

**JERUSALEM, BORDER POLICE BATTLE RIOTING YOUTHS IN WORST INCIDENTS IN 20 YEARS**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA) -- Jerusalem police re-enforced by border police fought street battles with hundreds of Arab youths throwing rocks and bottles over the weekend in the worst anti-Israel rioting to sweep the Old City in 20 years.

It began Saturday on the final weekend of the Moslem Feast of Ramadan as thousands of Arabs gathered at the Temple Mount for prayer at the El Aksa and Dome of the Rock mosques. In the narrow, winding streets and main thoroughfares traversing the city, objects of every description were hurled at Israel vehicles, including police cars.

Police dispersed the mobs with tear gas. No serious injuries were reported, however, and damage was mostly to windows and windshields. The demonstrations continued past midnight Saturday. A heavy police presence was maintained in the Old City all day Sunday to prevent a recurrence.

A potentially dangerous situation developed on the Temple Mount Saturday, where hundreds of worshippers chanted anti-Israel slogans. Police moved into the area, but religious leaders managed to calm the crowd before new violence developed.

The unrest was attributed to the approaching 20 anniversary celebrations of the reunification of Jerusalem and the start of the Six-Day War on June 5, 1967.

**West Bank Tense**

Tension continued to run high in the West Bank, where an eight-year-old child from Elon Moreh was kidnapped and murdered last Wednesday, apparently by terrorists. There was also violence in the Gaza Strip, where an Israel Defense Force officer fatally shot a terrorist Friday about to detonate a roadside bomb as a military vehicle passed. Several accomplices fled under fire from IDF troops.

On Saturday, an unidentified gunman wounded Hussein Sulciman, 35, of Araba village, a nephew of Mayor Abdallah Lahkloukh of the West Bank town of Jenin. Security sources believe the bullet was intended for Lahkloukh, a moderate appointed to office by the Israeli authorities.

Security sources reported over the weekend the capture of two terrorist gangs operating in the West Bank. They are believed responsible for planting road mines and attacking Israeli vehicles with gasoline bombs.

**23 U.S. JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS URGE SHAMIR TO SPURN DEAL AMENDING LAW OF RETURN**

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA) -- The leaders of 23 national Jewish organizations protested vigorously to Israel government leaders and key members of the Knesset this week against any political deal that would give the Orthodox Chief Rabbinate of Israel sole authority to determine the validity of conversions to Judaism performed outside Israel.

A cabled message warning that such a move "imperils the unity of the Jewish people" was signed by the heads of 21 religious and secular organizations in the United States. Separate protests were lodged by Hadassah and the Zionist Organization of America.

They were prompted by a report from Jerusalem last week that Premier Yitzhak Shamir gave his written promise to the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party last Tuesday to achieve within 60 days passage by the Knesset of an amendment to the Law of Return which would require overseas conversions to be approved by the Chief Rabbinate. (See JTA Daily News Bulletin, May 20).

Shamir's pledge was reportedly in return for Shas' promise to support Likud efforts to block the Labor Party from dissolving the Knesset and calling early elections over the issue of an international conference for Middle East peace which Labor supports and Likud opposes.

**Sent To 10 Knesset Leaders**

The cabled message was sent to Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and to eight Labor and Likud leaders in the Knesset. It stated: "We are profoundly disturbed by news reports that a political deal is being made to give the Orthodox Rabbinate the power to decide the legitimacy of conversions made abroad. The result would be to deny any spiritual validity to those who identify with the Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist movements and thus to offend millions of Jews around the world.

"Any Knesset vote in support of the reported agreement between Prime Minister Shamir and Shas imperils the unity of the Jewish people, is contrary to the interests and welfare of world Jewry, and is bound to make Israel a force for division between the Jewish State and the Diaspora.

"There is still time to prevent this disaster from happening. We urge you to reject any action that would have the effect of amending the Law of Return."

**Other Statements**

Ruth Popkin, national president of Hadassah, stated in separate letters to Shamir and Peres that "Hadassah believes that any action to amend the Law of Return threatens Jewish unity and weakens the sense of solidarity that binds the Jewish people to Israel.

"Any such action is a gross and unequivocal violation of Israel's Declaration of Independence," which "ensures complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex and guarantees freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture."

A statement released by the ZOA said: "The Zionist Organization of America reiterates its absolute rejection of any changes in the Law of Return as presently written. We believe that any change in this law will create serious consequences. ZOA is very concerned about such a possibility. We therefore urge that no legislation be adopted in Israel which would jeopardize the current status of the law." The 21 organizations

and their leaders who signed the cabled message are:

Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith:  
Nathan Perlmutter

Association of Reform Zionists of America:  
Rabbis Charles Krolloff and Eric Yoffie

B'nai B'rith International: Seymour Reich and  
Daniel Thursz

B'nai B'rith Women: Elaine Binder and Irma  
Gertler

Central Conference of American Rabbis:  
Rabbi Joseph Glaser

Federation of Reconstructionist Congrega-  
tions and Havurot: Lillian Kaplan and Rabbi Mor-  
dechai Liebling

Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of  
Religion: Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk and Richard  
Schueer

Labor Zionist Alliance: Rabbi Arthur Seltzer  
and Ezra Spicandler

Na'amat USA: Shoshanna Ebstein and Gloria  
Elbling

National Committee for Labor Israel: Eliezer  
Rafaeli and Aaron Solomon

National Council of Jewish Women: Lenore  
Feldman and Dacic Perlov

National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods:  
Avrum Bondarin and Carl Burkons

National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods:  
Eleanor Schwartz and Dolores Wilkenfeld

Rabbinical Assembly: Rabbis Kassel Abelson  
and Wolfe Kelman

Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association:  
Rabbi Joy Levitt

Reconstructionist Rabbinical College: Rabbi  
Arthur Green

Union of American Hebrew Congregations:  
Charles Rothschild Jr., Rabbi Alexander Schindler,  
Rabbi Daniel Syme and Albert Vospan

United Synagogue: Jacob Stein  
Women's League for Conservative Judaism:

Bernice Balter  
Women's League for Israel: Bernice Backon  
and Muriel Lunden

World Union for Progressive Judaism: Gerard  
Daniel.

#### CABINET PASSES SHAMIR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF SHAS LEADER PERETZ AS MINISTER

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir won Cabinet approval Sunday to appoint Shas Party leader Yitzhak Peretz a Minister-Without Portfolio. Peretz resigned as Minister of Interior last year rather than comply with a Supreme Court order to register American immigrant Shoshana Miller as Jewish. She was converted to Judaism by a Reform rabbi in the U.S.

His return to the government is reportedly part of an agreement Shamir made to the ultra-Orthodox party to push a measure through the Knesset which would make Israel's Chief Rabbinate the sole arbiter of conversions performed overseas.

Shamir set a 60-day deadline for Knesset action, during which time Peretz agreed to serve without portfolio. If Shamir is successful, he will resume the office of Interior Minister. If he fails, Shas would not be obligated to support Likud's efforts to prevent the Labor Party from dissolving the Knesset and calling early elections.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court issued a temporary injunction Monday barring former

Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef from involving himself in politics. Yosef is a rabbinical court judge who by law is forbidden to engage in political activities.

Complaints were brought by MKs Yossi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement and Yair Tzaban of Mapam that Yosef violated the rule by playing a role in Shas Party bargaining with Likud to return to the unity government. Religious Affairs Minister Zevulun Hammer said, however, that he was satisfied that Yosef confined himself to advising Shas on halachic conversion issues.

#### ISRAEL WON'T COOPERATE WITH U.S. SUBPOENA OF KIMCHE, SAYS SPOKESMAN By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, May 25 (JTA) -- Israel is refusing to cooperate with a subpoena ordering David Kimche, former Director General of the Israeli Foreign Minister who was involved in the Iran-Contra affair, to testify before a Washington grand jury.

Kimche was subpoenaed last week in New York by independent counsel Lawrence Walsh.

Yossi Gal, a spokesman for the Israeli Embassy, said the Embassy told State Department officials and representatives of the independent counsel that the subpoena violates diplomatic practices between countries.

"You can go to the extreme and say that someone can subpoena the Prime Minister," said Gal. "Everything Kimche did, he did not (do) as a private individual, but as a representative of the government. If questions are asked, any clarification should come from the government."

Gal also said that Israeli law prohibits citizens from "sharing privileged secret information," and that by testifying Kimche would in effect be breaking Israeli law.

Kimche's subpoena apparently came as a surprise to Israeli officials, who had assumed there was an agreement that no Israeli involved in the Iran-Contra affair would testify personally.

Kimche played a key role in the selling of U.S. arms to Iran, according to testimony before the Senate-House select committee's hearing on the Iran-Contra affair. Former National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane said Kimche first approached the U.S. to suggest the opening of diplomatic channels with Iran and later suggested that Israel could be the conduit for selling the arms.

#### SHIN BET, ITS EVIDENCE DISCREDITED IN IDF OFFICER'S CASE, UNDER SCRUTINY By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 25 (JTA) -- The Shin Bet, Israel's General Security Services, is under scrutiny again following a Supreme Court ruling Sunday. The court overturned the 1981 conviction of former Israel Defense Force Lt. Izat Nafsu and ordered his immediate release from prison after serving some seven years of an 18-year sentence for alleged espionage and treason.

Nafsu, from the Circassian village of Kfar Kama in Galilee -- where he returned Monday to a jubilant welcome -- had appealed his conviction to the high court under a law passed by the Knesset only a few months ago. It allows soldiers for the first time, to appeal military court decisions before the civilian judiciary.

He charged that his conviction was based on evidence fabricated by the Shin Bet and that his

confession had been obtained by illegal means. The Chief Military Prosecutor tacitly confirmed this when he told the court Sunday that an examination of Nafsu's file preparatory to answering his appeal made it clear that the military prosecutors had been led astray by the Shin Bet.

#### Court Rips Shin Bet

The court was severely critical of the Shin Bet's methods and suggested that Attorney General Yosef Harish consider legal action against those involved in gathering evidence against Nafsu. Harish was reported late Monday to be ready to ask the police to investigate the GSS personnel concerned for possible criminal charges.

Meanwhile, a special commission set up by the government Friday began its own probe of GSS methods Monday, independent of the high court's recommendation.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir said Monday that the Supreme Court's ruling "underscores the importance of our decision a few days ago to form a committee to examine the GSS' investigatory methods and (its) manner of making recommendation."

Shamir warned, however, "against generalization." He observed that: "The GSS must cope with a relentless war against terrorism and it has had immense successes. These anonymous individuals have had great and secret achievements in preserving Israel's security. . . This is not to say that these individuals can do whatever they want. They are not above criticism."

He cautioned that while "exceptions and irregularities may occur . . . we will not toss out the baby with the bathwater."

President Chaim Herzog, commenting on the Nafsu affair Monday, expressed satisfaction that justice has triumphed, coupled with shame that any Israeli could have been convicted by illegal methods. The Mapam-affiliated newspaper Al-Hamishmar called Nafsu's original conviction Israel's "Dreyfus case" in which a member of a minority community was unjustly convicted of treason.

Nafsu was freed under a plea-bargaining agreement. He admitted that he had failed to inform his superiors of contacts he had with senior officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization "which might have endangered state security." He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for that offense, which was counted as time already served.

Nafsu, who was demoted to private when convicted, said Monday that he would consider demanding back pay due him as a lieutenant and financial compensation for the years of hardship he endured in prison.

The Supreme Court's decision was a blow to the Shin Bet. Its reputation was badly tarnished last year when an inquiry commission found it had tried to cover up the murder of two Arab bush-jackers after they were captured by the IDF in 1984 and turned over to security agents. Three top officials of Shin Bet were forced to resign. All received Presidential pardons although no formal charges were filed against them.

#### **RELIGIOUS LEADERS ATTEND REDEDICATION OF ISTANBUL SHUL DAMAGED BY TERRORISTS** By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 25 (JTA) -- Neve Shalom, the Istanbul synagogue damaged in a terrorist attack last September 6 that killed 23 people, was form-

ally rededicated last week at a large public ceremony attended by representatives of other religions.

Leaders of the city's main mosques, the heads of the Christian churches and a Papal delegate watched Chief Rabbi Jacob Assaou place Torah scrolls in the synagogue's ark. Thousands of people who couldn't enter the packed synagogue massed in the adjacent streets.

World Jewish Congress representative Serge Czeiweigenbaum, who attended the ceremony, reported that the Turkish Minister for Religious Affairs said the government is still searching for the terrorists and will do all it can to protect the synagogue and the Turkish Jewish community of 25,000.

Most of them live in Istanbul, with a small community in Izmir. The Turkish Jewish community is planning to celebrate its 500th anniversary in 1992. The community began with the massive arrivals of Spanish Jews driven out by the Inquisition in 1492.

#### **ARSON SUSPECTED IN BURNING OF 3 FRENCH JEWISH DORMITORIES**

PARIS, May 25 (JTA) -- Fire investigators reported evidence of arson in the blaze which destroyed three dormitories of a six-building complex that houses a Jewish Religious school in the Paris suburb of Sarcelles during the night of May 19-20. There were no injuries.

Police sources and members of the local Jewish community said Sunday they believe the fire was the work of young hoodlums whose intent was more criminal than anti-Semitic. On-scene graffiti was found on the walls, but nothing of an anti-Semitic nature. The synagogue and community center within the complex were not damaged.

Police Minister Robert Pandraud and Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, who visited the site, pledged that no effort would be spared to find and punish the arsonists.

There are nearly 20,000 Jews in Sarcelles, mainly of North African origin, who comprise 16 percent of the local population. Other residents are French North Africans and recent arrivals from the French West Indies. Some community members suspect criminal elements among the residents were responsible for the fire.

#### **MOSHAVNIK KILLED BY TERRORIST**

TEL AVIV, May 25 (JTA) -- A 65-year-old resident of Moshav Netivot in the Negev was fatally shot by a terrorist in Gaza early Monday morning. It was the second assault on Israelis in Gaza in the past week.

The victim, Moshe Jarussi, was buried Monday afternoon. Police detained several Jewish settlers in the area who attacked Arab workers after the killing.

Jerussi was shot in the stomach at close range while driving into Gaza with his son to pick up workers for his farm at about 5:30 a.m. local time. His assailant fled. He was taken by helicopter to a hospital in Ashkelon where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

#### **RECORD BID FOR LATE CHAGALL WORK**

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA) -- A 1973 painting by the late Marc Chagall was sold for \$858,000 at an auction of artworks and Judaica.

## TWO CADETS JOIN EXCLUSIVE GROUP OF WEST POINT BAR MITZVAH BOYS

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA) -- It was standing room only as friends and cohorts filled the 200-seat Jewish chapel at the U.S. Military Academy where two cadets celebrated belated bar mitzvahs earlier this month.

They were the first ever to mark their bar mitzvahs in the three-year-old synagogue, and part of a rare group entering Jewish adulthood at West Point.

Both David Santo, 20, and Robert Paley, 21, grew up in small towns with little Jewish communal life. West Point, they said, offered them opportunities to study Hebrew and Jewish tradition which they never had growing up.

West Point has 55 Jewish cadets out of 4,400 students. Nine Jewish cadets, eight men and a woman, were graduated there Friday along with more than 1,000 others.

Paley said he decided to study for bar mitzvah to demonstrate that he had formally accepted his religion. "I wasn't aware of what it meant to be Jewish," he said. "I wanted to educate myself and explore Judaism."

Santo said he wanted a bar mitzvah for the same reason. "At some point a person has to personally accept Judaism. You have to take the responsibility of being Jewish on yourself," he said.

Paley said he was one of three Jewish students in his Groveport, Ohio, school. His formal Jewish education was cut off when his father took sick, he explained.

But the older he got, the more his interest in Judaism grew. He began to ask his Orthodox Jewish grandmother questions about Judaism and his roots. "The more interest I showed, the more I learned. And the more I learned, the more I felt my Jewish identity," he said.

When he entered West Point in July 1985, Paley was encouraged by Rabbi Marc Abromowitz to come to Friday night services, and he began studying Hebrew and Torah with the rabbi. "Religion is the most respected of the cadets' interests at West Point," Paley said. "They encourage you to observe your religion."

### Also From Small Town

Santo grew up in West Alexandria, Ohio, a town he said had 12 churches and no synagogue and where he felt the sting of anti-Semitism as a boy. The closest synagogue was 30 miles away. The distance made it impossible for him to attend religious school three times a week, but at the Jewish summer camp he attended for eight years he learned much of what he knew about Judaism as a youth.

When he went away to a military boarding school for high school, he became known as "the student rabbi," leading services regularly on Friday nights there.

"West Point afforded me more opportunities to explore religion than a normal college would," Santo said. Santo heads the Sunday school program at West Point, attended by officers' children. He teaches Hebrew, Bible and Jewish tradition.

Both Santo and Paley said they plan to continue their education and Jewish observance and both want to raise Jewish families.

## SUPPORT OF ISRAEL BIPARTISAN, POLITICOS TELL AIPAC CONFERENCE

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, May 25 (JTA) -- The American Israel Public Affairs Committee concluded its 28th annual policy conference last week after receiving a pledge by Democratic and Republican leaders that support for Israel will remain bipartisan.

"No longer can one political party take your vote for granted," said Frank Donatelli, assistant to President Reagan for Political and Intergovernmental Affairs. "You support qualified candidates from both political parties. It's a positive and healthy development."

Donatelli, who brought regards from Reagan, said the Reagan Administration has strengthened ties with Israel by pushing for a Free Trade Agreement and establishing a closer political and military relationship. This was "in spite of prevailing orthodoxy in Congress" to cut back on defense, Donatelli said.

He said Israel and the U.S. are united by a common interest of resisting the threat posed by the Soviet Union.

But Paul Kirk, chairman of the National Democratic Committee, said defense of Israel is one of the basic principles of the Democratic Party.

"The party is committed to a strong Israel with secure defense borders which all the world will recognize as the rightful and peaceful homeland," said Kirk, who recently returned from a trip to Israel.

The Democratic Party is also creating a "wall between our several churches and one single state," Kirk said. "Any slurs of anti-Semitism and racism will not be tolerated in the campaign of 1988."

Earlier, House Speaker Jim Wright (D. Texas) noted that the House Foreign Affairs Committee approved a \$3 billion aid package to Israel without cutting from last year's budget.

"It is a clear indication of the priority the Congress attaches to this aid because almost all other discretionary programs in the budget are being reduced next year," Wright said.

Wright said the U.S. campaign against terrorism was "dealt a severe blow" by the Reagan Administration's sale of arms to Iran. "As Israel knows well, paying off terrorists is no way to curb terrorism," he said.

### CORRECTIONS

The May 19 report from Vienna by Reinhard Engel on U.S. Justice Department officials discussing the U.S. decision to bar Austrian President Kurt Waldheim from the U.S. contained editing errors. The U.S. officials did not present actual documents to Austrian officials, but rather presented their points and briefed the Austrians. And Engel did not report that Waldheim ordered murders, as the edited story said, but rather that evidence indicated that Waldheim had knowledge of murders.

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Moshe Manni was incorrectly identified in the May 20 Daily News Bulletin story on tuition fees. He is president of Tel Aviv University.