

**HEAT, ARSON, 'TREE TERRORISM'  
DESTROYING ISRAELI FORESTS**

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 12 (JTA) -- Israel's forests have been ravaged by massive fires, and experts are blaming the extreme heat, camper carelessness, army maneuvers and politically motivated arson for the conflagrations.

Although forestry experts have pointed fingers at careless Israelis, the majority of the fires, which have ravaged over 25,000 acres of land in just five weeks, are attributed to arson perpetrated by Palestinians, a new form of fighting in the "intifada," the six-month-old Palestinian uprising.

This past weekend, police arrested four Arabs suspected of having ignited a significant number of fires that devastated thousands of acres throughout the country Friday and Saturday.

This latest wave of fires strengthened the belief that Arabs within the Green Line and in the Israeli-administered territories have resorted to arson as another means of political protest.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir referred to the arsonists as "those who attack our natural resources... criminal enemies."

In an impassioned address in the Knesset building made during an environmental-award ceremony, Shamir said Israel would "concentrate all our resources" on fighting this scourge.

He called upon all Israelis to lend a hand in combatting the rash of fires "that are eating our land and threatening to return us to the desert."

**Fires Destroyed 120,000 Trees**

Earlier in the day, the weekly Cabinet meeting heard reports on the fires that have swept the country in recent weeks. Since the beginning of May, 160 fires have destroyed about 120,000 trees and thousands of acres of grasslands.

The police have been heavily involved in fire prevention and have set up a special fire-prevention force using helicopters as their chief mode of operation. However, Police Minister Haim Barlev told his colleagues that the police could not shoulder the burden alone.

Barlev agreed that some of the fires could be attributed to the especially hot weather that Israel has been experiencing recently. However, he said many of the fires were caused by arson.

Barlev said most fires were being started by children who were sent by adults with political motivation.

This weekend's fires reportedly broke out at 10 separate locations simultaneously, making arson a likely cause.

From north to south, fires were reported on pasture land and a grove on the Golan Heights; in the Galilee, fields in the area of Kfar Yuval and Kibbutz Hagoshrim, as well as a forest on Mount Turan; fields and a grove in the area of Zichron Ya'acov; fields along the Tel Aviv-Haifa highway, near Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael; a forest near Regavim in the Coastal Plain; fields near the Ramot neighborhood of Jerusalem and at the Eshkol Park in the Negev.

The largest fire occurred near Nes Harim, where some 1,250 acres of natural forest as well as pasture land, chicken houses and plantations

were burned down.

The fires are being fought by a combination of JNF, police and fire departments, Nature Reserves Authority and volunteers.

Last week, JNF spokesman David Angel said more than half of this unprecedented increase in fires could be attributed to arson linked to the Palestinian uprising.

JNF Chairman Moshe Rivlin called it the "intifada against trees." But he also cautioned against Israelis whose "worst problem is indifference."

**IDF RAZES HOME OF SUSPECT  
WHO ATTACKED ARAB MAYOR**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 12 (JTA) -- Security forces demolished the home of a suspect Friday who reportedly confessed to carrying out the stabbing attack against the Israeli-appointed mayor of El-Birch.

The suspect, Hamis Jodeh Faraj, 26, a resident of the Jalazoun refugee camp north of Ramallah, was arrested Thursday, two days after the attack took place.

The quick arrest was apparently facilitated by an identification of the attacker made by Mayor Hassan Tawil and his bodyguard.

Tawil, 75, is recovering from wounds in the heart and stomach at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Jerusalem.

Faraj was arrested at his home in a special operation of the Israel Defense Force and the General Security Service, a military spokesman said.

Faraj, who attacked Tawil out of nationalist motives, has been jailed several times in the past for participating in the unrest in the Israeli-administered territories, according to the spokesperson.

A curfew was imposed on the Jalazoun camp Friday as the security forces demolished the three-room house where Faraj lived with his 60-year-old mother.

Brig. Gen. Gabi Ofir, acting IDF commander in the West Bank, said the demolition was meant to demonstrate to Arab public servants that "we stand behind them all the time, and will not allow them to be harmed."

**UNIONS THREATEN STRIKES, DISRUPTIONS  
AS TREASURY DENIES WAGE INCREASES**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 12 (JTA) -- The 60,000-strong civil servants union and the Histadrut's trades unions are gearing up for a series of strikes and disruptions over the next two weeks, in order to press their demands for wage increases with the Finance Ministry.

The civil servants union has announced a warning strike at all government and municipal offices on Tuesday, while the trades unions announced Friday a statutory two-weeks' warning of a strike of the entire public sector to go into effect at the end of the month.

The wage increases are opposed by the Treasury, which fears the collapse of the economy.

In the health system, meanwhile, both government and Histadrut doctors continued their work sanctions in all public-sector hospitals.

The hospitals, complaining that they cannot continue to operate with present government per-bed subsidies, have threatened to release into the streets some 2,800 patients, including serious psychotic cases.

The hospitals charge that the per diem rate of \$20 per bed they are paid by the Health Ministry is only a fraction of the daily sum paid to government-owned mental institutions.

Among the patients they threaten to release are 150 found guilty of murder and defined as schizophrenics.

**NBC REPORTER REGAINS PRESS CARD AFTER SIX-WEEK INVESTIGATION**

JERUSALEM, June 12 (JTA) -- The Government Press Office Friday restored the press credentials of NBC correspondent Martin Fletcher, more than six weeks after first suspending them.

Fletcher's credentials and those of Washington Post correspondent Glenn Frankel were suspended on April 26, after both were accused of failing to adhere to Israeli censorship laws.

Both reporters had bypassed censors and filed stories saying that Israel's Inner Cabinet had approved the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, the second in command of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Frankel's press card was returned May 15, but the delay in returning Fletcher's card, press office director Yoram Ettinger said last month, was because of the "continuing examination being conducted by the defense establishment regarding the failure to obey Israel's censorship regulations."

Ettinger stressed that the investigation was not conducted into Fletcher's activities, but into those of NBC. The network came under fire again on May 2, when it interrupted regular programming to broadcast a bulletin reporting the Israeli incursion into southern Lebanon.

The bulletin was broadcast hours before the official announcement and possibly even before Israeli troops crossed over the border in Lebanon.

The Israeli newspaper Hadashot reported that Fletcher recommended that the report, based on American sources, not be broadcast and refused to broadcast it from Israel.

Fletcher's press card was returned after he submitted a letter stressing his awareness of censorship laws.

Fletcher is scheduled to speak on foreign media coverage of Israel at a seminar being held this week at the Hebrew University's Truman Institute.

**HIGH COURT ALLOWS ISRAELI ARMY TO EXEMPT YESHIVA STUDENTS**

JERUSALEM, June 12 (JTA) -- The High Court of Justice ruled Sunday that it would not question the authority of the defense minister to exempt yeshiva students from army service.

The court turned down an appeal by attorney Yehuda Ressler against the exemption of yeshiva students from service, a practice which has been in effect since the early days of the State of Israel.

However, Justice Aharon Barak wrote in the ruling that the appellant did have a standing in the case, and that the issue was subject to a

judicial ruling.

The defense minister, said Barak, had authority to "defer" the enlistment of yeshiva students as long as he deemed fit, for whatever the defense minister's reasoning.

The exemption of yeshiva students has been a controversial issue, ever since Premier and Defense Minister David Ben-Gurion granted the first exemptions.

Supporters of the exemption have argued that the study of Torah and its preservation have been just as important for the welfare of the state as military service.

Because of the exemption, tens of thousands of young Israelis do not fulfill any military duty, in contrast to the obligation of the majority of the Jewish population of Israel to do so.

Moreover, not all yeshiva students are exempt from the draft. Many of them, especially those identified with nationalistic religious groups, choose to fulfill their military obligations in a service which combines studies and military training.

In his ruling, Barak recommended that the Knesset adopt an explicit stand on the matter and initiate a law which would exempt yeshiva students from service rather than leave the matter to the discretion of the defense minister.

**RABIN BANS RELIGIOUS ACTIVISM IN ARMY By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, June 12 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin has banned partisan activities by religious activists in army camps.

His order followed complaints by parents that ultra-Orthodox, who have established yeshivot for "chozrei b'tshuva" (born-again or newly-religious youth), have been influencing their children, many of whom subsequently sever relations with their secular families.

Rabin ordered that soldiers shall not be allowed to organize visits to such yeshivot as part of their army service, and that spokesmen and activists for the chozrei b'tshuva movement may no longer be invited to carry out their activities in army camps.

The defense minister said that it is the task of the Israel Defense Force rabbinate alone to perform religious duties and activities inside the army.

**SINIORA, MAPAM LEADER WIN PRIZES By Ruth E. Gruber**

ROME, June 12 (JTA) -- Palestinian editor Hanna Siniora and Israeli Mapam party leader Victor Shemtov have been awarded the "Golden Dove for Peace" journalism prizes.

"I dedicate this recognition to all who have given their life for the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people," said Siniora, editor of the East Jerusalem Arab-newspaper Al Fajr.

He and Shemtov, who received a special prize for his actions toward resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict, appeared at a news conference Thursday.

Siniora said U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's Middle East peace plan lacked two fundamental points: the right of Palestinian self-determination and recognition of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians.

The prize was instituted in 1986 by the Disarmament Archive, in association with Italy's Cooperative Consumers Association.

**SHULTZ, JACKSON CRITICIZE DUKAKIS  
OVER EMBASSY MOVING TO JERUSALEM**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 12 (JTA) -- Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis came under attack over the weekend from both Secretary of State George Shultz and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, for advocating moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The embassy issue, which had not been publicly debated in the current presidential campaign as it was in 1984, moved into the open Friday when Shultz, in an appearance on NBC-TV's "Today," show, said, "It's shocking that anybody would make such a proposal."

Such a move would be a "mistake," Shultz said, since Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights "are regarded as occupied territory" and are "subject to negotiations."

Jackson, who appeared Sunday on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press," said that Shultz "is correct, and every American president has taken that position."

He said that "any unilateral move undercuts" the peace process and, like Shultz, he said a decision on Jerusalem, as well as the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, should be part of an overall Mideast settlement.

"Moving the embassy to Jerusalem would not make Israel more secure," Jackson said. "It would not be security for Israel, nor justice for the Palestinians, nor peace for both."

In Jerusalem, Mayor Teddy Kollek dismissed Dukakis' proposal, predicting that Arab pressure would corrupt any practical effort to implement such a decision.

Speaking in a radio interview Saturday, Kollek said he preferred, instead, to dwell on his anger over the U.S. State Department's travel advisory to U.S. citizens some months ago which, he said, had directly contributed to the drop-off in tourism to Jerusalem.

"Let them change this first, instead of all this talk about the embassy," Kollek said.

**Implied Embassy Move**

Dukakis, who has won enough delegates to ensure him winning the Democratic nomination for the presidency, had never directly called for moving the embassy during the current campaign.

But he appeared to imply that the embassy should be moved to Jerusalem in an interview in the Los Angeles Times May 26.

"If Israel wants its capital in Jerusalem, then as far as I am concerned, its capital is in Jerusalem," Dukakis said.

He went on to say that "it's a basic principle of doing business with other nations. They say their capital is in 'X,' then that's where we go."

Dukakis said that he accepts the legitimacy of Israel's control over all of Jerusalem, and that this is not negotiable "except for the rights of religious groups, which are rights that Israel has accepted."

When Dukakis was questioned in Boston about the Shultz remarks Friday, he first repeated his earlier statement. But when pressed, he said that if Jerusalem is Israel's capital, that is where the embassy should be.

Later, his campaign headquarters in Boston issued a statement which called Shultz's remarks "disturbing."

"The secretary would deny to Israel, our

staunch friend and ally, the right he grants to East Germany: the right to choose its own capital," the statement said.

The deputy issues-director for the Dukakis campaign, James Steinberg, said, "Gov. Dukakis believes that Jerusalem is and should remain the undivided capital of Israel under Israeli control."

**Ruin the Peace Process**

Shultz, in his NBC-TV interview, appeared to agree that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, while stressing that for the U.S. to officially acknowledge this by moving its embassy there would "ruin" the peace process.

"Our view is that Jerusalem must remain a unified city -- that is the United States position -- but that its status remains subject to negotiations."

"I have no doubt that the capital of Israel will stay there, will be a unified city, and so on. But in the meantime, if you want to proceed with negotiations, you don't wind up in effect declaring an outcome that hasn't been agreed to yet."

Hyman Bookbinder, special Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee who plans to join the Dukakis campaign, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "it would not be improper" to read into the governor's statement that he favored moving the embassy.

"It's fair to say that as president, he (Dukakis) would implement this and he ought to," he added.

He noted that Madeleine Albright, the Georgetown University professor who is Dukakis' senior foreign policy adviser, has said recently in interviews that Dukakis has stated publicly for years that he favors having the embassy in Jerusalem.

The question of moving the U.S. Embassy has not been an issue this year as it was in 1984, when former Vice President Walter Mondale and former Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.) spent most of the campaign in the New York Democratic primary arguing over who had been the first to advocate the move.

Bookbinder said he was surprised that Shultz "came down so hard" on Dukakis. He noted that at least part of Jerusalem was Israel's capital from 1948 until the city was reunified in the 1967 Six-Day War.

"It's never been justifiable," even before 1967, that the United States should not recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, Bookbinder said.

He said the only excuse has been that "it would irritate the Arabs," although he noted the United States has frequently irritated them by, for example, its vetoes of anti-Israel resolutions in the United Nations Security Council.

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

**FRANCE ERECTS STATUE TO DREYFUS**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 12 (JTA) -- A statue of Alfred Dreyfus, the Jewish captain accused of treason and demoted in 1895 by French anti-Semitic army officers, was unveiled last week in Paris by Minister of Culture Jack Lang.

It is the first statue in France dedicated to the young officer who inspired Emile Zola to write his famous "J'Accuse."

The 10-foot high bronze statue has been erected in the gardens of the Tuilleries, the former Louvre Royal Palace.

**FRANCE ISSUES ARREST WARRANT FOR EX-NAZI ALOIS BRUNNER**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 12 (JTA) -- France has issued an international arrest warrant against Nazi war criminal Alois Brunner, now living in exile in Syria.

Paris investigating magistrate Claude Grellier issued the warrant Friday on charges of "crimes against humanity," and asked all foreign governments to cooperate in bringing Brunner to trial.

Grellier also plans to ask Syria for Brunner's extradition.

Syria has refused West Germany's request to extradite Brunner, who has variously been reported living in Syria since 1956, '58 and '60. Sources in West Germany have said Brunner's exact location in Damascus has been documented since June 22, 1960.

Syria has also rejected extradition requests from East Germany and Austria.

Syria has variously refused to cooperate or has summarily replied, "There is no Brunner living in the country."

In November, presidential hopeful Rev. Jesse Jackson, at the request of Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld, sent a letter to Syrian President Hafez Assad asking for Brunner's extradition to West Germany as a "morally correct action."

Serge Klarsfeld, Beate's husband, began the process for Brunner's extradition on Dec. 4, 1987, when he lodged a formal complaint on behalf of some of Brunner's victims and a handful of survivors.

Brunner is a former SS hauptsturmfuhrer who was responsible for the deportation of over 100,000 Jews from France, Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Greece.

According to Klarsfeld, who helped track down Brunner in Damascus in 1982, the ex-Nazi is the most important war criminal still at large. "Brunner is Barbie 10 times over," Klarsfeld said.

Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal traced Brunner to Damascus in the late 1950s. It was Serge Klarsfeld, however, who actually located Brunner, living at 7 Haddad Street, in 1982.

**LE PEN DEFEATED IN MARSEILLE; NATIONAL FRONT NEAR ELIMINATION**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 12 (JTA) -- Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of France's extreme right wing, was defeated in Marseille in Sunday's legislative election, and his party, the National Front, was practically eliminated from the next National Assembly.

According to television projections Saturday night, the National Front will probably have a total of two deputies in the 577-seat assembly. This stands in sharp contrast to the 33 deputies the National Front had in the outgoing Parliament.

The vicissitudes of Le Pen's National Front in this year's elections have been marked by roller-coaster ups and downs. Le Pen himself lost in the Marseille 8th district, in which he had scored over 30 percent in the first round of the presidential elections last month.

In that bout, Le Pen defeated a local Socialist candidate in a heavy campaign marked by underlying racism.

Sunday's elections were too close to call. Socialists and conservatives were running neck-

and-neck, with the outcome of the general elections likely to be a hung Parliament, according to computer projections.

Polls were predicting 265 to 285 seats for both President Francois Mitterrand's Socialist Party and the center-right alliance of the Union for French Democracy and the Rally for the Republic.

A total of 289 seats is needed to claim a majority in the National Assembly, which is the lower house of Parliament.

Le Pen said on television Saturday night that in spite of his and his party's defeats, he will continue to wage an electoral battle.

He is already preparing for the forthcoming municipal elections scheduled for next spring.

**EAST GERMANY DENIED TRADE STATUS; RIGHTS, NOT REPARATIONS, AT ISSUE**  
By David Kantor

BONN, June 12 (JTA) -- The U.S. State Department Saturday rebuffed East Germany in its apparent efforts to be accorded most-favored-nation trade status, despite its stated readiness to make available some \$100 million in reparations to Jewish survivors of the Holocaust.

Speaking with reporters in Potsdam, East Germany, Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead said that the United States links most-favored-nation status in trade relations to a country's record on human rights.

It has become increasingly apparent in the last week that East Germany has been seeking a change in its trade status as part of a package that would include assistance to Jewish survivors.

Last Monday, East German leader Erich Honecker met with the leader of West Germany's Jewish community, Heinz Galinski, to iron out details of a plan that would make 100 million marks (\$58 million) available to victims of Nazism.

Responding to reporters' questions, Whitehead said it remains up to East Germany to tear down the Berlin Wall, the concrete barrier that has become a symbol of the communist country's repression of dissidents and others.

Whitehead also noted that there were no plans for a visit to Washington by Honecker.

The East Germans were said to be pressing for such a visit, in order to broaden their base of legitimacy and improve their relations with the United States. It was hoped that a reparations agreement could pave the way.

In a shift of its long-standing policy, East Germany made known last year, and confirmed last Monday, that it was ready to compensate Jewish survivors of the Holocaust.

Negotiations are taking place in the United States between the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and a delegation headed by East Germany's ambassador to Washington.

But East Germany has increasingly linked this new policy to possible trade arrangements, which would facilitate its access to the American market.

Top officials in East Germany, including Honecker, repeatedly mentioned that a lack of hard Western currency could be a factor jeopardizing the reparations payments.

On Friday, Whitehead spoke in Potsdam with Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer about the reparations. Whitehead reported that the issue was still "wide open," with both sides unsure how much would be paid and how the money would be available to survivors.