

ISRAEL CRACKING DOWN ON GAZA STRIP AFTER IDF OFFICER IS KILLED THERE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 3 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and senior army officers warned Monday that there will be a security crackdown on Gaza Strip after an Israel Defense Force officer was killed in the city of Gaza by a Palestinian terrorist on Sunday.

The officer was identified as Ron Tal, 22, of Zahala near Tel Aviv. He was laid to rest Monday in the military section of the Kiryat Shaul cemetery on the outskirts of Tel Aviv. He had served for the past four months as head of the military police unit in Gaza. He was a lieutenant at the time of his murder and was posthumously promoted to the rank of captain.

Tal had been driving his car through the town and slowed down at an intersection to make a sharp left turn. A man who had apparently been standing unobtrusively near the intersection approached the slow-moving vehicle and fired several shots point blank through the window and fled. Troops searched the area and arrested dozens of Palestinians. Hours later, the Palestine Liberation Organization claimed responsibility for the attack.

Army sources said they did not think Tal had been a planned target for the attack, but rather a "random" victim. Israeli troops are frequently the targets of stones or gas bombs thrown by West Bank and Gaza Strip residents, but the shooting of soldiers is rare. The last fatal attacks in the Gaza Strip were in May when terrorists killed an Israeli taxi driver and an Arab policeman.

Tough Security Measures

Rabin and senior army officer described Sunday's attack as "a deviation from the norm" and stressed that security steps taken as a result would also be a "deviation from the norm." Security sources emphasized that the attack had taken place in an area in the center of town where local residents, shopkeepers and passers-by must have seen it happening. But, the sources said bitterly, no one has volunteered any information.

The entire Gaza Strip was sealed off immediately after the attack and no entry or exit was allowed either by land or sea. Gaza fishermen were not allowed to put out to sea and scores of thousands of Gaza Strip Arabs who normally go to work in Israel were forced to stay home until further notice, a move unprecedented in recent years. An estimated 60,000 people travel from Gaza daily to work in Israel and some 50,000 Palestinians in the area depend on the local fishing industry for a living.

Serious dislocations were expected in Israel's economy this week as a result.

Rabin Explains Reasons For Exceptional Measures

In an Israel Radio interview Monday morning, Rabin explained why he thought the attack was an exception, and why exceptional measures were being taken in Gaza. "First of all, I would like to point out that this incident was an excep-

tion, a terrorist act directed against an Israeli target. The murderers set themselves up at the site and attacked the first Israeli military target that passed them," Rabin said.

"The incident was not in the category of 'disturbance.' It was a terrorist act planned by an individual or squad. It demands a broad action, which this time included, first of all, a curfew in the immediate area with a view to making arrests and conducting investigations, in order to find the person who carried out the murder.

"I cannot imagine that store owners and people who were in the stores or near the site did not see the incident, and we will therefore also take steps regarding the area near the site of the murder. The third thing: to make the investigation easier, a curfew has been imposed on an area wider than the site of the murder, with the aim of also facilitating an investigation and examination without enabling individuals to leave.

"The fourth matter is preventing people from leaving the Gaza District either by land or sea, so that we can ensure that we will be able to find the additional persons whose names we'll collect as a result of information that is uncovered."

Rabin stressed that the measures taken were not a collective punishment.

"This is not punishment, but taking steps which, in addition to all the other steps, will allow us to reach the perpetrators of the murder. Of course, in addition, it is intended to make it clear to all residents of Gaza and the local leaders that we will not tolerate such murderous activity," Rabin said.

Other Reactions To The Murder

Former Gaza Mayor Rahsid A-Shawa told Israel Radio Monday that the situation in the Gaza Strip was "unstable" because of Israel's occupation of the area and especially tense since Deputy Defense Minister Michael Dekel proposed last week that Arabs should be transferred from the administered territories to Jordan. A-Shawa stressed that he was against any form of terrorism, from any party.

Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, the head of the army's southern command, said "We will take all necessary steps to prevent another incident like this and capture the murderer or murderers as soon as possible." Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israel would continue its struggle against terrorism without compromise.

Meanwhile, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Binyamin Netanyahu, told a group of Likud activists, before the murder of Tal took place, that the Gaza Strip should be given a status of self-rule, similar to the status Hong Kong has.

In a lecture in Ramat Gan, Netanyahu, who is known to be ideologically close to Likud, argued that there is no reason to be concerned over the demography of the West Bank since the population there is relatively scarce and there are many unpopulated areas where Jewish settlements can be established. But the Gaza Strip, with its relatively small space and a population of 600,000 presents a serious problem to Israel.

PERES AND SHEVARDNADZE TO MEET

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Aug. 3 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is scheduled to meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze here at the end of September, diplomatic sources disclosed Monday.

The two officials will meet while attending the UN General Assembly which is to open here September 21. Peres is scheduled to arrive in New York on September 28, after Rosh Hashanah.

Diplomats pointed out that Israeli Foreign Ministers have met in previous years with top Soviet officials while attending the General Assembly. Therefore, they noted, the meeting between Peres and Shevardnadze should not be viewed as something unusual or as a breakthrough in the relations between the two countries.

The Soviet Union severed its diplomatic relations with Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War and has not restored them since. According to the sources, Peres and Shevardnadze will discuss Soviet-Israeli relations; an international conference on Mideast peace; and the situation of Soviet Jews.

While in New York, Peres will also meet with dozens of diplomats, including representatives of East European and African countries who do not have at present diplomatic ties with Israel.

YOUTH ALIYA RETURNS TO ITS ROOTS
WITH NEW NEGEV DESERT PROJECT

BALTIMORE, Aug. 3 (JTA) -- Youth Aliya, which began as a movement to rescue Jewish youngsters from Nazi Germany and restore them to the soil of their ancestral home, is returning to its roots with a new project to bring a vast, sparsely settled expanse of the Negev desert to flower.

The project, headed by a near-legendary figure in the settlement of Israel, Arie (Lova) Eliav, recalls the spirit of Zionism's pioneering days in Palestine when the foundations of the future land of Israel were being laid, Eli Amir, Youth Aliya Director-General, told more than 2,500 delegates here at the recent 73rd National Convention of Hadassah.

Its goal is to reclaim a barren, one million acre tract of the Negev -- whose population of 2,500 is spread across ten settlements -- by introducing a new generation of Jewish youth to the soil, Amir said. In October, the first group of Youth Aliya youngsters will move into an abandoned kibbutz called Nitsana. Around them a new settlement will spring up, dedicated to teaching young Israelis about desert agriculture and their nation's origins.

Eliav, who built the town of Kiryat Gat and its 55 surrounding settlements and the town of Arad overlooking the Dead Sea, said that he was inspired to undertake the Nitsana Project after touring 40 Youth Aliya villages and installations. Most of the unique program's charges were born in Israel -- about 13,000 of the current Youth Aliya population. Most of the remaining 2,000 are Ethiopian.

"I thought that we could attract them to the ideal of redeeming the desert," Eliav has been quoted as saying. In practical terms, this means the first group of 100 boys and girls will sleep three to a room in prefabricated cottages hastily

built seven years ago and attempt to make the settlement bloom as they study the region's history, topography and climate, Amir told the Hadassah convention delegates.

Water is a rare and precious commodity in Nitsana, he pointed out. It is at the very end of existing lines for treated water, which will be used solely for drinking, cooking and hygiene. The natural underground water supply is highly saline. But Amir believes that with a little ingenuity-- and the help of genetic engineering -- the kibbutz will be able to grow fruits or vegetables.

The Youth Aliya youngsters in the project-- most of them 15 and 16 years old -- also will undertake afforestation and recreational park projects in the region for the Jewish National Fund.

Amir said Youth Aliya would like to see Nitsana grow to a permanent settlement for 1,500 youths who would visit for periods of two weeks to a month. Plans call for construction of permanent housing, classrooms, a soccer field, basketball courts and other facilities.

Youth Aliya sprang up in 1933 to rescue Jewish youth from Germany and resettle them on the agricultural communes of Palestine. In the early years of the State of Israel, Youth Aliya helped thousands of refugee children rebuild shattered lives and shattered minds. Today it is recognized worldwide for its innovative programs which provide immigrant youth and youngsters from disadvantaged backgrounds with the skills for life and work.

HAIFA'S JEWISH POPULATION DECLINING

TEL AVIV, Aug. 3 (JTA) -- The Jewish population in Haifa declined by 6,000 persons (2.5 percent of the general population) between 1981 and 1985, while the Arab population grew from 7.2 percent of the population to 8.4 percent during this period, according to the annual report of the "Shekmuna" housing rehabilitation company in the Carmel city.

Haifa's total population is 224,625, including 205,757 Jews (91.6 percent) and 18,868 Arabs (8.4 percent).

In addition, Haifa's percentage in Israel's general population has dwindled from 9.3 percent in 1951 to 5.3 percent in 1985.

YESHIVA STUDENT DETAINED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 3 (JTA) -- Jerusalem police detained a student from the Shuvu Banim yeshiva in the Moslem quarter Sunday for spitting in the face of a female soldier at the Western Wall plaza and calling her a "prostitute" because of her "immodest" attire.

Shuvu Banim students, noted for the radical behavior, have harassed their Arab neighbors in the past.

After the incident, some 30 of the yeshiva boy's colleagues gathered around the police station where he was being held and demanded loudly that he be released. The students reportedly attacked police. Policemen then used force to disperse the crowd and detained 10 students.

A police officer noted Sunday a number of similar harassments in the past few weeks by Shuvu Banim students of female soldiers and tourists at the Wall for "immodest" dress.

DOES GLASNOST INCLUDE EVERYONE BUT THE JEWS?

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Aug. 3 (JTA) -- To what extent does glasnost reach the Jews of the Soviet Union? News out of Moscow presents a disparate picture of Soviet government openness. Frequent stories of relaxation of restrictions on demonstrations are countered by reports by Soviet Jewry activists and recent Soviet Jewish emigres that Jews are still being harassed, and in fact even more so than ever.

Specifically, a large demonstration by Crimean Tatars demanding repatriation to their homeland went unchallenged for four days two weeks ago, and a notable concert by American rock star Billy Joel made waves when the audience broke into an unprecedented frenzy of dancing in the aisles and loud merrymaking previously not permitted in the Soviet Union. Concertgoers themselves were reportedly astonished by the absence of usual Soviet restrictions on their behavior.

These reports of what appear to be large breaks with the traditional Soviet security tightness and threat of arrest are countered by reports that Jews demonstrating for emigration or even trying to teach Hebrew are being repressed as usual.

Begun Again Denied Right To Teach Hebrew

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) reported last week that former Prisoner of Conscience Iosif Begun, freed in February, has been again denied the right to teach Hebrew--the "crime" for which he was imprisoned. Yet early this year, the Soviets claimed that restrictions had been lifted on the teaching of Hebrew, and Adolph Shayevich, the "official" rabbi of the Choral Synagogue in Moscow, said during a New York visit that Hebrew teaching would henceforth be permitted.

The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) reported that seven-year refusenik Sergei Getchikov, in the 19th day of a hunger strike, along with other Jews who supported him were beaten by about 70 "hooligans" perceived to be KGB call-ups who shouted anti-Semitic slogans as the Jews demonstrated at the Lenin Library in Moscow. Police told the Jews that they could not maintain order and that they should therefore go home. The Jews, however, remained, and "were then attacked by the bystanders, who are evidently connected with the KGB," the SSSJ said.

SSSJ national coordinator Glenn Richter said that participants in a public memorial June 10 for the late cancer patient refusenik Yuri Shepeizman were arrested and some of them fined. (Shepeizman died of a heart attack May 10 upon arrival in Vienna without seeing his daughter or grandchildren in Israel.)

Substance Is Still 'Nyet'

Richter said: "Certainly today, under glasnost, there have been more demonstrations and there have been several demonstrations without harassment. But the problem is that the form may have slightly changed, but the substance, which is 'nyet,' has not. Today, 90 percent of Soviet Jews cannot even apply to emigrate. One can certainly understand how clever the Soviet glasnost campaign has been regarding Jews."

In June, when a state-sanctioned Russian Yiddish musical theater troupe toured North America, Richter and some others demonstrated quietly outside the Symphony Space theater in Manhattan where the Jewish Cameo Music Theatre was performing. Richter requested an interview with the Soviets filming the crowd outside "in the name of glasnost," and they apparently complied somewhat, Richter said, because Jews in the Soviet Union saw him on television, he told JTA.

However, the interview was edited, he said, cutting out much of the sound portion in which Richter "thanked Soviet TV for permitting me to speak and very carefully describe in non-confrontational language why we were out there. The announcer simply said I was part of the Zionist agitators."

Glasnost Is A Western Word

Several Soviet emigres who have been asked in various instances what glasnost means for the Jews did not even know the word, which is not part of the common working-class vocabulary. Grigory Geishis, a 26-year-old former Prisoner of Conscience from Leningrad who arrived in Israel in June with his family and who was at the NCSJ press conference, said, "It's very difficult for us to understand, because it's a Western word."

He said that there is much public anti-Semitism in the USSR now, mentioning Pamyat, the "Memory Society," which openly makes anti-Jewish statements and which recently met with a high Soviet official. "Pamyat's pre-Revolutionary roots have brought out some of the most anti-Semitic elements," Geishis said. He added that on April 21 -- Hitler's birthday -- 80 tombstones were destroyed at the Leningrad Jewish Cemetery.

He recalled his brother-in-law, who was rejected as a candidate for the Leningrad Medical School in a derogatory letter which referred to him as "Abramovich," a patronym indicating he was a child of the Jewish forefather, Abraham. Geishis underlined that Jews were frequently turned down by universities in the Soviet Union, the reason that most Soviet Jews are graduates of various "institutes" which educate to a level considerably lower than the universities.

Inna Levin Yakhot of Beersheva, sister of Vladimir Prestin of Moscow, a 17-year refusenik, and daughter of Lea Prestina-Akkerman, a 10-year refusenik, addressed the press conference as representative of a recently-formed group, Let Our Parents Go. Yakhot, whose father, Naum Akkerman, died in 1985 without ever seeing his daughter again, lost her 17-year-old son in an automobile accident in Israel at about the same time. Yakhot made a plea for her ailing mother, whom she has not seen in 14 years, and who is denied emigration by the Soviets because of her late husband's "classified work."

"How could a human mind explain such a torment of an old woman who has lost her husband and her grandson within a few days and is denied spending the rest of her life with her daughter?" Yakhot asked.

Then, Asya Ploshchanskaya, one of the Mothers for Freedom who visited the U.S. last year to plead for the emigration of her daughter, Natasha Razenshtein, and her family, returned to repeat her plea.

Ploshchanskaya watched with the group as a new video of the Mothers for Freedom made by IPCSJ, with the assistance of the World Zionist

Organization and the Israel Broadcast Authority, was shown. As Ploshchanskaya watched herself on screen, showing pictures of her daughter and son-in-law and the grandchildren she has never seen, she wept anew, and again while watching herself crying at Ben-Gurion Airport when Aleksander Kushneyev, from whom his mother had been separated for 14 years, arrived to a large and emotional welcome.

Ploshchanskaya appraised glasnost as follows: "Before (Soviet leader Mikhail) Gorbachev, it was impossible to read in the media any negative aspect of Soviet life. Glasnost is for Soviet people. It was never like that before. They even speak about the 'great lie in history.' If it continues this way, I think it will be good. But our problem is that glasnost does not relate to the Jews."

Anti-Semitic Flood In And Out of Soviet Union

The videotape narrative relates that there is an "anti-Semitic propaganda flood into and out of the Soviet Union. Experts say there is a correlation between the struggle of the refuseniks and that of this flood."

Chaim Chesler, IPCSJ director, said that constant but quiet diplomatic pressure has reaped its own small reward, in that 60 of the children of the Mothers for Freedom have been reunited with their mothers since the group's visit last year.

But he also had a fantastic, and unsettling, story to tell about one of these separated families in which the mother was dying of cancer in Moscow and her daughter in Israel was seeking every venue to obtain reunification with her mother before her death.

In February, Chesler went to Vienna with the daughter, Kuchina, to plead with the Austrians and others to intercede with the Soviets to allow her a visa to visit her mother before her death. Although many times they seemed to be on the verge of a breakthrough, it finally appeared that nothing could be done. When the two of them returned to Israel, they received a telegram at the airport saying that the daughter's visa to visit her mother had been granted. Within hours, her mother had an exit visa. Before they could make a move to travel, another telegram arrived to say that the mother had died. "That," said Chesler, "is glasnost."

JEWISH AGENCY SENDING A HEBREW TEACHER TO YUGOSLAVIA

JERUSALEM, Aug. 3 (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency will send a Hebrew teacher to Zagreb, Yugoslavia, the organization's first official emissary to Yugoslavia ever, it was learned here Monday.

The Agency's Department for Education in the diaspora will send the teacher to the city in which about 2,000 of Yugoslavia's 5,000 Jews live.

The Diaspora Education Department will conduct its annual European seminar this week with the participation of 70 principals of Jewish schools, coordinators and teachers of Jewish studies.

Representatives of 10 East European countries, which do not have diplomatic relations with Israel, will also attend the seminar, including the director of the Rabbinical Seminary in Budapest and Jewish educators from Turkey.

FIRST SCHOLAR FROM CHINA AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY IS DOING RESEARCH AT TRUMAN INSTITUTE

JERUSALEM, Aug. 3 (JTA) -- The first scholar from the People's Republic of China to engage in research at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is currently in residence at the university's Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace.

He is Dr. Guocang Huan, a specialist in international relations, who has spent the past seven years studying in the U.S. His summer as a visiting research fellow at the Truman institute will be spent working on Israeli policy regarding the peace process and on options for the development of China-Israel relations.

Huan said that while he is not currently affiliated with any Chinese government institutions, he knows that his published work has been read and is well thought of in government circles there. Huan added that he sees "very limited movement" towards development of relations between Israel and China, but the outlook is promising.

Huan, who is from Shanghai, studied at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing before leaving there seven years ago to study in the United States. Although he has no high school certificate nor a B.A., he has earned in the past seven years an M.A. at the University of Denver in international economics, an M.A. at Columbia University in comparative politics, and a Ph.D. in international relations at Princeton University.

In addition, he has worked as a consultant for the World Bank, as a research fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., as a John Olin Fellow at the Center for International Affairs at Harvard University, and as a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council of the United States.

Huan commented that despite the lack of formal Chinese-Israel relations, there has long been interest in intellectual circles in China about Jewish culture. People in these circles also are aware of the Holocaust and do have sympathy for the victims, Huan claimed. As for himself, Huan said he sees certain similarities between Jewish and Chinese culture. He added that he is interested in the problems of the Middle East as part of his overall interest in international relations.

DISLOCATIONS EXPECTED IN ISRAEL'S ECONOMY AS ARAB WORKERS STAY AWAY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 3 (JTA) -- Serious dislocations are expected this week in Israel's economy as tens of thousands of Arab workers will be absent from their jobs. An estimated 100,000 Arabs from the administered territories, including 60,000 from the Gaza Strip, work in Israel proper. Workers from the Gaza Strip were not allowed to leave the area after an Israeli army officer was shot dead there Sunday. Arabs are also observing the feast of Id-Al-Adha which began Monday night.

In addition, some 3,900 Israeli Arabs are on the annual pilgrimage to Mecca and will not return to Israel until next week. According to reports from Mecca, none of the Israeli Arabs was reported injured in the Mecca riots last Friday. However, three Arab residents of the territories were reported killed in the riots.