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**POLICE SEARCH FOR TERRORISTS
AFTER BOMB KILLS CANADIAN GIRL**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 29 (JTA) -- With eight Arab suspects in custody Sunday, police continued to search for terrorists responsible for the pipe bomb explosion that killed a Canadian teen-ager and injured 18 other people early Saturday afternoon on a crowded Tel Aviv beach.

Marnie Kimmelman, 17, of the Toronto suburb of Willowdale, a member of a student tour group, died of massive internal injuries while undergoing surgery at Ichilov Hospital.

Three of those injured, identified as Bert Brand and Steven Finger, both 19, and Hilary Mason, 18, were Canadians. The other victims, all Israelis, were not seriously hurt.

No terrorist organization has so far claimed responsibility for the bombing.

After the bombing, infuriated Israelis rampaged through the beach area, attacking every Arab in sight and exhorting police to "break their heads."

One Jew was arrested for assaulting an Israel Television cameraman.

The roundup of suspects began almost immediately, but some Arabs were detained for their own protection.

Of the dozen or more questioned, eight were held, including two 17-year-olds who were remanded in custody in Tel Aviv juvenile court Sunday morning. The adult suspects will be charged on Monday.

The detainees are from Nablus in the West Bank and Gaza and Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip.

The apparently homemade bomb, concealed in a beach bag between two beach chairs, detonated at about 2:30 p.m. local time, spewing shrapnel into the closely packed crowd.

Severe Internal Injury

Kimmelman was apparently nearest to the explosion. She was thought at first to have suffered only moderate injuries, but severe internal damage was found at the hospital.

"A major vein in her stomach was torn, as well as her liver," said Ichilov's deputy director, Dr. Bianca Lederman.

The teen-ager was one of 80 Canadian university students on a six-week tour of Israel sponsored by the Canadian Zionist Federation.

In Toronto, B'nai Brith Canada demanded Sunday that the Canadian government announce immediately the suspension of all relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

B'nai Brith Canada's government relations director, Ian Kagedan, noted, "Canada's steadily eroding support for Israel, combined with its ongoing contacts with the PLO, encourage terrorism day by day."

In a letter to External Affairs Minister Joe Clark, B'nai Brith President Marilyn Wainberg and Executive Vice President Frank Dimant wrote, "We have long argued that Canada's actions do nothing more than give confidence to the PLO and other terrorist groups operating in the Middle East that their political deceptions are effective, and that their murderous efforts will ultimately bear fruit."

**JERUSALEM OFFICES OF HUSSEINI CLOSED
AS PALESTINIANS MARK CITY'S ANNEXATION**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 29 (JTA) -- The East Jerusalem offices of Palestinian nationalist leader Faisal Husseini were shut down by security forces Sunday, as the Palestinian population observed a general strike to protest Israel's official annexation of the city 10 years ago.

Husseini is regarded by many as the principal leader of the intifada, the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that began two-and-a-half years ago.

The Israeli authorities shut down his Institute of Arab Studies two years ago on grounds that it was used for hostile activities. The closure order was renewed for another year.

Husseini opened two new offices in East Jerusalem, both of which were padlocked Sunday until July 1991.

The measures taken against Husseini seem to conform at least partially with those advocated by Elyakim Haetzni, a settlement leader from the West Bank and a Knesset member of the Tehiya party.

Haetzni presented the Knesset with a 28-point plan to end the intifada that included the closure of all Palestinian nationalist centers in East Jerusalem.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens, meanwhile, seems to be continuing his policy of defensive deployment of Israel Defense Force units along the main roads in the West Bank.

Security sources indicated that since the measures were taken, the degree of anti-Israel violence has decreased considerably.

Security forces also recently uncovered a terrorist gang in the Israeli Arab village of Tamra in the Galilee, alleged to have been involved in several attacks in Haifa and vicinity.

The gang was identified as part of El Fatah, the main faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

**ARAFAT WRITES LETTER TO ZIONIST HEAD,
BUT FAILS TO CONDEMN SHAVUOT ATTACK**
By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, July 29 (JTA) -- Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasir Arafat has taken the unprecedented step of writing a letter to the head of a Zionist organization, contending that the PLO "has made a historical compromise" for peace and that "Israel has to make a similar historical compromise to achieve peace with the Palestinian people."

In his message to Menachem Rosensaft, president of the Labor Zionist Alliance, Arafat claimed that the Palestinians have contributed to progress on the peace front but that "the leaders of Israel refused until now all initiatives, including Baker's five points for finding a peaceful settlement."

Rosensaft said it is no coincidence that the letter was sent just days after the United States government severed its dialogue with the PLO.

But despite the timing, Arafat made no mention in the letter of his refusal to condemn the Palestinian terrorist beach attack on Shavuot,

May 30. It was this refusal that caused the United States to cut off the dialogue.

The closest Arafat came to mentioning terrorism was to say that he was "confident that the chain of violence would definitely end if each of us makes the necessary steps to realize a just and permanent peace."

Rosensaft was among five American Jews who met with Arafat in Stockholm on Dec. 7, 1988, a week before Arafat said he was renouncing terrorism and recognizing the State of Israel.

A year later, in December 1989, Rosensaft published an open letter to Arafat in Newsweek expressing his disappointment that the PLO chief did not appear to be living up to his commitments.

Rosensaft supported the U.S. decision to cut off the dialogue with the PLO, in the wake of Arafat's connection to terrorist activities.

Rosensaft said that the PLO has to "be held to the very strict standards that were set and to which they agreed to bind themselves in December of '88. Those standards were a renunciation of terrorism and recognition of the State of Israel."

Rosensaft pointed out that even the "State of Palestine/Palestine Liberation Organization" stationery on which Arafat's letter was written appeared to violate those conditions.

The stationery was marked with the PLO crest -- a map of the State of Israel together with the administered territories.

"If that emblem is what Arafat views as the State of Palestine, then it contradicts his recognition of the state of Israel," Rosensaft said. "That is a contradiction which the PLO will have to come to terms with before they can be viewed as a participant in any Middle East peace process."

ABSORPTION MINISTER DENIES REPORTS ON CONDITION OF JEWS IN ETHIOPIA

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 29 (JTA) -- Absorption Minister Yitzhak Peretz claimed Sunday that news reports of harsh conditions endured by Ethiopian Jews waiting to come to Israel are inaccurate and excessively downbeat.

Nevertheless, Israel will send a doctor to Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, to look after the would-be emigrants, many of whom are reported to be seriously ill, Israel Radio reported.

The doctor will work out of the Israel Embassy. Two large tents are being sent to facilitate health and other services for the Ethiopian Jews, Israel Radio said.

Peretz said the Jewish people are doing "everything possible" to help those waiting to immigrate. He insisted, however, that these efforts should not be publicized in detail.

Peretz spoke after the weekly meeting of the Absorption Cabinet, the ministerial committee established to coordinate immigration and absorption. The committee is chaired by Minister of Construction and Housing Ariel Sharon.

One of the big problems discussed here and abroad has been the thousands of Jews, perhaps as many as 15,000, stranded in Addis Ababa. They have poured into the capital, mainly from the impoverished Gondar province, to await transportation to Israel.

But as their wait lengthened, their condition has been said to have deteriorated for lack of food and shelter and the ravages of disease.

Their emigration, which had been proceeding

since last fall at a rate of about 500 a month, slowed down appreciably recently.

The reason was alleged to have been the Ethiopian government's retaliation for Israel's refusal to provide it with cluster bombs to use against Eritrean separatists and rebels from Tigre province.

But the Ethiopian foreign minister, Tesfaye Dinka, said Thursday at a news conference in Washington that the problem had nothing to do with weaponry, attributing the reported drop of Jewish emigration to joint Ethiopian-Israeli efforts to weed out non-Jews attempting to flee to Israel.

Meanwhile, a group of Ethiopian Jews demonstrated outside the Cabinet office building Sunday, demanding more energetic measures to hasten the reunion of their families.

HOUSING, FINANCE MINISTERS COLLIDE OVER PRIORITIES FOR SOVIET OLIM

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 29 (JTA) -- Two tough-minded Likud ministers seemed to be on a collision course Sunday over what should take precedence in the absorption of immigrants arriving from the Soviet Union -- housing or jobs.

Ariel Sharon, the minister of construction and housing, presented a \$13.5 billion plan at Sunday's Cabinet meeting to absorb about 1 million new immigrants over the next five years.

The money would go primarily for their housing needs.

But Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i announced he would oppose Sharon's plan and submit his counterproposals at the next Cabinet session, which is scheduled for Thursday.

His plan will emphasize the need to allocate funds to create jobs for the newcomers, which he considers at least as important as housing.

Moda'i told a business group in Tel Aviv last Thursday that he would advise immigrants to seek adequate employment before they look for housing.

Sharon, on the other hand, demands a crash housing program utilizing all of the country's resources.

His plans call for the purchase of 50,000 mobile homes to rent out, at an estimated cost of \$1 billion; renovation of some 8,500 flats owned by the national housing company, Amidar; and the use of all available beds and housing at military bases, kibbutzim, hotels and hostels for the new arrivals.

In addition, Sharon would give financial incentives to apartment owners to rent out their premises, and tax exemptions to increase the number of apartments available for sale.

Sharon warned of social unrest if his plan is not implemented.

Deep resentment was expressed over the weekend by various immigrants' associations reacting to Moda'i's assertion Thursday that the ma'abarot, the unsightly tin-hut villages that housed immigrants in the early 1950s, were good enough for the present wave.

Meanwhile, new immigrants and the young Israelis homeless have formed a united front, headed by the charismatic Natan Sharansky, a leader of the Soviet emigre movement.

In response to absorption needs, the three major kibbutz movements announced over the weekend that they would open 100 ulpanim-Hebrew-language centers -- to absorb up to 15,000 immigrants a year.

**CONGRESS IMPOSES SANCTIONS ON IRAQ
PENDING OBSERVANCE OF WORLDWIDE LAW**
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, July 29 (JTA) -- Both houses of Congress have approved sanctions against Iraq, including ending \$1 billion in Commodity Credit Corporation credit guarantees that was designated this year.

But under both versions of the sanctions, President Bush could continue those credits if he certifies that Iraq is in "substantial compliance" with international treaties that prohibit, among other things, genocide, the use of asphyxiating or poisonous gases and the stockpiling of biological weapons or other toxins.

By an 83-12 vote, the Senate on Friday approved such language sponsored by Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) as an amendment to a mammoth farm bill.

The House, by a vote of 234-175, approved similar language sponsored by Rep. Dan Glickman (D-Kan.).

The sanctions follow U.S. criticism of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for allegedly trying to smuggle nuclear trigger devices from the United States to Iraq.

"America cannot continue business as usual with the butcher of Baghdad," D'Amato said on the Senate floor. "While we have underwritten Saddam Hussein to the tune of \$4 billion since 1983, he is making massive purchases of weapons that threaten to undermine the fragile peace in the Middle East."

State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher, however, argued that the bills "would not help us to achieve U.S. goals with Iraq."

Fill The Void

John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, told Congress last month that such sanctions, to be effective, require multinational curbs.

Otherwise, U.S. allies will jump to fill the void and American farmers will be hurt for no tangible benefit, Kelly told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Iraq is the number one importer of U.S. rice. Kelly also noted that Iraq has the world's second-largest oil reserves after Saudi Arabia.

But Boucher also announced that the State Department has asked the Commerce Department to place new restrictions on exports to countries such as Iraq that could facilitate weapons proliferation.

Pro-Israel lobbyists prefer the Senate version of the Iraqi sanctions over the House version, which also gives Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter discretion to continue the credit guarantees if he determines that U.S. farmers would suffer more than Iraq would.

That language was added to the House version in an amendment sponsored by Doug Bereuter (R-Neb.), which was approved 208-191.

A similar Senate amendment by Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Texas) failed by a vote to 57-38.

Meanwhile, the Senate adopted an amendment to the farm bill sponsored by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), which requires U.S. private banks lending money to the Soviet Union to charge interest rates beyond the rate they charge U.S. farmers.

A congressional staffer said the provision, approved 64-32, would "effectively close down their ability to borrow from U.S. banks."

**BILL INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS
TO RESTORE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 29 (JTA) -- A bill has been introduced in both the Senate and the House of Representatives to require state and federal governments to show a compelling governmental interest for any law that prohibits a religious practice.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act seeks to restore the protection for religious practices to what it was before the April 18 Supreme Court decision in Oregon Employment Division vs. Smith, widely known as the "Peyote Case."

That decision was seen by religious and secular groups across the country as virtually eliminating the First Amendment clause barring any infringement on the establishment of religion.

Many of these groups have organized into the Committee for the Free Exercise of Religion. At a Capitol Hill news conference Friday, the coalition was represented by diverse groups such as the American Jewish Congress, Agudath Israel of America, the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Association of Evangelicals.

Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.), who initiated the restoration bill and introduced it Friday in the House, said at the news conference that "support for this bill is ecumenical, both religiously and politically."

A similar bill was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), ranking Republican on the committee.

Peyote in Ritual Ceremony

In the Smith case, the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that Oregon could deny unemployment compensation to two American Indian drug counselors who were fired for having used peyote in a ritual ceremony of the Native American Church.

Justice Antonin Scalia, who wrote the majority opinion, went further and said the court "never held that an individual's religious beliefs excuse him from compliance with an otherwise valid law prohibiting conduct that the state is free to regulate."

This caused Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who had voted with the majority in support of the Oregon action, to dissent from Scalia's wider interpretation.

The Scalia view, supported by four other justices, is "incompatible with our nation's fundamental commitment to individual religious liberty," O'Connor said.

Henry Siegman, executive director of AJCongress, said that the bill "would restore 50 years of judicial protection for the rights of all religious observers, particularly for religious minorities."

Many of the groups represented in the coalition sought in vain in May to have the Supreme Court hear the case again.

In addition to the AJCongress, Jewish organizations in the coalition are:

Agudath Israel, American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, National Council of Jewish Women, National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs, National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

ADL issued a statement Thursday urging Congress to support the proposed legislation.

BELGIAN JEWS PROTEST PLANNED RELEASE OF TERRORIST WHO KILLED JEWISH BOY

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, July 29 (JTA) -- The Jewish community here is protesting vehemently against the likelihood that Belgium will release a Palestinian terrorist who is serving a life sentence for the 1981 slaying of a Jewish teen-ager in Antwerp.

His parole, in exchange for a Belgian family of four held hostage by a radical terrorist group for the past two years, is under serious consideration.

The Belgian authorities have not yet announced a decision with respect to Said al-Nasser, 35, who became eligible for parole on Friday. But Cabinet sources said that a consensus was reached within the government to parole him.

Belgium is known to be negotiating discreetly with the Fatah Revolutionary Council, headed by the notorious terrorist known as Abu Nidal. Col. Moammar Gadhafi of Libya is said to be serving as intermediary.

Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said last week that Belgium was prepared to release Nasser in exchange for Emmanuel Houtekins, his wife Godelieve Kets and their children, Laurent and Virginie. They were members of a yachting party kidnapped in the Mediterranean in November 1987.

Other members of their party, including a French national, were freed earlier this year in connection with Belgium's expected release of the imprisoned terrorist.

In an unrelated move, this past Friday, France released five convicted terrorists of Lebanese and Iranian nationality and flew them to Iran. Their freedom is believed to be tied to the 1988 release of six French hostages in Lebanon.

In Brussels, meanwhile, Eyskens said the Belgians held captive would have to be freed either before Nasser or simultaneously with him.

Sentenced to Death

In August 1981, Nasser attacked a group of Orthodox Jewish children boarding a bus for summer camp outside the Agudat Israel's Antwerp branch. David Kohane, 15, from France, was killed, and 20 other youngsters were injured.

Nasser was sentenced to death. But under Belgian law, death sentences are automatically commuted to life imprisonment, which generally means 30 years behind bars. A life prisoner can be paroled after 10 years for good behavior.

But Jewish circles in Antwerp are convinced that if Nasser is released he will kill again.

"Once released, this terrorist will quickly return to training in order to commit other terrorist attacks," a Jew who lives in the quarter where the attack occurred 9 years ago told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency over the weekend.

The Israeli Embassy in Brussels refuses to become involved in what it considers an internal affair of Belgium.

"It's up to the Belgian (Jewish) community here, which lost one of its sons, to express itself on this matter," an embassy spokesman told JTA.

"The State of Israel, for its part, has already proclaimed that it would never give in to terrorists," he added.

But a public opinion poll published by the daily La Dernière Heure found that Belgians approved the early release of Nasser by a 45 percent to 36.6 percent majority.

Belgians may have been appeased by the two

goodwill releases over the last year-and-a-half of the Frenchwoman, Maria Valente, and her children, who were among the captives. Valente was released in April with a daughter born in captivity and her Belgian companion, Fernand Houtekins, brother of Emmanuel.

Media reports said Libya had urged the gestures and was working for the release of the remainder of the Houtekins family to facilitate ratification of a trade agreement with Belgium.

Meanwhile, the Paris daily Le Figaro reported July 24 that Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri al-Banna, is either dead or a captive of Palestine Liberation Organization forces loyal to Yasir Arafat.

CRIMINAL LINKING NEO-NAZIS, PLO BELIEVED TO BE IN EAST GERMANY

By David Kantor

BONN, July 29 (JTA) -- A violent criminal suspected of being the main link between West German neo-Nazis and the Palestine Liberation Organization's El Fatah faction is believed to be hiding somewhere in East Germany, according to the federal prosecutor in Karlsruhe.

Federal sources said Sunday that the East German authorities were cooperating in the search for Udo Albrecht, who is wanted for a series of violent crimes, including bank robbery.

According to the prosecution, he fled West Germany in 1981 and found haven in East Germany, which was governed by a Communist regime until earlier this year.

Albrecht, who has boasted of direct access to PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat, is believed to have used PLO facilities in Lebanon to train West German neo-Nazis.

If the suspicions of the Karlsruhe prosecutor prove correct, it will be the first conclusive proof that the former East German secret police, the Stasi, not only helped Palestinian terrorists but knowingly protected neo-Nazis.

The media has carried reports in recent years indicating that the old East German regime initiated neo-Nazi incidents in West Germany to prove the Federal Republic was a haven for unrepentant Nazis and anti-Semites.

NURSES CHARGE SEX DISCRIMINATION, WALK OFF JOB IN ONE-DAY STRIKE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 29 (JTA) -- Some 15,000 nurses, charging sex discrimination, walked off the job Sunday at public hospitals all over Israel.

The one-day warning strike was called by the nurses union to protest a proposed tax-reform measure and the Treasury's refusal to grant them the same tax exemptions granted male workers.

It put the hospitals on a reduced Shabbat schedule. Doctors, who have engaged in walkouts and work stoppages of their own for the past month in a dispute about overtime pay, stayed on the job. But they had to make do without the assistance of nurses.

Ninety-five percent of the nurses are women. Ilana Cohen, head of the nurses union, charged that the Finance Ministry discriminates against them on at least two counts.

According to Cohen, it plans to eliminate tax-credit points for working mothers with two or more children. A mother of two would lose \$34 a month and a mother of four \$68 if the plan goes through, Cohen said.