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**ARAB YOUTH STABS THREE JEWS DEAD
TO AVENGE TEMPLE MOUNT KILLINGS**

JERUSALEM, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- A Palestinian youth screaming "Slaughter the Jews!" fatally stabbed three Israelis and wounded a fourth in a quiet Jerusalem neighborhood Sunday morning.

The assailant, identified as Ammer Sa'id Salah Abu-Sirhan, 19, from the West Bank village of Ubeidiya, east of Bethlehem, said after his capture that he acted to avenge the deaths of 21 Arabs fatally shot by Israeli border police during the Oct. 8 riots on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

The victims were identified as Iris Azoulai, an 18-year-old soldier; Eli Altaratz, 43; and Shalom Charlie Shloush, 26, a police cadet who wounded the attacker before he died.

Funerals for Azoulai and Altaratz were held Sunday. Shloush, a trainee in a police anti-terrorist squad, will be buried Monday.

The knife-wielder also attacked 13-year-old Amikam Kobner, wounding him only slightly. The boy was hospitalized and later sent home.

The latest bloodshed in Jerusalem brought some 2,000 police into the streets to prevent violent confrontations between Jews and Arabs.

Large concentrations of police were visible at almost every road junction, especially in the Baka neighborhood, in the southern part of the city, where the assaults occurred.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir urged the police and other security forces to make a special effort to maintain the safety of Jerusalem.

There was an immediate outcry from the public and politicians alike, urging that draconian measures, including capital punishment, be taken against Palestinians from the West Bank and the Arab population in general.

Access To Jerusalem Denied

Police Minister Ronni Milo responded with a promise that this time, "very tough measures would be taken to ensure the safety of Jews in Jerusalem."

He insisted that the U.N. Security Council bares "some responsibility" for the murders, because it "condemned Israel for the death of Arabs on the Temple Mount but never felt the need to adopt a resolution when Jews were murdered by Arab terrorists."

The police announced shortly after the killings that starting Monday, West Bank Arabs would not be allowed into Jerusalem. There was no indication how long the ban would be in effect.

Police Inspector General Ya'acov Terner said the measure was taken "to prevent acts of terrorism and public disorder."

Entry to other parts of Israel from the West Bank was also limited as special security measures were implemented countrywide.

Although the assailant clearly acted alone, two rival terrorist organizations proclaimed responsibility for the murders.

Credit was claimed by Force 17 of Al Fatah, an elite commando unit of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and by a party calling itself the Al-Aksa Battalion of Islamic Jihad. Al-Aksa is the mosque where the Oct. 8 killings took place.

News of the killings reached the Cabinet at its regular weekly session Sunday.

Shamir called the stabbings an act of despair by Palestinian militants who realize that terrorist organizations achieve nothing.

Ministers on the right wing of the Israeli political spectrum demanded severe measures.

Calls For The Death Penalty

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan of the Tsomet party called for spot checks of Arab workers for knives or other weapons. He said the suspect's family should be deported and his house demolished.

Transportation Minister Moshe Katsav and Religious Affairs Minister Avner Shaki called for the death penalty for the perpetrator.

Tehiya party leader Yuval Ne'eman, the minister of science and energy, blamed the Israeli left for the death of Shloush, the police trainee. He claimed that the political doves are "terrorizing the courts and the judicial system" so that soldiers and police officers are afraid to shoot without first consulting a lawyer.

He was joined by Eitan, a former Israel Defense Force chief of staff who wants the standing orders changed so that soldiers and police know they can open fire without fear of prosecution.

Milo agreed that when a member of the security forces is threatened he should "instantly" shoot to kill. But he said the standing orders are adequate.

**WAVE OF ARSON HAS DESTROYED
HUNDREDS OF ACRES, JNF REPORTS
By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- A wave of arson attacks has taken a heavy toll on forests, nature reserves and grazing fields throughout Israel, the Jewish National Fund announced Sunday.

Some 600 acres of natural forest and brush, including 200-year-old oak trees, have been destroyed by 30 fires of suspicious origin since Palestinian nationalist leaders exhorted their followers to burn Israeli property in the wake of the Oct. 8 riots on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

"During recent days, cases of arson have been carried out in a systematic and preplanned manner, which has encumbered firefighting efforts and caused severe damage to fauna and flora," said an announcement issued by JNF.

Firefighting efforts have been impeded by severe heat and strong wind, conditions of the Sharav desert wind.

The attacks on vegetation are similar to suspicious fires that broke out after the Palestinian uprising erupted in December 1987.

This time, however, a "new phenomenon" is present: simultaneous fires set at night in a number of places and along a defined route, JNF said.

In Wadi Ara, a fire was set in a JNF forest, and arsonists built stone roadblocks to impede firefighters' access, according to JNF. The arsonists also chopped down areas of green trees.

JNF says damage has been relatively limited, "thanks to high alert on the part of JNF employees and firefighting preparations."

ISRAELI CABINET GIVES ITS APPROVAL TO TERMS FOR U.S. LOAN GUARANTEES
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- Israel's Cabinet gave formal approval Sunday to the terms of a U.S. government guarantee that will enable Israel to borrow \$400 million from American banks to help build homes for Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union.

The Cabinet's assent may have temporarily warded off attacks on Foreign Minister David Levy from hard-line elements within the Likud-led Cabinet, which objected to the commitments he made in order to secure the U.S. guarantee.

It also set to rest doubts raised in Washington about whether Israel was backing away from those commitments, which Levy made before concluding a visit to the United States on Oct. 2.

Since Levy's return, Likud hard-liners and Cabinet ministers further to the right had accused Levy of giving in to American pressure by agreeing to limit where immigrants could be settled.

Among those challenging Levy were Housing Minister Ariel Sharon of Likud, Science and Energy Minister Yuval Ne'eman of Tehiya, and Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan of Tsomet.

They complained that Levy had pledged Soviet olim would not be settled in East Jerusalem and had promised to report to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker where immigrant housing was being built.

Both Levy and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir denied that. Shamir vigorously defended his foreign minister, whom he insisted had not veered from established government policies.

In letters last week to President Bush and Secretary Baker, Shamir and Levy maintained the Israeli pledge does not preclude the government from building and settling immigrants in East Jerusalem or even the administered territories.

No Prior Notice On Settlements

All the agreement specified, Levy maintained, was that Israel not use U.S. funds to build in those areas. The Israeli foreign minister did promise, however, that he would furnish the U.S. government with information about Israel's settlement activities.

Shamir, prodded by Sharon, insisted Sunday that this does not mean prior notification before a building or settlement project is begun.

Informed sources here and in Washington seem to have detected signals from the Bush administration late last week that it was seeking to ease tensions with Israel over the loan guarantee.

The Americans seem prepared to leave the dispute unresolved under the cloak of diplomatic ambiguity. That appeared evident at the briefing given Friday by State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

Levy's letter to Baker the previous day "does not cancel or make null and void the original assurances," she said.

Tutwiler said the assurances were given in Levy's letter of Oct. 2, which said "use of the housing loan guarantees will be restricted to the geographic areas which were subject to the government of Israel's administration prior to June 5, 1967."

"Those assurances have been given, and we do not believe the letter received (Thursday) changes those assurances," Tutwiler insisted.

(JTA correspondent David Friedman in Washington contributed to this report.)

SEVERAL RALLIES STAGED IN NEW YORK TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL
By Susan Birnbaum and Andrew Goldsmith

NEW YORK, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- A broad spectrum of synagogues and Jewish organizations joined together Sunday at a number of rallies in the New York area to show support for Israel and protest the recent U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israel's handling of the Oct. 8 riots on the Temple Mount.

The demonstrations followed a nationwide "Sabbath of Protest," in which Orthodox congregations across the United States heard sermons protesting the U.N. condemnation of Israel.

The campaign was launched by the Rabbinical Council of America, in coordination with the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the National Council of Young Israel and the Religious Zionists of America.

Rabbi Kenneth Hain of Temple Beth Shalom in Lawrence, N.Y., called the response overwhelming. "This is a time for Jews to be vocal," he said, "and to flood Washington with our response both by mail, phone and otherwise."

In an apparent answer to the call, thousands of demonstrators gathered at an afternoon rally in Queens to vent their anger at U.S. support for the Oct. 12 Security Council resolution.

The crowd, estimated by the police at nearly 4,000, unintentionally blocked off streets as the crowd swelled beyond police barriers.

Among the speakers was Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.), who called for the United Nations to investigate Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the atrocities he perpetrates, as opposed to picking on Israel for defending the freedom of worship.

Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.) said he felt "a sense of betrayal at the White House's willingness to send Israel down the river."

'Abandoned By Bush'

Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld, president of the Poale Agudath Israel of America, said he felt "abandoned by Bush and his anti-Israel position, especially the secretary of state."

"We intend to deliver a clear message of support for Israel to the White House," he said.

At a morning rally at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale in the Bronx, former New York Mayor Edward Koch said, "It is unacceptable in a Jewish state that anyone would throw rocks at Jewish worshipers."

Rabbis from Riverdale representing all branches of Judaism addressed the gathering of some 700 people, a crowd that filled the sanctuary and spilled outside onto the street.

In Manhattan, meanwhile, some 200 people gathered at noon Sunday at the headquarters of ABC News to protest media coverage of the incident at the Temple Mount. Participants at the rally, organized by the Zionist Organization of America, came from New York, Long Island and Westchester County, carrying signs and singing Hebrew songs.

Later in the day, a rally organized by the Orthodox Union, the RCA and other Orthodox groups was planned at Congregation Kchillath Jeshurun on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

According to the congregation's religious leader, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, the rally was also to serve as the kickoff for "Operation L'Hitraot," a one-week trip to Israel intended to show support for the Jewish state.

SHAS RELATIONS WITH LIKUD SOUR OVER REMARK BY FINANCE MINISTER

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- Relations between the ruling Likud party and its Orthodox coalition partner Shas, already strained over a police investigation of Interior Minister Arye Deri, have worsened in recent days following an insensitive remark made by Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i.

The Likud minister reportedly told a group of mayors last week he would not extend credit to the Interior Ministry and certain of its institutions even if Deri let him rape his wife.

Modai denied making the remark, but others confirmed he said it, leading a Cabinet colleague to question the finance minister's sanity.

Gideon Patt, the tourism minister and, like Moda'i, a member of Likud's Liberal faction, said, "We all know Moda'i and his weaknesses, his inability to control his tongue. I am sometimes more surprised when he makes sensible statements."

Deri, a rising star in Shas, has rejected Moda'i's denial and refused to shake his hand.

But Shas has withdrawn an earlier threat to abstain or oppose the government in a Knesset vote of confidence scheduled for Monday.

The vote itself may be postponed or abandoned because of the security situation in Jerusalem following the fatal stabbing Sunday morning of three Israelis by a lone Arab assailant.

Nevertheless, Shas' quarrel with Likud has hardly abated. It stems from the police investigation of alleged financial improprieties on the part of Deri. The police have recommended that Deri be charged on seven counts and are continuing to investigate him.

Shas, whose constituency is largely Sephardic, claims there is no case against the 31-year-old minister. It charges ethnic prejudice on the part of the Likud-controlled police.

NAMES OF ADDITIONAL 81 NAZIS IN CANADA GIVEN TO GOVERNMENT

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- A list of 81 previously undisclosed names of suspected Nazi war criminals who may have immigrated to Canada after World War II was turned over to the Canadian government last week by the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

The list given to Peter Kremer, head of the War Crimes Prosecution Unit of the Justice Department, names persons who allegedly participated in the torture and murder of about 90 percent of Lithuania's 250,000 Jews and committed various other atrocities during the Nazi occupation.

Many of them were Lithuanian police or members of pro-Nazi vigilante squads. But some were professionals, artisans, academicians, farmers and former friends and neighbors of their victims, according to Sol Littman, Canadian director of the Wiesenthal Center.

The data, which could lead to prosecution under Canada's amended Criminal Code, comes from the archives of Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial and research center in Jerusalem.

Efraim Zuroff, head of the center's Israel office, said it is not known how many, if any, of the named suspects are in Canada or still alive.

Of the 81 persons named in the case histories turned over to Kremer, 17 are under 70

years old, 25 are over 80 and the remainder are between 70 and 80.

The list of persons who committed war crimes in Lithuania is based on previously inaccessible testimony. It was gathered by Leib Kunichowsky, a retired civil engineer from Lithuania who conducted Yiddish interviews with about 200 survivors of Lithuanian villages and towns.

He spoke to them in displaced persons camps in Germany and Austria between 1945 and 1949.

These survivors' recollections are especially valuable, according to researchers, because they knew the names and occupations of the perpetrators and where they lived.

The material was so long in coming to light because Kunichowsky kept it in two valises which he carried with him over the years, intending to use it to write a book.

But 10 months ago, at age 79, while living in a retirement village in Florida, he apparently realized he would never write his book. He was persuaded by an Israeli university professor to turn over his material to Yad Vashem.

Wiesenthal Center researchers found that of the 284 names listed by Kunichowsky, no more than 163 were previously known.

In addition to the names given to Canada, the Wiesenthal Center's Israel office has submitted another 49 names gleaned by Kunichowsky to the Australian government's Special Investigations Unit.

AUTHOR OF BEST-SELLING MOSSAD BOOK ENCOUNTERS HOSTILITY ON TV TALK SHOW

By Cassandra Freeman

TORONTO, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- Victor Ostrovsky, whose tell-all book about Israel's secret intelligence agency Mossad is currently No. 1 on the New York Times best seller list, encountered a hostile studio audience here last week at the taping of his appearance on a Canadian Television talk show.

He also traded invectives with former Mossad chief Isser Harel and an Israeli journalist, who accused him of lying and breach of trust from the CTV studio in Jerusalem.

The Canadian-born Ostrovsky, author of "By Way of Deception: The Making and Unmaking of a Mossad Officer," served as a Mossad case officer for 18 months in the 1980s.

He and his co-author, Canadian news columnist Claire Hoy, are guests on CTV's "Shirley Show" to be broadcast this week.

Emotions ran high at the Oct. 17 taping, where the writer was shouted down by members of the audience. When he accused Mossad of giving the Israeli government false information about Arab intentions, an older man in the audience called him a "thief" who "abused the trust of Mossad."

Harel, whose own book, "The House on Garibaldi Street," is an account of Mossad's 1960 kidnapping of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in Buenos Aires, accused Ostrovsky of having a criminal past.

"Only a truly wicked villain could have fabricated lies of this kind," Harel said, referring to allegations of nefarious activities by Mossad in Ostrovsky's best seller.

Hirsh Goodman, former military correspondent for the Jerusalem Post, called the author a "damn good liar" who began to believe his lies.

At one point, Ostrovsky, Hoy and Goodman engaged in a shouting match via satellite.

SPANISH PRIZE GOES TO SEPHARDIM, HONORED BY SPAIN, GERMAN LEADER

By David Kantor

OVIEDO, Spain, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- Spain's most prestigious award, the Premio Principe de Asturias, was presented to Sephardic Jewry at ceremonies here last Thursday.

The presentation was made by Felipe de Borbon, prince of Asturias, the son of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia of Spain.

It was accepted by a 10-member delegation representing Sephardic communities all over the world, the descendants of Jews expelled from Spain 500 years ago. The delegation met privately with the prince.

The award, which ranks as the Hispanic world's equivalent of the Nobel Prize, was established in 1980 by the Premio Principe de Asturias Foundation in this town near the Bay of Biscay.

It is awarded annually to an individual, group or institution anywhere in the world for activities in the interests of humanity and has a monetary value of nearly \$50,000. It is always presented by the Spanish crown prince.

In this year's award, Sephardic Jewry was cited for upholding and preserving the Spanish language and culture, although driven from their country in 1492.

The award was announced in July in recognition of the millions of Sephardic Jews who have been described as "the wandering Spain."

The foundation noted that those people spread Spanish culture for generations in remote corners of the world.

At the Oviedo ceremony, the prince stressed that the Spanish language and culture were inextricably linked with Jewish accomplishments in Spain. He expressed hope that Spain will once again become a meeting place of the Spanish and Jewish traditions.

In New York, Andre Sassoon, vice president of the International Jewish Committee for Sephardim '92 and secretary of the World Sephardi Federation, said, "It was by far the most emotional gathering. It was unprecedented for an entire Jewish community to get such an award."

He said there is a movement in the Spanish Parliament to pass a law that every Sephardic Jew can apply for Spanish citizenship.

'Incredible, Deafening Applause'

Sassoon related that Rabbi Salomon Gaon, who is spiritual head of the World Sephardi Federation, "broke down twice during the speech, and there was incredible, deafening applause in the theater, which held about 1,000 people."

Also present to accept an award for international relations was German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who called it an "incredible honor to be on the same platform when the Sephardic community was receiving the prize," Sassoon recalled.

According to scholars, some 400,000 Jews were expelled from Spain in the year Columbus set out on his first voyage of discovery. The edict of expulsion was made on March 31, 1492, and Jews were given three months to leave Spain.

Jews who remained in Spain were forced to convert to Catholicism. Many of them continued to practice Judaism in secrecy. The term for them, Marrano, is derogatory and means pig.

Spanish, and later Portuguese, Jews resettled in France, Italy, Holland, North Africa, Turkey and other countries. About a million Sephardim

live in Israel. Another 3 million to 4 million live in various countries of North and South America and southern Europe.

The delegation that accepted the Prince of Asturias award included Rabbi Gaon, who is also head of Sephardic studies at Yeshiva University in New York, and Nessim Gaon, president of the World Sephardi Federation, who received the award on behalf of the community.

Also in the delegation were Salomon Garazi of the South American Sephardic Federation; Leon Benmayor of the Jewish community in Salonika, Greece; Leon Levy of the American Sephardi Federation; Samuel Toledano of Spain's Jewish community; Pierre Dray of France; Professor Moshe Mani of Tel Aviv University; and Sassoon.

(JTA staff writer Susan Birnbaum in New York contributed to this report.)

BIKER WHO ROBBED 22 TEL AVIV BANKS IS SCION OF PROMINENT ISRAELI FAMILY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- The scion of one of Israel's leading families was identified by police Friday as the motorcycle bandit who robbed 22 banks at gunpoint in the Tel Aviv area during the last 18 months.

Ronnie Leibovitch, 37, whom the police said confessed to the crimes, is the grandson of Chaim Leibovitch, founder and owner of the Etz Hazayit olive oil company, an enterprise dating back to the pre-statehood era.

Leibovitch, married with two children, was arrested Thursday at his posh suburban home, where he fled to elude police after a passerby spotted him entering the Givatayim branch of Bank Leumi.

Apparently in deference to his family, the police obtained a court order banning publication of the suspect's identity. But it was lifted after a Tel Aviv magistrate ordered him held in custody for 15 days pending arraignment.

The police said Leibovitch cooperated fully by reconstructing his bank heists for video cameras. They also said they have traced about \$175,000 of the money he allegedly robbed.

Uri Slonim, a prominent defense lawyer retained by the family, has asked that his client receive a psychiatric examination "with the cooperation of the police."

Leibovitch was described by friends as tall, handsome and feckless. He was unable to keep a job, heavily in debt and was subsidized in a lavish lifestyle by his brother, a successful businessman living in the United States who flew here for the preliminary court hearing.

According to the police, Leibovitch had several bank accounts in which he deposited stolen money. Some were in banks he had robbed.

The money went to pay his debts, including the cost overruns on a luxurious villa he was building near his rented home in Herzliya Pituach. He reportedly rented it from Dan Shomron, the Israel Defense Force chief of staff.

Leibovitch owned two motorcycles, a red Suzuki and a black Motoguzzi, which he used alternately to make swift getaways in heavy traffic after broad daylight bank robberies.

When not in use, they were concealed in a small truck in the garage of his parents' home.

Police reportedly found a letter there from the accused to his wife apologizing for the disgrace he would cause when, as he apparently realized, he would inevitably be caught.