

# **IDF THWARTS SOPHISTICATED ATTEMPT TO INFILTRATE GALILEE FROM LEBANON**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 29 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force thwarted a well-organized terrorist attempt early Sunday morning to infiltrate Upper Galilee through the southern Lebanon security zone.

Two terrorists were killed and two were wounded in the clash with IDF soldiers, which occurred less than four miles from the Israeli border, between El-Khiam village and Marjayoun.

Two others may have escaped, IDF sources said. There were no casualties among IDF troops or the South Lebanon Army unit that assisted them.

Military sources described the attempted infiltration as one of the most sophisticated and best equipped operations of its kind.

It included a diversionary Katyusha rocket attack on Saturday night on the Galilee panhandle town of Metulla, in which an 8-month-old boy, Assaf Savitzky, received slight injuries from flying glass.

The terrorists were apparently a mixed gang of Palestinians and members of the Lebanese Shiite extremist group Hezbollah (Party of God).

IDF sources said interrogation of the captured terrorists and papers found on them established that the objective of the infiltration was to invade Metulla and kill as many Israeli civilians as possible.

Most terrorist infiltration attempts in the North are for the purpose of taking hostages or sabotage, but this was for sheer murder, the IDF sources said.

The infiltrators used bangalore torpedoes and wire-cutters to penetrate the border fences. They were equipped with Kalashnikov assault rifles, dozens of hand grenades and LAW anti-tank missiles, and plentiful supplies of food and water, the IDF said.

## **Two Factions Claim Credit**

The gunmen were dressed commando-style and wore black jackets and headbands with slogans typical of Hezbollah, such as "God is great," "We are on our way to Jerusalem" and "Down with Hussein," the king of Jordan.

Two radical groups within the Palestine Liberation Organization but opposed to Yasir Arafat's peace initiative issued a joint statement Sunday in Beirut claiming credit for the aborted attack.

They are George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Damascus-based faction of the Palestine Liberation Front led by Talaat Yacub.

The mother of the infant in Metulla told reporters a Katyusha rocket landed in their garden, less than a yard from the window of the room where Assaf was sleeping.

She said the child was saved from serious injury by flying glass, because he was heavily blanketed against the chilly weather. The child was hospitalized and discharged after being treated for cuts and scratches.

In southern Lebanon, meanwhile, panic was reported in areas just north of the security zone,

where residents fled in fear of possible Israeli reprisals.

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon reported, "low-level supersonic flights" over the area by Israeli fighter planes.

Touring the Metulla region Monday, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin issued a stern warning to villagers north of the security zone to avoid assisting attempted terrorist attacks against Israel.

Repeating his oft-stated policy, Rabin said, "If we cannot live peacefully, they will not live peacefully, too."

# **DERANGED JORDANIAN INFILTRATOR KILLED IN GUNFIGHT WITH SOLDIERS**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 29 (JTA) -- An apparently deranged Jordanian soldier was killed by two Israel Defense Force soldiers early Saturday morning, in a brief gunfight in the Beit She'an Valley, east of Kibbutz Hamadiya.

The IDF soldiers, one of them a Bedouin tracker, were slightly wounded.

An official Jordanian announcement described the intruder as a "mentally disturbed deserter" who abandoned his observation post on the east bank of the Jordan River and crossed into Israel.

Gen. Amram Mitzna, commander of the central region, noted that this was the IDF's third clash in the past 18 months with intruders from Jordan.

He stressed, however, that the Jordanian authorities have taken active measures to prevent hostile acts.

According to the IDF, the Israeli soldiers were on routine patrol along the border fence near the Jordan River bank.

The tracker, checking the fence in advance of an army command car, heard the noise of a rifle being cocked. He opened fire in the direction of the sound just as the gunman fired on him and on a second IDF soldier running to his aid.

The body of a Jordanian soldier with an M-16 rifle was found in nearby bushes.

## **BOOBY-TRAPPED FLAG INJURES SETTLER**

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, May 29 (JTA) -- A 26-year-old recent immigrant from the United States was seriously injured by a booby-trapped Israeli flag Sunday near his home in the West Bank settlement of Har Bracha.

The victim, Simcha Walker, was taken by ambulance to Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikva, where he underwent emergency surgery.

He was wounded in the wrist and stomach, and he lost a considerable amount of blood. Doctors worked three hours to try to save his nearly severed hand.

Walker noticed the Israeli flag on a roadside. It was defaced with a swastika and fastened to a large stone.

When he tried to pry the flag loose to take it to the settlement security officer, a pipe bomb filled with nails and metal fragments exploded.

Walker has a daughter and a wife, who is expecting their second child shortly.

# BAKER URGES PALESTINIANS TO CONSIDER ELECTION PLAN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 29 (JTA) -- Secretary of State James Baker, having pointedly told Israel last week that it must eventually give up the West Bank and Gaza Strip, urged Palestinians on Sunday to discuss with Israel the proposal for elections put forth by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"We are pressing the Palestinians in every way we know how," Baker said, in an appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press" from Rome.

Baker said this is being done through U.S. talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization in Tunis. "We have suggested to the PLO that they permit the Palestinians in the occupied territories to engage Israel on this question of elections," he said.

Baker said that the United States has some differences with Israel over some aspects of the election proposals, in which the Palestinians would choose representatives to negotiate with Israel on self-rule.

"But, as a vehicle for moving toward peace in the Middle East, we think it was a very, very good effort and we are very pleased with it," he said.

Baker said this is why "it's important that this election proposal be followed up on. That means one thing that will be required, of course, is that the PLO in Tunis give the green light to Palestinians in the territories to engage with Israel so we can develop this proposal and move into a broader political dialogue."

Baker maintained that his speech last Monday to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee was "very, very balanced."

Although Baker urged the Palestinians and the Arab countries to abandoned anti-Israel positions, most of the public attention on the speech was focused on his call for Israel to abandon the idea of annexing the territories and to stop Jewish settlements there.

# ISRAEL WON'T RETURN TO '67 LINES, ARENS SAYS IN RESPONSE TO BAKER

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 29 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, apparently stung by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's blunt speech on May 22, urged the United States on Monday not to foster illusions among the Arabs about what they could achieve in a political settlement.

Arens spoke at the end of a Knesset debate, the main subject of which was Baker's speech, delivered a week ago at the annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee in Washington.

In the speech, Baker warned the Israelis to discard the "unrealistic vision" of a Greater Israel, eschew annexation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and cease settlement activity in those territories.

On Monday, Arens vowed that Israel would never withdraw to its pre-June 1967 borders or ever accept a Palestinian state.

He rebuked Baker for publicly airing Israel's differences with Washington on the delicate matter of final borders. He said a united Israel would resist pressure to pull back to the 1967 borders.

Arens also insisted that Jews have a right to settle anywhere in "Eretz Yisrael."

# SHAMIR DELAYING A LIKUD SHOWDOWN OVER PEACE PLAN COLLEAGUES OPPOSE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 29 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, facing fierce opposition within his own party to the idea of Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, seemed Monday to back off from a showdown in the Likud Central Committee over the peace plan he has tried to sell to the United States and Western Europe.

Shamir, who had just returned from a week-long visit to Britain and Spain, told reporters he would bring the plan before Likud's policy-making body "if and when there is a need to decide."

He described the initiative, in its present stage, as just "an unhatched egg" and implied he would prefer to defer a decision in Likud until there is an Arab partner ready to accept it.

Shamir replied "no comment" when asked if he thought it likely that the Central Committee would never be convened to debate the plan.

The Prime Minister's Office later said officially that a date would soon be set for a Central Committee discussion.

Shamir's remarks brought angry protests from the Labor side of the unity government, which backs the initiative, and from Likud hard-liners, who oppose it.

Communications Minister Gad Ya'acobi of Labor warned that his party would consider bringing the government down if the initiative fails to materialize.

Ehud Olmert, a Herut minister without portfolio who is close to Shamir, insisted that the prime minister is not "scared off" by Likud opposition to his plan. He said that if debate within the party was deferred it would be only for a matter of weeks.

But Tzahi Hanegbi, a Herut Knesset member who normally supports Shamir, is firmly against the plan.

"Frankly, I do not understand the prime minister's logic," he said. "He submits the plan to the Cabinet, to the Knesset, to the United States, France, United Kingdom and Spain."

"He calls it a 'breakthrough.' And now he says it is an 'unhatched egg,'" Hanegbi remarked.

# TOLEDO GIVES SHAMIR A BREAKFAST, BUT SPANIARDS END UP EATING CROW

By David Kantor

TOLEDO, Spain, May 29 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir prevented a faux pas here over the weekend, from escalating into a political disaster between Israel and Spain, which established full diplomatic relations only three years ago.

The incident occurred in the Parador, the elegant state-run guest house overlooking the ancient part of this town, which is known for its rich Jewish heritage.

There the visiting Israeli premier was served a breakfast of bacon and eggs, which he firmly but politely declined.

Shamir's hosts apologized profusely for the inadvertent serving of the non-kosher dish. They explained that the chef was not aware of the Jewish dietary laws.

Shamir arrived here by helicopter from Madrid, where he had meetings last week with Spanish government leaders.

**JEWISH VIGILANTISM AGAINST ARABS  
ANNOYS ARMY, DIVIDES POLITICIANS**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 29 (JTA) -- Police reported Monday that a group of Jewish settlers shot and wounded four Arabs in two West Bank villages to avenge a rock-throwing attack.

The incident is the latest indication of the recent escalation of settler reprisals against Arabs in the administered territories.

The settlers' actions, and the resulting confrontations with the Israel Defense Force, are splitting the Cabinet and Knesset along party and ideological lines.

Gen. Dan Shomron, the IDF chief of staff, abandoned his usual composure at the Cabinet's weekly session Sunday to tell the ministers that he was fed up with the behavior of the settlers.

He charged that their vigilante tactics have worsened the security situation in territories, and he asserted that the IDF needs no help from them to maintain order.

Shomron's remarks followed a series of violent acts against Arabs in Hebron by residents of the adjacent township of Kiryat Arba.

Jewish settlers from the West Bank settlement of Ma'aleh Adumim rampaged on two successive nights through Eizariya, an Arab suburb of Jerusalem, causing considerable property damage.

The incidents were triggered by rock-throwing assaults on Jewish vehicles. Settlers in northern Samaria also attempted reprisals on Arab villagers.

The chief of staff expressed his displeasure with the settlers in the face of powerful pro-settler factions in the Cabinet and Knesset.

**'It Makes The Arabs Rejoice'**

Several ministers professed "understanding" for their unruly conduct.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens of Likud said it was "unacceptable" that the settlers of Ma'aleh Adumim could not travel to Jerusalem without being stoned.

Health Minister Ya'acov Tsur of the Labor Party warned of the "Lebanonization" of the administered territories. "If the IDF finds itself daily separating Jews and Arabs, Israel will face disaster," he warned.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said that there was no justification whatsoever for any confrontation between settlers and the IDF.

"Jews and Jews should not fight each other, for it makes the Arabs rejoice," Shamir told reporters Monday after a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

"Have we gone mad?" he asked.

There was a clash Sunday between some members of the Knesset committee who were visiting Hebron and militant settlers there. Other committee members sided with the settlers and hurled invectives at their Knesset colleagues.

The verbal brawl arose when Yossi Sarid of the dovish Citizens Rights Movement objected to the fact that the committee members were briefed by Ze'ev Friedman, a convicted member of a Jewish terrorist underground who served time in prison for his role in the murder of Palestinians.

"A person who was involved in murder will not tell me about Hebron," Sarid told Friedman, now a leader of the Jewish enclave in Hebron.

Geula Cohen of the right-wing party Tehiya turned on Sarid, shouting, "Go back to the PLO, you fifth columnist."

Another settler leader, Rabbi Moshe Levinger of Hebron, who is under indictment for murdering an Arab, accused all of the Labor Party Knesset members of being "enemies of Israel."

Pressure from Likud, which is sympathetic to the settlers, drew a promise from their leaders Sunday night to refrain from clashes with the army.

The settlers have long criticized the security forces for alleged lack of adequate protection and have demanded harsher measures to suppress the Palestinian uprising.

Senior IDF officers, for their part, have complained bitterly that the army is being diverted from its vital training and defense tasks to protect Jewish settlers in the territories.

**2,000 PEACE NOW ACTIVISTS  
MINGLE WITH PALESTINIANS**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 29 (JTA) -- More than 2,000 members and supporters of the Peace Now movement mingled with Palestinians Saturday in fields and olive groves outside four West Bank villages.

Each was a "let's get acquainted" session, rather than a political debate. The Israel Defense Force cooperated -- up to a point.

It declared the villages "closed military areas" for the day, but did not interfere with the fraternizing.

It also kept a sharp eye out for trouble. Gush Emunim and other militant, right-wing settlers threatened to hold counterdemonstrations against the Peace Now visitors, whom they called "Arab-loving, PLO fellow-travelers."

No incidents occurred, possibly because of the large military presence.

But the sight of soldiers and border police standing guard nearby also had an inhibiting effect on many of the Palestinians. It took their Peace Now visitors a long time to persuade them to come out of doors.

For the most part, gifts and pleasantries were exchanged.

The most auspicious meeting was held outside the village of Nahalin, south of Bethlehem, where five local youths were killed in a preemptive raid by border police last month.

The Peace Now emissaries spoke to relatives of some of the dead.

**'May Be Throwing Stones Tomorrow'**

Omar Najajreh, brother of Fuad Najajreh, who was killed, told his Jewish visitor that the family first thought of retaliation.

They decided not to start a vendetta "but to meet peacefully with the Israel which you represent," he said.

One of the Israelis present was Ruth Dayan, widow of Moshe Dayan, who served as defense minister and foreign minister of Israel.

She said the late general "would have loved" this meeting with the Palestinians.

She added, however, that "these same people may be throwing stones tomorrow," Dayan said.

Indeed, some of the village youngsters collecting Peace Now mementos admitted they had participated in stone-throwing incidents, "but only when we saw our family or friends being beaten."

In addition to Nahalin, meetings took place outside the villages of Ein Yabrud and Turmus Aiyah, north of Ramallah, and at Jabel Mukaber, which is within the precincts of East Jerusalem.

# **WEST GERMAN COURT SENTENCES EX-NAZI TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT**

By David Kantor

BONN, May 29 (JTA) -- A former SS official at Auschwitz was sentenced to life imprisonment on Saturday, ending legal proceedings that began 13 years ago and cost some \$3 million dollars.

A Lueneburg court found Horst Czerwinski guilty of at least two killings when he was in charge of Lagischa, a work camp that was part of the Auschwitz complex.

Lagischa housed about 700 prisoners, including Jews, Poles, French, Russians and others. Witnesses described how Czerwinski brutally killed inmates who were brought to his office after unsuccessful attempts to escape.

The court ordered the immediate arrest of Czerwinski, citing the risk of his fleeing.

Czerwinski was convicted largely on the testimony of a fellow SS officer at Lagischa, Josef Schmidt, who served time in Polish prisons for war crimes.

Some of the crimes were actually committed by Czerwinski, the Lueneburg court said.

Schmidt agreed to testify for the prosecution to avoid standing trial himself for murders committed at Auschwitz.

Another key witness was Abraham Schaechter, a Holocaust survivor from Israel, who described how he saw Czerwinski murder a Russian inmate.

The 66-year-old Czerwinski was first brought to trial in 1976 in Frankfurt, but the proceedings were canceled because of his health problems.

His current trial, begun in 1985, was interrupted several times because of the defendant's illness. Testimony was taken from 204 witnesses.

Until he was arrested again in 1985 on new evidence, Czerwinski worked as a butcher in Celle, about 25 miles northwest of Hanover.

# **FRENCH JEWS DISTRESSED OVER CATHOLIC VIEW OF TOUVIER CASE**

PARIS, May 29 (JTA) -- French Jewry is angry over the defense being given by some French Catholics regarding the sheltering of the country's most wanted Nazi collaborator by a dissident branch of the church.

Paul Touvier, 74, who headed the French militia that worked for the Gestapo in Lyon during World War II, was arrested in Nice on May 24 and charged with crimes against humanity. Reports Monday said Touvier will plead not guilty.

Touvier had been given sanctuary at the Priory of St. Francis, which belongs to the excommunicated Roman Catholic Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, a fundamentalist dihard opposed to the Catholic-Jewish rapprochement mandated by Vatican Council II.

French Jews are shocked by the attitude of some Catholics, who justify the haven given Touvier by citing the actions of priests who hid Jews during the war.

"This comparison is totally unacceptable," Emile Touati, president of the Paris Consistory, the body in charge of Jewish religious and cultural affairs, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on Sunday.

"How can anyone put on the same level Touvier, a criminal trying to escape from justice, and the innocent Jews?" he asked.

Catholic-Jewish relations have been strained lately by the Church's inability so far to honor

an agreement signed with world Jewish leaders to remove a Carmelite convent built on the grounds of the Auschwitz death camp.

Jean Kahn, the newly elected president of CRIF, the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France, was more circumspect in his reaction to the defense in the harboring of Touvier.

The Catholic Church is not above criticism in the Touvier case, Kahn told JTA, "but we should not condemn the Catholic Church in its totality, for some priests, bishops and archbishops had a very courageous attitude during World War II," he said.

# **RARE ITEMS OF JUDAICA TO BE SOLD IN AMSTERDAM**

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, May 27 (JTA) -- A play in Urdu, but with Hebrew characters, that was published centuries ago in Calcutta, and a rare set of prints titled "Hasidic Legends," clandestinely done by the non-Jewish Dutch printer Hendrik Werkman in 1941, are some of the rare items of Judaica that will be auctioned by Christie's Amsterdam beginning June 4.

Werkman was executed by the Nazis in April 1945, only a few days before the liberation of Groningen.

The most valuable object in the 390 lots from all parts of the world is the manuscript of a Rosh Hashanah prayer book copied in France sometime in the 13th century.

The manuscript of 209 folio pages on fine vellum was discovered by the late Alexander Scheiber of Budapest in 1956, in the Hungarian town of Miskolc.

Other manuscripts to be auctioned include illuminated marriage contracts dating from the 18th and early 19th centuries, mainly from Florence and Genoa.

There is a four-volume Hebrew Bible printed in Paris between 1543 and 1546 by Robertus Stephanus, and a 12-volume Babylonian Talmud printed in Amsterdam by Proops in the mid-1700s.

Paintings to be sold include two of Polish Jewish scholars by Isidor Kaufman, and a portrait of Sir Moses Montefiore painted by William Jenkins in 1885.

Another item is a collection of illustrations by L. Lissitsky for a Yiddish children's book.

# **SUDAN BLOCKS NEIGHBOR'S ISRAEL TRIP**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 29 (JTA) -- The Central African Republic said Monday it was cutting ties with its neighbor, the Sudan, for thwarting a visit by CAR President Andre Kolingba to Israel.

Kolingba, airborne and bound for Tel Aviv on Sunday, was denied permission to fly through Sudanese airspace when his pilot reported their destination to Sudanese air traffic control.

He flew back to Banqui, the CAR capital. The visit has been postponed "until a new date is mutually agreed," Israeli officials said.

Meanwhile, the CAR foreign minister, Michel Gbezera-Bria, who was in Israel to oversee arrangements for the presidential visit, paid a visit to Israeli President Chaim Herzog to express official regrets.

Gbezera-Bria signed a technical and scientific cooperation agreement between his country and Israel before leaving Monday.