

LIKUD MINISTERS CHALLENGE REPORT THAT GIRL WAS KILLED BY STRAY BULLET By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 10 (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force investigation into the bloody events at Beita village, where a teen-age Jewish girl was allegedly stoned to death by Arabs last week, triggered a new political controversy at the Cabinet meeting Sunday.

Ministers of Likud's Herut wing assailed Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a Laborite, and IDF Chief of Staff Dan Shomron for mishandling the incident and leaking to the news media the initial conclusions of the IDF probe before it was completed.

Rabin told the Cabinet that an autopsy performed on 15-year-old Tirza Porat before her burial Thursday showed she was killed by a stray bullet, which penetrated her head at close range.

He said the bullet's trajectory was upward, indicating it was fired by an Israeli settler, Romam Aldubi, who was one of two armed guards accompanying 16 teen-agers from Eilon Moreh. They were on a Passover hike last Wednesday in the Samaritan hills around Beita village, south of Nablus.

But the Likud ministers challenged that version and insisted it must be weighed against the accounts of the youngsters and another armed guard, Menahem Ilan. They claimed to have been trapped by rock-throwing Arab mobs in Beita.

Twelve of the children, who were interviewed by Premier Yitzhak Shamir and other Likud ministers Sunday, said they were never questioned by the security forces. According to the teen-agers, they were surrounded less than an hour after beginning their hike by hundreds of stone-throwing Arabs, who injured eight of the hikers. One of the Arabs attempted to grab Aldubi's M-16 rifle, they said.

At that point, Aldubi opened fire, killing the attacker, which further infuriated the villagers, the Likud politicians were told.

'Would Have Been Slaughtered'

Ilan, the second armed escort, claimed the group was forced to walk slowly through the village "with people pressing at us from all sides. They tried to take our weapons from us, threw stones and they beat us with sticks," Ilan said. "We would have been slaughtered on the spot."

But Rabin told the Cabinet that according to the IDF's debriefing, the Israeli youngsters were in the village for a considerable time, without armed escorts, and none was hurt. He said this told something of the mood of the village at the time. It turned nasty when villagers learned that Aldubi had killed a local Arab.

Aldubi himself was struck by rocks and hospitalized in serious condition.

The 26-year-old yeshiva student is reputedly one of the most extreme of the religious militant nationalists living in the West Bank. As a follower of Rabbi Meir Kahane's racist Kach movement, he has had run-ins with the Israeli authorities in the past.

He and other yeshiva students opened fire last year on the Balata refugee camp, near Nablus, leading to his exclusion from the region for

six months. The ban, ordered by Gen. Amram Mitzna, commander of the central region, was the first use of such emergency powers against a Jewish citizen of Israel. Nevertheless, Aldubi continued to carry an army-issue rifle while the ban was in effect.

Police Minister Haim Barlev noted that the hike, through a tension-filled area, was not coordinated with the local military authorities.

The death of Tirza Porat brought impassioned demands from Jewish settlers for revenge and the expulsion of all Arabs from the West Bank. Shamir vowed at the funeral that "God will avenge her blood."

But the IDF investigation seems to indicate the tragedy was not a clear-cut case, but rather the cumulative result of four months of Palestinian revolt against the Israeli presence in the territory, during which some 130 Palestinians have been killed in clashes with the IDF and armed Jewish settlers.

Shamir summed up the controversy by saying the IDF investigation should not be brought before the Cabinet until it is completed.

Israel's Supreme Court issued an order Sunday barring the further demolition of houses in Beita village by the IDF, pending a court review of the events.

The high court acted at the request of the Civil Rights Association which claimed that new evidence sustains a different impression of what went on in Beita than the initial reports of last week.

So far about 14 houses, allegedly owned by Arabs who participated in the attack on the hikers, have been blown up or bull-dozed.

HUSSEIN SENDING MIXED SIGNALS ON SHULTZ PEACE INITIATIVE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 10 (JTA) -- Israelis are mulling over conflicting versions of where King Hussein of Jordan stands with respect to the American peace initiative, after his final talks with Secretary of State George Shultz last week.

An upbeat version was conveyed to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres by Wat Cluverius, a senior American diplomat sent by Shultz to brief Israeli leaders on his talks in Arab capitals. According to this version, Shultz was very much satisfied by his discussions with the Jordanian ruler.

But an opposite impression was left by an official statement issued in Amman by Premier Zaid al-Rifai that indicated Hussein to be uncompromising in demands for Israeli concessions.

According to that statement, Israel's withdrawal from all of the administered territories and a full role for the Palestine Liberation Organization are Hussein's conditions for participating in peace talks with Israel.

Sources close to Premier Yitzhak Shamir said Hussein actually hardened his positions during Shultz's six-day visit to the region. They recalled that they had said all along that Hussein would reject Shultz's idea of negotiations without the PLO.

Aides to Peres conceded that Jordan's public statement does project a tougher stance. But they suggested that in private, the king may have been

more flexible, contributing to Shultz's optimism. The Foreign Ministry therefore leaked Cluverius' report to the media Sunday.

Cluverius also met with Shamir amid reports that Shultz is tentatively planning yet another trip to the Middle East, possibly next month, after his meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Shultz May Return To Mideast

Shultz told reporters before leaving Amman on Friday to return to Washington that he would return to the Middle East to keep the American peace initiative alive. He declined to say when.

That visit presumably would precede the next summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, scheduled to take place in Moscow from May 29 to June 2.

Foreign Ministry officials are entertaining the possibility that the two superpower foreign ministers may agree at their meeting late in April to ask the United Nations secretary general to issue invitations to an international conference along the lines proposed by Shultz.

In an Israel television interview last Wednesday, however, Shultz said that talk of invitations was "premature."

Peres' foreign policy adviser, Nimrod Novick, is scheduled to meet in Europe with senior Soviet Mideast experts in advance of the Shultz-Shevardnadze encounter. Novick will be speaking to Vladimir Terrasov of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Gorbachev Presses Arafat

Meanwhile, political circles here reacted with interest to Gorbachev's forceful public advice to PLO chairman Yasir Arafat in Moscow this weekend to recognize Israel's existence and its need for security.

Gorbachev's advice to Arafat, it was noted here, was carried at length by Tass, the official Soviet news agency. Tass stressed that the Soviet leader had three times repeated his support for Israeli rights, which he told Arafat were no less important than those of the Palestinian people.

Some observers regard this as important evidence of Moscow's determination to play a central role in Middle East peace diplomacy. They cite reports that Shevardnadze himself is planning to visit the region, though presumably not Israel.

Israel and the Soviet Union presently have no formal diplomatic relations, though a Soviet consular delegation is currently in Israel and a reciprocal visit is planned by an Israeli delegation.

U.S. SHOULD PRESS ISRAELIS TO MAKE PEACE NOW, SAYS NIXON By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 10 (JTA) -- Former President Nixon said Sunday that the United States should press Israel to reach a settlement with the Arabs now, rather than wait for a time when the Israelis "will be forced to make one that will not be in their interests."

"What Israel has to understand is that for their own interests they should make the deal now," Nixon said in an interview on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press."

He explained that while Israel has won five wars, "in the end the Arabs will learn to fight," and eventually Israel will lose.

The former president praised Secretary of State George Shultz's efforts to bring about

negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries. But he said the situation in the Middle East is "so complex" that it cannot be done by a secretary of state part time or even full time by second-level State Department officials.

Instead, Nixon said that a full time negotiator is needed, and he urged the next president to appoint his former secretary of state and national security adviser, Henry Kissinger, to the job and give him a year to accomplish the task.

"Henry is difficult, some think he is obnoxious, but he is a terrific negotiator," Nixon said.

As for his own solution, Nixon rejected a Palestinian state as endangering Israel's security. He said the Palestinians have to "have a system set up whereby they govern themselves," but at the same time "Israel must have defensible borders." He rejected "this idea that Israel should give up all of the occupied territory."

Kissinger Against Total Pull-Back

Kissinger, appearing on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley," agreed. He said Israel should give up the Gaza Strip and some of the West Bank. "Israel cannot go back to the '67 borders because it will then be indefensible," Kissinger stressed.

But Kissinger repeated his uneasiness about the international conference Shultz has proposed to set the stage for negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

He noted that "all the successes" in the Middle East has been achieved under American rather than Soviet sponsorship.

Benjamin Netanyahu, who resigned March 30 from his post as Israeli ambassador to the United Nations to run on the Likud list for a Knesset seat, also appeared on the ABC program. He indicated that for Israel to give up any of the territories would endanger the existence of the Jewish state.

"I think we need a solution that gives Israel maximum security and gives the Arab inhabitants minimum interference in their daily life," he said.

Netanyahu said that peace is being blocked by the Arab refusal to recognize the existence of Israel. He said that if Arab leaders were to declare that "we are willing to negotiate with Israel, recognize Israel in any borders," then peace could be achieved faster than most people think.

Netanyahu said that "moderate" Arabs are afraid to make such a declaration because they fear the Palestine Liberation Organization.

But Edward Said, a member of the Palestine National Council, who also appeared on the ABC program, stressed that peace requires that the United States and Israel talk with the PLO. Said, who is one of two PNC members who met with Shultz before his Middle East trip, said that the PLO accepts the existence of Israel and United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 "in the context" of other U.N. resolutions.

Said criticized the U.S. position formulated by Kissinger in 1975 that the United States would not talk to the PLO until it recognizes Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and accepts the legitimacy of the State of Israel.

But Kissinger stressed that this formula promised by him to Israel reaffirmed the position taken by two previous administrations.

Kissinger and Netanyahu rejected the claim that the PLO has accepted Resolution 242 and both maintained that the PLO still wants to destroy Israel.

**JACKSON HAS NOT GIVEN UP
ON WINNING JEWISH VOTERS**

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, April 10 (JTA) -- Although Jesse Jackson has not yet indicated that he will speak directly to Jewish leaders or organizations in New York, it appears his campaign has not given up on attracting Jewish supporters prior to the April 19 primary here.

In fact, staffers at Jackson campaign headquarters refer questions on Jackson's relations with the Jewish community to Suzanne Ross, a psychologist of Orthodox Jewish background who heads New York Jews for Jackson. The "loose-knit" organization, as Ross calls it, will run a pro-Jackson advertisement in this week's edition of the Village Voice, signed by between 150 and 170 Jews.

Asked if Jackson will meet with Jewish groups, Ross responded, "The question is not whether he will meet, but with which Jewish individuals, which organizations? I'm sure it will happen. The question is what form it will take."

If Ross' response is accurate, it indicates a shift within the Jackson camp. Gerald Austin, Jackson's national campaign manager, last week dismissed notions that there is a need for the Democratic presidential candidate to address specific Jewish concerns about his positions.

Jackson is the only Democratic presidential candidate to have declined an invitation, issued in October, to speak before the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Sen. Albert Gore Jr. of Tennessee spoke to the umbrella group of 44 organizations two weeks ago, in what was perceived as a direct appeal for Jewish votes. Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis is to address the group Monday afternoon.

Declined Invitation

According to Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents, Jackson's staff turned down its invitation in mid-March, apologizing that they had taken so long to respond. He knew of no other plans for a meeting between Jackson and Jewish organizations.

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater New York is still awaiting Jackson's response to an off-the-record meeting with selected New York Jewish leaders, according to Michael Miller, JCRC executive director.

Gore, Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois and former candidates Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri and Bruce Babbitt of Arizona have previously attended the series of closed-door meetings.

Miller said he is expecting a response this week to the invitation.

According to Ross, the fact that Jackson has so far declined to speak to those groups does not imply, as some have suggested, that the candidate has turned his back on a vote that he feels he is not likely to get anyway. Ross indicated as proof the Jews that Jackson has selected as campaign aides, including Austin; Stanley Hill, co-chairman of the New York campaign; and campaign adviser Ann Lewis.

Ross acknowledges that Jackson "made mistakes" during his last presidential campaign. In 1984, Jackson angered Jewish voters with his reference to New York as "Hymietown" and his then close relationship with Black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan.

But Ross said, "I think he's learned a lot in

the last four years, and has grown close to Jewish positions as a member of another oppressed group."

Ross cited a number of examples of what she called positive efforts Jackson has made to reach out to the Jewish community, including a disassociation from Farrakhan.

In the wake of President Reagan's controversial visit to the graves of SS soldiers at West Germany's Bitburg cemetery, Jackson made eloquent statements on the meaning of the Holocaust, said Ross.

She said his views on the Middle East, which include support of the Camp David accords, an international peace conference and self-determination for the Palestinians, place him firmly in the camp with such Israeli liberals as writer Amos Elon and Knesset member Abba Eban.

And in the past four years he has made a number of positive public speeches on black-Jewish relations, especially during a March 1987 appearance at Queens College in New York with Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

"I think he understands the question of anti-Semitism far more profoundly than any of the white candidates," said Ross.

Ross said her group also challenges the notion that the Conference of Presidents and JCRC fully speak for American Jewry.

"Those organizations represent only 40 percent of Jews. When people talk about Jewish groups, they're not including a number of progressive Jewish organizations," including the New Jewish Agenda, said Ross. "Jesse has met with a lot of those people, and that's something the Jewish press is not reporting."

Still, recent polls are showing that Jackson's appeal among Jewish voters in New York, while higher than in the rest of the country, is still weak, with only 9 percent of the state's Jewish Democrats saying they will vote for the black candidate.

Jews make up 23 percent of the presidential primary vote in New York state. Indeed, some analysts are saying that dissatisfaction with Jackson is high enough to direct Jewish votes away from Dukakis, the front-runner, and to Gore, who, if elected, may be perceived as less likely to include Jackson in a presidential administration.

TWO FORMER MINISTERS REJOIN CABINET
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 10 (JTA) -- The Labor Party and the Likud each added a minister to the unity coalition government Sunday by mutual agreement. They are familiar faces.

Moshe Arens, a former defense minister and close associate of Premier Yitzhak Shamir in Likud's Herut wing, returned to the Cabinet as a minister without portfolio, the rank he held when he quit the government seven months ago because of its decision to scrap the Lavi fighter plane project.

Former Health Minister Mordechai Gur, a Laborite, also re-entered the Cabinet without portfolio. He had resigned in October 1986, refusing to serve under Shamir, who took over as prime minister at that time under the Labor-Likud rotation of power agreement.

Neither man will serve in the 10-member Inner Cabinet, Israel's top policy-making body, consisting of five Labor and five Likud ministers.

ARAB NATIONS ALL HAVE MISSILES NOW, BUT ISRAEL HAS A DETERRENT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 10 (JTA) -- All of Israel's Arab neighbors, except Jordan, have entered the missile race, according to Gen. Dan Shomron, the Israel Defense Force chief of staff.

But the IDF possesses the defensive and offensive power to deter their use, Shomron said in an Israel Radio interview over the weekend. He did not go into details, but indicated the Arab states were aware of Israel's means of retaliation.

Shomron said the danger of the missile race was the tendency to develop chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. The Chinese-made CSS-2 intermediate range missiles recently acquired by Saudi Arabia are capable of carrying nuclear warheads, but both China and the Saudis have denied they are so armed.

According to Shomron, Israel's ability to strike back has deterred the Arab states from using chemical weapons in their wars with Israel. Egypt used chemical weapons during its campaign in Yemen in the 1960s, but not in the 1967 war with Israel, Shomron pointed out.

Similarly, Syria had chemical weapons at the time of the 1973 Yom Kippur war, but neither the Syrians nor the Egyptians employed them against Israel, even when their armies on the ground were in serious difficulties, the chief of staff said.

The Arabs knew that Israel's capability to hit back was far greater, he said. Nevertheless, there are gas masks available for every Israeli citizen, should the need arise. But the danger of chemical warfare against population centers is exaggerated, according to Shomron. By closing doors and windows the danger is greatly reduced, he said.

Shomron also supported Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin's point made last week that air power, in which Israel excels, is a more effective attack system than missiles. He noted that while Syria's Soviet-made Skud missiles can carry 100 tons of explosives, a warplane that carries five tons is much more accurate.

Rabin said that Israel's air force could drop 100 tons of high explosives on enemy population centers for every ton delivered to Israel in a missile attack.

Shomron maintained that missiles cannot determine the outcome of a war. He recalled in that connection the strategic failure of V-1 and V-2 rockets Germany used to attack British cities during the final year of World War II.

Asked if Israel has joined the missile race, Shomron replied, "That's what I read in the papers."

IT'S 'SUMMER TIME' IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, April 10 (JTA) -- Israel went on daylight-saving time as of midnight Sunday, when clocks were advanced one hour.

The change, which Israelis call "summer time," puts Israel seven hours ahead of Eastern Daylight Time and two hours in advance of British summer time.

Reminder: After Friday, JTA's address will be 330 Seventh Ave., 11th floor, New York, N.Y. 10001-5010.

ABRAHAM GOODMAN, PHILANTHROPIST AND ZIONIST LEADER, DEAD AT 98

NEW YORK, April 10 (JTA) -- Abraham Goodman, a leading philanthropist who rose from pushcart vendor to chairman of a \$300 million corporation, died at his home in Fort Lee, N.J. Friday. He was 98.

Goodman, a member of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency board of directors, was a leader of the Zionist Organization of America and a founder of many Jewish-sponsored institutions that reflected his intense interest in Jewish education and culture.

They include the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia, the Herzliya Jewish Teachers Seminary in New York and Mt. Sinai Hospital in Miami Beach. He was virtually the sole source of financial support for the Tarbut Foundation for the Advancement of Hebrew Culture.

In 1977, he contributed \$2.5 million toward the erection of a building near Lincoln Center in Manhattan to house the Tarbut Foundation and the Hebrew Art School for Music and Dance. Completed in 1978, it was named the Abraham Goodman House.

Goodman's association with JTA dated back more than 40 years. He served as JTA treasurer for more than 20 years, until 1984, and was a board member at the time of his death.

Born in Gritsev, Ukraine, Goodman earned a living by selling hair combs off a pushcart in New York, as a teen-ager. He put himself through New York University, earning a degree in accounting.

With other family members he founded Goodman & Sons, which sold a variety of hair care products, later becoming Goody Products, with headquarters in Kearny, N.J.

In 1929, Goody acquired a half interest in the Foster Grant Co., then a small producer of sunglasses and combs in Massachusetts. By 1975, when Goodman was Foster Grant's chairman, its annual sales in petrochemicals, sun glasses and other products had risen to more than \$300 million a year.

Goodman retired in 1975 as chairman and president of Goody Products.

RARE YIDDISH FILMS TO BE SHOWN IN TURIN JEWISH FESTIVAL

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, April 10 (JTA) -- Practically unknown Yiddish-language films from the 1920s and 1930s will be among the highlights of a 10-day festival of Jewish culture in Turin, beginning Tuesday and ending April 21.

Live theater and music concerts also will be featured at the festival, organized with the assistance of the Turin Jewish community and the Piedmont regional cultural office.

The Yiddish cinema is a chapter of film history that was virtually unknown until the end of the 1960s, said Roberto Turigliatto, who selected the films to be shown. Between the first and second world wars, he explained, a rich collection of Yiddish films were produced, mainly in New York and Warsaw -- where there were active Yiddish theaters. Often they used the same actors, the same casts, he said.

The festival is an attempt to clarify the Jewish contribution to the story of European culture, said Giorgio Guazzotti, one of the organizers. A series of conferences and lectures will take place to fulfill this goal, he said.