

VOL. 68 - 73rd YEAR

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1990

NO. 150

SHAMIR ASSURES PUBLIC THAT ISRAEL HAS WILL AND ABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir assured the Israeli people -- and warned their enemies -- that Israel possesses "the capacity, the will, the ability and the readiness" to defend itself against a threat from Iraq or any other foe.

He spoke shortly after his office's director general, Yossi Ben-Aharon, warned that Israel must be prepared for a chemical attack.

Shamir's remarks were Israel's first official reaction to the allegations Wednesday by an Iraqi military spokesman that Israel was acting in collusion with the United States, which has sent air, sea and ground forces to defend Saudi Arabia against a possible attack by Iraq.

The Israeli prime minister voiced warm support for the American and international effort to contain Iraq.

"What can stop Saddam Hussein today is only a large and strong force that will put a brake on his wildness and aggression," Shamir said of the Iraqi president in an address to graduates of the National Defense College.

The Israeli premier acknowledged that Iraq's moves in the Gulf present Israel with "an aggressive threat to its security and well-being," but that the Israel Defense Force "is ready to face any threat or development."

Israel Not Deterred

Earlier, at a meeting with the heads of local authorities in his office here, Shamir said that while "Israel is not ignoring these threats, it is not deterred and is certainly not cowed."

He observed that "the concentration of international forces around Iraq, and the boycott measures by the international community, can achieve the goal."

"This force, coupled with determination on the part of all those who oppose totalitarian dictatorship, can become a ring of steel around Saddam Hussein that will get ever tighter, until it breaks his aggressiveness once and for all," Shamir said.

An Iraqi spokesman on Wednesday again claimed that Israeli warplanes disguised with U.S. markings were arrayed against Iraq.

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said Israel was acting through diplomatic channels to assure the world community that the Iraqi charges were a baseless attempt "to shift the focus of attention."

He said he was sure the other Middle East states understood that.

Israel has deliberately kept a low profile in the latest Middle East crisis, stressing that it would act only if it perceived a direct threat, for example the entry of Iraqi forces into neighboring Jordan.

But there is mounting concern among strategic planners and the public that Hussein, confronted by multinational sanctions and military opposition to his invasion of Kuwait, might act out of desperation.

The fear is that he would seek to embroil Israel as a means of rallying Arab support.

Although Israel possesses a powerful deterrent force, strategists know that deterrence presupposes a modicum of rationality on both sides.

Hussein threatened Israel with chemical weapons long before the current crisis and has the missiles to deliver them.

He may well feel his days are numbered in face of an American military challenge, and with nothing to lose, he could act irrationally.

Israel Radio reported Thursday that Israel has taken "certain steps to ensure that it is not surprised," but there was no elaboration.

Experts concede that Israel has no fully effective defense against a large-scale missile attack, and that some missiles would get through.

Hitherto, successive defense ministers have sought to head off any such scenario by asserting Israel's determination to launch massive retaliation against any missile strike.

Their statements have been interpreted in some quarters to hint "non-conventional" -- meaning nuclear -- retaliation against a chemical attack on civilian centers.

Shamir's remarks, meanwhile, seemed intended both to alert and to reassure the populace.

"All the citizens of Israel know that their state has its full strength and does not stand empty-handed in this region of the world, full of dangers and tensions," he said.

"Anyone plotting to attack Israel must know that Israel has the capacity, the will, the ability and the readiness to defend its security with great force and determination. Anyone seeking to harm Israel is likely to draw down upon himself a heavy disaster."

Shamir stressed, however, that "Israel has no intention to attack any of its neighbors, but it will know how to deal with anyone who attempts to harm it."

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister David Levy, meeting here with Richard Schifter, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs, praised President Bush's response to the Iraqi aggression. He said the people of Israel hoped and prayed the United States would be successful in "cutting off the evil arm."

Levy also made the point that Yasir Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, was one of the first Arab leaders to congratulate Hussein on his takeover of Iraq.

IDF WILL NOT DISTRIBUTE GAS MASKS NOW FOR FEAR OF PROVOKING HOSTILE ACTION
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force has decided not to begin the general distribution of gas masks to civilians at this time in order to avoid provoking hostile action by the unpredictable Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Gen. Dan Shomron, IDF chief of staff, announced Thursday night.

He spoke after near panic gripped some parts of the country, following threats by Hussein to use chemical warheads against Israel if Iraq were attacked by Israeli warplanes masquerading as American.

Shomron explained on Israel Television that

the decision to defer the general distribution of gas masks and anti-chemical warfare kits was made because if they were distributed to Israeli civilians now, Saddam Hussein might assume an attack by Israel was imminent, Shomron observed.

Shomron said the Iraqi charge of Israeli collusion with the United States seems to have two objectives.

One is to convince the Arab states that Israel is their common enemy, and that they should therefore join Iraq in confronting Israel and its American supporters.

The second objective is to warn Israel to take no action against Iraq.

Under these circumstances, Israel should refrain from hasty action which might engender a warlike atmosphere, the chief of staff said.

Without offering details, he suggested that the situation is not as dire as many Israelis thought it was earlier in the day.

But the situation was not helped when the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yossi Ben-Aharon, warned Thursday that Israel must be prepared for an Iraqi chemical attack at any moment.

In some areas, concern approached panic when it was learned that civil defense organizations would not complete the distribution of gas masks and anti-chemical warfare kits until the end of the year.

The kits contain disposable syringes with atropine, an antidote against nerve gas.

The fear was most pronounced in the densely populated Tel Aviv area and Safed in Galilee, the parts of the country slated to receive gas masks first.

It was less evident in Jerusalem, where residents entertained the notion that the large Arab population and the presence of Islamic shrines would serve as a protective umbrella.

Gas masks and protective kits are not unfamiliar to Israelis. They have been distributed experimentally in recent years, though not at such critical times as now.

The earlier trial distributions proved a farce. Follow-up investigations showed that gas masks were damaged or misused by many of the civilian recipients.

Children ended up playing with them as toys, and many wore them to Purim costume parties. Farmers wore them to dust crops or driving tractors over dusty roads.

Now, with fresh threats from an Iraqi ruler known for his hostility and ruthlessness, some Israelis have demanded that gas masks be distributed immediately.

ISRAEL SUCCESSFULLY TESTS ARROW, PART OF U.S. STAR WARS PROGRAM

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- Israel successfully test-launched its American-financed Arrow anti-tactical ballistic missile Thursday, convincing some well-informed observers that Israel has the "great power capacity" to design and construct highly sophisticated technological and defense equipment.

Its first test coincided with the Persian Gulf crisis, precipitated when Iraq invaded Kuwait a week ago and threatened Saudi Arabia.

The test was actually scheduled and announced three weeks earlier, but was postponed for technical and meteorological reasons.

In any case, the Arrow is still years away

from being a deterrent to an Iraqi missile strike on Israel, against which Israel says it has other means of defense and retaliation.

Development of the Arrow, initiated in July 1988, will take another three years, and equipping it with a warhead two or three more years before it becomes operational.

The Arrow, known by its Hebrew name Hetz, is a product of the state-owned Israel Aircraft Industries.

The ballistic missile is part of the American Strategic Defense Initiative, known as "Star Wars," the controversial project for an anti-nuclear defense shield that originated with the Reagan administration but has since been scaled down for technological and economic reasons.

The United States, however, is underwriting 80 percent of Israel's \$158 million long-term design and development costs, under an agreement it first discussed more than four years ago with then Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Rabin, now a Knesset member and No. 2 man in the opposition Labor Party, did not attend the Arrow's maiden launch Thursday.

Although he was one of the initiators of U.S.-Israeli cooperation in the sphere of missile defense, he was not invited, Rabin told reporters.

The Arrow has been described as a "flying rocket with a computer brain which takes off at some seven times the speed of sound to intercept and destroy incoming medium- to short-range missiles."

The United States relies on the slower Patriot intercontinental anti-ballistic missile to shield against trans-oceanic attacks.

But it is interested in the Arrow to deal with shorter-range nuclear missiles that might be fired from enemy submarines.

DINITZ SAYS U.S. IMMIGRATION QUOTAS COULD CHANGE, IF ISRAEL FAILS TO ACT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz raised the possibility Thursday that the United States might ease its immigration policies to admit more Soviet Jews if Israel fails to provide adequate housing and employment for emigres from the Soviet Union.

Dinitz, who chairs the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, spoke after meeting with Richard Schifter, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs.

Dinitz said that he was convinced "on the basis of these talks" that there was no change in the strong American support for Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel.

However, he warned, "It would be a grave mistake to assume that the immigration policy of the United States would not change in the future, if the absorption plans of the (Israel) government do not get started soon."

Until the United States imposed a ceiling in 1989, it was the destination of choice for the vast majority of Jews leaving the Soviet Union, although most of them carried Israeli visas.

Dinitz added that there was no evidence that absorption difficulties are affecting the volume of immigration to Israel, but they might in the future.

The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador to Israel, William Brown, and by Princeton Laimen, director of the State Department's office for refugees.

**POLISH CATHOLIC CHURCH DOCUMENT
ASKING FORGIVENESS FOR ANTI-SEMITISM**
By Charles Hoffman

WARSAW, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- A high-level body in the Polish Catholic Church has prepared a document that condemns anti-Semitism and asks forgiveness from the Jews for anti-Semitic actions in the past, according to church sources here.

The document, a major statement on relations between Jews and Christians in Poland, is to be issued later this year on the 25th anniversary of "Nostra Aetate," the statement by the Second Vatican Council in 1965 that redefined the Catholic Church's relations to Jews and Judaism.

"Nostra Aetate" stressed that Jesus, Mary and the Apostles sprang from the Jewish people and that the Jews do not bear collective responsibility for the crucifixion of Jesus. The statement also condemned anti-Semitism and persecution of the Jews in any form.

A draft of the document now being circulated among the bishops of Poland for their review interprets the teachings of Vatican II in the context of Jewish-Christian relations in Poland. The draft was prepared by the Polish church's Commission for Dialogue with Judaism.

Among other things, the document asks forgiveness for the anti-Semitic teaching of the church in the period between the wars, and for the Kielce pogrom of July 4, 1946.

Father Michael Czajkowski, who teaches Bible at the Catholic Theological Academy of Warsaw, said in an interview that "the teachings of Vatican II are not well known in Poland. Our leaders had bigger problems to deal with," he noted, referring to the church's long struggle with the now-defunct Communist regime.

Anti-Semitism Of The Communists

"We saw only the anti-Semitism of the Communists, who persecuted people of all faiths. Indeed, until recently, some of the bishops were of the opinion that there is no anti-Semitism in Poland, because there are virtually no Jews.

"We didn't see Christian anti-Semitism then, but now I think we are beginning to see more clearly that anti-Semitism is not dead in Poland," he said.

Czajkowski, who is a member of the Commission on Dialogue, has for the past four years lectured widely in Poland to lay and clerical audiences about the teachings of Vatican II on the Jews and Judaism. One of his main points in these talks is that "if you hate Jews, you are not a good Christian, and you are a sinner."

The commission is also preparing a collection of statements by Pope John Paul II on Jews and Judaism for wide distribution in Poland.

"The pope is greatly loved here, but his teachings on Jews and Judaism, which are in the spirit of Vatican II, are not widely known here. In my lectures, I use the pope's words to show that anti-Semitism is against our faith."

In the Kielce pogrom, 42 Jews were shot, stoned to death or killed with axes and blunt instruments, including two children, and four teen-agers. The mob was inflamed by rumors that local Jews had killed a Christian boy to use his blood for ritual purposes.

Czajkowski held that "the Kielce pogrom was a Communist provocation, and the church is not responsible."

But, he said, "it is also true that Polish Catholics who took part in the attacks believed

the charge of ritual murder," which for centuries blamed Jews for killing Christians, particularly children, and using their blood for matzah.

He said that the document would condemn the ritual murder charge, which some Poles still believe, as completely false, along with other outmoded doctrines that have inspired hatred of the Jews.

**SECOND ARAB DIES FROM MOB VIOLENCE;
KIDNAP SUSPECT IN ANOTHER CASE ESCAPES**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- A 42-year-old Arab from Silwan village became the second fatal victim of Jewish mob violence in Jerusalem this week.

Izzat Halahla died Thursday of injuries inflicted by Jews enraged over the murders of teen-agers Ronen Karamani and Lior Tubol, whose mutilated bodies were found Monday in a ravine in the northern outskirts of the city.

Halahla was severely beaten earlier in the week by Jews who charged through the city, randomly attacking Arabs or anyone they thought was an Arab, including Jews.

No arrests have been made in connection with his death or in the fatal shooting Monday evening of a 25-year-old Arab woman, Aziza Jaber, as she drove near the Jewish township of Kiryat Arba adjacent to Hebron.

Although tempers seemed to be subsiding, tension still ran high in the capital. A Jewish gang attacked an Arab van in the southern outskirts Thursday, chasing its passengers and setting the vehicle on fire.

Law-enforcement officials were embarrassed, meanwhile, by the escape Thursday from a Jerusalem police detention center of an Arab kidnap suspect.

Jamal Abadiya, 24, of East Jerusalem was taken into custody for the attempted kidnapping of two Jewish teen-agers who hitched a ride with him last month. The youngsters escaped unharmed.

The suspect, who was arraigned this week, was employed in construction work at the detention center, which is contrary to regulations.

He was left unsupervised in a room where a large hole had been cut in the wall for an air conditioner.

The prisoner slipped out into the street and escaped, while a guard nearby saw nothing.

The escape was detected a half-hour later. Police Inspector General Ya'acov Terner assigned two senior officers to head search teams for the fugitive, and appointed another to head up an investigation of the escape.

Abadiya once served a three-year sentence for kidnapping and sexually assaulting a boy.

PARISIANS MARK ANNIVERSARY OF MASSACRE

PARIS, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- Several hundred people gathered in the heart of Paris' Jewish quarter Thursday in silent tribute to the victims of a terrorist attack eight years ago. Eight customers and passersby were killed in the attack.

Anonymous Parisians were joined by curious tourists visiting the colorful neighborhood near the center of the French capital, which is widely known as the "Pletzl."

On Aug. 9, 1982, terrorists believed members of the notorious Abu Nidal gang machine-gunned the Jo Goldenberg restaurant, an internationally popular kosher eatery on the Rue des Rosiers.

**ENGLISH BANK FOUNDED BY JEWS
RETRACTS SHARES OF I.G. FARBEN**

By Elena Neuman

NEW YORK, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- A prominent English investment bank founded by emigre German Jews has pulled out of purchasing shares in I.G. Farben, the German company notorious for having helped supply the gas used at Auschwitz.

The turnabout is credited to pressure from British Jewish groups, particularly the European office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, following disclosure about the stock purchase by the S.G. Warburg bank in the July 29 edition of the Sunday Times of London.

"Four non-Jewish employees were having some fun and invested in Farben without the official O.K. of company heads," said Shimon Samuels, European director of the Wiesenthal Center, who spoke with Warburg spokesmen.

S.G. Warburg had reportedly just bought a "significant stake" in Farben, as had a number of other British banking houses who thought that with the reunification of the Germans, the company will have claim to more than \$4 billion in assets, which had been seized by East Germany after the war.

The large-scale buying raised the share value of Farben stock from 20 to 30 Deutschmarks, or from about \$12.50 to nearly \$19.00 per share.

The East German shares of Farben have been put on sale as East and West Germany make final plans to unite. The two Germans unified their currency and economic systems on July 1.

Supporters Of Nazi Regime

Farben, the largest industrial company in the world at the onset of World War II, was one of the most powerful supporters of the Nazi regime.

Its rubber factories were staffed by the SS, and factory labor was supplied by the nearby Auschwitz concentration camp. Some 25,000 slave laborers lost their lives in this work.

Farben was also involved in share holding of the firms that produced Zyklon B gas, and in taking over Jewish-owned businesses.

Farben officials were later tried at Nuremberg for war crimes. Eleven were acquitted.

After the war, the company was divided first by East and West Germany. The four Western allies divided up the West German half of the company, leaving only a "shell" for the purposes of paying reparations to its Jewish slave laborers.

Such was not the case in East Germany, however, which refused to accept joint responsibility for Nazi war crimes, and to issue compensation payments to Jewish victims.

The Wiesenthal Center and other English Jewish groups are demanding that the East German half of the Farben company pay its share of its reparations responsibility as the West German branch has done.

The grievance was brought to the British delegates of the European Jewish Congress, in the hope that it would be brought up at next month's meeting in Paris.

According to the London Jewish Chronicle, the Board of Deputies of British Jews rejected the suggestion, saying it would not be appropriate for the British delegates to raise the matter.

"I am concerned with the restructure of German industry," Eric Moonman, senior vice president of the Board of Deputies, told the Chronicle. "There are a number of shell organizations in Germany that have been dormant, and

now, with the help of the West, are being rebuilt.

"Many of them were involved in the Nazi war effort, producing some of the most sinister and horrific weapons."

However, British Holocaust survivor Ben Helfgott took a different view.

"One has to be realistic," he was quoted as saying. "The fact is that East Germany is in a very bad state, with antiquated industries, and they cannot make a start without investment from the West."

**KOSHER BILL INTRODUCED BY SOLARZ
WILL PROTECT CONSUMERS FROM FRAUD**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- A bill to have the U.S. government protect kosher consumers against fraud has been introduced by Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.).

Although some states have such laws, the bill introduced by Solarz last Friday is the first effort to do so with federal legislation. The federal law, however, would not supersede a state law that is more stringent.

Solarz, who represents a Brooklyn district with a large number of Orthodox Jews, credits Agudath Israel of America with showing him the need for the legislation as well as helping him to draft it.

"As the representative of the largest kashrus-observing community in the nation, I have become acutely aware of the pitfalls faced by those who seek to uphold this timeless Jewish tradition," Solarz said.

"There is no excuse for unscrupulous merchants to prey on kosher consumers," he said.

He added that kosher products have also become increasingly popular among the general public "because they are prepared under carefully supervised conditions, and are thought to be more healthful than other similar products."

There are more than 60 kosher certifications now in use, according to Abba Cohen, director of Agudath Israel's Washington office.

"With more and more products bearing more and more symbols, the kosher field has become ripe for error, confusion and even fraud," Cohen said.

The bill, known as the Public Disclosure of Religious Dietary Certification Act, would require manufacturers of products labeled as kosher and shipped across state lines to file certain information with the Food and Drug Administration.

This would include the name and address of the kosher certifying authority, a letter of authenticity from the authority and a facsimile of the product's symbol. If the certification is withdrawn, the manufacturer must notify the FDA within 15 days.

Consumers who have any questions about a product would then be able to check with the FDA.

None of the symbols used on kosher products are now subject to FDA enforcement, Solarz said. Since kosher products usually cost more, the lack of federal enforcement has "opened the door to numerous and unconscionable cases of fraud," Solarz said.

He stressed that under his legislation, the FDA would not make any religious determination on either the certifying authority or the product.

"The legislation's main focus is to provide kosher consumers with the information they need to make their purchasing decisions," Solarz said.