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POLICE CONSIDER TERRORISM AS MOTIVE IN MURDER OF BELGIAN JEWISH LEADER: By Yossi Lempkowicz

gators have not ruled out terrorism as a possible motive in the fatal shooting of Dr. Joseph Wybran, secular leader of Belgium's 30,000-member Jewish community.

Wybran, 49, died Wednesday morning of a head wound inflicted by an unknown assailant Tuesday night in the parking lot of Erasmus Hospital. Wybran was head of its department of immunology, hematology and blood transfusions.

As chairman of the Coordinating Committee of Jewish Organizations in Belgium, Wybran was active in campaigning for the removal of a Carmelite convent from the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp in Poland.

According to police, Wybran was shot in the head Tuesday night by a .22-caliber revolver at close range as he was about to enter his car in the hospital's vast parking lot between 6 and 7 p.m. local time.

Police, who believe the killer was hiding behind the car when the attack took place, said the nature of the weapon and the choice of time and place indicate a political assassination.

Wybran, found lying in a pool of blood, was rushed to the hospital's intensive care unit.

It was under the Belgian doctor's leadership that the Jewish community here took the lead in protesting the Catholic Church's failure to honor its 1987 pledge to relocate the Auschwitz convent.

The issue was especially sensitive here because it was from Belgium that the Carmelite order was dispatched. Belgium also was the center of fund-raising efforts for the convent.

Wybran organized demonstrations last month outside the residence of the papal nuncio, the Vatican envoy in Belgium, to protest anti-Semitic statements by the Polish primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, arising from the convent dispute.

But he was also active in trying to defuse the controversy that has embittered Catholic-Jewish relations. He visited Poland only a week ago for talks with government officials and church leaders.

"Wybran, a former chairman of the Brussels section of B'nai B'rith, was widely respected within and outside the Jewish community. His last communal function was the European Jewish Congress plenum last month in London.

Wybran assumed leadership of the Coordinating Committee in December 1988, succeeding lawyer Markus Pardes after a long period of tension between the various streams of Judaism in Belgium.

He was considered the ideal compromise candidate.

According to David Susskind, vice president of the committee and head of the secular Jewish community center in Brussels, Wybran was a pacifist and a moderate without enemies.

Avi Primor, Israel's ambassador to Belgium, described him as "our link with Belgian Jewry, our doctor, our friend."

Wybran was the first Jewish public figure in Belgium to fall victim of a possible assassination. think it is a win-win situation for the United Until now, terrorists had attacked synagogues or

other Jewish institutions, but never a person in particular.

The Jewish community here is reeling not -only from shock over the murder, but also from BRUSSELS, Oct. 4 (JTA) -- Police investi- concern that, if terrorism was indeed involved, security may be threatened at Belgian synagogues, which will be packed for Yom Kippur services this Sunday night and Monday.

> Special protective measures have been taken at houses of worship and all other Jewish institutions, community sources said.

> Belgian Radio, which announced Wybran's death Wednesday, said the murder was considered an anti-Jewish act, although no person or group has claimed responsibility.

> Speculation in the Jewish community is that it could have been the work of a neo-Nazi, a Palestinian or a Catholic inflamed against Jews by the convent controversy.

> Wybran was born in May 1940. He was married and had no children.

U.S. EXPECTED TO GUARANTEE LOANS FOR ISRAEL, DESPITE RESERVATIONS By Andrew Silow Carroll

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4 (JTA) -- Despite budget constraints and concern about U.S. funds winding up in West Bank settlements, Israel and its supporters are confident that the Bush administration can be convinced to request millions of dollars in housing loan guarantees to Israel for the resettlement of Soviet Jews.

Israeli Finance Minister Shimon Peres requested \$400 million in such guarantees last week in meetings with President Bush in New York and in later discussions with members of the House Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations.

Peres described the plan as an effort to offset the costs of housing what Israel estimates will be an influx of 100,000 Soviet Jews over the next three to five years.

In the days following the request, however, administration officials and congressional leaders had two objections to the plan.

The first, stated Monday by Secretary of State James Baker, is that the United States would be hard-pressed to come up with \$400 million in an atmosphere of fiscal restraint.

The second is that the United States, which opposes additional Israeli settlement of territories Israel captured in 1967, is concerned that housing will be built in those disputed areas for Soviet emigres.

"We remain opposed to settlements in the West Bank and also opposed to the use of U.S. aid for that purpose," Marlin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, said Monday.

'Win-Win Situation' For U.S.

Yet both Baker and Fitzwater indicated that the United States is "sympathetic" to Israel's desire to resettle the Soviet emigres. And by Tuesday, sources say, the administration had begun to rethink its reluctance to request the loan guarantees.

As one Israeli Embassy official put it, "I States."

Proponents of the plan are taking two tacks: that U.S. loan guarantees require no cash outlay and that the United States reserves the power of approval over any housing built with loans it guarantees.

To meet Peres' request, the United States would not need to lift Gramm-Rudman budget reduction ceilings, they argue. Rather, the administration would only need to request that Congress lift the cap on credit available through the U.S. Agency for International Development or create an exception for Israel.

Currently, AID is authorized to extend \$25 million in housing loan guarantees per country from a worldwide credit program of \$125 million. That credit has already been committed.

In response to U.S. fears of a nation defaulting on loans, as restated Tuesday by State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher, activists will point to Israel's untarnished record on meeting loan payments over the years.

That record includes a prior use of housing loan guarantees in the early 1970s, when AID extended some \$100 million in guarantees to help Israel absorb a previous influx of Soviet immigrants, according to U.S. and Israeli officials.

"That program had been very successful," said an AID official. The official also said he could recall no nation actually defaulting on a U.S.-guaranteed loan, although there are a number of nations "in arrears."

U.S. Would Control Loans

On the settlement issue, proponents of the Peres plan say that AID would have ultimate approval of all housing programs undertaken with loans guaranteed by the U.S. government. They say that was the arrangement when AID guaranteed loans to Israel in the 1970s.

Still, Israel faces objections from some government officials and Arab nations that the money it is lent for development within the pre-1967 borders "frees up" cash for projects in the West Bank.

Peres reportedly told the House foreign operations subcommittee that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc is likely to continue its policy of building and subsidizing settlements in the West Bank.

But a pro-Israel activist said Tuesday that there is a "fundamental distinction" between what a country must do with U.S. approval and actions it takes in what it perceives as its own best interest.

The benefits available under U.S. guarantees are considerable. Countries to which the guarantees are extended must borrow from United States financial institutions and are charged the market rate.

Current interest rates of 9 to 10 percent are as much as 33 percent less than what Israel would receive were it to seek non-guaranteed loans.

But the \$400 million still represents only a fraction of what Israel says it will need to absorb new immigrants, according to an official at the Israeli Embassy.

With 30,000 housing units needed at a cost of \$65,000 per unit, Peres' three-year plan foresees housing expenditures alone of \$2 billion. An additional \$1 billion in education, vocational training and other services is not included in the housing costs.

The Israeli government is expected to look toward its own budget and the largess of Diaspora Jews to make up the difference.

NEWS ANALYSIS:
LIKUD AND LABOR MAY TAKE WEEKS
TO REACH ACCORD ON EGYPTIAN IDEAS
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 4 (JTA) -- Likud's and Labor's efforts to reach common ground on a dialogue with the Palestinians are expected to extend over the next several weeks, as the two parties seek further clarifications from the United States and Egypt, while trying to preserve their unity coalition government.

There is a consensus among political observers that nothing conclusive will emerge from the Inner Cabinet's foreign policy debate, scheduled for Thursday.

The government's top policy-making body, consisting of six Likud and six Labor ministers, is seeking a way to narrow the differences between the coalition partners over the 10-point paper proposed by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The Egyptian leader has stressed the 10 points are not an initiative but a framework for the Palestinian election plan that originated with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Likud rejects several key points, including the premise that the "land for peace" formula should serve as the basis for peace talks. It is also opposed to allowing East Jerusalem Arabs to participate in the proposed elections.

Mubarak has offered to host preliminary Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo to work out the mechanics of the elections. But Likud is staunchly opposed to his suggestion that Palestinians outside the territories, including those deported by Israel, be included in those talks.

The Labor Party, on the other hand, is prepared to endorse the Egyptian 10 points as an acceptable opening position for the Palestinian delegation. The United States is believed to share the same view, though it has not said so publicly.

But the Americans, the Egyptians and especially the Israeli leaders seem anxious to avoid a government crisis in Jerusalem.

Summit In The Works?

Ha'aretz reported Wednesday that Washington is making strenuous efforts to persuade Mubarak to hold a summit meeting with Shamir, which the Israeli leader has long wanted, to head off a coalition crisis over the 10 points.

Mubarak, who has declared publicly that he is not seeking the breakup of the Israeli government, says he would be willing to meet with Shamir if a successful outcome could be guaranteed.

Vice Premier Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader, hinted during a party caucus Wednesday night that Shamir wants to stay on the "good side" of the Americans, since he will be visiting the United States in the middle of November.

Since he will almost certainly have meetings with President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, he is anxious to avoid a rift.

Labor, too, would prefer to avert a coalition crisis, political observers say, at least until after the Histadrut elections in November.

But the Laborites would hardly be put out if Shamir and his Likud bloc find themselves on the defensive against the Americans, the Egyptians and other areas of public opinion.

The Labor Party was encouraged by a poll published in Yediot Achronot last weekend. It showed 52 percent of the public favoring talks with the Palestinians on Mubarak's terms, 40 percent opposed and 8 percent undecided.

AGUDAT YISRAEL OFFICIAL QUITS POST, CITING FAILURE TO CARRY OUT PLEDGES By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 4 (JTA) -- Rabbi Moshe Ze'ev Feldman, leader of the Agudat Yisrael party's Knesset faction, resigned Tuesday as deputy minister of labor and social affairs.

He said he was quitting because of the government's failure to carry out pledges on

religion-related issues.

But political observers do not expect the five-member Agudah faction to desert the coalition government.

Although Feldman ran the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, its titular head is Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The ultra-Orthodox Agudat Yisrael has belonged to Likud-led coalition governments since 1977, but has always declined full Cabinet responsibility, for ideological reasons. That may be changing, and some observers believe Agudah will demand a full Cabinet replacement for Feldman.

The speculation has been linked to the name of industrialist Avraham Shapiro, who headed the Agudah Knesset faction until 1988, when he stepped aside for Feldman. Both men represent the Gur Hasidic movement, which is the largest single bloc in the party.

Shapiro can be appointed a Cabinet minister without being a Knesset member, but not a deputy

minister.

Feldman, a yeshiva dean from Bnei Brak, is expected to stay on in the Knesset. But he has been visibly unhappy during his brief political career.

Political insiders say he resigned because he felt his own Gur bloc was not giving him the backing to which he felt entitled.

Feldman dwelt on "spiritual reasons." He accused Likud of failure to keep promises on matters such as "immodest" advertising and the inclusion of some religion in the curricula of the secular school system.

He dismissed speculation that Agudah might accept a Cabinet seat. "Our sages will not allow it," he said.

FOUR RESERVISTS STANDING TRIAL FOR BEATING OF TWO ARABS IN GAZA By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 4 (JTA) -- A military court in southern Israel began hearings Tuesday into charges that four reserve soldiers of the crack Givati Brigade caused bodily harm to two Palestinian residents of the El-Bureij refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, one of whom subsequently died.

The defendants, Maj. Yitzhak Levitt, Lt. Ofer Reshef, Sgt. Maj. Eli Shukrun and Sgt. Gadi Geneva, pleaded not guilty. All came to court in civilian clothes and appeared outwardly calm.

According to the charge sheet, the four soldiers brutally attacked two young residents of the refugee camp in February 1988 because they were suspected of participating in a riot.

One of the youths, Hassan Akel, 20, died later at Shifa Hospital in Gaza.

The body was seized by members of his family before an autopsy could be performed. As a consequence, the soldiers are not charged with responsibility for causing his death.

The hearing opened only a few days after the commanding officer of the southern region, Gen. Matan Vilnai, pardoned three other Givati Brigade members who were serving prison sentences for their part in the fatal beating of a refugee camp resident last year.

The court rejected a defense motion that it disqualify itself because the president of the panel, Immanuel Gross, had presided over the earlier Givati trial and had expressed personal opinions.

The prosecution's first witness was Brig. Gen. Ya'acov Or, who was commanding officer of the Gaza Strip at the time of the incident. He said soldiers had orders to use "reasonable force" only to disperse a violent crowd or to make arrests.

But Or conceded under questioning by the defense that in the early stages of the Palestinian uprising, orders were not sufficiently precise as to what constituted "legitimate force."

Meanwhile, another trial opened in the same military court Wednesday.

The defendant, whose name has been withheld, is an Israel Defense Force lieutenant accused of unintentionally causing the death last November of a resident of Rafah, at the southern end of the Gaza Strip.

Both trials are expected to raise anew the question of where to draw the line between the legitimate and the unlawful exercise of force.

TERROR CELL UNCOVERED IN WEST BANK By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 4 (JTA) -- Israeli security forces have nabbed a terrorist cell operating in the West Bank whose members allegedly planned to kidnap Israeli soldiers and civilians in the Petach Tikva area, on orders from abroad.

Members of the cell also are linked to the brutal beating of Moshe Zecharia, an Israeli tombstone contractor, in the cemetery at Rosh Ha'ayin last January.

The cell operated out of Deir Balut village in the Samaria region of the West Bank, security sources said.

Two of its members are believed to have been recruited as long as 10 years ago by Al Fatah, the largest faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

IDF KILLS TWO GUNMEN IN LEBANON By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 4 (JTA) -- Two suspected terrorists were killed Tuesday night in an encounter with an Israel Desense Force patrol in the southern Lebanon security zone, the IDF announced Wednesday.

A military spokesperson said the patrol, which was on "routine duty," spotted the terrorists less than two miles west of Beit Louf village, opposite Moshav Zar'it in Israel.

The area has been the scene of several clashes recently with would-be infiltrators.

According to the spokesperson, the patrol commander ordered his men to open fire at less than 10 yards range.

The slain men wore civilian clothing and athletic shoes. They were armed with Kalachnikov assault rifles, LAW missiles and explosives.

The two carried Lebanese identification papers, but they have not been linked to any known organization, the IDF said.

An Israeli soldier suffered minor bruises. He was treated by his unit and returned to duty.

WOMAN IN THE NEWS: AN ILL BUT WELL-DRESSED ANNE POLLARD CAMPAIGNS FOR HUSBAND AND HERSELF By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, Oct. 4 (JTA) -- Anne Henderson Pollard's freckled face is a picture of determination when she talks about her commitment to her husband, Jonathan Jay Pollard, who is serving a life sentence in federal prison for spying for Calls And Visits From Well-Wishers Israel.

"I am devoted to my husband. I love my husband. I feel truly blessed to be his wife," she says during an hour-long interview Tuesday in a crowded Manhattan coffee shop.

The shop's other patrons would never guess that the extremely thin, well-dressed woman smoking a cigarette and sipping a Coke is on her first furlough from federal prison in over two years.

She is halfway through serving two concurrent five-year jail terms for unauthorized possession of national defense information.

She is eligible and has been recommended to be released to a halfway house as early as next month, though final approval has not yet been given. She expects to be released on parole next March at the latest.

Rather than fitting the image of a prison inmate, Pollard, 29, exudes the polished professionalism of her trade, which is public relations. She uses this skill to campaign for her husband.

Pollard admittedly "would do anything" for her husband, and she is using her 12-day furlough to plead his case as well as her own.

On Tuesday, she appealed directly to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Israel Radio to "put in a word to President Bush, either publicly or privately," on behalf of her and her husband, a former U.S. naval intelligence analyst.

She said on the air that she was certain such an appeal would lead Bush to lighten her husband's life sentence and bring about her own immediate pardon, on humanitarian grounds.

Meeting With The Rebbe

She is also meeting with American Jewish supporters of the Pollards. She addressed the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, in the Bronx, during High Holy Day services, and spoke Monday night to about 150 people gathered on Long Island to raise money for her legal and medical costs.

Her schedule of meetings this week includes a meeting Thursday with the Lubavitcher rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, as well as a meeting Friday morning sponsored by the Zionist Organization of America, to which representatives of several Jewish organizations have been invited.

She confides that she has already met with some American Jewish leaders, though she will not mention their names.

Pollard politely refuses to answer questions about the specifics of her husband's espionage activities and does not want to speak on the record about her treatment in prison. She fears being accused of revealing classified information or offending the Bureau of Prisons in such a way as to jeopardize her chances for release.

Although Pollard is extremely thin, hunched over, with poor eyesight and her right arm continuously pressed against her stomach, her energy level is high and she exudes confidence as she maneuvers her way down Manhattan streets and into stores and restaurants.

Her strawberry-blond hair has just been cut

and she is stylishly dressed in a black suit with puffed sleeves. She wears gold earrings and two small necklaces: a Star of David and a Chai.

"I could walk into prison now and no one would recognize me," she smiles.

But she is clearly in constant pain and carries a purse full of prescription medication for her "digestive and gynecological problems."

Her official headquarters during her furlough is her father's midtown Manhattan public relations firm, called the New York Staff.

In the sparsely furnished office, the phone rings incessantly with press inquiries and calls from well-wishers. Her supporters continually wander into the office.

The calls and visitors are fielded by her father, Bernard Henderson, and his friend and associate, Philip Landa, the two driving forces behind Citizens for Justice, an organization founded to support the Pollards.

"This isn't just a fight for my friends Anne and Bernard," says Landa, a tall nervous man wearing a knitted yarmulke. "It's a fight against anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism."

Anne Pollard no more than walks in the door of the office, than the phone is pressed into her hand.

"It's Uzi Landau, a member of Knesset," Landa tells her.

Pollard obediently picks up the phone and speaks to Landau. Several Israeli Knesset members have lobbied for the Pollards, and the support seems to cross traditional party lines.

Landau is a member of the Likud bloc. Rabbi Eliezer Waldman, who has visited Anne Pollard in prison twice, belongs to the right-wing Tehiya party. Another Tehiya member, Geula Cohen, is expected to meet with Pollard in prison next week, as is Edna Solodar of the Labor Party.

Pollard has nothing but positive things to say about Israel and does not appear to harbor anger over the Israeli government's contention that her husband's espionage was an unauthorized "rogue operation," conducted without the knowledge of top Israeli leaders.

No Bitterness Toward Israel

When asked if she is not at all bitter about the fact that her husband's Israeli "handlers" fled the country when learning that she and her husband were being followed by the authorities, she replies, "Why should the actions of three or four people color how I feel about Israel?"

She vehemently denies reports published this summer that her husband has expressed dismay with Israel for turning its back on them. "It's the last thing my husband would ever say," she maintains.

While Pollard would gladly go to Israel with her husband -- "I would go to Timbuktu with him," she says -- she intends to stay in the United States after she is released from prison. Her plan is to work in her father's public relations firm, "for the vindication of my husband."

For now, the public relations professional will continue working in the law library at the federal prison in Danbury, Conn., "reading and writing voraciously."

Until her ultimate wish -- "to be reunited with my husband" -- is granted, the American Jewish community, and the American people, can expect to hear a great deal from Anne Henderson just been cut Pollard.