

## ISRAELI FATALLY STABBED IN GAZA MARKET; INCIDENTS CONTINUE IN TERRITORIES

By Hugh Orgel and Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- An Israeli from Ashkelon was fatally stabbed while shopping in Gaza Saturday. The victim, Haim Azran, 35, was assaulted from behind in an alley off the main street and knifed twice in the throat and once in the back.

He was aided by a friend, Mordechai Mordi, who summoned help from the local military headquarters. An ambulance rushed Azran to Barzilai Hospital. He was taken by helicopter from there to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba where he died of his wounds.

A curfew was clamped on Gaza after the attack but was soon lifted. A grape stall dealer told police he saw the attacker whom he described as young and strong. But he could not identify him.

Israeli authorities attributed the stabbing and other recent violence in the Gaza Strip to the fatal shooting two weeks ago of an Arab youth during a stone-throwing melee in Rafah at the southern end of the Gaza Strip. That occurred on the fourth anniversary of the Shatila and Sabra refugee camps massacre in Lebanon and triggered anti-Israeli incidents in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. The authorities are puzzled because they have not yet abated.

Palestinian nationalists demonstrated at a local school in Rafah Thursday. An Israeli vehicle was stoned and its windshield smashed but the occupants were unhurt. Police arrested two persons on suspicion of organizing the demonstration.

Two gasoline bombs were thrown at an Israeli bus in Nablus Thursday. A window was smashed but no one was hurt. The bus was carrying Israeli school children from Shavei Shomron settlement to Elon Moreh. Security forces searched the area.

The tension in Nablus appeared related to the recent dismissal of Dr. Munther Sallah, president of A-Najah University there, on suspicion he was involved in anti-Israel demonstrations.

## TWO FRENCH UNIFIL SOLDIERS WOUNDED BY MINE IN SOUTH LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- Two French UNIFIL soldiers were slightly injured in south Lebanon Sunday, when their truck hit a mine, a spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon announced.

Five French UNIFIL soldiers have been killed and 63 wounded in attacks by Shiite forces during the past six weeks. Most of the attacks were by the extremist Hezbollah faction. Others were by the mainstream Shiite militia, Amal.

Fighting in Beirut between rival Christian groups meanwhile left 62 dead and nearly 200 wounded in 24 hours of violent clashes in the Christian eastern part of the city.

Gen. Antoine Lahad, commander of the South Lebanon Army (SLA), said at a press conference in Metullah Sunday that his Israel-backed force was prepared for further attacks by Hezbollah and

would soon add new military positions in the area of south Lebanon it controls.

He blamed Iran and Syria for recent attacks on four SLA positions by the Shiite forces they back. He said in addition to Hezbollah, SLA soldiers have been attacked by Amal members and Palestinian terrorists. He said Israel's support for his men has been meager of late but he credited the threat of Israeli retaliation for the fact that there have not been more attacks on SLA positions.

Lehad said UNIFIL was not capable of maintaining peace in south Lebanon. He said if it is moved south to the international border, according to a Security Council resolution adopted last Tuesday, the danger of terrorist attacks on northern Israel would increase. But Lehad stressed that UNIFIL should not be withdrawn from Lebanon "under the threat of terror."

## Trial Expected To Start In January SUSPECTED WAR CRIMINAL JOHN DEMJEANJUK TO BE OFFICIALLY CHARGED MONDAY

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- Suspected Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk will be officially charged with four counts of war crimes in Jerusalem District Court Monday. A 25-page charge sheet, drafted by State Attorney Yona Blattman and her associates, will be presented along with a request that Demjanjuk be held in prison pending trial which is expected to start next January and last several months.

The case against the Ukrainian-born former U.S. citizen from Cleveland, Ohio, will hinge on positive identification of him as the Treblinka death camp guard, known to inmates as "Ivan the Terrible" because of his brutality. Some 900,000 Jews died in the Treblinka gas chambers during World War II. The guard known as "Ivan" is said to have operated the crematoria.

Demjanjuk is the first Nazi war crimes suspect ever extradited to Israel for trial. He was brought to Israel last February and confined in isolation at a maximum security prison near Ramle.

### List Of Charges

On Monday he will be charged in court with crimes against the Jewish people; crimes against humanity; crimes against persecuted people; and war crimes. Each offense carries the death penalty and is unique inasmuch as Israel's statutes do not provide capital punishment. The only war criminal executed by Israel was Adolf Eichmann who was hanged 25 years ago.

The prosecution is intent on establishing an airtight case against the 66-year-old retired automobile plant worker who was stripped of his U.S. citizenship several years ago. During the evidence-gathering process, Demjanjuk was periodically remanded and re-remanded in custody. His detention was extended last month until October 1.

The State reportedly plans to call some 50 witnesses, 15 of them Treblinka survivors living in Israel or overseas. It will take testimony abroad

from an 80-year-old former SS guard who served at Treblinka. Because of the importance of positive identification, witnesses asked to identify the prisoner will be limited to persons who knew "Ivan the Terrible" for at least eight months.

The charge sheet lacks some vital evidence. Still missing from the file is a certificate reportedly issued to Demjanjuk at an SS training camp. It is believed to be in the possession of the Soviet authorities. They have not yet responded to an Israeli request for a copy of the document.

Demjanjuk will be tried by a panel of one Supreme Court justice and two district court justices. Their names will be announced Monday after the charge sheet is filed.

#### **KAHANE FOLLOWERS ATTACK ASHKELON CITY HALL DURING CEREMONY HONORING PAST KING OF MOROCCO**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- Official ceremonies naming a square in Ashkelon in honor of the late King Mohammed of Morocco were cut short Sunday when Rabbi Meir Kahane and followers of his extremist Kach Party invaded the municipality offices, smashed windows, overturned furniture and threatened the clerks.

Premier Shimon Peres, the principal speaker, had difficulty making himself heard over the shouts of hecklers. Most were supporters of the right-wing opposition Tehiya Party who had a permit to demonstrate and did so noisily but peacefully. The violence came from Kach.

The town on Israel's coast south of Tel Aviv is in ferment over the fatal stabbing of one of its residents, Haim Azran, in the Gaza marketplace Saturday. (See separate story.) His funeral, scheduled for Sunday, was postponed at the request of local police who feared clashes.

Mohammed was the father of King Hassan, the present ruler of Morocco, with whom Peres met last July. Peres reminded the crowd that the late monarch had befriended Jews during World War II and at other times. But a historian of the Moroccan Jewish community claims Mohammed signed Nazi racist laws at Hitler's orders when his country was administered by the collaborationist Vichy regime.

Peres referred to Azran's murder, noting that it followed a recent attempt on the life of Hassan by Palestinian terrorists. "We shall not allow PLO people in Gaza or PLO people in Morocco to kill the peace process," Peres said. He told the hecklers, "Peace is built on love of country, not hatred of Arabs. It (the square) can serve as a center for permanent dialogue between the different peoples."

Tehiya MK Gershon Shafat told reporters his party objected to honoring King Mohammed because "To this day I have not heard of naming a square in Morocco in honor of Ben Gurion or any other Zionist leader." He said such "gestures" to the West would bring no benefits.

#### **ISRAELIS WILL GET COMMERCIAL RADIO AND TV, CABINET DECIDES**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- The Cabinet approved a draft law Sunday to establish a second channel on State-run television and radio which would be open to private commercial operators.

The Cabinet decided to compensate daily newspapers for loss of advertising revenue to

commercial broadcasters. The Israel Broadcasting Authority will also be compensated for loss of revenue because of the expected decrease of paid public service announcements on the first channel.

Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein said he expected that 10 private radio stations could begin operations within six months. The second television channel will take longer to set up, he said.

#### **Peres Briefs Ministers**

Premier Shimon Peres briefed the Ministers Sunday on his visit to the U.S. and Canada from which he returned Tuesday. He described his meetings with President Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and other top Administration officials.

He noted the determination of the U.S. government to support a strong Israel, oppose the Palestine Liberation Organization and to view the peace process as part of peace itself. He said Administration and Congressional leaders praised Israel for its political initiatives and its progress in solving its economic difficulties.

#### **TEL AVIV POLICE RAID PHONEY \$ FACTORY, NAB FIVE**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- Police raided a small printing plant here Friday and confiscated \$4.5 million in counterfeit U.S. Dollars. A 37-year-old Ashdod resident, alleged leader of the counterfeit ring, was arrested with two confederates at the plant. Police said they were caught red-handed. Two other suspects were arrested at their homes.

The arrests capped a five-month investigation and stake-out. Police said they watched ring members cart hundred Dollar bills from the press to a rented car. They said a search of the premises yielded good quality paper sufficient for printing between 200 and 300 million phoney Dollars, apparently for distribution in the U.S.

#### **MEKOROT CLOSES MAIN PIPELINE BECAUSE WATER LEVEL IS LOW**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- The Mekorot water company shut down its main pipeline to central Israel and the Negev Sunday because the water level in the Sea of Galilee is at a near record low. It is the first time the pipeline was closed since its completion more than 30 years ago.

The Sea of Galilee, Israel's main reservoir, is short about a half billion cubic meters of water due to several years of sub-normal rainfall, the national water company said. The surface level is more than 10 feet lower than average and large stretches of lake bed are visible.

Mekorot said it hoped to resume pumping after the winter rainy season. Meanwhile, it will provide minimum water supplies to farmers and drinking water from local wells.

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BALTIMORE (JTA) -- Milton Shapiro of Great Neck, NY, was elected Sunday to a two-year term as president of the Zionist Organization of America, succeeding Alleck Resnick.

## ARAVA SETTLERS HOPE VOA TRANSMITTER WILL BRING BETTER TIMES

By Gil Sedan

IDAN, Negev, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- The several hundred families of this moshav in the Arava region of the Negev and others in the surrounding area are waiting in tense anticipation for work to begin on the Voice of America Radio transmitters to be located here.

The \$380-million project, agreed to by Israel and the U.S. last year, will bring cash, jobs and an infusion of new settlers to this economically hard-pressed, underpopulated region of Israel. According to Illan Oren, head of the Mid-Arava Regional Council, it is an opportunity that comes "only once in a generation, or perhaps only once every 100 years."

"It is important that such an opportunity does not slip away," Oren said. But he and the other residents of the region are keeping their fingers crossed.

### Past Disappointments

They have been disappointed in the past. When the Israel Defense Force pulled out of Sinai in 1982 under terms of the peace treaty with Egypt, there was much talk of how the Negev and the Arava region in particular would develop with the army and its infrastructure deployed there.

A bright future was forecast for settlements such as Yeroham and Dimona. But the development towns in the Negev are worse off economically now. They are the main victims of Israel's economic crisis.

The decision to build the VOA transmitters in the Arava region is seen as a chance for recovery. Of the \$380-million budget, \$300 million will be invested in equipment and the rest in labor. Construction is expected to take from three to five years.

The local residents want to be certain that the investment will be used to improve the region. About 300 workers will be employed to build the transmitters. Once in operation, they will provide about 130 jobs and, by agreement with the Americans, all but seven will go to Israelis.

"An addition of 130 families to an area which now numbers 380 families is a real revolution," Oren told the co-chairmen of the Jewish Agency's Settlement Department, Nissim Zvilli and Matityahu Drobless, who visited Idan recently with a group of experts.

Zvilli said the workers must live here. "If we allow them not to, much of the advantage of the project will be lost," Oren suggested, using the existing infrastructure for construction crews rather than building a new work camp. The money saved, he said, could build a new field school and other institutions. The Jewish Agency meanwhile is trying to persuade Jewish construction workers in the U.S. to settle in Israel and join the VOA project.

### Problem With U.S.

A problem has arisen between Israel and the U.S. over the contractors. The Americans have rejected an Israeli demand that only Israeli contractors be employed. Amnon Neubach, economic advisor to Premier Shimon Peres, informed leaders of Israel's construction industry. He said the Americans will allow Israeli firms to bid for the job which is estimated at \$50-\$70 million. But

there is concern that the Israelis may not be able to compete with tenders by American firms.

Drobless reviewed the problems of the area which make the VOA project so vital to it. Only 4,000 people live on a 150-kilometer-long strip. Living costs are higher than in the rest of Israel because of the region's isolation. In Arava, a family needs an annual income of 25,000 Shekels compared to a 15,000-Shekel average in other parts of the country.

Because of these needs, the Negev section of the Settlement Department allocates 40 percent of its budget to Arava.

## ANTI-SEMITES OF FAR RIGHT THREATEN HOLOCAUST EXHIBIT IN VIRGINIA

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- Federal and local law enforcement agencies in Tidewater, Virginia, have launched an investigation into a series of bomb threats against an exhibition of Holocaust artifacts and photographs at the Tidewater Jewish Federation. At the same time, local police have stepped up security at the exhibit, "Auschwitz: A Crime Against Humanity," which opened September 8 and is scheduled to run a month. The exhibition has been seen by at least 500-800 people daily.

In addition to the bomb threats, the exhibit was picketed a week ago by a group said to be affiliated with a white supremacist, anti-Semitic group, the Christian Identity Movement. About a dozen demonstrators distributed blatantly anti-Semitic leaflets with a cartoon deriding the Holocaust as a lie and portraying Jews in control of all forms of the media. It was captioned "How long can the Jews perpetrate the Holocaust myth? Not much longer!"

The leaflets bore two different addresses, Kingdom News Crusades for Truth, in Chesapeake, Va., and Lord's Covenant Church, America's Promise, Phoenix, Az. Both are known headquarters for an extreme rightwing, pseudo-Christian movement that promotes belief in the "Israel identity of the Saxon race" and espouses paramilitary tactics against Jews, Catholics, Blacks and the American government.

The Identity movement also vilifies Christian Fundamentalist supporters of Israel, chiefly the Rev. Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, who are based in the same Virginia area as the Tidewater Federation.

### Support From Non Jews

According to A. Robert Gast, executive director of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater, the 15,000-member Jewish community has received much support from the non-Jewish community there. A rally was held last Wednesday at the Jewish Community Center, site of the exhibit and of the Federation and Jewish Family Services. The convocation, endorsed by the local press, brought together civic and religious leaders of the Tidewater area. Father Thomas Nee, of the Blessed Sacrament Church, addressed the rally, saying, "I wish to decry and deplore the insanity and the cruelty of the violence exhibited here" which demonstrated "un-American, woefully ignorant and thoroughly un-Christian behavior ... It is frightening to realize that the diabolically evil shadow of the deeds and spirit of Nazi hatred so poignantly recalled by the chilling exhibit ... can reappear"....

Gast, in a telephone interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, said that people are "concerned but not frightened... Our absolute horror in seeing this demonstration in Norfolk, Virginia, reinforced our determination to make the Auschwitz exhibit more available to the community at large." He said the Jewish Federation would double its effort to "get the good people of Tidewater to come out and stand up to the demonstrators." The exhibit was first seen at the United Nations last winter by 70,000. The UN showing was organized by the Auschwitz State Museum and the International Auschwitz Committee. In April, the United Jewish Appeal signed an historic agreement with the Polish government providing for a two-year nationwide tour of the death camp artifacts and related documents. Among the articles on display are suitcases, human hair, oven parts and 135 photographic panels. Tidewater is the first of its stops throughout the U.S. Gast said attendance at the exhibit has risen sharply since the demonstration and bomb threats, and that people coming to see the exhibit included groups from universities and churches, including Black Pentecostals.

#### **ISRAELI EXPERT PROPOSES MORE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP IN WEST BANK** By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- A researcher at one of Israel's leading think tanks proposed a gradual expansion of responsibility for Palestinian leaders in the West Bank, leading eventually to autonomy for the territory. But he warned against implementing autonomy unilaterally in the near future.

Brig. Gen. (Res.) Arye Shalev, a Senior Fellow at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, presented his views in a 35-page study on unilateral autonomy for the West Bank, published Thursday.

He said an international peace conference on the Middle East is unlikely to materialize now and Israel therefore should work to strengthen the authority of Palestinians in the administered territory and encourage Jordanian influence there at the expense of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

#### **Israel Should Work With Jordan**

Negotiations between Israel and any Arab partner are unlikely at this stage and Israel therefore should work behind the scenes, with Jordanian cooperation, to strengthen the power of local Arab officials so as to pave the way for an eventual political solution, Shalev said.

He suggested among Israel's other options a policy of prodding West Bank Arabs to take greater responsibility for their own institutions. That, combined with greater authority for local leaders, would lessen friction between Israeli officials and Arab residents, he said.

By strengthening Jordan's position in the territory, an alternative leadership to the PLO could be created, he said, and the stage would be set for a political solution between Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians.

In the long term, Shalev said, the Israeli civil administration should be eliminated. But he cautioned that premature implementation of autonomy would benefit the PLO because its supporters would promptly take over the posts vacated by the Israelis.

He suggested a gradual, quiet process of installing local leaders sympathetic to Jordan in official positions, for example, as the mayors of the larger West Bank towns of Hebron, Ramallah and El Bireh. He would also encourage Jordanian involvement in developing a local alternative to the PLO.

#### **THREE MAJOR WEST BANK TOWNS GET ARAB MAYORS** By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- Three major West Bank cities have local Arab mayors after a long period of being run by Israeli military officers, it was announced Sunday.

Hebron, the second largest city in the territory, Ramallah and El Bireh were listed in the official announcement by the civil administration of Judea and Samaria. The three nominees, who take over their duties at once, are seen as moderate, pro-Jordanian figures. They are Dr. Abdel Majid E-Zir in Hebron; Halil Musa Halil in Ramallah; and Hassan A-Tawil in El Bireh.

E-Zir has served until now as head of medical services in Hebron, under the civil administration. He has not been active politically.

A-Tawil is the Mukhtar (headman) of the prominent Tawil family in El Bireh and a distant relative of Ibrahim Tawil, a former mayor who was ousted by the authorities. Ibrahim Tawil was a near-fatal victim of the Jewish terrorist underground in 1980. The attack cost him two legs and left a border police sapper blinded.

Halil, unlike the other two, has previous political experience. He was mayor of Ramallah in 1968-72. In elections that year he was defeated by a pro-PLO candidate, Karim Khalaf.

Informed sources said Sunday that the three appointments had been made with the tacit approval of the Jordanian government. They are seen therefore as dovetailing into Jordan's ongoing efforts to strengthen its political position in the West Bank.

The last Israeli attempt to restore a Palestinian mayor to a major West Bank city ended in disaster last March 2 when Zafer Al-Masri, installed the previous month as Mayor of Nablus, was assassinated by terrorists.

#### **LABOR WOULD HAVE 2-1 EDGE OVER LIKUD IF ELECTIONS WERE HELD NOW** By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- The Labor Party would lead Likud by two to one and be able to form its own government if elections were held now, according to a poll published in Haaretz Friday. The poll was taken by the Poli Public Opinion Research Institute.

It showed the Labor Party's popularity rating up nine percent, since the last elections in 1984 and Likud's down by 9.1 percent, less than a month before Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir takes over as Prime Minister under the coalition rotation of power agreement.

According to the poll, Labor is favored by 45.1 percent of the electorate and Likud by 22.8 percent. Parties that usually support Labor rose in popularity from 5.1 to 6.6 percent which would enable the Labor Party to form a government of its own choosing with a 52.7 percent majority in the Knesset.