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BLOODY CLASH NEAR BETHLEHEM LEAVES AT LEAST FOUR DEAD By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 13 (JTA) — As security forces stepped up efforts to prevent a repeat of violence during Friday prayers on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, violence erupted Thursday near Bethlehem.

At least four Arabs died and 12 were wounded in one of the bloodiest clashes since the uprising in the administered territories began 16 months ago.

The incident deflated hopes that the intifada, as Palestinians call the uprising, is waning.

The confrontation took place in the village of Nahalin, southwest of Bethlehem, Thursday, during a "routine search and arrest operation."

Palestinians termed the clash a "massacre."

According to Palestinian sources, five people died and 20 were wounded as border police opened fire on rioters. Five of the wounded were in the intensive-care unit of an East Jerusalem hospital.

It was still unclear Thursday evening what had caused the tragic event, at a time when the army's declared policy is to avoid "unnecessary confrontations" with the local population.

Maj. Gen. Amram Mitzna, Israel Defense Force commander of the central region, appointed a brigadier general and two other senior officers to investigate the incident.

He said that in this case, he would not be satisfied with the normal military investigations conducted after fatal confrontations with the local population.

Responded To An 'Ambush'

But at a news conference after the preliminary investigation was completed, Mitzna said a company of 30 border police officers was forced to fire at village residents, after "many residents, mostly youths, prepared an ambush against the border policemen, using exceptional force."

The officers used live ammunition, said Mitzna, after tear gas and rubber bullets failed to disperse the attackers.

Mitzna said that the army departed from a recent policy of not interfering in remote villages and initiated the raid on Nahalin, because residents there had been responsible for a number of firebomb and stone-throwing attacks on the Bethlehem-Hebron road and on the road leading to the nearby settlement of Hadar Beitur.

Reporters who managed to enter Nahalin, despite the curfew imposed by the army, reported that the village looked like the aftermath of a war battle: The streets were strewn with rocks and bloodstains covered the area outside the mosque, apparently the site of the clash between the youths and the security forces.

According to local residents, trouble began when a jeep-load of border police officers entered the village early Thursday morning, escorted by settlers, just as residents were eating breakfast before beginning their daytime Ramadan fast.

But Mitzna said that to the best of his knowledge, no Jewish civilians were on the scene during the incident.

Mitzna noted that Nahalin has been known

as a "troublesome" village and that several of those killed and wounded were known as activists, among them members of the Moslem fundamentalist Hamas movement.

As soon as news of the clash spread to Bethlehem and neighboring villages, a general strike was called, and youths took to the street, sparking new clashes with the security forces.

The bloody confrontation in Nahalin wrapped up an exceptionally violent week, which began last Friday with riots on the Temple Mount and reached another climax two days later, when a still unidentified gunman shot to death an Arab man near Jaffa Gate in the Old City, wounding two others.

HUSSEIN WILL GO TO FRANCE, U.S. **CARRYING A NEW ARAB PEACE PLAN** By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 13 (JTA) — King Hussein of Jordan will meet with France's President Francois Mitterrand next week to try to obtain European backing for a new Middle East peace plan that would combine local elections in the Israeli-administered territories, as proposed by Israel, and an international peace conference, as advocated by the Arab world.

Hussein, who conferred Wednesday in Jordan with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, will meet Mitterrand on Monday while on his way to the United States. The Jordanian monarch is due to meet with President Bush on April 19.

Diplomatic sources say Hussein and Mubarak have reportedly decided not to reject Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's proposal for elections in the territories. Instead, Hussein reportedly will ask for additional clarifications and try to combine this proposal with that of an international peace conference.

The sources say that an international conference is envisioned as the second phase of the new Arab peace plan, following elections in the territories.

Although no details of the plan have been made public, it is believed that it calls for a Palestinian delegation that would be made up of both Palestine Liberation Organization officials and the Palestinian representatives elected from the territories.

The sources say that Hussein and Mubarak feel that top priority must be given to keeping the peace momentum going to avoid a stagnation in the American-Palestinian talks in Tunis and a freezing of the current situation.

ARAFAT TO MEET WITH U.N. CHIEF, **REQUESTS RECOGNITION OF PLO STATE** By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, April 13 (JTA) — Yasir Arafat is expected to arrive here next Wednesday to discuss the Middle East peace process with United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The Palestine Liberation Organization leader, meanwhile, has written as "president of the State of Palestine" to the director general of the World Health Organization, asking that the U.N. body confer the status of sovereign state on Palestine.

American sources believe that the measure

will pass when WHO holds its annual conference here on May 8.

Meanwhile, in a letter dated April 7, Arafat has formally asked the WHO director general, Hiroshi Nakajima, to officially recognize Palestine as a sovereign state.

WHO will have no choice but to bring this request to a vote during the assembly. And U.S. sources say that the motion will almost certainly pass because of the majority held by Third World countries in the international organization.

SHAMIR ASSAILS U.S. NEWS MEDIA FOR ITS COVERAGE OF THE UPRISING By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 13 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir chided the American news media Thursday for failing to understand that the Palestinian uprising is not civil disobedience, but a continuation of the Arab war against Israel.

"I believe that in the rush to portray the riots as a confrontation between the Israeli Goliath and the Palestinian David, the media has missed the essential meaning of the uprising," Shamir said in a speech to the annual convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

"It is a form of warfare directed against us and against Arabs who live in peace with us," he said.

Shamir said the media have missed the point because of a failure to understand the Arab culture and "the difficulty in putting events in historical perspective."

To illustrate his point, Shamir said that two weeks after Yasser Arafat announced he was renouncing terrorism and seeking coexistence with Israel, he told his branch of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Al Fatah, that he seeks "the peace of Saladin."

The Arabs see Saladin as the hero who attacked the Crusaders in Palestine, "concluded an armistice and finally attacked them again until they were totally driven out," Shamir said.

He said Arafat was assuring his listeners that he was trying to achieve in stages the destruction of Israel.

Double Standard For Israel

A similar statement that a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would only be a stage in the struggle for all of Palestine was made recently by Nabil Shaath, chairman of the Palestine National Council's political committee.

Shaath was scheduled to address the newspaper editors before Shamir, but because of Israeli protests, his talks was rescheduled.

Shamir said the media had used the words "occupied territory" for so long that "there is a whole generation of people who believe that one day in 1967 Israel decided to attack its neighbors and occupy their land."

The prime minister said that Israel as a democracy should be held to a higher standard than its neighbors. But instead, it is held to "not a higher standard, but a double standard."

An editor from Wichita, Kan., accused Israel of "a despicable policy" of arresting "innocent" people, bulldozing homes and killing and injuring Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shamir responded that none of those arrested is innocent. "We don't want to kill anyone," he said. "Any Arab who is killed is a blow for us, very painful for us."

U.S. JEWISH LEADERS GRILL SHAMIR DURING CJF BROADCAST By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, April 13 (JTA) -- Even as they praised Yitzhak Shamir for his success in shoring up Israel's image during his talks with the Bush administration, Jewish leaders in 15 cities challenged the Israeli prime minister Wednesday with some of the toughest questioning of his 10-day visit.

Would Shamir be willing to trade land for peace? Is he prepared to make any concessions to achieve a settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Is his stated opposition to a Palestinian state already a violation of his own claims for "no preconditions"?

The questions came during a live closed-circuit broadcast Wednesday afternoon carried by the Council of Jewish Federations Satellite Network. They were surprising in that they came not from confrontational journalists, but from members of the mainstream U.S. Jewish leadership.

Shamir's answers, in turn, displayed the new-found gift for public relations that made his Washington visit a success.

For example, when asked by Boston lay leader Joshua Katzen about land for peace, a smiling Shamir replied, "I think there is not a need for any theoretical formulas."

'Rely On Us'

Shamir, who has in the past declared that he would relinquish "not one inch" of the West Bank or Gaza Strip, said that both sides will be able to present their proposals, "without any preconditions," during a second stage of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations to follow elections in the territories.

The purpose of such talks, he said, "has got to be a solution that would be acceptable to both parties."

A stalwart opponent of land for peace called in with concerns about Shamir's moderate-sounding language.

"Can we rely on you to hold firm?" asked Dr. Ivor Robinson, representing the Zionist Organization of America in Dallas.

"All of us are concerned that with this proposal we are taking risks. Sometimes you have to take risks," said Shamir.

"But we know very well our interest and the demands of our interest. So please, my friend, rely on us."

OFFICIAL ENCOURAGED BY SHAMIR PLAN By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, April 13 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposal for Palestinian elections on the West Bank is "encouraging" and should "not be rejected out of hand," Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said Thursday.

"It is important that all of those who are committed to peace -- Arabs, Israelis, Americans -- not reject out of hand the idea that Mr. Shamir has brought and that we work constructively together to give it a fair hearing," he told a major leadership meeting of the United Jewish Appeal.

The proposal "went beyond Camp David, that is, elections before an agreement on transitional arrangements, not after. That is a major step forward," he said.

ISRAEL TO RECEIVE LARGER SHARE OF FUNDS RAISED FOR SOVIET JEWS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 13 (JTA) -- Israel will receive a larger share of the \$75 million being raised to aid the resettlement of Soviet Jews, under an agreement hammered out Wednesday by the Jewish Agency for Israel, the United Jewish Appeal and the Council of Jewish Federations.

The deal was announced Wednesday afternoon in a joint statement by Mendel Kaplan, chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, and Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-Jewish Agency Executive.

The statement was issued after a meeting of the Jewish Agency Executive convened to discuss the \$75 million "Passage to Freedom" campaign begun earlier this year to meet the needs of Soviet Jews immigrating both to Israel and the United States.

High-level UJA and CJF officials sit on the Jewish Agency Executive.

The meeting was held in the wake of angry comments Sunday by Dinitz, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, that Israel was being treated as a "junior partner" in the nationwide fund-raising effort on behalf of Soviet emigres.

Dinitz said that rather than receiving half of the funds raised in the special campaign, as promised, Israel is actually receiving only 25 percent.

The special campaign was begun in March to help pay the costs of resettling the thousands of Soviet Jews who have been pouring out of the Soviet Union this year.

The Executive agreed Wednesday to an "adjustment" of how monies raised in the campaign are to be distributed between Israel and the United States.

NYANA Funds Switched

According to the original terms of the campaign, half of the funds raised were to remain in the United States to help the cities expecting the largest influx of immigrants.

The other half was to be used for "overseas needs," which included not only absorption of Jews in Israel, but the work done by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Italy, a way station for Soviet emigres, and by the New York Association for New Americans in the United States.

NYANA has been handling 55 percent of the Soviet Jews arriving in the United States. Although its services are technically domestic, the agency has been a recipient of UJA overseas funds since 1949.

To ensure that the major share of the special campaign's \$37.5 million for overseas operations goes to Israel, funds slated for NYANA will be met from the U.S. portion of the \$75 million.

In New York, Mark Handelman, executive vice president of NYANA, said the adjustment will not affect the agency, since its yearly needs are already assured by a committee made up of JDC and United Israel Appeal representatives.

While the debate in Washington appeared to be a technical wrangle over funds, it was actually a reflection of deeper concerns over the principles of Zionism itself.

Jewish leaders in Israel and the Diaspora alike agree that Israel should be the destination

of all Jews, especially, but not exclusively, those being persecuted. However, only 10 percent of the Jews leaving the Soviet Union are choosing to live in Israel.

As Dinitz made clear in his interview with JTA, Israelis fear that by using the UJA mechanism to pay for resettling Jews in the United States, American fund-raisers and contributors are undermining the centrality of Israel.

(JTA staff writer Andrew Silow Carroll in New York contributed to this report.)

THORNBURGH DEFENDS U.S. REFUSAL TO ADMIT SOME JEWS AS REFUGEES

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, April 13 (JTA) -- Attorney General Dick Thornburgh on Thursday defended the U.S. decision to refuse to admit some Soviet Jews to the United States as refugees.

Prior to last fall, Soviet Jews wishing to immigrate to the United States were automatically granted refugee status. But since Sept. 14, 1,470 Soviet Jews have been denied entry as refugees, on the grounds that they could not prove to have a "well-founded fear of persecution."

"No longer were we dealing exclusively with the identified dissidents, the classic refuseniks, those persons who had a clear, well-founded fear of persecution, who had in fact been persecuted," Thornburgh told disgruntled United Jewish Appeal leaders here.

"We were faced with a larger number of persons who sought to come to the United States for family and economic reasons, and under the case-by-case examination requirements of the law, these determinations, in an increasing number of cases, were adverse," the attorney general explained.

Sylvia Hassenfeld, president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, told Thornburgh that "there is a long history of incipient anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union."

Describing career-related discrimination, she said that Soviet Jewish adults are "not able to climb up the ladder. They would be able to climb up with the same skills in an open society, and again I say to you, 'Isn't that persecution?'"

Thornburgh responded that under U.S. law, refugee status cannot be granted to entire classes of people in a given country. Such status has to be granted on a case-by-case basis.

'Subtle' Kinds Of Persecution

He said, however, that Soviet Jews "have a special status" as potential refugees and immigrants because they have faced "subtle kinds of covert persecution that have been characteristic of the long history of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union."

One effort being made is to provide additional information to Immigration and Naturalization Service adjudicators on the history of Jews in the Soviet Union, he said.

Martin Stein, chairman of the UJA board of trustees, complained to Thornburgh that the flow of Soviet Jewish refugees to the United States is too slow.

"One of the things that is eating up a lot of the money that we could use for resettlement in the States or wherever is the fact that we are spending it in Italy," where 9,000 Soviet Jews are waiting entry to the United States, he said.

Thornburgh responded that the INS recently increased the number of its adjudicators in Rome.

SHARANSKY STILL THE CHOICE FOR U.N. AMBASSADORSHIP

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 13 (JTA) — Natan Sharansky is still the Foreign Ministry's preferred candidate for the vacant post of Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said Thursday.

Arens gave this affirmation a day after the ministry appointments committee failed to take up the U.N. post in its discussion of a batch of new appointments to go into effect later this year.

Sharansky's candidacy aroused controversy here and abroad when it was first mentioned some months ago by Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Netanyahu was not present at the appointments committee Wednesday because he has been sent by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to Ottawa to brief the Canadian government on the peace proposals Shamir presented to President Bush last week in Washington.

Among those nominated by the committee is former Israeli air force fighter ace Ron Pecker, who will be consul general in Los Angeles.

Pecker is a relative hard-liner on the issue of the territories and gave his help to the Likud during last year's election campaign.

CHENEY TELLS JEWISH LEADERS HE'S PLEASED WITH TIES TO ISRAEL

By Susan Blinbaum

NEW YORK, April 13 (JTA) — In his first meeting with Jewish leaders since taking office as defense secretary, Dick Cheney declared himself to be pleased with the level of military and strategic cooperation with Israel.

Cheney held a one-hour meeting Wednesday with World Jewish Congress leaders, including Edgar Bronfman, president; Israel Singer, secretary-general; and Elan Steinberg, executive director of the organization.

Steinberg, reached by telephone as he was flying here from Washington, said the meeting was a general discussion of political and strategic affairs with a particular focus on East-West relations and the Middle East.

He said Cheney was especially interested in the WJC leaders' observations on changes in Eastern Europe.

Discussing his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Cheney told them he was "pleased with these talks and indicated that the level of aid (to Israel) for the forthcoming year will remain where it is," Steinberg said.

BUREAUCRATIC SNAG HOLDS UP EGYPTIAN PAYMENT SETTLEMENT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 13 (JTA) — Contradictory regulations in the Israeli and Egyptian legal systems prevented the final settlement of compensation to the families of the victims of the 1985 Ras Burka massacre.

The last-minute hitch on Wednesday forced some of the intended recipients to leave empty-handed from the payment ceremony at the Israel Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

The matter was to be discussed in Cairo by senior Israeli and Egyptian officials.

The Ras Burka incident occurred Oct. 5, 1985, when Suliman Khater, a 25-year-old Egypt-

tian border policeman, killed seven Israelis — including four children — in a random act of violence in the eastern Sinai town.

Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Basiouny and embassy officials came to the ministry and met with the families, paying out about half of the approximately \$700,000 in compensation.

ABBIE HOFFMAN, DEAD AT 52, WAS ACTIVIST WITH JEWISH SOUL

By Eili Wohlgelester

NEW YORK, April 13 (JTA) — Abbie Hoffman, a leading activist, author and to many the very symbol of the hippie movement of the 1960s, died of unknown causes Wednesday night in his bed at home. He was 52.

Hoffman, the Yippie Party founder who was arrested 42 times, said he based his life of rebellion on his Jewish consciousness.

"Intellectual arrogance and moral indignation grow out of the ghetto history," he wrote in "Soon To Be A Major Motion Picture," his 1980 autobiography.

"For 5,000 years, Jews always had the opportunity to rebel against authority, because for 5,000 years there was always someone trying to break their backs."

Born Nov. 30, 1936, in Worcester, Mass., the son of a pharmaceutical salesman, Hoffman exhibited early on his penchant for the theatrical, showing off for his relatives at family meals that often included 30 people.

Of his mother, he said, "She understood and forgave a lot. She knew I was a 'bandit'."

Hoffman saw his destiny intertwined with Judaism, though not from a religious standpoint.

"Judaism has never been so much a religion to me as a noble history and a cluster of stereotypes. Jews, especially first-born male Jews, have to make a big choice very quickly in life whether to go for the money or to go for broke."

Hoffman never made a lot of money, preferring to eschew the life of the yuppie in order to remain loyal to his roots as a Yippie. It conformed with his self-identity as the perennial outsider, a role he viewed as an extension of his Jewishness.

"As a kid, I went to the rabbis and said, 'What do you think of Philip Roth or Norman Mailer or Joseph Heller, you know, those kinds of writers,'" Hoffman told the New Jewish Times newspaper in 1980.

"They would say, 'Not good for the Jews. Too much self-ridicule, too much mockery.' But I think this is the destiny for the Jews: to be rebels, to question society. And to be funny. We're philosophers and comedians."

It was that combination of rebel and comedian that impelled Hoffman to become the clown prince of the protest movement. It was he who coined the phrase, "Never trust anyone over 30."

Hoffman first gained national prominence as a member of the Chicago Seven, a group of radicals who stood trial on charges of conspiring to disrupt the 1968 Democratic Convention.

During the trial, Hoffman would continuously taunt the judge, Julius Hoffman (no relation), calling him a "shtunk" and a "shander fur de goyim," an embarrassment for the Jews.

But throughout his life, it was clear his personal and social consciousness was formed by his Jewishness. "I came into this world acutely aware of being Jewish," he wrote, "and I'm sure I'll go out that way."