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### DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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### U.S. OFFICIALS SAID TO BE DISMAYED BY PLO'S CONTINUING INTRANSIGENCE By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- Middle East specialists in the State Department are reported to be discouraged by the Palestine Liberation Organization's continuing intransigence on the peace process and recent hard-line statements issued by Al Fatah, its largest and least extreme faction.

One knowledgeable Capitol Hill observer who has been in touch with Bush administration officials said that they are so dismayed by the PLO's latest stance that they may even begin examining the possibility of suspending the 8-month-old U.S.-PLO dialogue.

The officials are said to be upset about the tough rhetoric adopted by Al Fatah at a meeting in Tunisia earlier this month. But they are even more concerned with the PLO's refusal to move toward acceptance of the Israeli peace plan.

The plan, which calls for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to choose Palestinians who could enter peace talks with Israel, was discussed at the most recent round of U.S.-PLO talks in Tunis on Aug. 14.

"We didn't make as much progress as we had hoped" at the meeting, a State Department official acknowledged Friday. But the official denied that there has been any significant growth of frustration toward the PLO in recent weeks.

A second administration official said the United States is "a little bit disappointed" both with the Fatah rhetoric and with the fact that the PLO has "still not agreed to permit a dialogue between authoritative West Bank and Gaza Palestinians and the Israeli government."

#### Policy Re-evaluation Under Way

The United States has "not gotten to the point to consider options" such as suspending the dialogue, said the Capitol Hill observer, who insisted on anonymity. He added that U.S. officials decided early this year not to establish specific guidelines that would lead to suspension or termination of the dialogue.

But while suspension has never been "formally or seriously considered," the possibility "could resurrect itself, depending on what the circumstances were," the source said.

Termination of the dialogue with the PLO is not as likely as temporary suspension, the source said. The purpose of suspending the talks would be to pressure the PLO to rethink its position toward the Israeli elections plan.

"The trouble is, Arafat now thinks we need this dialogue more than he does," one State Department official was quoted as saying recently.

The State Department's interbureau team on the peace process reportedly is re-evaluating U.S. policy toward the PLO and is expected to present Secretary of State James Baker with a range of options after Labor Day.

The team is an informal group headed by Dennis Ross, director of the department's policy-planning staff, and includes John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs; Richard Haas and David Welch of the National Security Council's Middle East staff;

and State Department aides Daniel Kurtzer and Aaron David Miller.

Within that group, there is said to be a "carrot" school, which wants to meet some of the PLO's demands for greater political recognition, and a "stick" school, which for the first time has raised the question of suspension.

#### PLO Seeking Concessions

The PLO has been seeking various concessions from the United States during the talks in Tunisia, including a more specific definition of Palestinian political rights.

When the Camp David accords were signed between Egypt and Israel in 1979, the United States used the phrase "legitimate rights of the Palestinians."

Former Secretary of State George Shultz introduced the phrase "Palestinian political rights." Now, the PLO wants the United States to use the phrase "Palestinian national rights," which might be less objectionable to the United States than another phrase, "Palestinian self-determination."

Either phrase would likely meet strong resistance from Israel and its supporters in the United States, because they imply a Palestinian right to statehood.

PLO leader Yasir Arasat is also seeking greater U.S. pressure to force Israel into negotiating with the PLO, to convene an international peace conference and to change the modalities of Israel's election plan in the territories.

Most American Jewish groups have refrained so far from calling on the Bush administration to end its dialogue with the PLO, though many have raised doubts about its usefulness.

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations has called on the administration to reassess the dialogue, in light of recent PLO actions.

The conference's executive director, Malcolm Hoenlein, predicted there would be "close consultations" among its constituent groups on this issue to avoid tactical differences that occurred last month when the American Israel Public Affairs Committee pushed for legislation to severely restrict U.S. contacts with the PLO.

Some Jewish groups, most notably the American Jewish Congress and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, opposed strict constraints, fearing they might lead to an end to the U.S.-PLO dialogue. That could eliminate any possibility of PLO endorsement of the Israeli election plan.

### LONDON PAPER NOW REPORTS ISRAEL BARGAINING FOR SOLDIERS' REMAINS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- The Defense Ministry has flatly denied a report in the Sunday Times of London that Israel is negotiating with Hezbollah, the Islamic fundamentalist Party of God, for return of the bodies of two of its soldiers.

It was the second week in a row that the Sunday Times claimed the soldiers, Yossi Fink and Rahamim Alsheikh, are dead. The two have been missing for three years and are believed to be captives of Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

The Sunday Times reported on Aug. 13 that a Hezbollah leader in Israeli custody, Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, told his Israeli interrogators that both soldiers died of wounds shortly after being captured in a 1986 ambush.

Israel made clear it does not accept what

Obeid said as credible evidence.

A Defense Ministry spokesman reiterated Sunday that the two men are thought to be alive until proven otherwise.

This week's Sunday Times account said Israel offered to exchange Obeid and 450 Shiite and Palestinian prisoners for Ron Arad, a downed Israeli air force navigator held hostage in Lebanon by the mainstream Shiite Amal militia, as well as the remains of Fink and Alsheikh.

The original Sunday Times story created an uproar in Israel, because the public, including the soldiers' families, has been led to believe the soldiers are still alive.

### FOUR PALESTINIANS, ONE BORN IN U.S., KILLED IN BLOODY WEEKEND OF VIOLENCE By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- Four Palestinians were killed and about 50 were wounded in another weekend of violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Tension ran high in Jerusalem, where an Israeli soldier was stabbed, and in Ramallah, where relatives of an American-born Palestinian youth found brutally murdered were blaming the Israeli authorities.

In Bethlehem, a 14-year-old Arab youth, Radi Salah, was killed and four other Palestinians were wounded Saturday, when a group of youths stoning an Israel Defense Force jeep in the public market came under gunfire.

Palestinian sources claimed the shooting was carried out by Israeli civilians disguised as tourists.

In other violence, the head of the West Bank village of Kafr Lakif, near Tulkarm, was gunned down near his home Friday. And a resident of Rafah, at the southern end of the Gaza Strip, was murdered Saturday night.

Both victims were believed targeted by Arabs for collaborating with the Israeli authorities.

The slain man in Rafah reportedly had refused to hand over his magnetized identification card to activists in the Palestinian uprising.

The new ID cards, which every Gaza Strip worker must produce before he is allowed to go to work in Israel, have aroused fierce resentment.

The leadership of the Palestinian uprising circulated directives last week ordering Gaza laborers to stay away from work in Israel for a week beginning Friday, when the cards became mandatory.

### Army Denies Holding Youth

The strike was generally effective. Only a few hundred card-holders crossed into Israel at the Erez checkpoint Sunday. But another thousand applied for new ID cards.

The Israeli authorities believe the strike will fade before the week is over, because the Palestinians need their paychecks.

In Ramallah, the situation has been tense since two Israeli tax collectors were severely burned by a firebomb while driving to work there Aug. 14.

The atmosphere worsened over the weekend, after the body of 15-year-old Amjad Jibril Tawil

was discovered by a shepherd Friday, in the industrial zone of the nearby town of El-Birch.

Palestinians went on a general strike and army units were rushed to keep order.

Jibril had been missing since Wednesday. He was staying with relatives, the Tawils, who are one of the most respected families in Ramallah.

Family members say the body had a gunshot wound in the chest, broken teeth and burn-marks on hands, face and chest. They insist he was in the custody of the Israel Defense Force.

They base that claim on rumors that "someone who resembled the boy" was seen apprehended by soldiers. But an IDF spokesperson said Jibril was not held by the army.

Tawil is a U.S. citizen, having been born in Denver and raised in Miami, where his father, Hussein Tawil, presently lives.

The American Consulate in East Jerusalem and the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv have made inquiries in the case.

#### Kahane Nephew Stabbed

In Jerusalem meanwhile, local police Cmdr. Arye Bibi announced that an 18-year-old resident of Bethlehem is in custody for stabbing a soldier, Mordechai Kahane, opposite the Jerusalem City Hall over the weekend.

Kahane, who is a nephew of Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the extremist Kach movement, said he was assaulted along the walls of the Old City while walking home from basic training with the Golani Brigade.

He said he was confronted by a youth who shouted "Allah Akhbar" (God is great) and stabbed him twice in the back and the hands. The wounds were not serious.

Kahane said he wrestled with his assailant, who tried to escape but was apprehended by a border policeman.

According to the police commander, the youth attacked in revenge over the killing of a relative two years ago.

The Cabinet was briefed at its regular Sunday meeting on the status of the Palestinian uprising, now in its 21st month.

Officials attributed the latest flare-up to a resolution adopted by Al Fatah at its recent convention in Tunis, to escalate the armed struggle against Israel. Fatah is the largest and least extreme faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

### IRAQ FLYING SPY MISSIONS OVER JODAN By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- Israel has sent a sharp protest to Jordan for permitting Iraqi military aircraft to use its air space, Ma'ariv reported Sunday.

The Israeli message was conveyed by the United States, since Israel and Jordan have no formal diplomatic relations.

According to Ma'ariv, Iraqi planes made at least two reconnaissance flights over Jordan and photographed the Jordanian-Israeli border.

Israel advised Jordan a month ago it could not ignore such activities. Ma'ariv said.

Since the Iran-Iraq war ended last year, Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation has increased. Iraq has transferred several dozen tanks to Jordan.

Jordan has facilitated the transfer of Iraqi weapons and combat materiel to Christian forces battling the Syrian army in Lebanon, through its port of Aqaba, adjacent to Eilat.

## ISRAELI CABINET MINISTER IN POLAND, WILL DISCUSS CONVENT AT AUSCHWITZ By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- Zevulun Hammer, Israel's minister for religious affairs, began an official visit Sunday to Poland, where he hopes to deal, among other things, with the vexing question of the Carmelite convent on the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp.

It is an issue that has seriously strained Jewish-Catholic relations. Hammer said before leaving Ben-Gurion Airport that he was already discussed the matter with his Polish ministerial counterpart and will continue them face-to-face.

He said he hoped that the convent and other matters could be resolved regardless of changes that might take place in the Polish Ministry of Religion or the Warsaw government as a whole.

The Israeli minister is visiting Poland at a time of momentous political events -- the formation of that country's first non-Communist-led government in 40 years.

Israel and Poland now have rudimentary diplomatic relations in the form of interest sections in Warsaw and Tel Aviv respectively.

Hammer noted that as a result of discussions he has had, a rabbi from Israel has taken up residence in Warsaw, where he serves as spiritual leader to a Polish Jewish community variously estimated at between 5,000 and 15,000 people.

Coinciding with Hammer's visit to Poland is a visit by four Knesset members and by a group of "Mengele twins" and their relatives. Both groups will visit the site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp.

"Mengele twins" are survivors of barbarous medical experiments performed on Auschwitz inmates by the notorious Dr. Josef Mengele.

## DESPITE ABUSES IN CHINA AND LEBANON, U.N. HUMAN-RIGHTS PANEL TARGETS ISRAEL By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- Arab countries have mounted an all-out diplomatic attack against Israel here during the annual session of the U.N. Human Rights Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

The Arab nations accuse Israel of violating the human rights of Palestinians and of even exterminating them.

Although human-rights violations in Lebanon and China also have been discussed, Israel remains the principal target of the proceedings.

The subcommission studies human-rights violations and recommends action to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights. Its annual session opened Aug. 7 and will continue to Sept. 1.

The level of discourse was exemplified by a Syrian representative's bold assertion last week that "everybody knows" that "Zionism is closely related to neo-Nazism."

Ahmed Khalifa, a human-rights expert from Egypt, complained that the U.N. Security Council has imposed no sanctions against Israel, despite what he called "years and years of exterminating Palestinians."

He said that was proof of a double standard.

Abid al-Jadir, speaking for the Arab Organization for Human Rights, claimed "it is repeatedly said in Israel that Palestinians should be expelled from their lands or physically exterminated."

David Littman, representing the World Union

for Progressive Judaism, a non-governmental organization with observer status, cited the mistreatment of Jews in Syria.

He said Jews must carry identification cards with the word "Mossawi," meaning Mosaic or Jewish.

#### 'Neo-Nazis In Tel Aviv'

Littman observed that there were more than 220 unmarried Jewish women in Syria with little chance of marrying within their faith because most Jewish males of marriageable age have left the country.

These women are forcibly prevented from leaving to find spouses abroad, Littman charged. The Syrian government has effectively "imposed measures intended to prevent births within the (Jewish) group," he said.

Sami Glaiel, the observer for Syria, asked rhetorically if the World Union for Progressive Judaism was a representative of "Zionism, closely related to neo-Nazism."

He said the relationship is well known, now that Palestinians are suffering genocide at the hands of "neo-Nazis in Tel Aviv."

Rafael Walden, the observer for Israel, retorted that Syria, which was butchering Christians in Beirut, should think twice before speaking about human rights.

The U.S. delegate, Morris Abram, will speak next week.

Earlier this month, Abram urged the subcommission to denounce terrorist hostage-taking and adopt a more balanced approach to human-rights problems throughout the world.

#### DIRECTOR OF BETH HATEFUSOT QUITS AMID CHARGES OF FINANCIAL BUNGLING By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- Eliczer Shmueli, director of Beth Hatefutsot, the Nahum Goldman Museum of the Diaspora, has announced his resignation from the financially troubled institution, effective Oct. 1.

He has been embroiled in a dispute with Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lehat and the museum staff over his management.

Shmueli, a former director general of the Education Ministry, says his problems were caused by a deficit of more than \$2 million that he inherited when he took over directorship of the museum on the Tel Aviv University campus two years ago.

Lehat, who welcomed Shmueli's resignation, said the director had only himself to blame for the fiscal mess.

The museum is borrowing from banks to meet expenses.

Staff members say the museum has stagnated under Shmueli. It failed to secure matching funds for \$1.5 million donated by the Spiegel family of Los Angeles.

As a result, construction of a new multimillion-dollar wing devoted to contemporary Jewish life was halted.

Beth Hatefutsot is not the only Tel Aviv museum in financial straits. The city-run Tel Aviv Museum narrowly averted a crippling strike last week, when employees agreed to arbitration.

They were protesting economic cutbacks by Director Marc Shep, whom they blamed for the museum's difficulties.

Shep, however, enjoys Mayor Lehat's full confidence.

# TWO FEUDING ULTRA-ORTHODOX CAMPS PROPOSE CEASE-FIRE AND PEACE TALKS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- The religious wars between two ultra-Orthodox factions may soon be over.

Both sides have made peace overtures promising an end to the bitter feud between the Hasidim and Mitnagdim, which reached a peak during last year's Knesset election campaign.

Rabbi Pinhas Menachem Alter, chairman of the Agudat Yisrael party's central committee and brother of the aging rebbe of Gur, made the first move with an appeal for peace published Friday in the party newspaper, Hamodia.

The rival newspaper, Yated Ne'eman, published a front-page reply Sunday, welcoming Alter's call.

The paper is the mouthpiece of Rabbi Eliezer Schach of Bnei Brak, head of the Mitnaged faction and the Degel HaTorah party.

The editorial stressed Schach's own public protestations that he seeks peace and dialogue.

#### Trouble Began Last Fall

Relations between the two factions of the ultra-Orthodox community reached an all-time low recently, when both camps announced plans to establish separate schools so their children would no longer study together.

The long-simmering Hasid-Mitnaged feud which originated centuries ago in Eastern Europe, flared in Jerusalem last fall.

At that time, Schach demanded that the Agudah newspaper, Hamodia, reject election campaign advertisements from Chabad, the movement of Lubavitch Hasidim.

When Alter and other Agudah leaders refused, Schach broke away to set up his own party, Degel HaTorah, and his newspaper, Yated Ne'eman, which pursued a vigorous offensive against Chabad.

Chabad threw the weight of its influence to Agudah, which emerged from the elections with five Knesset seats.

Degel won two seats, considered a good showing for a party that did not exist a few months before Election Day.

#### A Call For 'Peace And Unity'

Rabbi Alter, in his call Friday for "peace and unity," noted that in rabbinic tradition the Temple was destroyed "because of needless hatred."

He recalled that Agudah's Council of Torah Sages had urged a reconciliation and that the founders of Agudah early in the century were leaders of the Hasidic camp.

His father, who was the rebbe of Gur, and the Chafetz Chaim, always worked "in close harmony and mutual respect," he said.

Now he said he was proposing to convene the Council of Torah Sages to hear "all sides and all issues."

In its response Sunday, Yated Ne'eman noted that Rabbi Schach in his address to thousands of supporters at the Ponevezh Yeshiva last week declared:

"My arms are stretched out for peace. Let us together consider whatever complaints there are."

The Mitnaged organ reported that "rabbis and public figures now hope that a roundtable can soon be set up which will end the schism."

# CHILDREN'S DEATHS SPARK FEARS OF MENINGITIS OUTBREAK IN ISRAEL By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- The deaths of two children struck by meningitis in the northern Israeli town of Nahariya have raised fears of an epidemic. But health authorities are reassuring the public it is unlikely.

They say if no new cases are reported by Monday, any possible danger will have passed.

Rinat Midan, 4, and Meir Ailuz, 6, died Thursday at the Nahariya hospital within the same 24-hour period after contracting meningococcemia.

Both youngsters had bathed in the municipal swimming pool, but had no close contact before taking ill.

Doctors stressed that the bacteria that cause meningitis are not water-borne and are communicable only by close contact.

The meningococcus bacterium is latent in about 8 percent of Israel's adult population, and about a dozen cases are reported each year in various parts of the country.

U.S. Embassy personnel are routinely vaccinated every year, but epidemiologists say the strain used is against a form of meningitis not found in Israel.

Also vaccinated are Moslems leaving Israel on the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. Meningitis is endemic in Saudi Arabia, parts of Syria and Sudan.

### ARENS APPOINTS ADVISER ON DIASPORA By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has named Michael Shilo as his adviser on Diaspora affairs, reversing cutbacks in the Diaspora relations department made by his predecessor. Shimon Peres.

Shilo, who heads the ministry's North American desk, will be replaced by Neville Lamdan, presently congressional affairs adviser at the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

In another change reported Friday by Haaretz, Yossi Amihud, who has been the Foreign Ministry's deputy spokesman, will be elevated to spokesman. He will replace Alon Liel, who is to be assigned to a senior post abroad.

### JUDGE REPORTED DEAD BEFORE HIS TIME By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- Shimon Agranat, former president of Israel's High Court of Justice, woke up Thursday morning to read in Ha'aretz that he was dead at age 83.

A short while later, two old friends were ringing Agranat's doorbell to offer condolences to the grieving widow.

Mrs. Agranat, still half asleep, opened the door to Justice Moshe Landau, who succeeded her husband as president of the High Court, and former Justice Moshe Etzioni.

They were shocked and distraught by the news their colleague died.

Agranat himself took the news fairly well. Borrowing the famous Mark Twain line, he said, "The news of my death is premature." By then, Ha'aretz's managing editor had telephoned with profuse apologies.

The newspaper published a correction Friday and wished the distinguished jurist a long life and good health.