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**SOLDIER TAKING OLD CITY STROLL  
STABBED BY UNIDENTIFIED ATTACKER**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- She had planned the visit for a long time, but had never gotten around to making it.

On Monday, 19-year-old Dalit Avni, dressed in her army uniform, finally went for a stroll in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Unarmed and unafraid, despite stories about violence there, Avni passed through the Old City walls and waded into the oriental bazaar. She made it as far as the perfume market, when she suddenly felt sharp pains in her back.

An unidentified assailant had stabbed her seven times in the back, stomach, chest and hip. It was the first such attack in East Jerusalem in many months.

Arab shopkeepers who witnessed the stabbing hurriedly locked up and rushed from the scene. None offered to help the young woman, who lay bleeding on the pavement.

An army patrol that happened by summoned an ambulance, which took Avni to Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Ein Kerem.

She was fully conscious when she arrived. Her wounds were more than superficial, yet not grave.

Doctors said she suffered moderate blood loss and would be released from the hospital after a few days of observation.

Avni could not tell the police much. She had only a fleeting glimpse of the assailant.

Police detained 80 people for questioning. By Monday night, 20 remained in custody.

In her hospital bed, Avni said the assault had not changed her opinion of Arabs. "I can understand them," she said.

**Few Now Visit Old City**

The Old City was popular with Israeli visitors until the intifada broke out more than two years ago. Since then, few Israelis venture into the narrow alleys of the Arab neighborhoods.

Soldiers generally go there only on duty and only when armed.

In recent months, violence linked to the intifada has been limited in Jerusalem to arson against Israeli cars and a few unsuccessful gasoline-bomb attacks. Israeli vehicles are stoned as a matter of routine.

Police are now investigating a more serious incident that may have had nationalistic motivations. But they say it also could have been a purely criminal matter.

The case involves a Jewish drug addict, reportedly a prostitute, who was murdered 11 days ago in the Shuafat refugee camp, near the French Hill neighborhood, where she apparently went to buy drugs.

Observers believe the intifada will intensify in Jerusalem as the time approaches to decide whether East Jerusalem Arabs can participate in the proposed Palestinian elections.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is adamantly opposed, on the grounds that allowing them to take part might compromise Israel's sovereignty over East Jerusalem, which it annexed after the Six-Day War in 1967.

**RABIN ADDRESSES RANGE OF CONCERNS  
IN MEETINGS WITH U.S. JEWISH LEADERS**

By Elena Neuman

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- Questions about the peace process and related issues he will be discussing with Secretary of State James Baker this week were off limits at Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin's news conference here last Friday.

"You can ask me questions related to the meeting, but don't expect any answers," Rabin told reporters after appearing at a closed session of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

But he was forthcoming on other matters, including developments in Eastern Europe and their implications for Soviet Jews; their resettlement in Israel; the recent Syrian-Egyptian rapprochement; and the continuing Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Even before Rabin left Israel, his meetings with Baker and other top administration officials, scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, were shadowed by reports of mounting frustration in Washington.

Despite formal denials from the State Department, Baker is said to be ready to abandon his peace efforts in the Middle East unless there is some movement on his five-point plan for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, hosted by Egypt.

The dialogue is supposed to help implement Israel's plan for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But Israeli officials are concerned about some of the dialogue's implications.

Rabin will be meeting Wednesday and Thursday with Vice President Dan Quayle, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and Baker.

**Urges Aid For Soviet Jews**

Rabin spoke to the Conference of Presidents specifically about the dramatic openings in Eastern Europe and the historic opportunity to bring hundreds of thousands of Jews to Israel.

"But he said that the outcome depends on Israel and world Jewry," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the conference.

"We have to be prepared to offer help to Soviet Jewish immigrants to help settle them and integrate them," he said.

The intifada and Rabin's role as defense minister in setting military policy was the main topic of discussion at the news conference.

Questions were asked about the case of Col. Yehuda Meir, an Israel Defense Force officer facing court-martial for ordering his men to "break the bones" of Palestinians rioters.

With over 400,000 Israelis serving in the territories, Rabin said, there have been only "several hundred" cases in which soldiers or officers did not "behave in accordance with the laws.

"And the laws are strict," Rabin added.

He said 99 percent of the activity by masked Palestinians was against fellow Arabs, not Israelis. In 1989 alone, 132 Palestinians were killed by other Palestinians, he said.

Speaking of the way the intifada is perceived abroad, Rabin said, "I believe that there is

a tendency not to understand, not to see the problem the way it exists in Israel.

"What's going on in the territories -- it's not a struggle about human rights, or about other issues. It's a hostile confrontation between total different entities -- religiously, politically and nationally.

"Therefore, you have to look at the confrontation, not on each superficial look on television, but what goes behind it."

#### **Appearances In Los Angeles**

Rabin offered interesting observations about Syria, during his meeting with the Conference of Presidents.

He said the Syrians feel insecure because they are unsure of Soviet backing. So President Hafez Assad is now turning toward President Hosni Mubarak to patch up relations.

Recalling how Syria denounced Egypt for signing a peace treaty with Israel, Rabin was said to have remarked, "The Syrians came back to Mubarak, and Assad had to swallow his speeches of the past 10 years."

But there has been no diminution of Assad's hostility toward Israel, Rabin said. The IDF, therefore, must stand ready on the Golan Heights.

Rabin flew to Los Angeles on Saturday evening and addressed the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the American Friends of Hebrew University on Sunday.

He managed to hold his share of the spotlight Sunday evening in competition with some of the biggest names in Hollywood at the 20th Scopus Award Gala, attended by some 2,000 supporters of Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Honoree of the event was television personality and entrepreneur Merv Griffin, who exchanged compliments and jokes with Rabin; former President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy; and actors Clint Eastwood, Gregory Peck, Sidney Poitier, Jimmy Stewart and George Burns.

In his remarks, Rabin noted that "if Jerusalem is the heart of the Jewish people, then the Hebrew University is the brain."

Rabin spoke to 550 people at Stephen Wise Temple to convey "the thoughts and feelings of the people of Israel at the beginning of this decade."

#### **Appeals For Broad Consensus**

He cited four major challenges facing his nation:

- \* Bring in and absorb hundreds of thousands of immigrants from the Soviet Union and other East European countries, "one of the last historic opportunities to considerably increase the Jewish population of Israel";

- \* Diminish the current economic and educational inequalities among different segments of the Israeli population;

- \* Maintain the security of Israel against the threats posed by Arab states, terrorist attacks and the intifada; and

- \* Pursue the Israeli peace initiative, which proposes free elections for Arab residents of the territories.

Rabin said that the peace plan offers Palestinians their best chance to achieve their goals. He appealed for a wide consensus in Israel and in Jewish communities abroad to support the plan.

"I look to the future, not with pessimism or optimism, but with Jewish realism," he said.

*(JTA correspondent Tom Tugend in Los Angeles contributed to this report.)*

#### **JORDAN ORDERS SOLDIERS TO SHOOT ANYONE WHO TRIES TO CROSS BORDER**

**By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- Jordanian soldiers have been ordered to shoot dead anyone, including a fellow soldier, who illegally tries to cross the border into another country, according to Prime Minister Modar Badran of Jordan.

Badran spoke in reply to a journalist who asked about the infiltration of a Jordanian soldier into the Hamat Gader region of the Golan Heights on Jan. 7. Israeli soldiers killed an armed man wearing a Jordanian army uniform there on that date.

Badran, whose remarks were reported Sunday by Ma'ariv, said the Jordanian army recently killed one of its soldiers who attempted to infiltrate into Syria.

In recent months, there has been an upsurge in the number of disturbances along the normally quiet border with Jordan.

A new incident was reported Sunday by members of Kibbutz Grofit, in the Arava region of the Negev, north of Eilat. But the Israel Defense Force disputed their claim.

The kibbutz members, who were working in a mango grove a few yards from the border, said a figure in "dark clothes, presumably a Jordanian soldier" fired a pistol at them and fled when they returned the fire.

Because of recent incidents, farmers working near the Jordanian border have been ordered to carry arms.

But an IDF spokesman said an investigation by the local military commander determined that the reported shots were fired by a hunter. The IDF said it found no tracks to indicate an infiltrator had crossed the border from Jordan.

There were no casualties or damage.

But the incident indicated the state of tension among Israelis in the border region because of the proliferation of incidents during the past year.

There have been four incidents so far this month in which shots have been fired, all of them in the vicinity of Hamat Gader or the Beit She'an Valley, in the northern part of the country. There were five incidents in 1989.

#### **POLICE DEFUSE BOMB OUTSIDE MA'ARIV**

**By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- A police bomb squad safely detonated an explosive device found outside the editorial offices of the daily Ma'ariv at midnight Sunday.

An anonymous telephone caller said the bomb was placed by Sicarii, an extreme right-wing Jewish terrorist organization. No reason was given.

Another caller claimed a bomb was planted near the rival afternoon daily Yediot Achronot, about a half mile away, but an intensive search found nothing.

Sicarii, a shadowy group virtually unknown to the authorities, was linked by the police to the fatal shooting of one Arab and the wounding of two others near the Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem last April.

The group takes its name from Jewish terrorists of the late Second Temple period, so-called from the daggers -- "sica" in Latin-- they used to murder those suspected of collaborating with the Romans.

## PASSAGE TO FREEDOM DRIVE RAISED MORE THAN \$50 MILLION, UJA REPORTS

By Elena Neuman

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- The United Jewish Appeal announced Monday that its 1989 Passage to Freedom campaign for Soviet Jews raised \$50.1 million as of the Dec. 31 closing.

The amount falls short of the campaign's ambitious \$75 million goal, but UJA leaders nevertheless are said to be pleased with the results.

"Unlike the late 1970s, when there was also a wave of Soviet Jewish emigration," said UJA National Chairman Morton Kornreich, "we have been able to maintain the integrity of our regular allocations and to collect a record amount of cash from the regular campaign.

"Together with Passage to Freedom, the total UJA-federation campaign will reach \$800 million for the first time in history," he said.

Kornreich reported that UJA had already collected \$33 million of the Passage to Freedom funds raised.

The announcement coincided with a UJA national officers meeting here Monday afternoon to discuss joint plans with the Jewish Agency to mount a massive new campaign to aid the resettlement of Soviet Jews in Israel.

UJA had been expected to announce a drive to raise \$350 million over five years for the resettlement effort.

But with Soviet Jews now flowing through the gates of Ben-Gurion Airport at an unprecedented rate of approximately 2,000 per week, Israeli officials have reportedly asked that the total be doubled.

In recent weeks, Israeli politicians have been publicly critical of Diaspora Jewry for showing what they believe to be ambivalence about assisting Israel in absorbing the huge wave of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union.

"Unfortunately, world Jewry has not yet joined us with all of its strength in this battle," Israeli President Chaim Herzog said Friday in his monthly broadcast on Israel Radio.

There was no official announcement Monday of the results of the national officers meeting. Discussions are expected to continue here Tuesday and Wednesday, as officers of the United Israel Appeal and the Jewish Agency hold meetings of their own.

## WORK WILL BEGIN SOON ON CENTER TO REPLACE CONVENT AT AUSCHWITZ

By Yossi Lempkiewicz

BRUSSELS, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- The removal of a Carmelite convent from the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp now seems assured, if a report in the Belgian Catholic daily La Libre Belgique is correct.

The newspaper's Warsaw correspondent reported that construction will begin next month on the ecumenical prayer and education center outside the Auschwitz perimeter, where the nuns now living in the convent will be relocated.

The land has been acquired, the architectural plans have been completed and work will start if the weather permits, the newspaper said, quoting sources close to the Polish Catholic Church. The report indicated that the winter in Poland has been very cold.

The new center is being financed through a special fund created by Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, the archbishop of Krakow, who has

jurisdiction over the convent, the newspaper said. Money for the project is being donated in Western Catholic circles.

Macharski and three other European cardinals signed an agreement with world Jewish leaders in Geneva in February 1987 that the convent would be removed from the Auschwitz grounds within two years. When the deadline passed last year without steps taken to honor the pledge, Catholic-Jewish relations soured.

The Vatican declined to intervene until September, when it finally prodded the reluctant Polish Church to begin the relocation process.

But Jewish demands for a "symbolic gesture" of good intentions -- removal of a giant wooden cross erected outside the convent -- have gone unanswered, La Libre Belgique reported.

## NAZI-HUNTER EXPELLED FROM SYRIA WHILE WORKING ON THE BRUNNER CASE

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- Syrian authorities on Friday forced Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld to leave their country, where he had been trying to focus attention on the case of Nazi war criminal Alois Brunner, the World Jewish Congress reported.

Syrian police came to Klarsfeld's hotel room Friday and escorted him to the airport, where they put him on a plane for Vienna, his wife, Beate, said in a telephone conversation from Paris with Elan Steinberg, WJC executive director.

Klarsfeld arrived home in Paris on Friday night. He was not physically harmed, his wife reported.

Serge Klarsfeld had been in Damascus since Jan. 9, having obtained a business visa to Syria as president of the Sons and Daughters of Deported Jews of France.

He had unsuccessfully attempted to rent a hall in Damascus, with the intention of holding a hearing on Brunner, who is believed to have lived in the country for more than 30 years.

Beate Klarsfeld said her husband had obtained help in arranging a hearing from the Syrian Bar Association. She said its intervention may have prompted her husband's expulsion.

Serge Klarsfeld was refused entry to the presidential palace Wednesday, his wife reported.

She told Steinberg that her husband was prevented from meeting with representatives of the French Embassy in Syria. Syrian authorities also disconnected telephone service to his hotel room, where he was confined.

## Protected By Assad's Bodyguards

Beate Klarsfeld said her husband had learned that Brunner is being protected by the personal bodyguards of President Hafez Assad. Her husband was carrying a letter describing Brunner's exact whereabouts, she said.

Brunner, who was considered a right-hand man to Adolf Eichmann, was in charge of rounding up and deporting Jews from Vienna, Paris, Slovakia and Greece. It is believed he is responsible for the deaths of some 100,000 Jews.

France and West Germany have asked for Brunner's extradition, but have been told that Brunner is not in Syria.

Serge Klarsfeld wrote a letter to Assad, saying, "I have come to Damascus as a Jew, as a survivor of the Nazi genocide, to seek justice in the Brunner affair. The argument that (Syrian authorities) know nothing about Brunner's presence on Syrian territory has convinced no one."

**KING BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATED  
AT D.C., NEW YORK CEREMONIES**  
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- Democratic National Committee Chairman Ronald Brown said Monday that Jews and blacks "do not threaten one another."

"It is not Jews that have bombed and threatened civil rights leaders, and it is not blacks who are painting swastikas on synagogues," said Brown.

Brown delivered the keynote speech at the fifth annual commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday at the Israeli Embassy. The event, which marked what would have been King's 61st birthday, is co-sponsored by the Jewish National Fund of America and the embassy.

Brown leaves Wednesday on his third visit to Israel, his first in 10 years.

"I think it's important for me, as chairman of the Democratic Party, to have a great deal of sensitivity to the situation in Israel, to be a strong advocate, and to make sure that the security interests of Israel are preserved and assured," he said.

Brown added that he plans to discuss with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir various human rights issues "that have been raised recently," including the "whole issue of the relationship between Israel and South Africa."

He said that in Shamir's meetings in November with the Congressional Black Caucus, the prime minister "made some commitments to take some action."

**'Tutu Speaks For Himself'**

When asked if he shares Archbishop Desmond Tutu's recent statements about Israel's harsh treatment of Palestinians, he said, "I don't think it's useful to try to characterize others' feelings. I think everyone knows where I stand on Israel. Bishop Tutu speaks for himself and I speak for myself."

At the ceremony, civil rights awards were presented to David Brody, the former Washington representative of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and to Robert McGlotten, a prominent black who in 1986 became legislative director of the AFL-CIO. AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland attended the ceremony.

A third award was presented posthumously to Leonore Siegelman, a longtime civil rights activist who died Jan. 4.

It was announced at the ceremony that a grove of 1,000 trees would be named for Siegelman in JNF's Martin Luther King Jr. Forest.

A special award of recognition was given in memory of Rep. Mickey Leland (D-Texas), who died this summer while trying to aid famine victims in Ethiopia.

Israeli Ambassador Moshe Arad called Leland a "mensch," and likened his tragic death to that of King. Arad informed the crowd that Leland's wife, Alison, gave birth to twin boys on Sunday.

"What a powerful message to us all that we are dedicated to continue the mission of Mickey Leland," he said.

Among the other Jewish commemorations of King's birthday was one held in New York by the American Jewish Congress.

On Friday, Elizabeth Holtzman, the New York City comptroller, and Douglas White, the city's personnel director-designate, celebrated King's birthday at an AJCongress ceremony.

Holtzman told 100 students from area schools that "through much of our history, African Americans and Jewish Americans have worked closely together to achieve that dignity and destiny of which Dr. King wrote."

The American Jewish Committee issued a statement urging Congress to approve new civil rights and anti-discrimination laws in 1990.

Ira Silverman, the group's executive director, also said that "to keep alive (King's) legacy, we must all continue to abhor recent manifestations of anti-Semitism and reject irresponsible attacks against Israel."

Silverman also urged Congress to approve a bill requiring the Justice Department to gather statistics on hate crimes.

White supremacist leader Tom Metzger attacked AJCommittee and the ADL on his Washington area hotline this week for supporting the measure, which he called a "Jew bill."

**FARMERS BESET BY ECONOMIC WOES  
SEND PROTEST CONVOY TO JERUSALEM**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- A convoy of about 50 buses was expected to make its way from Galilee to Jerusalem on Monday, with hundreds of irate farmers demanding relief from their dire financial situation.

The farmers, from moshavim and other cooperative settlements near the Lebanon border, say they cannot make ends meet under present economic conditions.

Poultry farming and fruit growing are the mainstays of the area. The farmers, who are on strike, are asking for increased government subsidies and higher ceilings on the price of eggs and agricultural produce.

The convoy to Jerusalem was timed to coincide with a Knesset discussion of egg overproduction. The eggs are a glut on the market, according to the Poultry and Egg Marketing Board, and the surplus has to be exported to places as distant as the Far East, at a big loss.

Many of the settlements have been without water for days, because they cannot pay their bills to the Mekorot Water Co. They are also unable to pay for agricultural supplies and personal items.

There were riots Sunday at Moshav Ya'ara, which has been hard hit. Tempers flared and residents clashed with police because of several recent suicides by farmers overwhelmed by debt.

The farmers at Ya'ara left the main northern border road littered with barricades of burning tires and overturned farm carts.

**1989 INFLATION REACHED 21.7 PERCENT**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 15 (JTA) -- Inflation bedeviled Israel last year and is expected to persist at double-digit rates.

The cost-of-living index registered a 1.1 percent rise in December, bringing the annual inflation rate for 1989 to 21.7 percent.

That is about 25 percent higher than that of the previous year and more than twice the single-digit rate forecast by Finance Minister Shimon Peres at the beginning of 1989.

Dov Lautman, chairman of the Manufacturers Association, said present trends indicate there is little hope the inflation rate can be brought under 10 percent in 1990.