

**ESCALATION OF TERRORIST ATTACKS
LINKED TO HARD LINE TAKEN BY PNC
By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, April 26 (JTA) -- Terrorist attacks along the Lebanese border and in the administered territories escalated during the past week. Most observers here link the resurgent violence directly to the hard line taken at the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres expressed hope last week that with the Palestine Liberation Organization's mainstream, headed by Yasir Arafat, edging closer to radicals and extremists in an effort to achieve Palestinian unity, moderate elements in the territories would be strengthened.

His view arose from the notion that Palestinians would realize the PLO offered a dead end, not a way to achieve peace or advance Palestinian interests. But this has proven to be wishful thinking. Once again, the Arab political community responded in accord with the internal politics of the PLO.

The East Jerusalem Arabic press hailed the show of unity at Algiers although it undercut whatever small progress was made in the past two years to bring Palestinians closer to the negotiating table.

Slogans smeared on walls rejoiced over Arafat's apparent reconciliation with hard line terrorists such as George Habash and Naif Hawatmeh and news that Syrian-backed PLO dissidents who drove Arafat from Lebanon in 1984 were now back in the fold.

Violence In Administered Territories

Terrorist elements in the territories expressed their approval by violence. Two gasoline bombs were thrown at Israeli vehicles in the middle of Gaza Saturday, injuring a three-year-old child. On Friday, five Molotov cocktails were thrown at soldiers near the Dahaiشة and El-Aroub refugee camps on the Jerusalem-Hebron road.

The Gaza incident aroused fury among Jewish settlers. On Sunday they drove a motorcade through Gaza, openly displaying their weapons as a warning and show of force.

Those developments, which coincided with the end of the PNC meeting, made it clear that Israelis would have to re-evaluate the political situation. The severe blows inflicted on the PLO in the Lebanon war, and its fragmentation during the years that followed, did not bring Palestinian moderates to the fore. Now, with the PLO seemingly reunited, the moderates have run for cover.

Shortly before the PNC, the so-called Palestinian parliament-in-exile, convened for its 18th session in Algiers, Peres met twice with local Palestinian leaders, some of them known PLO sympathizers. So did Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

Those meetings yielded no concrete results and Palestinians and Israelis now appear farther apart than ever.

This view was expressed by several Ministers after the weekly Cabinet meeting Sunday. Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein of the Shinui Party told reporters the meeting in Algiers

"strengthened those of us who think the PLO and peace are mutually exclusive." Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, a Laborite, said Israel and Jordan would have to find other Palestinians willing to come to the negotiating table. Gad Yaacobi, Minister of Economic Coordination, also a Laborite, thought the PNC meeting had "created some setback in the political process" but that it wasn't "critical."

Only one Israeli Minister, Ezer Weizman, has insisted that come what may, Israel eventually must negotiate with the PLO. But Weizman's views are not popular now, even within the Labor Party, and pressure is mounting to take strong, even draconian measures in response to terrorist attacks in the territories.

Says Moscow Is Key To Mideast Peace

Where does this leave the peace process? Dr. Alexander Blei, of the Hebrew University's Truman Institute, suggested that the road to Middle East peace cannot be found in Algiers or in Jordan, but in Moscow.

According to Blei, who expounded his views on a television interview, the Soviet Union is interested in an international conference for Middle East peace on its own terms, with participation by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all regional parties, including the PLO.

To achieve that goal, Blei said, Moscow first pressed for the reunification of the PLO which appears to have been accomplished. Next, it wants to reconcile Syria and Egypt. That may have been on the agenda of Syrian President Hafez Assad's talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow last week.

He met Friday with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Diplomatic observers said they discussed Middle East peace, Palestinian reunification and the Iran-Iraq war, but differences emerged on certain issues.

A third facet of Soviet policy seems to be a more flexible position toward Israel. Fitted with an ability to guide both Syria and the PLO, it would give the Soviet Union a powerful voice in the Middle East.

There are obstacles, Blei pointed out. The PLO's break with Egypt so enraged President Hosni Mubarak that he ordered his observers home from Algiers before the PNC's deliberations ended. The official Cairo weekly Al-Akhbar stated in an editorial that it was time for Egypt to end its active support for the Palestinians. "We have suffered enough for them," the editor wrote.

(Arafat won re-election to the chairmanship of the PLO Saturday night, but only after agreeing to concessions against which he had balked earlier in the day. These included an enlarged PNC executive committee in which he will have to share power with terrorist extremists, such as Abu Abbas, accused of masterminding the Achille Lauro hijacking. But some Syrian-backed extremist groups were excluded.)

With Jordan and Egypt distancing themselves from the Palestinians, with Israel split over an international conference and Syria and the PLO more dependent than ever on Moscow, the fate of the peace process is most likely to be determined in the Soviet capital and in Washington.

RABIN UNDER ATTACK FOR DISMISSING IMPORTANCE OF TWO WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS IN ISRAEL'S SECURITY By Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, April 26 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin has come under fierce attack from Likud and other rightwing circles for dismissing the importance to Israel's security of two West Bank settlements located near the "green line," the old boundary between Israel and the administered territories.

Haim Kaufman, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, accused Rabin, and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, of trying to lead Israel back to its pre-1967 borders. Eliahu Ben-Elissar, another influential Likud MK demanded Rabin's immediate resignation and dissolution of the Labor-Likud unity coalition government.

Even members of Labor Party branches in the West Bank called Rabin's remarks "ill-conceived." Furious settlers accused the Defense Minister of anti-Zionism.

The storm broke after Rabin told a meeting of the Labor Party Executive Thursday that the settlements of Alfe-Menashe and Ariel had no more security value than Afule which is located in the Emek, in the heart of Israel. Whether or not his assessment was valid, it was ill-timed.

Alfe-Menashe is in mourning for one of its residents. Ofra Moses, killed in a fire-bomb attack on a car April 11 which severely burned her husband and three children.

The Labor Party Executive endorsed Rabin's remarks. The Defense Minister himself refused to back off. He told Israel Radio Friday that he had "tried to explain our policy in the territories as I view it."

ISRAEL MARKS HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY; HERZOG BESTOWS 'MEMORIAL CITIZENSHIP' ON THE SIX MILLION JEWISH MARTYRS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 26 (JTA) -- Israel observed annual Holocaust memorial day Sunday. It opened officially at dusk Saturday night, with a somber ceremony at the Yad Vashem in Jerusalem where President Chaim Herzog formally bestowed "memorial citizenship" on the six million Jewish victims, in accordance with a recent amendment by the Knesset of the Law of Return.

At eight Sunday morning, sirens wailed for two minutes all over the country, bringing traffic and pedestrians to halt in silent memory of those who died.

There were memorial services throughout the day, addressed by national leaders. Premier Yitzhak Shamir stressed that Israel and the Jewish people can neither forgive nor forget Nazi crimes. Germany and other European nations cooperated with the perpetrators of the Holocaust and should therefore desist from aiding Israel's enemies by supplying them with arms, he said. Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres spoke at the central memorial service at the Yad Vashem Sunday morning where he dedicated a new wing in memory of the 5,000 Jewish communities in Europe destroyed in the Holocaust. Israel learned not to rely on other nations or peoples but to put its faith in its own people and its own might, Peres said.

"We can rely on no other land and the doors of our land will remain forever open," he said. He appealed to Jews throughout the world to

come to Israel. The day is officially called Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day. In addition to memorializing the Holocaust, it is intended to inform the younger generation, particularly those who ask why the victims apparently allowed themselves to be led to slaughter without resisting.

Two of the day's memorial services were held at Kibbutz Lochamei Hagetaot and Kibbutz Yad Mordechai, founded by former concentration camp inmates and Jewish ghetto fighters and partisans.

Though not an official fast day, all restaurants and places of entertainment were closed for 24 hours, beginning at sundown Saturday. This is required by law. Municipal inspectors touring Tel Aviv for compliance found only one violation -- a sea-front cafe was open. The owner was promptly taken to a municipal court where a fine was imposed.

The observances ended Sunday night with a mass memorial service and salute to the ghetto fighters in the amphitheater at Kibbutz Lochamei Hagetaot.

WIESEL URGES UNIVERSITIES TO MAKE HUMANITIES COURSES MANDATORY By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, April 26 (JTA) -- Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel called upon universities to set a moral example by making humanities courses mandatory in professional schools.

"The enemy is indifference. Your own study is a weapon against indifference. The university must become a moral example," Wiesel told a largely student audience at George Washington University (GWU). "I would plead and implore all professional students to have a compulsory program in humanities. You must know why you are doing what you're doing. It is the ethical dimension that determines the humanity of humankind."

Wiesel's remarks about universities occurred during an address last Wednesday in which he listed the major elements of an immoral society. He used South Africa and the Soviet Union as modern examples.

About halfway through Wiesel's address, a group of Black Hebrews burst into the GWU auditorium carrying placards with slogans attacking the Israeli government, whom they accuse of abusing members of their sect. They marched to the podium where one of the demonstrators demanded that they be heard.

Wiesel, unfazed, let the demonstrators speak, saying, "Anyone who wants to speak about his suffering should be heard." The demonstrator spoke briefly, thanked Wiesel, and the group returned to picket outside.

The Black Hebrews have interrupted several Jewish and pro-Israel meetings here, and have demonstrated in front of synagogues, Jewish office facilities, and Soviet Jewry vigils. Wiesel warned that indifference is the main component of a immoral society. "Indifference is not the beginning of the process, it's the end. We know how to handle despair. There's a certain dynamic in despair. We can fight it and transform it into art and literature. Indifference is the end, the last stop. You can do nothing if you are indifferent," he said. "Whatever we do it must be against indifference." Wiesel called South Africa an immoral society because its system of apartheid puts rulers above the law. An immoral society is also characterized by a lack of equality among human

beings and the superiority of the system over the people, he said. The Soviet Union is immoral, Wiesel said, for not accurately recording its history. "In an immoral society memory is the first victim of truth," he said.

Wiesel said study enables a moral society to exist within an immoral society. He spoke about his meeting with young Jewish refuseniks in the Soviet Union who spoke Hebrew and knew Jewish history.

"How is it possible that these youngsters who have no way of learning about Judaism, about their past and their heritage, how was it possible that they wanted to remain Jewish? Somehow in their collective memory they could find enough reasons to hang on and remain Jewish," Wiesel said. Wiesel's speech was presented by the B'nai B'rith Hillel Jewish Students of GWU. Wiesel was introduced by Rep. Howard Wolpe (D. Mich.).

SURVIVORS AND THEIR CHILDREN REMEMBER WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING AND HOLOCAUST By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, April 26 (JTA) -- The continuity of the Jewish people, guaranteed by passing the memory of the Holocaust to the next generation, was emphasized in Sunday's 44th commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

At ceremonies at the Felt Forum of Madison Square Garden here, attended by an estimated 4,000 people, 60 children wearing blue ribbons filled the stage and lit candles in a large Magen David in memory of the six million Jews who perished during the Holocaust. A young girl passed her candle to six survivors, who, escorted by their own children, added to the flames kindled onstage.

Benjamin Meed, chairman of WAGRO, the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization responsible for mounting the annual ceremony, told the gathering that the obligation of survivors to the past "is no longer our obligation alone. We have been joined by the second generation." The children, said Meed, "have become our full colleagues and coworkers in the efforts of remembrance. Soon they will become our partners, securing the continuity of remembrance over generations."

And the survivors and their children, said Meed, have been "joined by the Jewish community at large, which has upraised the cause of remembrance as the obligation of all Jews, and has insisted, as we have for generations, that it is not enough to remember. We must ensure that others do not forget."

Meed spoke of the importance of the current trial in Jerusalem of John Demjanjuk, and its awakening of young Israelis to a time in Jewish history that some Israelis counseled was better left as is.

He said: "Today we have seen that those who counseled forgetfulness were wrong. By the thousands the younger generation of Israelis come to see the trial. Children from Morocco and Iraq, from Turkey and Ethiopia attend every day. Let us listen to the word of one young boy who said at the trial, 'Our generation bears the responsibility to listen to the survivors. From here on, it is going to be only textbooks.'"

Donald Hodel, U.S. Secretary of the Interior, emphasized the need to include learning about the Holocaust in the repertory of every child in the country. "As the young people of our country

read in their history books about the heroes of America who, for the sake of freedom, fought gallantly to the death in places like Corregidor, they also must learn about the incredible events of the Uprising. They must become acquainted with the heroes to whom you and I pay tribute today."

The story of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising "must be learned, not merely told," he continued. "There is far more to it than human interest in acts of raw courage.... those outnumbered souls who fought the most awesome army in Europe with a pitiful assortment of small arms and explosives -- they understood there can be no security without freedom. They serve as a constant reminder that those, here and abroad, who say 'better Red than dead' are just plain wrong."

Hodel also recalled that the uprising began on Passover, marking the passage of a people to freedom, and that for Soviet Jews "who are not free to go to Israel or come to America... freedom is not complete."

Hodel spoke of the failures of world leaders to act to save the Jews. "We need to unmask for all to see, and we must tell and retell for all to hear, the failures during the Holocaust of leaders and ordinary citizens alike to stand up to evil and to be counted. We must teach the crucial lesson that, when society and its leaders fail in that regard, innocent men, women and children inevitably will pay a terrible price. And when that happens, those who sit mutely in the face of evil pay the price of losing their right to proclaim they are children of God."

'A Story That Must Be Retold'

Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY) told the gathering that "the story of the Warsaw Ghetto resistance is a story that must be retold by Jews and gentiles alike." He scored the United Nations for failing to release its files on Nazi war criminals, and criticized the U.S. for voting with the majority against making the files public. "It is all the more unbelievable," he said, that the U.S. failed to vote in favor of releasing the files. "These files should be open and available."

D'Amato praised Neal Sher, director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI), who was present, for his unflagging effort to expose Nazi war criminals living in the U.S., and hailed the deportation of Karl Linnas last Monday. "We must never allow those who perpetrated their crimes against humanity to enjoy a moment of peace. Let us be vigilant, constant in our trust, in our faith in going forward to do what is necessary."

Menachem Rosensaft, founding chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, spoke of the near failure of bringing Linnas to justice. Rosensaft scored the attempts of Attorney General Edwin Meese to send Linnas to Panama, and for his failure to place Austrian President Kurt Waldheim on the watch list and bar him from entering the country.

"We are outraged that anyone in our government should have tried to help Karl Linnas live out his days in freedom in a safe and comfortable retirement home on the beaches of Central America," Rosensaft said that all who share these views "must be made to understand once and for all that any compromise or accommodation with Nazism or the Third Reich is a perversion of justice and an obscene desecration of the memory of the victims of the Holocaust."

MOST U.S. JEWS CONCERNED ABOUT ISRAEL, ACCEPT CRITICISM OF STATE

NEW YORK, April 26 (JTA) -- The vast majority of American Jews are deeply concerned for the State of Israel. Most, nevertheless, consider criticism of the Israeli government acceptable and those most often troubled by Israeli policies are those most intensely attached to the state.

So concludes Prof. Steven M. Cohen in a study released by the American Jewish Committee Thursday. The study, "Ties and Tensions: The 1986 Survey of American Jewish Attitudes Toward Israel and Israelis," is based on data collected last October and November from 1,133 Americans of all branches of Judaism.

Cohen is professor of sociology at Queens College, City University of New York. The study was a follow-up to his 1983 study, both for AJC's Institute of American Jewish-Israel Relations. Comparisons of the findings of the studies showed some significant changes of attitude.

There was little change, however, in the percentage of American Jews who expressed various forms of strong attachment to Israel. Thirty-three percent of the respondents in the 1986 survey had been to Israel; 30 percent had a personal friend in Israel; 34 percent had family in Israel; 40 percent knew an American who settled in Israel; 26 percent corresponded with, telephoned or dealt directly with an Israeli in the last year; 34 percent would like their children to spend a year in Israel; and 27 percent identified themselves as Zionists.

According to Cohen, about three-fifths or more of the respondents can be seen as "at least moderately attached to the Jewish State." But degree and nature of attachment varied according to religious denomination.

Attitude Of Orthodox Jews

According to Cohen, Orthodox Jews outscored Conservative Jews by wide margins in such measurements of involvement with Israel as travelling there, knowing Israelis and expressing concern for Israel's survival. Conservative Jews outscored Reform Jews by somewhat narrower margins in those categories.

Moreover, Cohen noted, in comparison with the 1983 survey, Orthodox Jews, already strongly involved with Israel, appear to have become even more involved. Conservative involvement remained unchanged and Reform Jews, who had generally been among the less involved in 1983, became even more removed.

According to Cohen, the increased estrangement of Reform Jews may stem from their discontent with the growing influence of the Orthodox establishment in Israel.

Cohen found that Jews under age 40 scored somewhat lower on the attachment to Israel level than those 40 and over. This may be explained in part by the fact that younger adults did not travel to Israel as much as their elders, he noted. There was no comparable difference between younger and older adults in other dimensions of Jewish identity.

Troubled By Policies Of Israeli Government

The survey found that about 40 percent of the respondents were sometimes "troubled by the policies of the Israeli government." But, Cohen noted, those who were troubled were found more frequently among the minority who had been to

Israel, those who expressed the highest levels of attachment and the more traditionally Jewish.

By a 63-22 percent majority, respondents did not object to criticism of Israel by other Jews and 72 percent agreed that "Jews who are severely critical of Israel should nevertheless be allowed to speak in synagogues and Jewish community centers." A 38-27 percent plurality agreed that "most American Jewish organizations have been too willing to automatically support the policies of whatever Israeli party happens to be in power."

The 1986 survey uncovered considerable opposition to Rabbi Meir Kahane of the Kach Party, who was elected to the Knesset in 1984 on a platform that many leading Israelis consider racist.

Unfavorable views of Kahane outnumbered favorable impressions by a 7-1 margin -- compared to a 10-1 margin favorable toward Labor Party leader Shimon Peres.

Rejection of Kahane was most pronounced among those respondents who scored highest in attachment to Israel. Paradoxically, the only group with some noticeable measure of acceptance of Kahane was the Orthodox, who were fairly evenly divided.

Moving to worries, Cohen pointed out that "The anxieties over the U.S.-Israel relationship were less pronounced in the fall of 1986 than in 1983. The earlier study was conducted in the wake of the Lebanon war when Israel's actions were being severely criticized by the American media . . ." (Note: the 1986 survey was conducted before Israel's involvement in the Iran-Contra arms sale scandal was disclosed and before concern peaked over the Jonathan Pollard spy case when Pollard was sentenced to life imprisonment).

Concern Over U.S. Support For Israel

On the anxiety scale, nearly half of the respondents in 1986 were worried about U.S. support for Israel, but this was less than in 1983. In 1986, 40 percent said they feared "the U.S. may stop being a firm ally of Israel," down from 55 percent three years earlier. And 46 percent believed that "when it comes to the crunch few non-Jews will come to Israel's side in its struggle to survive," down from 54 percent in 1983.

According to Cohen, these concerns have to be viewed against a background of Jewish anxiety about anti-Semitism in the U.S. He found that, as in previous AJC studies, about two-thirds of American Jews expressed serious concerns about anti-Semitism.

Finally, despite high levels of commitment to Israel and the Jewish people, the survey found what Cohen termed a "tribal universalism." No fewer than 96 percent of the respondents agreed that "As Jews we should be concerned about all people, and not just Jews."

By a 89-9 percent majority, American Jews claimed that "I get just as upset by terrorist attacks on non-Jews as I do when terrorists attack Jews." A 75-15 percent majority agreed that "In most ways, Jews are not better than non-Jews."

PARIS (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir of Israel is due here Monday for a three-day official visit and talks, mainly with Premier Jacques Chirac. They are expected to engage in detailed discussions of the latest developments in the Middle East.