

ISRAELI SGT. MAJ. KILLED IN LEBANON BORDER CLASH By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 4 (JTA) — An Israeli non-commissioned officer was killed Sunday in a gun battle with terrorists attempting to infiltrate into Israel from southern Lebanon.

He was identified as Sgt. Maj. Hassin Mukhtaran, a Druze from Subbakh village.

Two other Israel Defense Force soldiers were slightly wounded and three terrorists were killed.

The clash, along the border fence less than a mile from the Israeli settlement of Misgav Am, was the fourth infiltration attempt in eight days to be foiled by the IDF and the first in which the IDF suffered a fatality.

Nine terrorists have been killed and two captured since the latest wave of border raids began on May 28.

The terrorists killed Sunday were identified as members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Syrian-based gang headed by Nayef Hawatmeh.

The terrorists killed or captured in the earlier attempts were also linked to splinter groups at odds with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat for being too "moderate."

Followers of the extremist Shiite Moslem Hezbollah were identified as well.

Weapons and sabotage equipment found on the bodies indicated the infiltrators planned to massacre settlers in Misgav Am and commit acts of sabotage.

According to a military spokesman, Mukhtaran was leading a routine patrol along the border fence when he spotted a breach in the barbed wire and opened fire.

Two terrorists were killed instantly. A third opened fire on the patrol, killing Mukhtaran and wounding two other soldiers. The third terrorist was himself killed in the ensuing exchange of fire.

FISHERMAN DIES AFTER ATTACK BY EGYPTIAN NAVAL VESSEL By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 4 (JTA) — An Israeli fisherman from Eilat died Sunday of wounds suffered when an Egyptian naval craft opened fire on his boat in the Gulf of Eilat.

Israeli and Egyptian authorities have given conflicting versions of the incident, and Israel is expected to lodge a strong protest with Cairo.

The victim, Shlomo Yisraeli, 42, was sailing with his son Rami and friends when he was intercepted by the Egyptian naval vessel and ordered to stop.

After he refused, the Egyptians reportedly fired into the air and then at the boat, hitting Yisraeli in the leg.

Israel has taken a very serious view of the incident, which it says was an unprovoked attack.

The Egyptians insist Yisraeli's boat violated their territorial waters by navigating near a coral island a few hundred yards off the Sinai shore.

Yisraeli and his companions maintained they were attacked in international waters.

When the Egyptians tried to take their boat in tow, they refused the line and sped off to Eilat where the wounded man was hospitalized.

After 12 hours of surgery, his condition worsened rapidly and he died early Sunday afternoon.

TOWN OF ARIEL BACKS DOWN, SCRAPS IDEA FOR ARAB TAGS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 4 (JTA) — The West Bank town of Ariel has abandoned a plan to require Arab day laborers to wear tags with the inscription "Alien Worker," which was originally proposed as a security measure.

The settlers backed off in the face of outraged protests from many of their right-wing supporters, as well as on the political left.

In the opinion of critics, the tag was a comparison to the yellow Star of David that Jews were required to wear in Nazi-occupied Europe.

It was called "insensitive and unwise" by Likud minister Ehud Olmert, a leading right-wing politician.

Mayor Ron Nahman of Ariel, who proposed the tag idea, angrily rejected the analogy.

"Only a warped mind, ignorance and stupidity can bring one to compare (the Holocaust) in Europe and the security needs of every settlement in Judea, Samaria and Israel," Nahman said.

Nevertheless, he rescinded the order. He also strongly condemned attacks on journalists by townspeople last Friday.

STRUGGLE BETWEEN RIGHT AND LEFT RESULTS IN JEWS FIGHTING JEWS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 4 (JTA) — The ongoing Palestinian uprising is sharply dividing Israelis between political and ideological extremes and the government is clearly alarmed by the escalating strife.

The Cabinet is expected to convene shortly for a special session devoted entirely to the 17-month-old intifada and the increasingly serious confrontations between the left and right in Israel.

On Friday, Jews clashed with Jews at the Erez checkpoint at the entrance to the Gaza Strip.

Fistfights developed between leftists carrying food and medical supplies to the Arab refugee camps in Rafah and Jewish settlers and right-wing activists who attempted to block them.

The Israel Defense Force had to separate the two groups.

Earlier on Friday, Israeli journalists were assaulted by settlers in the West Bank town of Ariel. A photographer was pistol-whipped by a settler amid shouts of "beat them up, turn over their cars."

On Saturday night, about 30,000 Israelis gathered in Tel Aviv's Malchei Yisrael Square to protest against the recent wave of Jewish settler violence against Palestinian villages in the West Bank and their abuse of IDF soldiers trying to restrain them.

The demonstration was organized by the

Peace Now movement. Its theme was "A Coalition for Peace," and the emphasis was on "the sanctity of human life and the honor of the IDF."

It was the first mass rally by Peace Now with which the Labor Party publicly identified.

The opening address was delivered by the party's former secretary-general, Uzi Baram. Labor Knesset member Amir Peretz also spoke.

The confrontation at Erez was touched off by a convoy of Israeli Jews and Arabs attempting to deliver supplies to the Rafah refugees who are under curfew.

They were confronted at the army post by residents of the coastal town of Ashkelon, a hotbed of anti-Arab sentiment, and by militant Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip.

The army aided the right-wingers by declaring the area a closed military zone.

When exchanged curses escalated to exchanged blows, soldiers and police broke up the fighting. The convoy did not get through.

Meanwhile, signs of strain are showing in the leftist camp.

Many participants in the Peace Now rally were disappointed by the relatively small turnout, saying the rally exposed the left's weakness when a show of strength was necessary.

Writing in the Labor Party organ Davar, Tali Selinger asked "What else needs to happen for the 200,000 (demonstrators) to return?"

He was referring to the huge outpouring of peace activists in 1982, during the height of the Lebanon war, which is believed to have influenced the government's eventual decision to pull the IDF out of Lebanon.

Meanwhile, a rare attempt by left and right to reach an understanding became a source of public controversy.

Leaders of the Gush Emunim and senior reserve officers of the Mapam-affiliated Kibbutz Artzi movement met twice recently at the Gush Emunim settlement of Ofra in the West Bank and at Kibbutz Artzi offices in Tel Aviv.

They made an effort to find common points on which they could agree.

The meetings ended with a four-point memorandum accepted by both groups. They agreed that:

The government and the IDF should have sole responsibility for the peace and security of Jewish residents wherever they live, regardless of political differences; all political groups refrain from acting against the IDF or incitement against each other; Israelis should refrain from attacking Arabs just because they are Arabs; and further meetings should be held to continue the dialogue and establish a satisfactory level of political debate.

But the joint communique was criticized by the left-leaning Citizens Rights Movement which can find no common ground with the Gush Emunim.

The CRM was promptly attacked by right-wing speakers who accused it of favoring dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization but refusing to do the same with the Israeli right.

(JTA correspondent Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv contributed to this report.)

DEATH TOLL OF INTIFADA: 475 OR 502 By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 4 (JTA) -- At least 502 Palestinians have been killed from the time their uprising began on Dec. 9, 1987 through the end of

last week, according to figures provided by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Arab Refugees and foreign news agencies.

Those figures vary from Israel Defense Force statistics, which put the Palestinian dead at 475 in the same time period.

According to the IDF, more than 40 were slain by fellow-Palestinians for allegedly collaborating with Israeli authorities.

Unofficial statistics put the number of Jews killed in intifada-related incidents at 20.

The IDF says 14 Jews have been slain -- six soldiers and eight civilians.

18,000 PALESTINIANS RECEIVE TERRORIST MILITARY PAYMENT By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 4 (JTA) -- Between 18,000 and 20,000 Palestinians are on the payroll of various terrorist organizations operating outside Israel, according to the Israel Defense Force.

Of that number, 11,000 live in Lebanon. Al Fatah, the fighting arm of the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organization, has a membership of 4,000, the IDF said.

But these units bear little resemblance to an army.

The emphasis given their organization and training in the PLO's journal and other publications is a propaganda effort intended to boost the morale of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the IDF said.

A military source quoted by Ha'aretz on Friday took issue with a report in Jane's Defense Weekly, the authoritative British publication, that the PLO is moving to disband its fighting units.

The source claimed that on the contrary, it is actually trying "to organize new terrorist units within a military structure, as the army of a future Palestinian state," Ha'aretz said.

In fact, PLO chief Yasir Arafat and leaders of Al Fatah began in the early 1980s to establish institutionalized military formations in southern Lebanon and call them the Palestinian army, the source said.

According to the source, the driving force behind those efforts was Arafat's military chief, Abu Jihad, who was organizing terrorists in Lebanon into companies, battalions and brigades.

Those efforts suffered a severe setback when Abu Jihad was assassinated at his home in Tunis on April 16, 1988, by what is widely believed to have been an Israeli hit squad.

ABIE NATHAN CHARGED By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 4 (JTA) -- Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan, owner and operator of the floating "Voice of Peace" radio station off Tel Aviv, was officially charged in the magistrates court in Ramla on Friday for violating the anti-terrorism law, when he met PLO leader Yasir Arafat in Tunis in September 1988.

The charge sheet contains 12 counts against Nathan, who twice flew to Egypt on peace-making attempts long before the Israel-Egypt peace treaty.

He has since made a world name for himself for his global activities on behalf of relief work for the victims of famine, floods and earthquakes.

Hearings in the trial will begin at the end of this month.

SOVIETS PAY HOMAGE TO WALLENBERG, EXPRESS REGRET OVER HIS FATE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 4 (JTA) — A Soviet diplomat and a state prosecutor hinted here Friday that Raoul Wallenberg probably died years ago at the orders of Lavrenti Beria, and they made it clear that their government now deeply regrets his fate.

In fact, the Soviet Union would like to "sanctify his memory," reporters here were told.

The remarks were the first on record by Soviet officials that refer to the Swede who saved tens of thousands of Jews from Nazi extermination camps when he was attached to the Swedish legation in Budapest during the final years of World War II.

The references to Wallenberg were made here by Ambassador Viktor Kashlev, chief of the Soviet delegation to the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe — also known as the Helsinki Conference — and Vladimir Andreyev, a member of the delegation.

Andreyev, a deputy to the Soviet Union's prosecutor-general, told a news conference, "We regret deeply the death of this noble person but we know nothing more concerning his fate."

He said his office investigated Wallenberg's death and it "now is certain that he died in prison" in the immediate post-war years.

"He was not the only such victim — many others died with him during those somber years," Andreyev added.

Kashlev said the investigation into Wallenberg's death would continue. He promised that "should we learn something, we will make the facts known at once."

"We would like to know more details about how this man (Wallenberg) died so that we could sanctify his memory," the Soviet envoy said.

Kashlev offered little hope to those who believe Wallenberg is alive.

"The people who destroyed Wallenberg also destroyed all the documents relating to him before being destroyed in their turn," he said.

Observers here saw that as a direct reference to former secret police chief Beria, who was killed in the power struggle that followed Stalin's death.

It also seemed to observers that according to what Kashlev said, the Soviet government's most recent investigations confirmed Wallenberg's death.

Wallenberg was arrested when the Red Army entered Budapest in January 1945 and not heard from since. Reports persist he is alive, though Soviet sources insist he died in Lubyanka prison over 40 years ago.

During the first session on human rights at the conference, Kashlev said that exit visas would not be denied to any Soviet citizen who had not engaged in sensitive defense work for more than five years.

"This period would be the absolute limit for refusing visas," he said.

The Soviet delegate also noted that more than 100,000 Soviet citizens were allowed to emigrate in 1988, which was 18 times more than in 1986 and nearly three times more than in 1987.

Kashlev did not break the figure down by nationality or country of destination.

He said the Soviet Union favors a consular convention binding on the 35 nations that signed the Helsinki accords to provide for a uniform

code for exit and entry visas.

Several Western delegations said they would oppose such a move because each country should have the right to determine its own policy on granting visas.

SOVIET JEWISH ALIYAH REACHES 14-MONTH HIGH By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, June 4 (JTA) — The percentage of Soviet Jewish emigres who moved to Israel in May was double the January figure, and the highest since April 1988, Soviet Jewry groups reported Friday.

The 549 emigres who made aliyah represented 14.5 percent of the month's total of 3,779, according to both the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

Since January, the percentage of Soviet Jews choosing Israel over the United States and other countries was no higher than 10 percent. In April 1988, 16.8 percent of the emigres made aliyah.

Although 778 fewer Jews emigrated in May than in April, the figure still comes close to the more than 4,000 per month who immigrated during the benchmark year of 1979, according to NCSJ spokesman Jerry Strober. May's figures bring the total number of emigres since January to 17,797, only 1,168 less than the number for all of 1988.

Strober said the slight drop since April may reflect a backlog in the number of emigration requests the Soviet authorities are able to process in Moscow.

But he stressed that the increase in Israel-bound emigres seems significant.

Ten thousand Soviet Jewish tourists were able to visit Israel last year, he said, and the result may be that "they are able to go back and give family and friends a more reliable and accurate portrayal of what life in Israel is all about."

CHURCH SYMPOSIUM SET TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF AUSCHWITZ CONVENT By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 4 (JTA) — A symposium attended by leaders of the Catholic Church in Poland is set to open in Warsaw tomorrow to discuss problems arising from the Carmelite convent located on the site of the former Auschwitz death camp, a delegation of WIZO women was told.

The Polish minister for religious affairs told the 300-strong world WIZO delegation, led by Raya Yaglom, WIZO world president, that the symposium will also discuss relations between the Catholic Church and Judaism.

The delegation met with him after the WIZO women held a silent protest demonstration May 29 outside the convent during a visit to Auschwitz, as part of a tour of Nazi sites in Poland.

The women, from 27 countries, returned to Israel yesterday, where they will now be attending a seminar on the theme of "From Holocaust to Revival," marking 50 years since the outbreak of World War II.

Catholic Church leaders had agreed two years ago to have the Carmelite convent removed from the site of the death camp, where millions of Jews were exterminated, by Feb. 22.

But church leaders have recently said that the question of the convent on that site was a matter to be decided on by the Polish authorities.

SHARON SEEKS AMERICAN JEWISH SUPPORT FOR HIS OPPOSITION TO PEACE PLAN
By Andrew Shlow Carroll

NEW YORK, June 4 (JTA) -- Ariel Sharon took his opposition to the Israeli peace initiative to the United States this week, telling American Jewish audiences that the plan's call for Palestinian elections could lead to a Palestinian state and "more terror and violence."

Reaction to the minister of industry and trade, who is heading a rebellion within Likud ranks to scuttle the peace plan, was mixed.

On Thursday, a partisan audience at a Jerusalem Reclamation Project dinner gave Sharon a standing ovation when he said the elections plan would serve only to divide Jerusalem and "legitimize" radical Palestinians.

The organization, American supporters of the Ateret Cohanim organization in Israel, is dedicated to buying up Arab properties in East Jerusalem and settling Jews there.

On Friday, Sharon received a cooler reception from members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Sharon asked the conference to back the government of Israel, but in the next breath said its current peace initiative will lead only to more "terror and violence."

Seymour Reich, chairman of the Conference of Presidents, reminded Sharon that the umbrella organization had "enthusiastically" welcomed and endorsed the peace initiative.

In a question and answer session, some members expressed distress that Sharon now came seeking their disapproval of the plan.

"Forgive me, but the thrust of your argument is to erode and undermine the positions of the present government," said Phil Baum, associate executive director of the American Jewish Congress.

The American Jewish community "longed for some initiative" that would reverse Israel's negative public relations image, continued Baum. "It would be deplorable if this accord were somehow to be lost."

Public Relations Not Primary

In response, Sharon said that public relations was important, "but that is not the most important thing. The most important thing is that the Jews will live in peace and security."

The Israeli peace initiative, first proposed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and approved by the Cabinet and Knesset, calls for Palestinians to elect representatives to negotiate with Israel toward an interim period of self-rule.

Sharon believes Palestinian leaders living in East Jerusalem should be ineligible either to vote or run in the elections.

"There is no difference between the Tunisian PLO or Jerusalem PLO," he said, speaking of Palestine Liberation Organization leaders.

If the East Jerusalemites are elected, Sharon said, "all the world will be dancing around them" and "then we will not be able to take any steps against them in the future."

Sharon outlined his own plan for peace by displaying a map of the administered territories.

The answer to a Palestinian state, he said, is "the deployment of more settlements, more military units" in order to sub-divide Palestinian areas with belts of Jewish settlement.

Sharon's boost for more Jewish settlement, especially in Arab East Jerusalem, was the theme

of his appearance Thursday at the Jerusalem Reclamation Project's Jerusalem Day celebration.

Sharon is a hero to the organization because he moved into a heavily guarded home in the Old City of Jerusalem's Moslem quarter, which the organization prefers to call the "Old Jewish Quarter."

American Friends of Ateret Cohanim boasts of maintaining a yeshiva in the Moslem Quarter and buying and rehabilitating apartments there.

Above all, the organization claims to foster harmony between Jewish and Arab residents.

"We are not political," said Jesse Maryles, president of the American Friends. "We are united in our love of Israel and its capital, Yerushalayim."

Agreeing with Maryles was an audience of 800, who paid \$500 a couple to attend the dinner at the New York Hilton.

The eclectic mix of revelers included secularists from the business world, right-wing rabbis and New York politicians, including Mayor Ed Koch.

The master of ceremonies was Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents, who explained he took part in a personal capacity.

"The organization acts legally and focuses only on establishing amiable relations with its Arab neighbors," said Hoenlein in an interview.

Nevertheless, two left-wing members of the Jerusalem Municipal Council charge in a letter to this week's New York Jewish Week that Ateret Cohanim "sees coexistence in terms of a rider and a horse."

Among the accusations, "of which there are many, many more," are the arbitrary eviction of a 90-year-old Arab woman and the illegal takeover of the apartment of a recently deceased Arab man, according to Ornan Yekutieli and Anat Hoffman, of the Citizens Rights Movement party.

UNDER HOT SUN, NEW YORKERS TURN OUT FOR ISRAEL PARADE
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, June 4 (JTA) -- Ardent supporters of Israel gladly withstood the considerable heat and humidity Sunday afternoon to watch the 25th annual Israel Day Parade.

The Palestinian uprising elicited no vacillation in support for the Jewish State from this crowd of both young families and the elderly.

There were also the infirm. In the shadow of the awning of one of the fine apartment buildings lining the avenue, an old, frail woman in a wheelchair bent over and rubbed her eyes but refused to be taken inside by her companion.

A teen-ager standing not far away was there "because I love Israel, it's my country," said Ilana Feldman, 16, born and bred in America.

Her Israeli-born friend, Sally Yosef, said she would prefer to be in Israel, "to fight in the army, but I can't."

On another street, Miriam Greenberg reflected on Israel's meaning to her while trying to keep her little girl in tow. "I think it should be a religious state," she said.

An older parade watcher, Saly Zloczower, was equally forthright. He called for "annexation of Judea and Samaria."

As about 30 members of Kach International, devotees of Rabbi Meir Kahane, marched by, an older man, asked how he was affected by Kach's presence, said, "I wanted to give them money."