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# **IDF DENIES USING TOXIC GAS AS ARAB RIOTING CONTINUES**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 13 (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force spokesman denied Wednesday that the army has used a highly toxic gas to disperse Palestinian demonstrators in the administered territories.

The spokesman said the IDF employed standard tear gas used in riot control all over the world.

The charge was made by a doctor who is director of health at the Vienna-based United Nations Work and Relief Agency for Palestinian Refugees which operates refugee camps in the territories.

He claimed that at least two Palestinian youths have died and 60 women had miscarriages from inhaling the gas.

The IDF denial notwithstanding, several dozen residents of the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza were hospitalized Wednesday after the army used large quantities of tear gas to disperse demonstrators protesting the expulsion of eight Palestinian activists to Lebanon Monday.

The Shati refugee camp in Gaza remained under curfew Wednesday and a number of other camps were sealed off following disturbances Tuesday in which more than 40 Palestinians were injured, according to unconfirmed reports. The riots occurred near the deportees' homes.

But despite the mounting tension, thousands of Arab day laborers from the Gaza Strip reported to their jobs in Israel Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the official report on events at Beita village in the West Bank on April 6 is expected to be submitted by the police Thursday.

It will contain no surprises, according to unofficial sources. Pathologists and ballistic experts have already established that Tirza Porat, the 15-year-old Jewish girl who died at Beita, was killed by a bullet fired from an M-16 rifle by Romam Aldubi, 26, a Jewish settler.

Aldubi, one of two armed civilians escorting a group of teen-age hikers, remains hospitalized at Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem in serious condition. He was clubbed unconscious by the mother and sister of a Palestinian youth he killed in Beita.

# **IDF THWARTS INFILTRATORS IN LEBANON**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 13 (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force patrol killed three terrorists attempting to infiltrate into Israel from the border security zone in southern Lebanon early Wednesday morning. There were no Israeli casualties.

An IDF spokesman said the terrorists were spotted at 4:30 a.m. local time less than 100 yards from the border fence. The terrorists fled, but three were shot dead during the pursuit.

M-16 rifles, shoulder-fired rockets and a large quantity of hand grenades were found with their bodies.

The encounter occurred in the Har Dov region on the western slopes of Mt. Hermon, where three other terrorist infiltrators were killed last week.

# **POLL FINDS MOST U.S. JEWS SUPPORT SHULTZ PLAN, PALESTINIAN AUTONOMY**

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, April 13 (JTA) -- An overwhelming majority of American Jews support the American proposal for a Middle East peace conference, according to a poll conducted by the Los Angeles Times.

The survey indicates that most American Jews also endorse increased autonomy for Palestinians in the Israeli-administered territories and believe that both Israeli and Arab attitudes must change in order to bring about peace.

The survey reports that American Jews favor Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of the Labor Party over Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Likud. They also overwhelmingly support Secretary of State George Shultz.

Both Jews and non-Jews surveyed demonstrated continued support of Israel. But the poll also found that most Americans feel there should be "some sort of accommodation with the Palestinians."

A majority of both Jews and non-Jews said that only a small part of their feelings about Israel were affected by Israeli government treatment of Palestinians recently.

While an overwhelming majority of American Jews favored American support for Israel, half of the non-Jews polled said they "don't know."

The nationwide poll was conducted by Los Angeles Times survey director I.A. Lewis and published in Tuesday's edition of the Times, along with a lengthy analysis piece by reporter Robert Scheer.

It was followed Wednesday by interviews with American Jews, who indicated a division of attitudes on Israel's current dilemma over the Palestinians. This article reports a prevailing commitment among American Jews to social equality.

The poll was conducted by telephone between March 26 and April 7. No calls were placed on the Jewish Sabbath or on the first two days of Passover, according to the report.

For the survey's purposes, Jews were classified as "anyone who identified himself as brought up in the Jewish faith or considered himself or herself Jewish." Jews also were asked to describe their Jewish religious and political affiliations.

## Large Sample Surveyed

The poll is described as "the widest-ranging measure of Jewish and non-Jewish opinion on the Middle East and related issues since the current unrest among Palestinian Arabs began." It claims to have "sampled a much larger and more representative number of Jews than is generally the case in national opinion surveys."

Lewis said that 1,018 "representative Jews" were polled. Those surveyed were chosen from over 50,000 names out of more than 200,000 people the Los Angeles Times had surveyed in previous years.

Lewis consulted with political analysts William Schneider of the American Enterprise Institute and Seymour Lipsett of the Hoover Institute at Stanford University, who co-authored a book on American public opinion.

Over 60 percent of both Jews and non-Jews polled indicated they favored Shultz's plan for an international peace conference, with 17 percent opposed.

Two-thirds of American Jews polled believed that Israel should "come to some sort of accommodation with the Arabs in the occupied territories," rather than transfer the Palestinians to some other Arab country.

But less than a majority of Jews polled on giving up territory for peace, 43 percent, advocated relinquishing the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Although the figures for non-Jews polled on these questions are similar, there is disagreement over how these measures should be undertaken.

Forty-five percent of Jews polled indicated that accommodation with the Arabs should take the form of increased Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But the poll seems to indicate that Jews envision a more limited version of autonomy than do non-Jews.

#### Support For Palestinian Homeland

Asked about giving the Palestinians a "homeland of their own" in the Israeli-administered territories, Jews opposed the measure by 45 to 29 percent, while non-Jews replied in the affirmative by 50 percent, with 18 percent opposed.

On the question of whether continued occupation of the territories "will erode Israel's democratic and humanitarian character," 35 percent of both Jews and non-Jews replied in the affirmative. Forty-five percent of the Jews polled disagreed with this, as compared to 32 percent of non-Jews.

The survey also indicates that 41 percent of Jews and 65 percent of non-Jews "feel there is an element of racism involved in the attitude of Israelis towards Arabs."

On this question, there was a slight divergence of opinion between older and younger Jews, with 59 percent of older Jews citing racism in Israeli attitudes compared to two-thirds of younger Jews. Lewis used the age of 41 as the cutoff between the two age groups.

Jews and non-Jews agreed in rejecting the idea that the intransigence of any one party in the Arab-Israeli fray is responsible for the failure of peace in the region.

But asked whether Arabs or Israelis had to change their attitudes, a full 80 percent of non-Jews said both sides had to change, while 86 percent of Jews polled indicated that the Arabs should change. Nevertheless, 65 percent of Jews said Israelis would have to change their stance.

Jews surveyed were evenly divided over whether they "should support Israel in public even when they disagree in private." Younger Jews disagreed with that statement and approved of public criticism of Israel by a 3-2 margin.

#### Non-Jews Less Sympathetic

Non-Jews surveyed showed a decline in sympathy for Israel since the unrest began, with 36 percent indicating support for Israel and about one-quarter indicating sympathy for the Palestinians.

Jews showed overwhelming support for Israel. Asked if they had more sympathy for Israel or the Palestinians, most Jews chose Israel.

Both Jews and non-Jews polled said they highly disapproved of the Palestine Liberation Organization. But 52 percent of non-Jews said the United States should negotiate with the PLO,

while 61 percent of Jews replied to the contrary.

Respondents were asked, "Should Israel give up the occupied territories, in exchange for Arab recognition of Israel, as part of a settlement of the Middle East conflict?" In response, 43 percent of Jews disapproved of that idea, compared to 31 percent who approved. The remainder said they "haven't heard enough," "weren't sure" or refused to respond.

On the same question, 22 percent of the non-Jews polled said they disapproved and 28 percent approved of the idea. Most said they had not heard enough.

Scheer said the poll revealed "a profound dismay" by both Jews and non-Jews over the prolonged violence in the administered territories, producing "views that are far more nuanced by a sense of contradiction and complexity than most analysts have thought." Jewish Americans, he wrote, "are neither so preoccupied with the Mideast nor so monolithic in their thinking nor so different from non-Jews as usually is thought."

#### Media Coverage Rated

A plurality of Jews polled, 43 percent, thought media coverage of events in the administered territories was fair. Forty-six percent of Jews polled rejected the proposal by New York Mayor Edward Koch that Israel ban the press in areas of disturbances, while 40 percent favored that idea. Non-Jews rejected the idea of press bans by a 59-23 percent margin.

Albert Chernin, executive vice chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, agreed with the survey's perception that the Jewish community has had conflicting feelings about the unrest in the administered territories since it began in December.

He noted, though, that the poll found that even with such differences of opinion, support for Israel remains high among Jewish and non-Jewish Americans and has not appreciably declined, despite the fact that both groups are clearly "troubled" by the violence in the territories and by what they see of excessive violence on both sides.

Chernin said that NJCRAC will take a careful look at the survey's findings on Thursday at a pre-scheduled meeting of its Israel Task Force.

The Jewish leader also observed that while only 3 percent of non-Jews surveyed have been paying more attention to the situation in the territories than any other news story, "56 percent of Jews said they thought the media had offered a distorted view."

This, he said, "jibes with our own perception that the Jewish community is much more preoccupied with the daily reports (in the media) than the non-Jew in America."

"There is a tendency sometimes (for Jews) to project their own discomforts on the non-Jews," Chernin said.

#### ISRAEL TO BARTER WITH COLOMBIA By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 13 (JTA) -- Israel will exchange weapons for coal under a four-year trade agreement with Colombia, signed in Bogota Tuesday by the Israeli minister of energy and infrastructure, Moshe Shahal.

Colombia will purchase \$250 million worth of military equipment from Israel, including the Kfir jet fighter plane. Israel will purchase 500,000 tons of coal from Colombia over the four-year period.

**ISRAELI DIPLOMAT REPORTEDLY MET  
WITH SOVIETS ON U.S. PEACE PLAN**  
By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 13 (JTA) -- An Israeli diplomat reportedly has met here with Soviet officials in connection with the American peace initiative launched by Secretary of State George Shultz when he visited the Middle East last month.

According to unconfirmed reports, Dr. Nimrod Novick, special adviser to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, held talks with members of the Soviet advance party that will accompany Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to Geneva Thursday. He and Shultz will sign a treaty there providing for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Novick briefed high-ranking French officials Wednesday on Peres' approach to Shultz's peace plan and his evaluation of the situation. Peres, who heads Israel's Labor Party, is generally amenable to the American package, but is strongly opposed by Premier Yitzhak Shamir of the Likud.

Novick, accompanied by the Israeli ambassador to France, Ovadia Soffer, met separately with President Francois Mitterrand's adviser, Jacques Attali, and with Boujon de l'Estaing, political adviser to Premier Jacques Chirac.

The Israeli has frequently been sent on delicate diplomatic missions abroad. He has met with Soviet officials on previous occasions. His latest reported meeting with them comes at a time when Moscow has indicated an earnest desire to participate in the Middle East peace process.

A case in point was Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's public advice in Moscow last week to the visiting chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Yasir Arafat, that he should recognize Israel and its legitimate needs, which are no less important than those of the Palestinian people.

**'Entry Ticket' To Peace Talks**

Officials here say the Soviets believe that with Gorbachev's conciliatory remarks toward Israel and their agreement to pull out of Afghanistan, they have bought "their entry ticket" into Middle East peace talks. The Israelis had long objected to Soviet participation because Moscow has no diplomatic ties with Israel.

Diplomatic sources here said the Middle East will be high on the agenda of Shultz's talks with Shevardnadze when they meet in Geneva Thursday and again in Moscow on April 21.

The Soviet foreign minister, who plans to visit four Middle Eastern countries -- though not Israel -- before the Moscow meeting, is expected to ask Shultz for a detailed briefing on his recent peace mission to the region, the sources said.

Meanwhile, in Israel public opinion is divided over whether the Soviet moves indicate that Moscow supports the American peace initiative or is planning a counter-initiative on its own.

Israelis who favor the Shultz initiative believe Shevardnadze's trip to the region is a sign the Kremlin wants to participate in it. In that connection they cite Gorbachev's remarks to Arafat.

But circles here opposed to the American plan believe Shevardnadze will try to undercut Shultz's initiative with one of his own, based on an international peace conference endowed with more than ceremonial significance.

(Correspondent David Landau in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)

**WORLD COURT HEARS U.N. COMPLAINT  
OVER U.S. CLOSURE OF PLO MISSION**

THE HAGUE, April 13 (JTA) -- The United Nations formally accused the United States of violating its international legal obligations and asked the World Court here Tuesday to intervene.

Carl-August Fleischauer, the U.N. under-secretary general for legal affairs, asked the 15-judge panel to order binding arbitration of the dispute arising from a U.S. Department of Justice order in February to shut down the Palestine Liberation Organization's observer mission to the United Nations in New York. A decision is expected in a few weeks.

The United States was not represented in court. Its position is that the closure order is an internal matter over which the international court of justice has no jurisdiction.

The Justice Department's closure order was issued in compliance with the Anti-Terrorist Act of 1987, adopted by Congress and signed by President Reagan on Dec. 22.

The PLO, backed by the U.N. Secretariat and the General Assembly, refused to comply. U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese asked the federal district court in Manhattan on March 2 to enforce the closure.

Fleischauer told the World Court that the United Nations "is not reassured" by the American pledge not to close the PLO mission until a federal judge has ruled in the case.

Replying to questions from Judge Stephen Schwebel, a U.S. member of the World Court panel, Fleischauer stressed that the dispute is not between the United States and the PLO, but between the United States and the United Nations.

The United Nations maintains that by trying to close the PLO mission, the American authorities are in violation of the 1947 Headquarters Agreement, which governs relations between the United Nations and the host country, the United States.

The United States has no authority to close the PLO mission "because it is a U.N. mission where the PLO has observer status and takes part in General Assembly debates and other U.N. activities," Fleischauer argued. The United States insists its own laws supersede international law.

**GREENS ENDORSE DISPLAY OF NAZI ART**  
By David Kantor

BONN, April 13 (JTA) -- The opposition Green Party is supporting a parliamentary initiative to exhibit art produced during the Nazi era in West German museums. But the party also insists on both official recognition and reparations for artists declared "degenerate" by the Nazis, who banned their works from public display.

The Greens opened debate on the issue Tuesday in the Bundestag, Germany's parliament.

The government will be challenged to take a position on the matter that has been the subject of a fierce controversy among artists and scholars for the past six months.

Because JTA is moving to new offices, there will be no Daily News Bulletin on Friday. JTA's new telephone number will be (212) 643-1890. Address all correspondence to JTA, 330 Seventh Ave., 11th floor, New York, N.Y. 10001-5010.

## EX-AGENT OF THE MOSSAD IMPLICATED IN DRUG DEALS WITH PANAMANIAN

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, April 13 (JTA) -- A former agent of the Mossad, Israel's foreign intelligence service, was accused in testimony at a congressional hearing last week of helping Gen. Manuel Noriega, Panama's de facto leader, conduct international drug deals from 1982 to 1986.

The revelations came at the start of seven weeks of hearings on international drug trafficking in the Senate entitled "Drugs, Law Enforcement and Foreign Policy."

Jose Blandon, former consul general of Panama to the United States, told the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Terrorism, Narcotics and International Organizations that the Israeli is Michael Harare, who had close contacts with Noriega and was Panama's honorary consul in Tel Aviv.

Blandon said Harare "has business with Noriega in Panama for a series of companies for arms contraband, smuggling to supply arms to Central America and to the counterrevolution, the Nicaragua counterrevolution."

He added that the airplanes used to transport the arms "were used for other things."

When Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) asked, "When you say 'other things,' what do you mean?" Blandon replied, "Drugs."

Later, Kerry told Blandon that he wanted to ascertain for the public record, without any question that "there is a direct linkage that you are aware of this. . . Harare network and these airstrips, in which guns would go in one shipment and drugs would come out in another."

Blandon replied, "Yes."

The former Panamanian official also replied affirmatively when Kerry asked if "on some occasions drugs just went in and out on their own" without being traded for weaponry.

"The Harare network is a network that was established with Israeli citizens, Panamanians and U.S. citizens for arms supply purposes," Blandon said.

Yosef Gal, the Israeli Embassy spokesman here, said Harare was "acting as a private citizen" in his dealings with Noriega, and that the Israeli government had no knowledge of his activities.

Meanwhile, Newsweek reported this week that Noriega, who is under pressure from the United States to leave Panama, is considering going to Israel, where he is said to own property.

## ARABS CRITICIZE JACKSON FOR REMARK ABOUT ARAFAT

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, April 13 (JTA) -- The Rev. Jesse Jackson, in trying to win Jewish support for next Tuesday's New York Democratic presidential primary, may be losing some of his backing among Arab Americans.

Jackson has come under fire from the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee for his statement that if elected president, he would not "sit down" at a negotiating table with Yasir Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"We must not equate Arafat and the PLO with a sovereign people, the Palestinian people," Jackson said Sunday on the CBS-TV program "Face the Nation."

"In the final analysis, it's not Arafat versus Israel; it's the Israelis versus the Palestinians," he said.

Abdeen Jabara, president of the Arab group, said in a letter to Jackson on Monday that "your attempt to distinguish the PLO from the Palestinian people will not improve your position with Jewish voters in New York but will, sadly, raise questions among your traditional supporters as to your willingness to stand firm on principle."

Jabara expressed "disbelief" at Jackson's chilled position toward Arafat, saying "virtually every Arab American looked to (Jackson) as the one symbol of strength in a field of political candidates who are notorious for their unwillingness to stand up to the pro-Israel lobby."

Frank Watkins, Jackson's political director, could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

## DUTCH TRIP TO ISRAEL POSTPONED; SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES CITED

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, April 13 (JTA) -- The scheduled visit to Israel next month by Dutch Premier Rudolf Lubbers and Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek has been postponed indefinitely, it was announced here Wednesday. The official reason given is conflicting agendas.

Lubbers announced at his most recent news conference last week that he would make the trip during the third week in May, when Israel will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of its independence.

He said the foreign minister would accompany him in order to convey to the Israeli government Holland's objections to the way it is handling the Palestinian unrest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Originally, Lubbers planned to go alone, returning a January 1986 visit to the Netherlands made by Shimon Peres, who was prime minister of Israel at the time.

But Dutch opinion has been running strongly against Israel since the Palestinian unrest began. Members of Parliament have urged that Lubbers cancel his trip because he would be the only head of a European Community member state to participate in Israel's 40th anniversary festivities.

According to Wednesday's announcement, the trip was postponed because Peres will be in Washington during the third week of May and alternate dates proposed by the Israelis conflict with van den Broek's plans to attend a meeting of the U.N. Disarmament Commission in Washington.

## CONVICTED AMERICAN MURDERER TO SERVE HIS TIME ON A KIBBUTZ

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 13 (JTA) -- An American Jew serving a 25-year-to-life prison sentence for murder arrived in Israel on Tuesday to begin a rehabilitation program at a kibbutz.

William Shapira, 62, was paroled by the governor of Florida after Herut Lapid, head of the kibbutz movement's prisoner rehabilitation program, interceded on his behalf. Lapid acted at the request of several prominent Israelis interested in the case.

Under the agreement with the Florida authorities, he will be responsible for Shapira for the 12 remaining years of his sentence. Shapira will reside at a kibbutz and will share in the routine duties expected of all members.