

**IDF SOLDIER KILLED IN BETHLEHEM
AS 'WAR OF STONES' TURNS DEADLIER**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 20 (JTA) -- An Israeli soldier was killed Sunday in Bethlehem, after being shot in the head at close range by a pistol-wielding assailant.

Moshe Katz, 28, detailed to guard the local office of the Interior Ministry, died at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. A curfew was imposed on the Bethlehem area and several arrests were made.

The shooting capped a weekend of violence in which three Palestinians were killed and at least 18 wounded by Israel Defense Force gunfire in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The news reached the Cabinet at the end of its weekly meeting. Fears were expressed that the Palestinians, now in the 103rd day of their uprising in the administered territories, have begun to resort to firearms, as well as rocks and Molotov cocktails against the IDF.

The attack on the soldier was seen as a possible breach of orders from the Palestine Liberation Organization not to use firearms against the IDF. The orders were issued apparently to limit Palestinian casualties and to retain the image of unarmed civilians battling heavily armed troops.

But several incidents in recent days indicate the "war of stones" might be turning more deadly.

Another Israeli Shot

An Israeli civilian, Adi Tzabari, 44, was shot and wounded by two gunmen in the Gaza Strip on Thursday while drilling for water. He was taken to Barzilai hospital in Ashkelon, where his wounds were pronounced serious, but not fatal.

Shots also have been fired lately at Israeli vehicles in the territories, and gasoline bomb attacks have become more frequent.

Relative quiet was reported in the Gaza Strip on Sunday after two days of violence. Rioting broke out in the Sabra neighborhood of Gaza and the Shati refugee camp after prayer services Friday, the Moslem Sabbath. The IDF moved in, killing one Palestinian and wounding 18.

Another Palestinian was shot to death Friday at the Ein Bet El-Ma refugee camp, near Nablus. Military sources said he attacked a soldier with an unidentified object.

A Palestinian youth was shot to death Saturday after he threw a gasoline bomb at soldiers in a village in northern Samaria.

The fatalities brought to 100 the number of Palestinians killed since unrest began in the territories Dec. 9.

IDF May Fire At Bomb-Throwers

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin informed the Cabinet on Sunday that the IDF has been authorized to open fire on the Palestinians who throw Molotov cocktails or other gasoline bombs.

But the soldiers must be sure they are aiming at the attackers. They are not permitted to fire into crowds from which a gasoline bomb was thrown if they cannot identify who threw it, Rabin said.

Until now, gasoline bombs have been classified as "cold" weapons not to be countered by gunfire.

The Defense Ministry also announced over the weekend that it has outlawed Shabiba, the Palestinian youth branch of Al Fatah, the centrist faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization controlled by Yasir Arafat. Security officials believe Shabiba has been at the forefront of rioting in the territories.

Israeli security forces rounded up hundreds of Palestinian activists Friday in an attempt to remove agitators and inciters.

Israelis are concerned over possible widespread violence in Israel and the territories on March 30, the 12th anniversary of Land Day. On that day in 1976, Israeli Arabs protested the expropriations of Arab land in Galilee by the IDF.

**JEWS, ARAB AMERICANS DEMONSTRATE
AS SHAMIR WINDS UP HIS U.S. VISIT**

By Andrew Silow Carroll (New York)
and Tom Tugend (Los Angeles)

MARCH 25, 1988
March 20 (JTA) -- More than a thousand Arab Americans took to the streets of Brooklyn Sunday evening to protest the policies of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as the Israeli leader was making a speech in honor of Israel's 40th anniversary at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Waving the red-, black-, green- and white-striped flags of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the demonstrators chanted over and over again, "Shamir out of Brooklyn."

Inside the academy, the Israeli premier gave a rousing speech to Jewish supporters who interrupted him with applause more than 20 times.

Earlier in the day, between 500 and 1,000 flag-waving Jewish demonstrators attended a strongly nationalistic pro-Israel rally across the street from the Regency Hotel in Manhattan, Shamir's base while in New York. The rally was sponsored by the Zionist Organization of America, Americans for a Safe Israel and other pro-Shamir organizations.

The demonstrations capped an otherwise uneventful weekend for the prime minister, who spent the last four days of his American visit re-emphasizing familiar policy statements, delivering pep talks to the Jewish community and pleading for unity between Israel and the diaspora.

At public appearances in Los Angeles Thursday and Friday and in New York on Sunday, Shamir stressed a number of themes he had developed earlier in his meetings with U.S. government leaders in Washington, including:

- Opposition to an international peace conference as proposed by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Arab and Soviet support of such a conference "reflects an attempt to create a U.N.-type setting as a tool to extract concessions from Israel," said Shamir.

- Continued warm relations between Washington and Jerusalem. "Despite any differences of opinion, the basic relationship between Israel and the United States is as strong as ever," he said.

- A hard line on confrontations with Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The demonstrations there "are not civil rights demonstrations, but another expression of Arab refusal

to co-exist with us," the premier said.

* Appeals to unity, often couched in terms critical of American Jewish leaders who go public with their opposition to Israeli government policy.

Critical Of Jewish 'Pressure'

The last point received its warmest reception during Shamir's address Sunday before the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in New York.

There, and earlier at a talk to leaders of the American branch of the World Sephardi Federation, Shamir railed against American Jews "who will exert pressure on their government and ask them to make pressure on Israel."

Shamir hinted at the Sephardi appearance that Shultz's proposal for an international conference came in part as the result of "international, American and Jewish factors." He claimed the secretary of state had long been opposed to such a conference.

The prime minister declined, however, to disclose details of the measure Israel would take in response to the shooting death early Sunday morning of the first soldier killed in the territories since the beginning of the present unrest.

Neither in New York nor Los Angeles did the prime minister renew his earlier suggestion that the planned summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev be joined by Arab and Israeli leaders to launch direct Mideast peace negotiations. While Shamir was in Los Angeles, the U.S. State Department shot down the idea in a detailed rebuttal.

Shamir's two-and-a-half days in Los Angeles proceeded without incident, despite predictions of protests and sharp dissent. On Thursday afternoon he unveiled the cornerstone at the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Beit Hashoah-Museum of Tolerance, a \$30 million Holocaust memorial.

High Turnout In L.A.

That same evening, Shamir spoke at a dinner sponsored by the United Jewish Fund and the State of Israel Bonds Organization. Despite the absence of a number of community leaders who disagree with Shamir's policy and fears by the organizers earlier in the week of a poor turnout, 1,600 people showed up and others had to be turned away.

On Friday, Shamir addressed some 800 people at a luncheon of the World Affairs Council of Los Angeles. As he would also do at his first two meetings in New York, the prime minister answered questions from the floor.

At a Friday morning breakfast, Shamir met privately with 45 executives of the entertainment industry and some actors, under the auspices of the United Jewish Fund.

Film actor Richard Dreyfuss, who had been a main speaker at a Peace Now rally earlier in the week, said in a telephone interview that the tone at the hour-long meeting "was very polite," but that the discussion had not been particularly "illuminating."

In other events in Los Angeles, Shamir met with delegations from the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), B'nai B'rith, Youth Town of Israel and financial supporters of his Herut party.

In New York, apparently exhausted by his heavy schedule, Shamir appeared to doze briefly during his introduction by Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents.

Aside from the Palestinian protest Sunday

evening, demonstrations in both cities for and against the Israeli leader were mainly muted.

In Los Angeles, about 100 members of a group calling itself the Ad Hoc Committee for Palestinian Rights gathered outside the Century Plaza Hotel on Friday evening. Across the Avenue of the Stars, a smaller contingent of the Jewish Defense League took up station, but there were no incidents.

In the days prior to the Brooklyn event, leaders of the borough's large Arab community lodged protests with Brooklyn Borough President Howard Goldin, whose office co-sponsored the event with the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York.

Before flying to Israel on Monday, the Israeli premier was scheduled to conduct a satellite conference from the offices of the Council of Jewish Federations and to speak to various New York ethnic leaders.

He was also scheduled to meet late Monday night with Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.), who is running for the Democratic presidential nomination.

SEVEN JEWISH INTELLECTUALS BACK SHULTZ PEACE INITIATIVE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 20 (JTA) -- Seven prominent Jewish intellectuals from the United States and Britain have called on Israel to support Secretary of State George Shultz's Middle East peace initiative.

Their appeal was contained in a letter to the 100 Jewish intellectuals from six countries attending the Israel-Diaspora conference now being held in Israel on the subject of "The Future of Democracy in Israel."

The seven signatories, who described themselves as "committed supporters of Israel," are former British Academy of Sciences President Sir Isaiah Berlin, Lord Arnold Goodman, Lord Victor Rothschild and British Chief Rabbi Lord Immanuel Jakobovits, all of Great Britain; and Professor Henry Rosovsky, violinist Isaac Stern and author Saul Bellow, all Americans.

The letter-writers urged Israel to abandon what they considered dubiously effective short-term measures that "are likely sooner or later to lead to moral and political disaster."

Instead, they wrote, Israel must look to compromise.

Yuval Neeman, head of the right-wing Tehiya party, dismissed the letter on the grounds that "none of its signatories has any background of defense and security considerations." Knesset member Haim Druckman of the National Religious Party dismissed the signatories as "dwarfs."

IDF BATTLES SHIITES IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 20 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force engaged in a heavy exchange of fire Saturday with Shiite guerrillas north of the Israeli-controlled security zone in southern Lebanon. No casualties were reported.

The IDF described the operation as part of an ongoing campaign against terrorists carried out with the support of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army. The troops were on a search and destroy mission aimed at Katyusha rocket launching sites from which Israel and SLA positions have been attacked a number of times this month.

REPRIMAND URGED FOR SHAMIR AIDE WHO LEAKED NEWS ABOUT SAUDI MISSILES By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 20 (JTA) -- The weekly Cabinet meeting Sunday was thrown into an uproar over a broadcast threat by one of Premier Yitzhak Shamir's top aides that Israel might act to destroy Chinese missiles reportedly sold to Saudi Arabia.

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, a Laborite, urged Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to reprimand Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, for leaking information to the media.

Shahal charged that was not the first time Ben-Aharon made unauthorized leaks that could jeopardize Israel's security. Peres, who is vice premier, presided at the Cabinet meeting in Shamir's absence.

Ben-Aharon, who is accompanying Shamir on his visit to the United States, told the Voice of Israel Radio correspondent in Washington that the issue of the missiles in Saudi hands was discussed at length by Shamir in his talks with Reagan administration officials.

He said Israel was likely to remove the missiles on its own. "Israel has acquired a reputation of not waiting until a potential danger becomes actual," Ben-Aharon said.

The Washington Post reported Friday that China was selling medium-range missiles to Saudi Arabia with nuclear warhead capability that could reach any point in the Middle East.

The State Department confirmed the report Friday, but said both China and Saudi Arabia have assured the United States that nuclear warheads would not be used with the missiles.

The Saudi government "assured us categorically at the very highest level that they don't have, nor do they intend to acquire, any nuclear capability," department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters at a news conference.

He added that the Chinese government has "stated categorically that they will not export nuclear weapons to any government."

(Washington correspondent Howard Rosenberg contributed to this report.)

U.N. AGAIN DISCUSSES U.S. ORDER TO CLOSE PLO OBSERVER MISSION By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, March 20 (JTA) -- The U.N. General Assembly met in a special session Friday to discuss for the second time this month the closing of the Palestine Liberation Organization's observer mission to the United Nations.

Diplomats said that the Arabs pressed for the session to condemn the United States following an order issued March 11 by the U.S. Justice Department ordering the PLO mission be closed by March 21.

Diplomats conceded Friday that the assembly meeting is "redundant" inasmuch as the General Assembly voted 143-1 on March 2 for a resolution calling on the United States to allow the mission to remain open under the U.N. Headquarters Agreement. Israel cast the only negative vote and the United States did not vote.

An American official told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on Friday that the United States does not intend to participate in the current debate and has not decided whether to participate in the voting. He claimed that the whole purpose

of the meeting is "to embarrass the United States."

A spokesman for Israel's mission to the United Nations said Israel does not plan to participate in the debate.

At the opening of the debate Friday, Ambassador Ahmad Ghezal of Tunisia, speaking on behalf of the Arab states, called the U.S. decision to close the PLO mission "a flagrant violation of international law."

He said that the United Nations must take steps to insure that the PLO had adequate facilities.

On Thursday night, more than 250 members of the North American Jewish Students Network demonstrated across the street from the PLO's observer mission here and read a symbolic "eviction notice" to the PLO.

On Sunday, some two dozen members of the militant Jewish Defense Group staged a protest outside the PLO mission. Members of the group threw rocks at the building, but apparently caused little damage.

Thursday's student demonstration followed a rally of solidarity with Israel at Park East Synagogue attended by some 700 students. Israel's U.N. ambassador, Benjamin Netanyahu, addressed the rally, calling for continued support of world Jewry for the people of Israel.

TV SERIES ON NAZI COLLABORATOR TRIGGERS UNEASE, PROTEST IN BELGIUM By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, March 20 (JTA) -- A storm of protest has been raised here over the broadcast of a three-part television series about Belgium's most notorious Nazi collaborator, Leon Degrelle, who is still a neo-Nazi activist.

The first part, aired Thursday night by RTBF, the French-language television station, featured a 1977 interview with Degrelle, 82, who lives in Malaga, Spain.

It was accompanied by commentary from historians and World War II specialists. Nevertheless, patriotic groups protested vigorously and the Auschwitz Foundation, an association of death camp survivors, tried to bring legal action against RTBF, but was stymied by jurisdictional problems.

They argued that the series gives a platform to a Nazi who still denies the Holocaust and the existence of gas chambers to exterminate Jews. A Christian Democratic member of the Belgian Parliament, Paul-Henry Gendebien, asked RTBF to cancel the series on grounds that the publicity offered Degrelle would trigger a revival of right-wing extremist propaganda.

The television station claimed the broadcast has historical merit and insisted that freedom of speech required that Degrelle be allowed to express his views as long as they are balanced by the truth. "Fascism is like AIDS, the best way to combat it is to speak about it," one local newspaper said Thursday.

Degrelle, who headed the Belgian fascist Rex Party, was Hitler's most outspoken supporter during the Nazi occupation. He was sentenced to death in absentia after the war, but the sentence became moot when the statute of limitations took effect in 1974. He is barred from entering Belgium.

In general, collaborationists are a taboo subject in Belgium. Authorities are said to fear Degrelle might compromise several living personalities in this country were he allowed to return.

DEFENDANT IN FORT SMITH TRIAL ACQUITTED FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, March 20 (JTA) -- The judge presiding over the Fort Smith, Ark., trial of 14 white supremacists charged with plotting to overthrow the U.S. government has granted one of the defendants his motion for directed verdict of acquittal, because of insufficient evidence in the case.

U.S. District Court Judge Morris Arnold ruled Thursday that there was insufficient evidence to continue to try Robert Smalley, 32, who was charged with seditious conspiracy, according to Larry Lee, a reporter for the Southwest Times Record in Fort Smith.

Lee said there is a possibility that defendants William Wade, 69, and David McGuire, 25, also will be acquitted of the charges of conspiring to kill a federal judge and special FBI agent in Arkansas in 1983.

Either party in a trial may receive a directed verdict in its favor if the opposing party fails to present a necessary defense.

Lee, who has been covering the trial since it began Feb. 16, said that Judge Arnold has "persistently asked the government prosecuting attorneys to pare their case down because a lot of the evidence was repetitive."

On March 10, Judge Arnold reportedly told the prosecuting attorneys that he might have to call a mistrial because they had presented too much "hearsay" evidence that was not subsequently corroborated. The judge has had to frequently instruct the jury to ignore evidence during the proceedings, Lee said.

Smalley, who was tried in the September 1985 Seattle trial of a group called The Order, served about eight months in prison for selling illegal weapons to Randall Rader, 36, a former weapons specialist for The Order and another white supremacist group, The Covenant, the Sword and the Arm of the Lord (CSA). Rader was called as a government witness in the trial.

ADL, Others Concerned

People who monitor the activities of hate groups were concerned at the turn of events in the trial. Irwin Suall, director of the fact-finding department of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, who has observed some of the trial, said, "My impression was that the government had a very strong case."

But Leonard Zeskind, research director of the Atlanta-based Center for Democratic Renewal, said he was "concerned" by three factors in the trial: "the fact that the government cut in half its witness list of over 200 names; the directed verdict of acquittal; and the fact that Judge Arnold told the prosecuting attorneys there was a possibility of a mistrial because of the lack of corroborative evidence."

Zeskind explained that the conspiracy charge "hinges on the difference between free speech advocacy and speech which engenders imminent action. The government's case rests on proving that imminent action was either the intended or even the unintended result of the defendants' activities."

The government is expected to rest its case Monday, with the defendants beginning their case following that. Aryan Nations leaders Robert Miles, Richard Butler and Louis Beam are planning to take the stand on their own behalf.

LAWMAKER SUGGESTS FIVE WAYS TO IMPROVE GOOD U.S.-ISRAELI TIES

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, March 20 (JTA) -- Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, has called for an intensified strategic relationship between the United States and Israel.

Speaking to the United Jewish Appeal's National Young Leadership Conference here last week, the representative advocated various congressional measures that would bolster defense cooperation.

Aspin called for the U.S. military to deploy Israeli weapons "in quantity," noting that the Pentagon is testing various Israeli-designed weaponry.

A Capitol Hill source explained that the Pentagon, through its foreign weapons evaluation program, tests well-made weaponry already in use by other countries.

The U.S. Navy deployed Israeli night-target systems from its helicopter gunships last fall when it searched for oil platforms in the Persian Gulf.

Aspin said that as a result of the 1983 Memorandum of Understanding, which set up joint military and political groups, "there have been joint military maneuvers between" Israeli and U.S. armed forces "to the mutual benefit of both."

Aspin also noted that the U.S. Army recently agreed to jointly develop Israel's Arrow anti-tactical ballistic missile (ATBM). The Pentagon will spend about \$22 million this year for the U.S. research effort, with Congress having authorized up to \$75 million for the program. Israel will pay 20 percent of the project's cost.

The most publicized U.S.-Israeli defense problem of 1987 was Israel's cancellation -- under fierce U.S. pressure -- of plans to build the Lavi fighter plane. Aspin called Israel's cancellation of the project the "right decision."

To offset the loss, the United States is allowing Israel to spend \$300 million of its U.S. military aid within Israel on other military projects. Almost all of the other \$1.5 billion must be spent on buying U.S. weapons.

Aspin recommended five congressional actions:

- Make Israel a permanent non-North American Treaty Organization (NATO) ally. Congress currently bestows that status on a yearly basis. Israel gained that designation in 1987 and 1988.

- Direct the Pentagon to establish a procurement office in Israel. Israel would have greater access to U.S. plans for building new weapons systems and Israeli defense firms would have greater procurement opportunities.

- Exempt Israel from the Pentagon ban on "offshore procurement of munitions," which would allow it to sell ammunition to the United States.

The Capitol Hill source explained the Pentagon is considering upgrading its 105mm tank guns to 120mm. Since Israel arguably makes the best 105mm munitions, it could serve as a temporary supply source as U.S. factories retool.

- Include Israel in proposed protectionist legislation. The Pentagon automatically inflates the bids of all foreign countries by 50 percent.

- Direct the Pentagon to include Israeli companies in the U.S. defense industrial base. Israel would benefit because its companies could then bid for additional projects set aside for countries included in that "base."