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## HERZOG COMMUTES JAIL SENTENCES OF 3 JEWISH UNDERGROUND MEMBERS

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, June 6 (JTA) -- Three West Bank Jewish settlers sentenced to life imprisonment in 1985 for fatally shooting four Palestinians and committing other crimes, had their sentences reduced to 10 years Monday by President Chaim Herzog.

It was the third time Herzog exercised his powers of clemency on behalf of the three. He drew angry criticism, especially from leftist circles, who consider the move incompatible with justice and with Herzog's own condemnation of the recent vigilante tactics of some settlers.

Herzog said he acted on the recommendations of Justice Minister Dan Meridor of Likud and other legal experts.

But he made his final decision only after he was convinced that the three prisoners showed genuine remorse, presidential spokesman Giora Pordes said.

The three, Menachem Livni, Uzi Sharbaf and Shaul Nir, are the last of more than 20 convicted members of a Jewish terrorist underground group still in jail.

Herzog initially reduced their sentences from life to 24 years and more recently to 15 years.

The latest reduction makes it possible that the prisoners, now in their sixth year behind bars, could go free in two years, if a third of their new sentence is cut for good behavior.

Critics were quick to ask how Herzog can chastise settlers who take the law into their own hands now and act so generously toward those who did the same five years ago.

### Left-Wing Parties Bitter

Left-wing parties were especially bitter. They called Herzog's clemency "a great mistake" and recalled that only a year ago, the president was quoted as saying that the phenomenon of Jewish terrorism must be eradicated.

Knesset member Yossi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement said the "decision is especially wrong because the settlers community, far from regretful over what was done, is instead imitative."

Elazar Granot, secretary-general of Mapam, expressed "fear that the president no longer respects his office."

But the National Religious Party issued a statement praising "the worthy compassion shown to the prisoners' families." The prisoners are Orthodox Jews.

They received their life sentences in July 1985 after being found guilty of murder, attempted murder, illegal possession of weapons and membership in a terrorist organization.

The three attacked the Islamic College in Hebron with machine guns in 1984, killing four students and wounding more than 30 others.

They belonged to an underground made up almost entirely of West Bank settlers.

According to evidence presented at the trials, the group crippled two West Bank Arab mayors with car bombs in 1980, planted bombs in 16 Arab buses in East Jerusalem and tried to destroy Al-Aksa mosque on the Temple Mount.

## AUTHORITIES ISSUE ID CARDS TO ARAB WORKERS FROM GAZA

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 6 (JTA) -- Israel began a major effort Tuesday to bar Palestinians with criminal or security offense records from crossing the "Green Line."

Special magnetized identity cards were issued to about 1,000 Gaza Strip residents, after thorough background checks. The distribution of the ID cards went smoothly.

The cards will be needed hereafter by the some 75,000 Gazans who cross into Israel proper each day, about 45,000 of them to work for Jewish employers.

Israelis want to weed out workers who will take jobs in Israel and then join the Palestinian uprising.

The new ID cards will be issued to males over 16 years of age and will be valid for six to 12 months. Cards will not be issued to those who have been jailed or to those who have not paid their taxes. Security sources estimate that no more than 2,000 Gazans will be denied entry.

The system was instituted after a series of criminal acts by Palestinians inside Israel. A passerby was knifed to death in Tel Aviv recently by a resident of the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza.

The public demanded action after the body of a soldier, Avi Sasportas, was found last month in the countryside near the Gaza Strip. He is believed to have been abducted and murdered by Arabs from the Gaza Strip.

Members of the Knesset Interior Committee, meanwhile, argued forcefully Tuesday against measures taken in some localities to restrict the movement of Arab laborers.

The strongest objections were raised about a plan by the mayor of Ariel, a Jewish settlement in the West Bank, to have Arabs wear badges with the inscription "foreign worker."

That idea was dropped after it drew criticism from some of the settlers' right-wing supporters.

Also considered unseemly for an Israeli municipality was Petach Tikva's plan to require Arab workers to congregate in a central stockade, where they would be picked up and dropped off by their Jewish employers.

The committee ruled that mayors were not empowered to determine the conditions under which Palestinians are employed, especially when they harmed Israel's image by doing so.

The panel recommended, however, that wages for day laborers be raised, in order to attract Jews to the menial tasks that up to now only Arabs will perform.

## TERRORIST'S BURIAL TURNS INTO RIOT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 6 (JTA) -- The funeral of a Palestinian terrorist who died in prison last weekend turned into a riot Tuesday at the Moslem cemetery on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Police used tear gas to disperse youths who were hurling rocks and waving Palestinian flags as 2,000 mourners gathered to bury Omar Kassem.

About 20 people were detained for questioning.

Kassem, whose 21 years in Israeli jails made him the longest serving Palestinian prisoner, died Sunday at the age of 48.

He is believed to have suffered from intestinal cancer.

Kassem had been a senior member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a pro-Syrian group led by Nayef Hawatmeh.

At the time of his death, the Israeli authorities were reportedly considering his release in exchange for the body of an Israeli soldier, who died after being captured in Lebanon in 1983.

#### **BEDOUIIN GETS LIFE SENTENCE FOR 1988 ATTACK IN HAIFA**

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, June 6 (JTA) -- A 24-year-old Israeli Arab was sentenced to life imprisonment Monday by a military court in Lod for throwing a hand grenade in Haifa last year that injured 25 people.

The accused, Ali Abdallah Amaria from the Bedouin village of Ibtan, near Haifa, pleaded guilty. He also admitted he belonged to Al Fatah, the fighting arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization controlled by Yasir Arafat.

He confessed to several other security offenses, including a firebomb attack on a bus and setting fire to a bus and other vehicles in a parking lot last summer.

No injuries resulted from those acts.

Col. Aharon Altn, presiding judge of the military court, said Amaria's case was especially serious because "we are dealing with an Israeli citizen who chose to carry out terrorist activities against civilians."

Amaria also confessed that his terrorist cell was under orders from Al Fatah to assassinate Gen. Rafael Eitan, the former Israel Defense Force chief of staff who is now a Knesset member representing the right-wing Tsomet party.

#### **JEW WHO FIREBOMBED ARAB VEHICLE WAS FREED IN ERROR, COURT RULES**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 6 (JTA) -- The High Court of Justice on Tuesday overturned a Beersheba court's decision to release a Jew with a criminal record who hurled a gasoline bomb at an Arab vehicle.

Justice Menahem Elon, deputy president of the High Court, ordered the accused, Michael Maman, returned to custody, saying he was a public menace.

At the same time, however, Elon defended the Beersheba district judge who had freed him.

The district court judge was widely criticized for saying that "there was a difference between an Arab throwing a Molotov cocktail and a Jew doing the same thing."

Elon maintained the judge was not proclaiming a double standard of justice, but was drawing a distinction between motives.

"One should distinguish between a premeditated attack with a political motive, which is part of the uprising, and an attack at a moment of anguish," the High Court justice said.

The incident occurred near Ashdod last month, after the funeral of Sgt. Avi Sasportas, a paratrooper from that town who apparently was kidnapped and murdered by Arabs.

#### **BAKER SPEECH COMES UNDER ATTACK AT CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR DEPUTY** By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 6 (JTA) -- Two senators from opposite ends of the political spectrum admonished Secretary of State James Baker on Monday for suggesting that Israeli leaders believe in the concept of a "Greater Israel."

Sens. Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.) and Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) said Baker should not have used the term in his May 22 speech on the Middle East at the annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

The two senators voiced their criticism during a hearing by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the nomination of John Kelly, a 25-year-veteran of the foreign service, to be assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs.

Helms appeared only briefly at the outset of the hearing, at which Moynihan was the only senator present to question Kelly.

Helms said he had never heard the term "Greater Israel" used by a responsible Israeli leader. However, Syrian leaders frequently talk of a "Greater Syria" that includes Israel, Jordan and Lebanon, he said.

Baker, in an unusually blunt speech, told AIPAC that Israel should "lay aside, once and for all, the unrealistic vision of a Greater Israel."

This was an "unfortunate use of terms," Moynihan said.

#### **Must Pursue 'U.S. Interests'**

Kelly replied that Baker in his next sentence told AIPAC that "Israeli interests in the West Bank and Gaza -- security and otherwise -- can be accommodated in a settlement based on (United Nations Security Council) Resolution 242."

He said this has been U.S. policy since 1967.

Kelly, whose only previous Middle East experience was as the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon from 1986 to 1988, made a brief opening statement in which he said he would "follow and exert every effort" to continue the "honorable tradition" of every U.S. government for the last 40 years in seeking to "ensure the security of Israel."

He added that every administration has also sought "good and productive relations with Arab states. This in no way contradicts our commitment to the security of Israel. Honor and friendship do not undermine relations with anyone."

But Kelly said his first responsibility is to pursue U.S. interests in the region. "We have no other purpose," he said. "Good relations or warm relations are nice to have, but they mean nothing unless they advance the interests of the United States."

Kelly's record appears to have only one significant blemish. While serving in Beirut, he apparently was used by John Poindexter, then the national security adviser, as a back channel in the Reagan administration's secret effort to gain the release of American hostages in Lebanon through arms deals with Iran.

When George Shultz, who was secretary of state at the time, learned of Kelly's involvement, he summoned the envoy back to Washington to admonish him. Kelly said Monday he had thought the State Department knew of his role.

His involvement in this aspect of the Iran-Contra affair, however, is not expected to be a serious impediment to his confirmation.

# NEW SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE CONSIDERED FRIEND OF ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 6 (JTA) -- Rep. Thomas Foley (D-Wash.), who was elected speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday, is considered a good friend of Israel and supporter of issues of concern to the Jewish community.

Foley was named by the House to replace Rep. Jim Wright (D-Texas), who resigned as speaker after being charged with ethics violations.

The 60-year-old congressman from Spokane was majority leader during the little more than two years Wright was speaker. He is highly respected by both Democrats and Republicans and is known as a conciliator and consensus-builder.

"We are pleased that he has been elected as speaker of the House," said Jess Hordes, director of the Washington office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

"He has always been open to the Jewish community. He's been supportive of issues of concern to us."

David Harris, Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee, also said that Foley was "a welcome choice."

"Basically the man is a friend," Harris said. "He has been there on many of the issues of concern to the American Jewish community, including Israel and Soviet Jewry."

Sammie Moshenberg, Washington representative of the National Council of Jewish Women, said Foley has been "generally supportive of a lot of our issues."

She expressed the hope that he would move the House forward on the many domestic issues that need attention, such as child care and help for low-income people and the elderly.

Foley, who is considered a protégé of the late Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.), has been a strong supporter of Israel since he first came to the House in 1965. He has supported all foreign-aid legislation and has worked to build coalitions in support of the aid packages. He has also voted against across-the-board cuts in foreign aid.

## Has Opposed Arms Sales

Foley has opposed every arms sale to Arab states hostile to Israel, including the 1981 sales of AWACS surveillance planes to Saudi Arabia. In 1985, he co-sponsored a resolution to disapprove an arms sale to Jordan; in 1986, he co-sponsored a resolution against a Saudi missile sale.

In 1987, when the Reagan administration proposed an arms sale to the Saudis that contained 1,600 Maverick surface-to-air missiles, Foley co-sponsored a resolution disapproving the sale. When the sale was reintroduced, Foley was among House members who wrote a letter to President Reagan that helped persuade the administration to remove the missiles from the sale.

Foley has also co-sponsored resolutions upholding Israel's rights in the United Nations, supported measures aimed against the Arab economic boycott of Israel and has voted for resolutions to have the United States move its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

He did not sponsor the resolution to close the Palestine Liberation Organization's information office in Washington.

After the Palestinian uprising began in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Foley said that it was "misplaced" to blame Israel for it. "It is Israel which has sought peace," he said.

# ARABS EXPECTED TO PRESS ILO ON WORKERS IN THE TERRITORIES

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, June 6 (JTA) -- Israel expects the Arab states will do their utmost to get the alleged mistreatment of Palestinian workers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on the agenda of the annual conference of the International Labor Organization, which opens here Wednesday.

But the New York-based Jewish Labor Committee plans to submit a study of its own charging "massive trade union violations" by the countries of the Arab League.

Some 2,000 delegates from the U.N. agency's 150 member states will attend the 76th session of the International Labor Conference, which ends June 28. They include government officials, employers and workers.

According to the ILO's newsletter, economic recovery, employment, minority rights, night work and industrial safety top the agenda. But Middle East politics is sure to enter in somewhere.

According to Rafael Walden, counselor of the Israeli mission to the United Nations European headquarters here, the Arab states will introduce a draft resolution calling for a special committee to study labor conditions in the Israeli-administered territories.

But there are no indications so far of a Palestine Liberation Organization bid for full membership in the ILO, Walden told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

A PLO request last month for full membership in the World Health Organization was deferred for a year, after the United States objected.

## Kuwaiti Resolution Rejected

The Arabs suffered another setback last week when the ILO's governing body rejected a Kuwaiti resolution calling for a special session during the ILO conference devoted to the treatment of workers in the administered territories.

Nevertheless, the ILO's director general, Michel Hansenne, undertook to inform the Israeli government of the governing body's concern over the condition of Arab workers.

An appendix to the director general's report to the conference, which the ILO released on May 16, accuses Israel of employment discrimination against Arab workers and inequities in providing them with social benefits.

It also charged Israel with "violation of trade union rights" and interference in and repression of trade union activities in the territories.

The report was based on an ILO fact-finding mission to the region.

In New York, the Jewish Labor Committee announced Tuesday that its examination of labor conditions in the 21 Arab League nations exposed widespread violations of trade union rights.

According to JLC President Herb Magidson, the study found that while government-controlled trade unions exist, independent unions are banned. In some of the countries, all trade unions are outlawed.

In a number of them, strikes are legally punishable by death, the JLC report says.

Magidson called on the ILO to "refrain from political attacks on the State of Israel" and take note instead "of massive trade union violations by countries affiliated with the League of Arab States."

**EUROPEANS MAY BACK PEACE PLAN  
IF ISRAEL BACKS 'LAND FOR PEACE'  
By David Kantor**

BONN, June 6 (JTA) -- The European Community may call on Israel to accept the "land for peace" formula urged by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in his May 22 speech in Washington.

Officials here disclosed privately that experts are drafting a resolution containing such a call for the summit meeting of the 12 E.C. heads of state in Madrid at the end of this month.

The Europeans will insist that Israel agree in principle to trade land for peace in exchange for their support of Jerusalem's peace initiative.

Israel is seeking European and American backing for Palestinian elections it proposes to hold in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The elected delegates would negotiate with Israel the terms of a five-year period of Palestinian self-rule.

Negotiations over the permanent status of the territories would begin no later than three years after self-rule.

Several European countries have offered the Israelis encouragement, though none has officially endorsed the proposals.

Baker sent political shock waves through Jerusalem in a speech to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee that urged Israel to give up its "unrealistic vision" of a Greater Israel, forswear annexation of the administered territories and cease settlement activity there.

According to sources here and in Madrid, the E.C. summit would like to adopt a text that could be regarded as a major European initiative on the Middle East.

But France, which takes over the rotating chairmanship of the E.C. Council of Ministers from Spain on July 1, is apparently seeking a delay.

**SHAMIR SCORES U.S.-PLO DIALOGUE  
By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, June 6 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir claimed Tuesday that the dialogue the United States opened with the Palestine Liberation Organization last December has only strengthened the PLO's motivation to fight against Israel.

He made his remarks to reporters while touring the Lebanon border region, the scene of four terrorist infiltration attempts in the past week, in which nine terrorists and one Israeli soldier were killed.

The prime minister maintained there was a link between the increased infiltration activity from Lebanon and the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He blamed the PLO, which he said has no real desire to prevent terrorist attacks on Israel.

**SHAMIR SENDS GORBACHEV CONDOLENCES  
By Cathrine Gerson**

JERUSALEM, June 6 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir sent Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev a cable Monday night expressing Israel's deep sorrow over the Trans-Siberian railway tragedy Saturday, in which at least 400 people were killed and some 600 injured.

It occurred when a natural gas pipeline exploded just as two trains were passing through a narrow gorge in the Ural Mountains. Both trains were enveloped in flame.

**WESTERN SCIENTISTS ASKS SOVIETS  
TO RELEASE JEWISH SCIENTISTS  
By Edwin Eytan**

PARIS, June 6 (JTA) -- A delegation of prominent Western scientists intervened here Monday on behalf of Jewish scientists in the Soviet Union long denied exit visas because they allegedly possess security sensitive knowledge.

They were promised that inquiries would be made.

The 11-member delegation, led by the Swedish physicist Inga Fischer-Hjalmars, met with Ambassador Yuri Kashlev, chief of the Soviet delegation to the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe -- also known as the Helsinki Conference.

It was Kashlev himself who said at the opening session of the human rights conference 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 promised.

But the scientists, representing five Western European countries, told him of the case of biologist Vladimir Katz, who has been denied an exit visa for 16 years because he worked briefly in 1965 at a research institute connected with the Ministry for Radio Production.

Katz is on a list of 10 Soviet Jewish scientists prevented from leaving for Israel, a list the Western group gave the Soviet diplomat.

Another refusenik, zoologist Igor Uspensky of Moscow, has been denied a visa for 10 years because his mother, a plant biologist, once worked on the pathology of vegetables.

Fischer-Hjalmars said the other eight all have been refused visas for up to 14 years.

The Western group, members of the International Federation of Scientists for the Defense of Soviet Jews, also handed Kashlev a list of 11 Jews detained at psychiatric hospitals in the Soviet Union on various pretexts.

One of them is Luba Stein, who tried to leave the Soviet Union by way of Czechoslovakia in 1971 and has been confined to a psychiatric institution since 1974.

The Soviet delegation reportedly promised to transmit the lists to the appropriate ministries in Moscow and ask for clarification.

They said they hoped to have a reply within two weeks.

**COURT BACKS EXTREMIST'S SS BOAST  
By David Kantor**

BONN, June 6 (JTA) -- A Munich court decided this week that right-wing extremist Franz Schoenhuber indeed earned an Iron Cross Second Class for wartime service in a Waffen SS unit, and warned a local journalist he could go to jail if he persisted in questioning the claim.

Schoenhuber heads the right-wing Republican Party, which created a political stir by unexpectedly winning seats in the West Berlin municipal legislature Jan. 29.

He published a book last year titled "I Was At It," in which he described his service with the SS in heroic terms.

Journalist Karlheinz Lange cast doubt on the claimed Iron Cross and Schoenhuber sued.

The court warned Lange that he would face a \$25,000 fine or a month in jail if he repeated his allegations.