



**POLICE REPORT NO LEADS  
IN OLD CITY BOMBING**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Jerusalem police admitted Monday that they have no leads in their investigation of the grenade attack that injured 12 border policemen and five Arab civilians near the Old City walls Sunday afternoon. Five of the injured remained hospitalized Monday. About 70 suspects detained for questioning immediately after the attack have been released.

Unknown assailants threw the grenade at about 2 p.m. local time when two border patrols were changing shifts just outside the Jaffa Gate. Police Minister Haim Barlev said the grenade, or another explosive device, may have been hurled from a passing car. But police also are investigating the possibility that an explosive charge was planted at the site.

On Sunday, the Palestine Liberation Organization had claimed responsibility for the attack.

A bomb detonated about the same time at a soldiers' pick-up point on the Hebron Road. There were no injuries. Life returned to normal in the Old City after the incident, except that Jews refrained from entering.

The border police unit attacked Sunday was the same one which suffered heavy losses when an Israeli military headquarters building collapsed in the Lebanese port city of Tyre five years ago. Thirty-four people were killed in that incident, which was attributed to a gas leak.

**ANTI-ISRAEL VIOLENCE PERSISTS  
THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORIES**

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Violence continued in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the weekend, but security sources maintained that the situation in the territories was calming down.

Soldiers fired tear gas to disperse demonstrators at the Jalazoun refugee camp near Ramallah and the Askar camp near Nablus. In Jericho, which is usually quiet, students threw rocks at passing Israeli vehicles. No injuries were reported.

An Israeli soldier was slightly injured by rocks in Ramallah Saturday. A curfew was clamped on the downtown area for several hours. The Islamic College in Hebron was closed for three weeks after violent demonstrations there Saturday. Al-Azhar University in Gaza was closed for 10 days.

A gasoline bomb was thrown at a parked Israeli vehicle in Gaza, causing some damage but no injuries. Three Israeli policemen were attacked by stone-throwing Druze when they entered Massada village on the Golan Heights Friday morning.

**SURVIVOR IDENTIFIES DEMJANJUK AS  
'IVAN THE TERRIBLE' AT TRIAL**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- A Holocaust survivor stood up in Jerusalem District Court Monday morning and identified accused war criminal John Demjanjuk as the Treblinka death

camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible." "There is the man as he was. Here he is standing. Here he is standing," cried Pinhas Epstein, who arrived at Treblinka when he was 17.

The emotional outburst, the dramatic highlight of the first day of the second week of Demjanjuk's trial, came after Epstein had scanned photographs of Treblinka shown to him by the prosecution. He had apparently identified the face of "Ivan the Terrible," who was then in his middle 20s.

His words "the man as he was" referred to a photograph, and "Here he is standing" to the 66-year-old Demjanjuk, a Ukrainian-born former automobile worker from Cleveland, Ohio, who is the first suspected Nazi war criminal extradited to Israel.

**Spectators Applaud**

Epstein's putative identification was greeted by resounding applause from the spectators. But the court promptly restored order. Epstein insisted that he could never forget the images of Treblinka, particularly the brutal Ivan, who operated the gas chambers.

"I see Ivan every night . . . I dream about him every night . . . I cannot rid myself," the witness declared, trembling and in tears as Demjanjuk's American attorney, Mark O'Connor, cross-examined him in an attempt to prove his memory was faulty.

Epstein broke down several times, notably when he recalled seeing a 12-year-old girl emerge miraculously alive from the gas chamber. "She came out speaking. The people who took the bodies out of the gas chambers made her sit at the side, and her words still ring in my ears," Epstein said. They were "Yakhtze doma moushi-I want my mother."

**ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL WORKERS  
BACK ON STRIKE FOR HIGHER WAGES**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- More than 11,000 administrative and maintenance workers at government hospitals went on strike Monday in defiance of a Jerusalem labor court's back-to-work orders. The strike leaders, facing contempt of court citations, declared they were ready to go to jail in their struggle for better wages.

Four leaders of the strike committee were escorted by police from their Tel Hashomer Hospital strike headquarters to the court Monday afternoon for a mandatory appearance. They went without protest, followed by representatives of other hospital workers' groups in a show of solidarity.

The strike has hit 26 general, psychiatric and geriatric state hospitals, which were forced to operate on a Sabbath emergency schedule Monday. Elective surgery was cancelled, and as many patients as possible were sent home.

The strike was the second in less than a week to paralyze government hospitals in Israel. Physicians staged a 24-hour "warning strike," which ended last Friday, to protest cuts in the medical staff. A strike by 9,000 administrative and maintenance personnel at Histadrut's Kupat Holim

hospitals also ended a strike last week after an emotional radio appeal by President Chaim Herzog.

But their government hospital counterparts say they intend to remain off the job until their wages are raised to the same level as the Kupat Holim hospital staffs. A government committee upheld their demands after studying the issue and the Treasury promised to comply.

But the workers charged the government was "dragging its feet." They said they will no longer work for wages barely above the national minimum. The Treasury claims they are in fact receiving higher pay.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Shoshana Arbelli-Almosino said the Finance Ministry fails to appreciate the disastrous plight of the country's hospital and health services. She said she is not asking for a bigger health budget, but protesting new cuts demanded by the Treasury.

The Health Minister pointed out that while the population has increased by about eight percent in the last six years, there has been no increase in the budget to provide for the larger number of people requiring hospitalization and other medical services.

## IS HUNGARY SET TO FETE WALLEMBERG?

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Hungary may be preparing to pay public tribute to Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews from deportation to Nazi death camps in 1944 by granting them the protection of the Swedish Embassy in Budapest.

Reports here by recent visitors to the Hungarian capital say the street named after Wallenberg shortly after the war is being refurbished, possibly in anticipation of the forthcoming conference of the European branch of the World Jewish Congress in Budapest, the first such event in an Eastern European Communist bloc country.

But there is no evidence that the authorities will bring a statue dedicated to Wallenberg back to Budapest, although it has been discussed recently in official Hungarian journals. The statue of a man wrestling with a snake was removed to the city of Debrecen during the Stalin era and shorn of its inscription recounting Wallenberg's exploits.

The statue was commissioned and paid for mainly by Hungarian Jews who owed their lives to Wallenberg. Postcards depicting it suddenly have become available in Budapest. Although intended as a tribute to his wartime activities, the statue has become a poignant symbol of Wallenberg's fate.

Arrested when the Red Army entered Budapest on January 17, 1945, he has not been heard from since. The Soviet authorities claim he died in prison in 1947, but over the years, he was reported seen alive in prison, and the Swedish government officially regards him as being alive. He would be 74.

The latest exchanges between Moscow and Stockholm on Wallenberg's fate took place last year. Neither country has altered its position.

## ISRAEL STILL TESTING LAVI, DESPITE AMERICAN OPPOSITION

TEL AVIV, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Israel is continuing to test its second-generation jet fighter plane, the Lavi, despite uncertainty about its

future due to U.S. objections that it costs too much. A Lavi prototype last week made its 10th test flight in less than two months. It was flown by Menahem Shmuel, chief test pilot of Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI), which designed and built the technically advanced plane.

According to IAI, test flights will continue at an accelerated rate of two a week. A second prototype will enter the program in April and three more prototypes will be built and tested after that. IAI said a total of 1,800 test flights will be made with all prototypes before the best is selected and put into production in about two years.

But the U.S., which is financing the Lavi through military grants, has urged Israel to abandon the project in favor of a American-built aircraft, the F-16C. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger appeared before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in Washington last Wednesday to explain why the U.S. is opposed to the Lavi.

He said the Israel-built plane would be inferior to the F-16s, which are already part of the Israel Air Force, and that U.S. aid should not be used to further the Lavi project. The Israel Air Force has been flying the F-16A and F-16B for some time. The first three F-16Cs were delivered to Israel earlier this month. Israel has ordered 75 of the advanced F-16Cs.

## PERES SAYS DIFFERENCES WITH SHAMIR ON PEACE CONFERENCE ARE 'SERIOUS'

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres acknowledged Monday that his differences with Premier Yitzhak Shamir over an international conference for Middle East peace are "substantive and serious."

Everyone agrees on the need for direct negotiations and only an international conference could create the framework for such negotiations, Peres said during a visit to a Jerusalem school. Shamir, for his part, has denounced an international conference as a "Soviet-Arab notion" which could lead to Israel's isolation.

During his visit to Washington last week Shamir urged the Reagan Administration to oppose such a forum in which the Soviet Union, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, would participate. Shamir returns from the U.S. later this week.

The sharp divergence between the two leaders of the Labor-Likud unity government has raised speculation that a coalition crisis is imminent. It may be triggered when Peres meets with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo shortly. Their last meeting, in Alexandria in September, when Peres was Premier, ended with an agreement to prepare the groundwork for an international conference.

## Elections Imminent?

Meanwhile, Labor and Likud are accusing each other of seeking to end the coalition. Labor charged that Shamir's tough stand in Washington against an international conference was aimed at early elections. Likud countered that this was Peres' intention when he criticized the Premier while he is still overseas.

Labor Party Secretary General Uzi Baram said in a radio interview Sunday that the party and Peres indeed favor elections now because Israel was missing opportunities for peace.

## PERES-MUBARAK TALKS ON MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE COULD BRING DOWN ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, SHAMIR HINTS IN NEW YORK

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir indicated here Monday that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' discussions of an international peace conference for the Middle East when he meets Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo, possibly later this week, could cause the disintegration of the Labor-Likud unity government.

Speaking to journalists at a luncheon at the Regency Hotel, Shamir replied "maybe" when asked if Peres' trip to Cairo could affect the future of the Israel government. Peres can go to Egypt to discuss "whatever he wants to discuss," but he cannot decide anything with President Mubarak without the approval of the Israel government, Shamir said.

Asked if he had approved Peres' trip, Shamir said: "I didn't give any approval but I knew about the trip. He (Peres) doesn't need any approval from the Prime Minister to go wherever he wants to go. The government has to approve it."

He said that if Peres' trip to Cairo yields any results, the Foreign Minister will have to bring them back to Jerusalem as recommendations to the full government.

Sharp differences between Shamir and Peres over an international peace conference have raised speculation in Israel that the issue could bring down the government. (See P.2.) Shamir is adamantly opposed to such a forum.

He stressed to the American media that an international peace conference cannot replace direct negotiations as the means to resolve the Middle East conflict. He made that point strongly at his meetings with President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington last week.

## IOSIF BEGUN ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Former Soviet Prisoner of Conscience Iosif Begun arrived in Moscow Monday morning following his release Friday from Chistopol Prison in the Tatar Republic of the USSR. He was pardoned last week after serving three years for "anti-Soviet activities" as a result of his teaching of Hebrew.

Begun was met at the Moscow train station by throngs of supporters in the Jewish movement and hoisted on their shoulders in a jubilant celebration. The Hebrew song "Heveinu Shalom Aleichem" could be heard reverberating through the streets of the Soviet capital.

Begun, an observant Jew, chose not to desecrate the Sabbath by traveling after his release from prison Friday morning. Instead, he and his wife Inna, and son Boris spent Shabbat in a hotel near the prison.

In a telephone conversation Monday morning with his wife's cousin, Chaim Tepper of Far Rockaway, NY, Begun said that, "It was a very great Shabbat." He also said that, "We shall continue the struggle for all Jews to leave the Soviet Union." Begun said he had not yet heard from Soviet authorities regarding a visa to leave for Israel.

The Beguns were surprised to hear from Tepper that Iosif Begun had appeared on American

television. He sounded amazed at the amount of attention he has received in the world press.

Boris Begun, who was supposed to have served 15 days' imprisonment for demonstrating in Moscow on behalf of his father, was saved the experience.

Iosif Begun, 56, was sentenced in October 1983 to seven years' imprisonment and five years' internal exile. Since his incarceration, he has been a focus of activities and statements by Soviet Jewry activists and by public figures around the world.

## Elation, Skepticism

In Jerusalem, Soviet Jewry activists were elated over the release of dissident Iosif Begun from prison, but highly skeptical of any fundamental change in Soviet policy toward emigration and refuseniks.

Haim Chessler, head of the Public Council for Soviet Jewry, said at a press conference that it was as hard as ever for Soviet Jews to get exit visas. "On one hand we see a bit of change, but on the other hand we get information that families get refusals until the year 2000," he said.

Yuri Stern of the Soviet Jewry Information Center thought Begun's release was significant because it demonstrated the effectiveness of the western campaign to free him. But he expressed apprehension that Begun's friends in the USSR would "pay for his release" by being refused exit permits themselves.

The activists released a list of 29 refuseniks suffering from cancer. They said if the Soviets want to display a new policy it could start by allowing these dying Jews to reunite with their families before it is too late.

## CATHOLICS, JEWS AGREE TO REMOVE CARMELITE CONVENT OFF AUSCHWITZ

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Jewish and Catholic leaders meeting here Sunday agreed that a Carmelite convent established on the site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp in Poland will be removed within two years.

The agreement is expected to resolve the emotionally charged issue first raised by European Jews, who regard the site as a unique symbol of the Holocaust. The agreement provided for the establishment, away from the camp site, of an interreligious center where Catholics and Jews can pray and meditate, hold seminars and greet visitors. The nuns will move off the Auschwitz site to a new building.

Theo Klein, president of the Council of Major French Jewish Organizations (CRIF), presided at the meeting. Other Jewish participants were Tulia Zevi, president of the Italian Jewish community; Chief Rabbi Rene Sirat of France and Ady Steg, head of a committee opposed to the convent.

The Catholic Church was represented by Albert Cardinal Decourtray, Archbishop of Lyon; Jean-Marie Lustiger, Archbishop of Paris; Godfried Cardinal Danneels of Brussels; and Franciszek Cardinal Macharski, Archbishop of Cracow.

The same group meeting here last July issued a statement recognizing the special significance of Auschwitz-Birkenau to the Holocaust. The statement was seen as a first step toward the agreement concluded Sunday.

**ON TV:  
RECRUITMENT OF NAZI SCIENTISTS  
FOR U.S. SPACE PROGRAM DOCUMENTED**  
By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- The U.S. government overlooked and in some cases covered up the Nazi past of German rocket scientists recruited after World War II to boost the U.S. space program, according to a new television documentary.

"The Nazi Connection," will be aired February 24 on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) "Frontline" program. It is an hour-long documentary, based on years of research by British journalist Tom Bower, that traces the careers and crimes of several scientists who directed Hitler's advanced V-2 rocket program.

U.S. government documents show that leading rocket scientists Werner von Braun and Arthur Rudolph oversaw the construction of an underground Nazi rocket factory at Nordhausen, Germany, using inmates of the nearby concentration camp, Dora, as slave labor. Some 20,000 of the slaves were either murdered or died of starvation or disease.

Bower discovered that other scientists conducted high-pressure experiments that killed the camp inmate subjects. In other experiments, the scientists fed prisoners only salt-water until they died. Several of the scientists were even tried in Nuremberg and acquitted before the U.S. coopted them.

**Found In Hiding**

According to "The Nazi Connection," the rocket scientists had gone into hiding by the end of the war. The U.S. Army ordered Robert Staver, an American scientist, to locate them before the Soviets did. They were discovered, and von Braun and about 100 of his team members were secretly brought to the U.S. Also recruited were the aviation medicine experts who had experimented on the camp inmates.

The Pentagon directors of the recruitment effort, called Project Paperclip, arranged visas and U.S. citizenship for the German scientists despite then-President Truman's prohibition against bringing in Nazis for the program.

Newly-released documents and interviews with Germans and Americans indicated that the Pentagon also "cleaned up" the war records of the German scientists to erase or tone down evidence of their atrocities and cooperation with the Nazis.

Von Braun, Rudolph and the other German scientists eventually received U.S. citizenship and were decorated for their work in the space program.

But years later, after the Justice Department created the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) to locate and prosecute Nazi war criminals living in the U.S., some scientists lost their heroic status. In 1984, Rudolph, who directed production of the U.S. Saturn 5 rocket, returned to Germany and gave up his U.S. citizenship rather than face prosecution for war crimes committed at Nordhausen.

In an interview for the "The Nazi Connection" after he returned to Germany, the elderly Rudolph said, "The U.S. government is thankless to me." Rudolph said that without him and the other German scientists, the U.S. probably still would not have landed a man on the moon.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES;  
2ND ISRAELI TV CHANNEL LIKELY**  
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- The wildcat strike by technicians that blacked out Israeli television screens for several nights recently was only the latest of the periodic disputes between labor and Broadcast Authority management over contract conditions.

It drew more attention than usual because the strike was called to protest the suspension of Zion Sweri, chairman of the television workers committee, for cutting off a satellite broadcast of the National Basketball Association All-Star Game, which had run into overtime.

Television normally shuts down at 12:30 a.m. and the workers point out there is no contract agreement with management to pay them for the extra time on duty.

Hundreds of thousands of basketball fans were furious. There were demands in the Knesset to introduce some "law and order" into the television service. Meanwhile, a compromise proposal was on the table to handle future disputes of this kind. But the problems of Israel's television are much broader and more numerous.

**Only One Channel**

The basic problem is that there is only one television channel to provide news, entertainment and educational features. For this service, the public pays an annual television fee. When disputes between the Broadcast Authority's 1,000 employees, who have civil service status, and management result in blacked-out screens, there is no alternative channel.

Television is more important in Israel than in many other countries. It is the main source of late news. "Mabat," the daily evening news program, enjoys more than 90 percent viewership. Television interviews with national leaders and lawmakers are news events in themselves.

Israeli politicians are more sensitive to television than politicians elsewhere. Knesset members race each other to the telephones after a session to make sure their remarks are being broadcast on the nightly news.

Daytime television in Israel is devoted mainly to educational and children's programs. General programs begin at 5:30 p.m. and run for the next seven hours. When there is no sports event, the three "Hebrew Hours" are filled mainly with re-runs of popular American TV series.

Israelis are as well acquainted with "Dallas" and "Dynasty" as audiences anywhere in the world. Locally produced programs, apart from news, are rare because of budgetary difficulties. The Broadcast Authority budget also covers the two radio channels -- Israel Radio and Voice of Israel -- and Arabic broadcasts on both radio and television.

The annual fees cannot cover everything, and broadcasting in Israel is state-subsidized.

In the absence of alternative channels, Israelis are turning to video cassette players and illegal cable stations have spread throughout the country. A Knesset subcommittee is working double shifts to draft a law that would establish a commercial, TV channel. It is a political issue which raises the question of State supervision of commercial television. The latest TV blackout will undoubtedly speed up the legislative process.