

JEWISH CHILD FROM THE ELON MOREH SETTLEMENT FOUND MURDERED NEAR NABLUS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 21 (JTA) -- An atmosphere of barely restrained fury prevailed among Jewish settlers in the West Bank Thursday following the murder of a Jewish child from Elon Moreh settlement near Nablus.

The battered body of eight year-old Rami Hana was found in a cave at about 5 a.m. local time, 12 hours after he was last seen riding his bicycle Wednesday afternoon. His parents and neighbors had been searching all night. The boy's head was smashed by a rock in the cave just outside the settlement perimeter. There were signs he had struggled with his assailant.

Maj. Gen. Amram Mitzna, commander of the central sector who visited the scene, said there was no doubt the child was murdered but the motive remains unclear. Police sources said all possibilities were being investigated but at this point a terrorist act seemed most likely.

Enraged settlers have no doubt the murder was the work of terrorists. "The work of animals," said Otniel Schneller, secretary general of the Council of Jewish Settlements, following an emergency meeting of heads of all West Bank settlements Thursday. He urged the authorities to adopt a tougher policy toward terrorists.

As soon as the body was discovered curfews were clamped on three neighboring Arab villages where security forces conducted house-to-house searches. A number of arrests were reported. Chief of Staff Gen. Dan Shomron personally joined Gen. Mitzna to supervise the dragnet.

Settlers Stunned By The Tragedy

Settlers in Elon Moreh, stunned by the tragedy, had difficulty containing their emotions. Otniel said the murder was the latest in a "chain of murders of Jews just because they are Jews." Premier Yitzhak Shamir sent a message saying the most heinous of crimes will not remove the people of Israel from its land. He quoted a famous line from the poet Bialik: "Even the devil has not yet created the vengeance of a little child."

But the settlers were not taking measures of their own, at least not before Rami Hana was buried late Thursday, in a small cemetery in the settlement of Karnei Shomron, near Nablus.

Thousands attended the funeral which passed through Nablus, stopping briefly at Josephs Tomb. Yosef Shapira of the National Religious Party, a Minister-Without-Portfolio, and a leader of the Gush Emunim settlement movement, delivered the eulogy on behalf of the government.

Shomron met with settlement leaders. Military sources said later there was a "basic understanding" between the settlers and the army to avoid provocations. There has been tension between the military and the settlers in the area recently since the army strictly limited the number of settlers who can visit Joseph's Tomb in Nablus at any one time.

Meanwhile, Hosni Hassan A-Saleh, Chief of the Arab village of Azmouh which is under curfew, condemned the "barbaric murder" and

urged "the severest punishment" for the killers when caught.

SOVIETS REPORTED TO HAVE ACCEPTED U.S. ORTHODOX RABBIS' PROPOSAL TO ALLOW SIX YOUNG RUSSIAN JEWS TO STUDY AT RABBINICAL SEMINARIES IN THE U.S.

SPRING GLEN, NY, May 21 (JTA) -- Five leading American Orthodox rabbis, just returned from the Soviet Union, reported here Wednesday that the Soviet authorities accepted their proposal to allow six young Russian Jews to study at rabbinical seminaries in the U.S. for the purpose of ordination.

The announcement of the apparently unprecedented reversal of Soviet policy was made to the Rabbinical Council of America's 51st annual convention at the Homowack Lodge here by Rabbi David Hollander, of the Hebrew Alliance of Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, who headed the RCA delegation that visited the USSR beginning May 6. They returned to New York Sunday night.

Hollander, an RCA past president, said the agreement was reached at a meeting in Moscow with Konstantin Kharchev, Chairman of the Council of Religious Affairs, which was attended by two representatives of the Foreign Ministry.

The other members of the RCA delegation were Rabbi Oscar Fasman, president emeritus of the Hebrew Theological College and present rabbi of Congregation Yehuda Moshe, Chicago; Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, of Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun in New York, president of the New York Board of Rabbis and chairman of the RCA's Soviet Jewry Committee; Rabbi Bernard Poupko, of Shaare Torah Congregation in Pittsburgh, a past vice president of the RCA; and Rabbi Solomon Roodman of Congregation Anshei Sfard of Louisville, Ky.

Hollander and Poupko reported to the convention on their visit. They also met in Moscow with the U.S. Ambassador, Jack Matlock. Hollander and Rabbi Milton Polin, president of the RCA, also announced that they had accepted an invitation to meet with Soviet Embassy officials in Washington.

Other Ideas Discussed

Hollander said that at their meeting with Kharchev, the possibility was discussed of the Soviets opening rabbinical seminaries in Leningrad, Moscow and Tbilisi for students over 18 and allowing visiting American rabbis to teach there. The Russians did not reject the idea, Hollander said.

Poupko said the Jews they met in the USSR seemed "more relaxed" and that on the Sabbath the rabbis "ate lunch in a Russian apartment and all openly sang Hebrew songs." Lookstein reported on his meetings with Jewish activists in the refusenik community.

The five rabbis said they "made it clear to the Soviet officials that they were in favor of the right of Soviet Jews to emigrate, but that for those Jews who remain in the USSR, it is important that they be allowed to practice their religion freely."

They said they asked the Religions Ministry to permit the establishment of kosher facilities in the USSR. The Russians responded that there is a kosher kitchen in Tbilisi, Soviet Georgia, and that they will look into the possibility of Intourist, the state tourist office, to provide kosher facilities for visitors and on the Soviet airline Aeroflot.

But the Soviets rejected a request for separate Jewish cemeteries, Hollander said. He said Kharchev asked the rabbis to "call on American Jewish organizations to cease anti-Soviet agitation."

GORBACHEV'S ECONOMIC POLICIES SEEN AS MIXED BLESSING FOR SOVIET JEWS

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, May 21 (JTA) -- Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of modernization and economic restructuring could be a mixed blessing for the 2 million Jews in the Soviet Union, an expert on Soviet affairs warned in a report released here Tuesday.

According to Dr. Lukasz Hirszwowicz, director of the Soviet and East European Department of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, the economic changes the Soviet leader hopes to implement could create new opportunities for Jews, particularly the high proportion of Jewish scientists, technicians and skilled professionals in the USSR.

But at the same time, Jews could fall victim to a new source of anti-Semitism generated by the powerful, entrenched Soviet bureaucracy which is opposed to reforms and is ready to make Jews their scapegoats, Hirszwowicz warned. "Chauvinism and anti-Semitism, paraded as Soviet or Russian patriotism may still remain 'the last refuge of the scoundrel,'" he observed.

Similarly, he said, while democratization could bring a more liberal approach to Jewish self-expression and other concessions in the field of Jewish culture, these are likely to be restricted and slanted.

As for Jewish emigration, Hirszwowicz believes Soviet decisions "will no doubt depend on what they feel they can gain in their relations with the West if they let more substantial numbers of Jews go."

But even here, the bureaucracy presents an obstacle. Hirszwowicz recalled that in the early 1970s "bureaucrats and apparatchiks (especially in the provinces) created considerable difficulties when a more positive attitude emerged toward Jewish emigration. Endangered bureaucrats can, and do easily exploit ethnic dissatisfaction and the use of anti-Semitism should not be excluded," Hirszwowicz said.

U.S. DELAYS SALE OF F-15s TO SAUDIS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 21 (JTA) --The Reagan Administration announced Thursday that it is postponing the sale of some 60 F-15 fighter planes to Saudi Arabia.

The notification of the sale to Congress, which was expected this week, will probably not come until sometime this summer. White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the notification will go to Congress at the "most propitious time" to assure its approval. The sale will go through unless both Houses of Congress reject it.

Apparently the Administration did not consider the time propitious now in the wake of the refusal of two Saudi F-15 pilots to force down

the Iraqi jet that attacked the U.S. missile frigate Stark in the Persian Gulf Sunday.

The Administration explained that the pilots did not have time to get permission from their ground control before the Iraqi plane returned to its base.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said Wednesday that the Administration plans to go through with the sale, noting that there is no "prearranged plan" for the Saudis to aid American ships in the Gulf.

Secretary of State George Shultz, in response to a question at the annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Sunday night, maintained the sale is in the U.S. interest because of the tension in the Gulf and the "stability" provided there by the Saudis having such advanced weapons.

The sale will not enlarge the number of F-15s held by the Saudis, but will replace, as needed, the 62 F-15s sold to the Saudis in 1978, according to the Administration.

AIPAC LEADER SAYS HIS ORGANIZATION MADE SIGNIFICANT GAINS IN PAST YEAR

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, May 21 (JTA) -- Thomas Dine, executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, said Sunday that although events the past year have "put Israel in a negative light," AIPAC made significant gains.

"We may have just had the worst twelve months on record in terms of publicity, but we had one of the best years on record in terms of concrete legislation, in the strategic relationships between our country and Israel, and in the gains scored by our cause in the results of the 1986 election," said Dine, addressing AIPAC's 28th annual policy conference.

Israeli sale of goods and services in the Department of Defense rose from \$9 million in 1983 to \$205 million in 1986, Dine said.

A breakthrough was recently scored in plans for the U.S. to co-finance Israel's development of an anti-tactical ballistic missile (ATBM) which offers hope of protection from surface-to-surface missiles carrying chemicals aimed at Israel.

Role Of State Department Employees Cited

Dine singled out President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz for their commitment to Israel, but said there are permanent employees in the State and Defense Departments who "think that U.S.-Israel relations are too close, and that it is in the U.S. interest to move away from Israel to curry favor with the Arabs."

"If the people at the top could personally control and oversee all aspects of our policy toward Israel and its regions, the result would be more pro-Israel than we already have," said Dine. "The problem is certainly not at the top, but further down among those who have ensconced themselves as a permanent government to pursue a policy of their own according to their theory of the American national interest."

Dine praised members of Congress for urging Japan and India to end their compliance with Arab boycott of Israel. He said members of the Black Caucus and Jewish Delegation met to deal with Israeli sale of arms to South Africa and "not one amendment was offered to punish Israel by cutting aid." Refuting reports that the American public is critical of Israel, Dine cited recent polls

taken by Harris and Roper organizations indicating that Israel's rating as an ally is up slightly and its "unfriendliness rating" is down 25 percent from the previous year. Support for Israel over the Arabs is six to one in the Roper poll and seven to one in the Harris poll.

"Overall, there is hardly a shred of evidence in the polls for the theory that support for Israel among the American people has eroded," Dine said.

AIPAC's upcoming agenda will include efforts for passage of the foreign aid bill of \$3 billion to Israel and providing no-cost leasing of defense materials. He also said AIPAC would oppose the Administration's plan to sell F-15 fighters to Saudi Arabia.

On the subject of an international peace conference, Dine said he favors direct negotiations with Jordan. "Some people are offended by the raucous nature of the Israeli debate. I am not. Dictatorships make nice, neat little decisions in secret, outside the public eye. Democracies make their decisions in public, accepting that this included the risks of allowing all to see that there is not just one opinion in the country," said Dine. "Israel will, in the end, do the right thing," Dine said.

KISSINGER HAS 'DOUBTS' AND 'CONCERN' ABOUT HOLDING AN INTERNATIONAL MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE AT THIS TIME
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 21 (JTA) -- Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger expressed "doubt" and "concern" about convening an international peace conference on the Middle East at this time.

"I have grave doubts about a large conference of countries whose stated position is not sympathetic to that of even the most dovish people in Israel," Kissinger told American Jewish leaders Wednesday night.

Kissinger spoke at a memorial service for Yehuda Hellman, former executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations who died last year. The event took place at the Regency Hotel here.

Kissinger said he is concerned that Israel will find itself pressured and isolated in an international conference and that the Reagan Administration, which has only 18 more months in office, will not have the time to devote to such an undertaking.

Reasons For Concern

"I am quiet worried about the international conference," Kissinger said, because "the State Department cannot guarantee what its successor would do." Noting that Washington has other urgent issues on its agenda, the former Secretary of State warned: "This Administration won't make a decision on the content of the conference, and no Secretary of State will have the time to devote to this issue."

"I have difficulty understanding the urgency of an international conference, when the Administration has only 18 months left in office. I have no doubt about Secretary of State George Shultz, but where is he going to find the time" to devote to the conference?

Kissinger said the situation today is unlike 1973, when he, as Secretary of State, convened the Geneva peace conference. Then, he pointed out, Israeli troops were 15 miles away from Damascus and on the west side of the Suez Canal

in Egypt. "These conditions are not duplicable today," he said. Kissinger said that he agrees with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir "on the procedure" and with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres "on the substance" of the issue. But he said that he has "great concern" over the division in Israel on the issue of an international conference.

He said "the division of views in Israel and the enlisting of other countries in the dispute is extremely dangerous." One of the dangers is that Israel, "whose margin of survival is so narrow," will not be able to get across this point to U.S. policy makers because of the division among its leaders.

Continuing, the former Secretary of State said that it is "dangerous" to enter negotiations without having "a desirable outcome." He said that once Israel enters into an international conference, it will find "it is hard to walk away from it."

Kissinger also said that neither Jordan nor Syria will have a settlement with Israel without getting back territories they lost in the Six-Day War of 1967. "The question is, why do the Arabs want a conference?" Kissinger asked, adding, "Who is going to be fooled by a conference of a day or two?"

ISRAEL'S FOREIGN CURRENCY IS AT A RECORD HIGH OF \$4.4 BILLION
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 21 (JTA) -- Israel's Foreign currency reserves stood at a record high of \$4.4 billion at the end of last month and may soar to an unprecedented level of \$6 billion by the end of the year. But according to Treasury and Bank of Israel sources, this is not necessarily a welcome development, The Jerusalem Post reported Wednesday.

The problem according to the sources, is that Israel is paying interest on loans higher than what it is earning on its currency reserves and the possibility that Israel can retire its foreign debts ahead of schedule is limited. Israel's major creditor is the United States, where the law prohibits early payment of debts in many cases.

The foreign currency bonanza is attributable to the heavy influx of foreign currencies, mainly Dollars into the country by the private sector since the sharp devaluation of the Shekel last January. The stream of Dollars buying up cheap Shekels continues, the report said.

In addition, Israel received American economic aid for the 1987-88 fiscal year of \$1.2 billion in one lump sum last October.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- A report by a team of Foreign Ministry experts has recommended that Israel's policy toward South Africa be guided by the policies of Western European countries that have imposed trade sanctions against the apartheid regime in Pretoria, it was learned here Wednesday. The team was headed by Yossi Beilin, political director general of the Foreign Ministry. Beilin refused to make public details of the report but said Israel's measure should fall "within European parameters."

REMINDER: There will be no Bulletin dated May 25, Memorial Day, a postal holiday.

WEXNER FOUNDATION TO CHANNEL \$3-4 MILLION IN GRANTS TO HELP ENHANCE AND IMPROVE PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio May 21 (JTA) -- The Wexner Foundation, a \$100 million family philanthropy headquartered here, has targeted what its chairman, Leslie Wexner, believes "is the most crucial issue in the Jewish community today"--the ability of important Jewish institutions to find, support and retain the highest quality professional leadership.

Wexner, 49, founder of the world's largest retail apparel chain, announced this week that the Foundation will channel \$3-\$4 million in grants to the first year of a program dedicated to the enhancement and improvement of professional leadership in the North American Jewish community.

Wexner said an Advisory Group drawn from among leading Jewish academicians and communal professionals recommended that attention be focused on three critical groups: rabbis, communal professionals and educators. The Foundation's program is designed to attract gifted men and women in the Jewish community to commit themselves to careers of professional service.

Rabbi Maurice Corson, president of the Wexner Foundation, observed that "Although American Jewry is, overall, healthy in socio-economic terms, our most important institutions -- our synagogues, our community centers, federations and educational institutions -- desperately require adequate qualified professional leadership. The unparalleled economic opportunities now open to American Jews has resulted in a situation in which our most gifted sons and daughters are being attracted to professions elsewhere."

'I Wonder About The Future'

Discussing this situation, Wexner observed that "in sheer numbers, the future leaders -- the rabbis, the educators, the communal leaders with training and knowledge -- are simply not there. I wonder about the future and about our leadership, in terms of having the best, the brightest and the most insightful."

He said that "When I think about the future, I think we will be dealing with consolidations of institutions more and more because of the economics, the efficiencies, and the lack of leadership that we will find. I believe that we are going to have greater needs and thinner resources."

Wexner said that thought should be given to acquiring "seed money for founding an educational facility that satisfied the needs of the whole community, not just Reform Jews, Orthodox Jews, young people, old people, adult education, training. We need to provide for the lay leadership to lead better, and create a very broad, high caliber, high quality institution, so that not only do we perpetuate ourselves in terms of religious and Jewish content, but just simply in terms of leadership skills."

Proposed Programs

The programs proposed by the Wexner Foundation will consist of grants to individuals and grants to institutions. The former will be in the form of fellowships for graduate study awarded to outstanding candidates for careers in Jewish communal service, the rabbinate and Jewish education. Grants to institutions will go to those

which encourage innovation and excellence in the training and support of professional leadership, Wexner said.

Corson announced that Dr. Henry Rosovsky has accepted chairmanship of the Wexner Fellowship Committee. Rosovsky is the Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor at Harvard University Prof. Robert Chazan, professor of history at Queens College and director of Judaic Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center, will be vice chairman.

Leslie Wexner is chairman of The Limited Inc. which owns 2,300 retail stores including Lerner Stores, Lane Bryant and Henri Bendel. He is also national vice chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, director and executive committee member of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and serves as a trustee or director of a wide range of cultural and civic institutions.

Corson, who was ordained as a rabbi in 1960 at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, has served in many areas of Jewish communal life, including as director of international and interreligious programming of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia, national director of the United Israel Appeal of Canada, and as associate international director of development of B'nai B'rith. He is currently on the Board of the Columbus Public Schools Fund.

THE SOUNDS OF A DIFFERENT MUSIC By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 21 (JTA) -- The Cantors Assembly -- the worldwide organization of cantors -- has decided to change the site of its 40th anniversary convention from the Catskill mountains in New York to Jerusalem, in response to President Chaim Herzog's call to help strengthen Israel's economy through tourism.

"Despite the added expenses we decided to hold our convention in Jerusalem, July 7 to 21," Cantors Saul Hammerman, the Assembly president, and Shalom Mendelson, the Assembly vice president, said in a press conference at the Hilton Hotel Wednesday. They said the two-week convention, to be attended by almost 1,000 cantors from 16 countries, will also mark the 20th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem.

Tel Aviv's Mayor Shlomo Lahat took part in the press conference here. He explained that although the convention will be held in Jerusalem he came to express his support because "I am an addict to hazanut (cantorial music). I am a great supporter and lover of this kind of music, or rather prayers," he confessed.

During the convention, there will be a special hazanut concert at the Habimah Theater in Tel Aviv, with Lahat as the guest of honor. He will be given the "Kavod Award" from the Assembly. The Mayor said that he is presently in New York to raise money for the Tel Aviv Foundation, which is devoted to the development of poverty neighborhoods in Tel Aviv.

According to Hammerman and Mendelson, the largest group of cantors, about 400, will arrive at the convention from the United States. The Jewish community of Turkey will be represented by a single cantor from Istanbul, they noted.

The highlight of the convention will be the Israeli premiere of "A Time for Freedom," an oratorio based on the trial of Natan Sharansky, the Soviet Jewish dissident who is now living in Israel.