and in the Arab Gulf states. His brother, Hikmat Al-Masri, is Deputy Speaker of the Jordanian Parliament and a cousin, Taher Al-Masri, is Jordan's Foreign Minister. Only last week, Hikmat, who lives in Nablus, joined with another West Bank Palestinian leader, Anwar Al-Hatib, to urge Hussein and Arafat to resume their talks to find a formula for joint participation in peace negotiations with Israel.

Until last December, Al-Masri headed the Nablus Chamber of Commerce. His appointment as Mayor was approved by Jordan and by relatively moderate elements of the PLO after some 18 months of indirect contacts between Israel and Jordan. His murder was viewed as a serious setback for moderate elements seeking to involve Palestinians along with Jordan in peace talks with Israel.

He accepted the appointment as Mayor of Nablus, the largest Arab town in the West Bank after it was governed for four years by an Israeli army

officer. The latter had been installed to replace Basam Al-Shaka whom the Israelis removed from office because of his pro-PLO views. Nablus, a city of 100,000, has long been a hotbed of Palestinian nationalist sentiment.

Al-Masri was the first Palestinian to be appointed mayor of a major West Bank town since the Israeli government dismissed virtually all the elected mayors in the territory in 1982. He was quoted as saying he saw his appointment as the first step to restore Arab municipalities to Arab hands. He rejected criticism that by accepting the appointment he was collaborating with the enemy. He said he saw it as serving the people.

Nablus Was Seen As Successful Test

The Israeli authorities considered Nablus as a successful test and were said to be planning to install Arab mayors in Ramallah, El Bireh and Hebron. Premier Shimon Peres has said on many occasions that it would be advantageous to Israel and the Arab populace in the administered territories to have Palestinians administer their municipal affairs.

The murder was discussed at the weekly Cabinet session Sunday. Peres sent condolences to the Al-Masri family. He said the killing was a blow to the residents of the administered territories but would not deter them from leading their normal lives. He pledged that the government would take every possible step to track down the killers and bring them to justice. Peres added that the murder "proved that Arab terror harms Arabs first."

A Continuation Of The Palestinian Tragedy

President Chaim Herzog spoke Sunday in a similar vein. The assassination of the Nablus Mayor was "a continuation of the Palestinian tragedy which proved that the core of the problem was Palestinian extremism," he said. "This extremism casts one calamity after another at the Palestinian people."

A Jordanian government spokesman said in Amman Sunday that the killing was "a new link in the chain of criminal attacks." Anwar Nusseibeh, another leading West Bank Palestinian, spoke of Zafer Al-Masri as "a very close friend ... a decent person. He is the sort of person we the Palestinian people can little afford to lose."

Al-Masri was the third Palestinian mayor or ex-mayor to fall victim to an assassin in little more than two years. Fahed Kawasme, the former mayor of Hebron, was gunned down in Amman on December 30, 1984. He had lived there since being deported by Israel in 1980 for pro-PLO activities. On September 4, 1984, Mayor Abdul Mahmoud Kishta of Rafa, in the Gaza Strip, was fatally wounded by bullets from a passing car on a street in Rafa.

Al-Masri's funeral has been set for Monday. The Israeli civil administration has notified family members in Jordan that they would be allowed to enter the West Bank to attend the services.

3 TERRORISTS SLAIN IN CLASHES WITH IDF By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 2 (JTA) — Three terrorists, two of whom were wearing Israel Defense Force uniforms, were killed in two separate clashes with the IDF during

the weekend. An IDF lieutenant was slightly wounded during the first assault, though he continued on with the chase of a group trying to infiltrate into Israel.

In the second of the two incidents, early Sunday morning, a patrol inside the security zone in south Lebanon came across a terrorist at the northern edge of the western sector of the zone. An exchange of gunfire ensued and the terrorist was killed. He was found to have been in possession of a Soviet-made 82-mm. mortar, mortar bombs and two Kalachnikov rifles.

The first incident occurred early Saturday morning when a routine patrol along the northern border noticed a breach in the electronic security fence. As the IDF soldiers began tracking the infiltrators, grenades were thrown at them and a chase ensued across the border, inside the security belt. Fire was directed at the source of the grenade-throwers.

Gang Sought To Take Hostages

A subsequent search disclosed the bodies of the two terrorists, dressed in IDF uniforms and carrying Israeli weapons. A knitted skullcap was found in the pocket of one of the terrorists, and a pamphlet indicating that the gang had sought to take hostages in an Israeli settlement and hold them for ransom against the freeing of terrorists held in Israeli prisons.

In Beirut, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine apparently thought their attack had been successful and told foreign news agencies there that their two-man troop had fought a seven-hour battle with the IDF and was holding hostages.

The incident took place near the border kibbutz of Zarit, which had been on a sit-in strike for the past week, with its members handing in their weapons to the central armory and welding shut the village gates, in protest against what they claimed is the failure of the Agriculture Ministry to help solve their present economic plight.

However, when the area was alerted at the start of the infiltration, the villagers rushed for their weapons and stood guard. But on Sunday morning, the kibbutz members resumed their protest and were joined by four other nearby border villages who also complained of government inaction to aid their financial, agricultural and economic situation.

DEMJANJUK IS REMANDED FOR 15 DAYS BY A JERUSALEM COURT

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, March 2 (JTA) — Accused Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk, who arrived here last Friday after being extradited from the United States, was remanded in custody for 15 days by a Jerusalem court Sunday.

Demjanjuk, appearing before the court, again denied his involvement in the gassing of Jews at the Treblinka concentration camp — as he has persistently done through the legal proceedings in the United States.

He told the court, "I just want to say I am completely the wrong person." He said he "never was in that place" (Treblinka) and that his being brought to Israel to stand trial for his war time activities was "completely unfair."

Demjanjuk, a 65-year-old native of the Ukraine, denied having been a Nazi collaborator and added that he was himself held in a prison camp by the Nazis. He has claimed that he was a soldier in the Soviet army and was captured during the war.

Police Deputy Commander Alex Ish-Shalom told the court that there was evidence provided by Treblinka survivors attesting to the accused man's crimes at Treblinka, where Demjanjuk was known as "Ivan the Terrible" by inmates because of his cruel treatment of prisoners there.

Interrogation To Last For Several Weeks

Legal circles here expect Demjanjuk's interrogation, by a team of police experts, to last for several weeks. His trial will be held in a hall on the ground floor of the Binyanei Haoma Convention Center in Jerusalem. The Ministry of Justice is already planning adjacent facilities to accommodate the mass of local and foreign journalists expected to cover the proceedings.

Demjanjuk, meanwhile, is being held in solitary confinement at a maximum security facility in Ramle since his arrival here last Friday under escort of U.S. marshals. He arrived on a regular scheduled El Al flight from New York.

Demjanjuk had not been manacled during his flight, but El Al stewards removed all knives and sharp tableware from his tray before he was handed his meals. They said he appeared quiet during the flight, but was shivering as he stepped down the aircraft steps.

At the bottom of the stairs, U.S. marshals removed his handcuffs, which were then replaced by handcuffs supplied by the Israeli police officer who formally informed Demjanjuk he was under arrest and read him his rights.

The whole process, from the time he left the aircraft to the moment he entered an armored car — rented by the police from a cash transport safety company and repainted with police colors — took less than five minutes.

CONTROVERSY IN ROMAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OVER PLANS TO BUILD A CARMELITE CONVENT AT AUSCHWITZ

ROME, March 2 (JTA) — A controversy has broken out in the Roman Catholic hierarchy over plans to establish a Carmelite convent on the site of the Auschwitz death camp where more than two million Jews were murdered by the Nazis during World War II.

The establishment of the convent has been defended by Cardinal Franciszek Macharski in the wake of protests by Jewish groups in Western Europe and the United States that the site of Auschwitz belongs to all who were massacred there and that, therefore, no one group should establish itself there.

But according to Macharski, in a sermon published in the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, "The former camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau is in a certain sense a new 'sacred place' that belongs without distinction to all humanity and to every people." However, some of his peers in the Roman Catholic hierarchy disagree with the project and the nature of the fund-raising campaign initiated on its behalf by Pope John Paul II.

Issue Of Guarantee Of Conversion

The Cracow Archdiocese received permission in 1984 to establish the convent in an unused theater just outside the former death camp which is now a State museum. The Polish-born Pope launched the fund-raising campaign during his visit to Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg last May.

A letter from the Catholic-European fund-raising group, "Help to the Church in Distress," promoted the Auschwitz convent as "a spiritual fortress and a guarantee of the conversion of strayed brothers from our countries as well as proof of our desire to erase outrages so often done to the Vicar of Christ."

Joseph Lichten, representative of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in Rome, objected to the letter, asking, "Was it necessary to speak of conversion here?" A coalition of Jewish groups in Belgium called the plan to build a convent at a site where so much Jewish blood was shed "intolerable."

Fund-Raising Plan Termed 'Disconcerting'

Cardinal Albert Decourtray of Lyon, France, seemed to agree. He called the fund-raising plan "disconcerting" and observed that Auschwitz would always remain "a reminder of the Shoah, that is to say, the attempt to exterminate Jews because they are Jews." A spokesman for Cardinal Godfried Danneels of Malines-Brussels said the bishops of Belgium and The Netherlands were not consulted about the fund-raising and were "not very happy" about the campaign.

A Vatican source familiar with the issue said no Jewish groups were consulted before the convent project was initiated in 1984 and added, "Perhaps this was a mistake." The source asked not to be identified.

Lichten said the ADL and other groups have questioned why a convent must be built as a "symbol" at Auschwitz since Auschwitz already is a symbol for all those who suffered there. The Coordinating Committee of Jewish Organizations in Belgium said in a recent statement that Auschwitz should be an eternal memorial to the Holocaust and not fought over by rival religions like the holy places in Jerusalem.

Cardinal Macharski noted that Carmelite nuns founded a convent at the Dachau concentration camp in Germany 40 years ago and no one objected. He said the Catholic victims at Auschwitz included a priest, Maximilian Kolbe, who gave his life for a fellow prisoner and who was canonized in 1982, and Sister Edith Stein, a German Jew who converted to Catholicism and became a Carmelite nun.

At The UJA Young Leadership Conference:
**OLON SAYS JEWS MUST CONTINUE TO
 WORK FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE U.S.**
 By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 2 (JTA) — Sen. Carl Levin (D. Mich.) said Sunday that American Jews, while supporting the maintenance of a strong Israel, must also continue working for social justice in the United States.

"If we do not involve ourselves in the full range of American life, is it likely that other Americans will care about what's important to us?" he asked the nearly 3,000 young American Jewish leaders attending the opening session of the United Jewish Appeal's Fifth National Young Leadership Conference at the Omni Shoreham Hotel.

"If we do not fight the injustices that affect others, will they fight the injustices that affect us?" Levin asked. He said Jews gained allies for their causes by their participation in the struggle for social justice such as the civil rights movement.

Specifically, Levin noted that \$2.5 billion was being cut in U.S. funds for education and said that new immigrants will be denied the opportunities Jewish immigrants received. He also charged that the civil rights laws which Jews helped bring about are being ignored by the Reagan Administration.

Elie Wiesel, chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, urged that now that Anatoly Shcharansky has been allowed to go to Israel, American Jews should not forget the others still in the Soviet Union.

March On Washington Urged

He recommended a march on Washington of 250,000 to 500,000 people the week before Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev arrives for a meeting with Reagan. A specific date has not yet been set for the proposed meeting.

Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne also stressed that Jews should not be satisfied with "token" emigration but should continue to press for the release of all Soviet Jews.

Wiesel, who received the Young Leadership's first Jacob Javits Humanitarian Award, stressed the importance of young Jews in Jewish history, noting that it was the young Jews who led the opposition to the Nazis in the ghettos and the concentration camps, who fought in the underground against the British in pre-state Palestine and who began the Soviet Jewry movement both in the Soviet Union and the United States.

"It is on your shoulders that Jewish destiny weighs heavily," Wiesel told the young leaders. He said they should take in all of Jewish history, both the joys and tragedies.

Michael Adler, chairman of the Young Leadership Cabinet, said the conference, which runs through Tuesday, is the largest gathering of young Jewish activists ever assembled in Washington.

The conference includes speeches and workshops on a variety of issues concerning Jews in the U.S., Israel and elsewhere. The young leaders will also fan out on Capitol Hill Monday to meet with their Senators and Congressmen.

TABA TALKS TO CONTINUE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 2 (JTA) — Israeli diplomats will fly to Cairo Monday to continue their talks with Egypt as scheduled on the Taba arbitration. The recent violence in Cairo and other Egyptian cities has not been allowed to delay the talks' timetable — with both sides seeking to demonstrate a business as usual approach.

It was not known here Sunday whether the talks would take place, as usual, at the Mena House Hotel near the pyramids in Giza. The lobby of the hotel was slightly damaged by rioting security police last Tuesday night and an annex was also attacked.

President Hosni Mubarak, meanwhile, has reportedly conveyed his thanks to Premier Shimon Peres for the Israeli Premier's public words of support at the height of the disturbances in Egypt. Mubarak conveyed his gratitude during a telephone conversation over the weekend with Minister-Without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman, who called to offer his own strong support.

Israeli observers are confident now that the wave of violence is well under control, but there remains a lingering concern over the fundamental stability of Mubarak's regime. The Egyptians' determination to hold the Taba talks as scheduled is seen here as a deliberate demonstration by Mubarak that the crisis has been weathered successfully.

LAWMAKER DENOUNCED FOR A 'CLASSIC ANTI-SEMITIC SLANDER'

WASHINGTON, March 2 (JTA) — B'nai B'rith International has demanded that Rep. Robert Dornan (R. Calif.) apologize to the Jewish people for what it called "a classic anti-Semitic slander."

The conservative Californian referred to Radio Moscow commentator Vladimir Posner as "this disloyal, betraying little Jew" after Posner appeared on ABC Television from Moscow for several minutes Wednesday night to rebut President Reagan's nationally televised speech urging public support for his military budget which is in trouble in Congress. Posner's appearance was also the subject of a formal protest from White House Communications Director Patrick Buchanan to ABC.

Daniel Thursz, executive vice president of B'nai B'rith International, said Friday that Dornan could resent Posner for his role as a defender of Soviet policy "and the American Jewish community would probably agree with him. But to call attention to Posner's Jewishness in a defamatory manner is totally reprehensible ... A classic anti-Semitic slander which should never befool the chambers of Congress."

Dornan, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, who is known as a strong supporter of Israel and of the cause of Soviet Jewry, reacted with outrage that ABC, which was broadcasting from Moscow last week on the occasion of the 27th Soviet Communist Party Congress, allowed Posner air time to respond to Reagan's speech.

Statement By The Congressman

"This little flunky, 'Vlady,' sits there and calls our President a liar. I'm tired of having my government insulted by paid Communist toadies," Dornan said on the House floor. "Let's put a stop to it. Vladimir Posner was born a Jew. And he covers (for) the anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union This disloyal, betraying little Jew who sits there on television claiming that he is somehow or other a newsman. It's an affront to decency and to Jewish people around the world."

Posner's flawless, colloquial English has made him a prominent figure on Soviet broadcasts beamed to the U.S. and he has appeared many times on the ABC-TV "Nightline" program via satellite from Moscow.

Last December he was co-host with popular talk show host Phil Donahue on a program called "A Citizens' Summit" which brought 175 Russians in Leningrad and 175 Americans in Seattle together for a two-hour via satellite discussion of their countries and themselves.

Posner was born in Paris in 1934 to a French mother and a Russian father. He has said his father, Vladimir Alexandrovich, was born in St. Petersburg, now Leningrad, to a Jewish family which had converted to the Russian Orthodox faith. He and his parents fled Nazi-occupied Paris in 1940 for the U.S., where his father worked in an executive position for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in New York.

In 1949 he was dismissed for pro-Soviet views and blacklisted. The family returned to Europe and took up residence in Moscow in 1952. Posner, 51, became a Soviet citizen in 1961 and began a career as commentator for the North American service of Radio Moscow in 1970.

WEST GERMAN PRESIDENT APOLOGIZES TO WORLD JEWRY FOR RECENT SPATE OF ANTI-SEMITIC MANIFESTATIONS

By David Kantor

BONN, March 2 (JTA) — President Richard von Weizsaecker, in an emotional appeal to world Jewry, asserted Sunday that recent manifestations of anti-Semitism in West Germany should not be viewed as typical for the Federal Republic.

"I beg your pardon for the series of latest anti-Semitic utterances in this country," declared von Weizsaecker in remarks at the opening ceremony of the "Week of Brotherhood," an event organized by the Association for Christian-Jewish Cooperation.

The President's remarks were viewed in an effort to address rising concern in the Jewish community following a recent series of remarks and events that cast a shadow on German-Jewish relations here and which had been the subject of a debate in the Bundestag last week.

Last month, Hermann Fellner, a ranking member of the (Bavarian) Christian Social Union (CSU) Bundestag faction, said that Jews who seek reparations from German firms that used them as slave laborers during World War II create the impression that "Jews are quick to show up when money jingles in German cashboxes."

That remark was followed by the disclosure that Mayor Wilderich von Mierbach of Korschbroich in North Rhine-Westphalia, a Christian Democratic Union member, told his Town Council's budget committee last December that "a few rich Jews should be slain" in order to balance the budget.

There was also the failed attempt last year to stage a play deemed as anti-Semitic in Frankfurt's town theater, and Nazi-style remarks against former Israeli Premier Menachem Begin. Gunter Durr, the Social Democratic faction leader, denounced Begin in the Frankfurt City Council recently as "a murderer, fascist and terrorist." Durr later apologized.

ICAO UNIT CONDEMNS ISRAEL

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, March 2 (JTA) — The Governing Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) voted 21-1 Friday to "condemn" Israel for the interception and diversion by Israeli Air Force jets of a civilian Libyan aircraft in international airspace over the Mediterranean last February 4.

The sole dissenting vote in the 33-member body was cast by the United States. There were nine abstentions—Japan, Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, France, West Germany, Spain, Sweden and Belgium. Israel, a member of the ICAO but not of its Governing Council, deplored the resolution because it does not refer to terrorism nor mention the reason why Israel intercepted the plane.

The ICAO Governing Council rejected an amendment to the resolution proposed by the British representative which would have substituted the word "deplore" for "condemn" on grounds that "condemnation" was disproportionate in connection with the act since none of the people on the jet were harmed.

The Israeli representative to the ICAO, Yaacov Aviad, who was an observer at the ICAO meeting, warned that the resolution "will not help civil aviation because the interception was a legitimate act of self-defense in the struggle against international terrorism."