ISRAEL SEALS OFF TERRITORIES TO PREVENT FURTHER VIOLENCE
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- Israel on Wednesday sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to prevent further brutal encounters between Israelis and Palestinians from the territories.

The move followed spiraling violence that began Sunday with the fatal stabbing of three Jews in Jerusalem and escalated Tuesday with the wounding of four Jews and four Arabs, two of whom later died.

Following the orders, Palestinians were forbidden to enter any part of Israel. Jewish residents of the territories were free to come and go as they pleased.

The duration of the blockade is uncertain. The United States, which has recently opposed Israeli tactics used to quell violence, on Wednesday agreed with what it called the "temporary security measure" to prevent violence.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said, "We hope that the situation will rapidly calm down, so that the measures can be lifted and Israelis and Palestinians can go about their lives in peace and security as they both should."

Tutwiler also announced that President Bush had sent a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir expressing condolences for the loss of Israeli lives Sunday.

In Israel, there was broad support for the sealing of the border, coming from the entire spectrum of Israeli politics.

Both the Peace Now movement and the hard-line Council of Jewish Settlements praised the defense minister for his decision. So did the dovish Shinui-Center Movement and the pro-annexation Tehiya party, but for different reasons.

The right made clear it sees the blockade as a first step toward the eventual displacement of Palestinians from the administered territories.

Spokespersons of the right wing reasoned that without their jobs in Israel, the Palestinians would be forced by economic necessity to relocate to somewhere else in the Middle East.

But on the left, the closure was hailed as a possible first step to Israel's eventual disengagement from the territories. Shinui leader Amnon Rubinstein urged that the separation be made permanent.

A Temporary Measure

But Likud officials said it would be temporary.

Sources said the blockade might be lifted only after the 40-day Islamic mourning period for the 21 Arabs fatally shot by Israeli police during the Oct. 8 riots on the Temple Mount.

The incident triggered a spiral of violence, which included Tuesday's stabbings and beatings of Jews and retaliatory beatings of Arabs by Jews.

One of the stabbing victims Tuesday was a 19-year-old soldier, Limor Ben Shaul of Moshav Shavei Zion near Nahariya.

She and another soldier were waiting to hitch a ride at a road junction near Haifa when an Arab leaped from a car and slashed both of them.

Ben Shaul was treated for minor cuts on her back.

Her companion, whose name was withheld by police, was knifed in the chest. She underwent surgery at Rambam Hospital in Haifa, reportedly for a punctured lung. Her condition was reported to be serious but stable.

Their assailant was identified as Omar Sawaneh, about 40, from the West Bank village of Silat el-Harithiya, near Jenin. He was chased and caught by enraged Jews who beat him unconscious. He died later undergoing surgery at Rambam Hospital from a brain hemorrhage that was apparently the result of a blow to the head.

Police are searching for his accomplice, who escaped in a Subaru car.

In Ashkelon, a seaport city south of Tel Aviv, Itzhak Pitussi, 53, owner of a carpentry shop, and Nathan Chassid, 40, a shop employee, were assaulted by an Arab worker from the Gaza Strip recently hired by Pitussi.

The Arab beat them on the head with a 10-pound sledge hammer. Both underwent brain surgery at Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

Their assailant was captured by border police while trying to make his way back to the Gaza Strip.

Four Arabs, members of the same family, driving back to the Gaza Strip from their jobs in Israel were fired on by men in a passing car believed to be Jews out to avenge Arab attacks.

The driver, Maher a-Sha'asher, 30, of Khirbet el-Adas in the Gaza Strip, was shot in the chest. He died later at Nasser Hospital in Gaza.

Three passengers were all wounded.

The army radio reported Tuesday night that an organization calling itself Be'adi (For Myself) telephoned to say it had taken revenge against Arabs for their attacks of recent days.

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

NEWS ANALYSIS:
ISRAELIS, ALARMED BY STABBINGS, BRACE FOR MORE VIOLENCE TO COME
By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- The spate of Palestinian stabbing attacks against Jews this week in widely separated parts of Israel has alarmed the public, which is now bracing for additional violence.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens offered a gloomy assessment of the situation in an army radio interview Wednesday. "I don't think incidents like these will disappear in the coming months," he said, "perhaps not even in the next year or two."

The stabbings, together with a number of violent reprisals by Jews against Arabs, have left more than a score of dead and wounded on both sides.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip have been sealed off. Their Palestinian residents are not permitted to enter Jerusalem or any part of Israel until further notice. The measure, which Arens announced Tuesday, was intended to protect both Jews and Arabs by keeping them apart.

The new restriction has had a strong psychological impact on Israelis. It has also caused
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economic dislocation, because of the sudden unavailability of Arab labor from the territories.

The mounting violence has produced pervasive tension, anger and fear.

**Gun Sales On The Rise**

Israelis are arming themselves. There has been a run on gun shops all over the country, but especially in Jerusalem, where an Arab laborer from the West Bank fatally stabbed three Jews and wounded a fourth Sunday in the quiet neighborhood of Baka.

Shopowners said sales of handguns were up seven hundred percent this week.

Dov Kehat, director general of the Interior Ministry, which issues gun licenses, said Wednesday he would simplify the bureaucratic procedure for obtaining firearms in Jerusalem.

At present, more than 200,000 Israelis are licensed to carry handguns, and 70,000 licenses have been issued to firms and institutions.

Israel's economy, hard hit by a 50 percent drop in tourism last month and the resulting layoffs of thousands of hotel employees, could face a crisis if the territories remain sealed off for any length of time.

Normally, some 100,000 Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip go to work in Israel every day. Only about 40 percent of them have legal work permits. The others make private arrangements with Israeli employers to work without benefits for less than the minimum wage.

Hardest hit by the Arab labor shortage are construction sites, garbage collection, and restaurants and cafes, which are without busboys and dishwashers.

Most construction sites were idle Wednesday. Streets went uncleansed, and garbage bags piled up on the curbs. Those jobs traditionally have depended almost entirely on Arab labor.

Police were making spot checks to see that no Arabs from the territories were in Israel and no Jews were employing them. The Arabs faced arrest, the Jews stiff fines for violating a Defense Ministry order.

The ban was holding, however. Fruit and vegetable markets, hotels and supermarkets were bustling, despite the absence of Arabs, who perform menial work that most Israelis refuse to do.

The National Employment Service reported a 20 percent increase Wednesday morning in the number of calls from Jewish employers begging for replacement workers. Many are hoping to recruit recently arrived Soviet immigrants or veteran Israelis who have joined the ranks of the unemployed.

**Palestinian Resentment May Grow**

But that will work, economists say, only if the immigrants and Israelis will settle for the low pay accepted by the Arabs or if the employers are prepared to increase their wages.

Some analysts are saying the switch from Arab to Jewish labor could be a godsend at a time of growing unemployment and immigration.

But the long-term political, economic and social implications of such a development are dangerous.

It is estimated that some 75 percent of the wage-earners in the Gaza Strip and 50 percent in the West Bank depend on jobs in Israel. If they disappear, the bitterness and resentment would only grow and might be used by the intifada leadership to encourage terrorism.

Arens insists the closure of the territories does not represent a return to the Green Line, the boundary that once separated Israel from the territories it conquered in 1967.

"I think everyone understands that this step was necessary following the murders and attempt ed murders of the past few days, which were carried out by residents who came as laborers to the Israeli market," the defense minister said in his radio interview.

He said one of the measure's purposes was to allow the Palestinians time to contemplate their situation and reach the conclusion that violent acts will only worsen their lives.

Arens added that he believes there is a "silent majority" of Arabs who understand that violence only stymies the peace process, "which is neither in their interests or ours."

**Vicious Leaflets Uncovered**

The spate of attacks by Arabs on individual Jews seems to have been inspired by leaflets circulated by intifada activists urging vengeance for the 21 Arabs killed Oct. 8 on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

The leaflets call for the use of knives and other lethal weapons, instead of the rocks and firebombs employed in the intifada up till now.

Separate leaflets were circulated by Hamas, the Moslem fundamentalist group based in the Gaza Strip; Al Fatah, the arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization headed by Yasir Arafat; and the intifada's Unified National Command.

The Israel Government Press Office translated portions of the leaflets and distributed them to the foreign press here Wednesday.

A Fatah leaflet found in Ramallah on Oct. 12 accuses Israel of using the Persian Gulf crisis to execute a plan to eliminate the Palestinian problem in the Nazi fashion. It calls for "shock forces" and other armed groups to stalk Israeli Defense Force soldiers, settlers and collaborators.

"At this stage, it is necessary to use weapons, to light fires, to stab with knives, to destroy everything possible without limit," the Fatah leaflet says.

The flier issued by the Unified National Command exhorts Palestinians to react decisively to the killings on the Temple Mount. It states that "every Israeli soldier and settler in Palestine is a target for destruction."

The Hamas leaflet depicts Jews as "blood suckers who have sown the seeds of evil in every era, haters of humanity who fight all religions and everything holy."

"Opposing the Jews stands a believing and fighting people willing to die and sacrifice. This people believes that Allah's order to destroy the Jews is drawing near," the leaflet says.

It also calls on Moslems everywhere to demonstrate against the American "creators of the Zionist entity."

**IDF KILLS 2 TERRORISTS IN LEBANON**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force killed two terrorists Tuesday night in a pre-emptive military action north of the security zone in patrols in southern Lebanon.

The Israeli force sustained no casualties and returned to Israel on Wednesday morning, according to an announcement by the IDF.

The IDF said the action took place in the center of the operational area of the Moslem fundamentalist Hezbollah militia.
NEW U.N. RESOLUTION AGAINST ISRAEL IS MILDIER THAN ORIGINALLY PROPOSED
By Aliza Marcus


While Israeli leaders were sure to be disappointed with the U.S. decision to support the resolution, they could take comfort from the fact that some of the most potentially damaging sections of the original draft were removed in a last-minute makeover before the vote.

That was due largely to the efforts of two of the permanent Security Council members, Britain and the United States, both of which had refused to support the resolution in its original form, according to U.N. sources.

The original draft put forth last week by some Arab and non-aligned members of the Security Council, invoked Article 25 of the U.N. Charter, under which member states agree to accept and carry out Security Council decisions.

The implication, Israeli officials said, was that Israel could be subjected to sanctions if there were no change in the Israeli government's decision not to cooperate with the U.N. investigation mandated in the Security Council's Oct. 12 resolution condemning the violence on the Temple Mount.

The resolution still contains strong criticism of Israel for its refusal to receive the U.N. delegation that was to investigate the Oct. 8 shootings, in which 21 Arabs were killed and about 150 injured by Israeli police. But the language is milder and less threatening than the original.

Bush Tries To Persuade Shamir

The resolution, however, does little to ease tension between Israel and the United States. Since the Temple Mount shootings, Israel has found itself at odds with its staunchest foreign supporter.

The United States, trying to balance its close ties to Israel with its need to maintain Arab support for sanctions against Iraq, has spent the past few days lobbying Israel to reconsider its refusal to cooperate with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in sending an investigation team.

In Washington, the State Department confirmed Wednesday that President Bush had sent Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir a letter "urging the Israeli government to find a way to let the secretary-general's mission in."

Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the United States wants the Security Council to return to discussing Iraqi aggression in the Middle East, but council members said they would not address that issue until the resolution against Israel was acted upon.

The president's efforts apparently have not succeeded.

In Jerusalem, Israel Radio reported Wednesday that Shamir remains adamantly opposed to cooperating with the U.N. investigation, despite the request from Bush.

Israeli officials say the chief concern is that the investigation would undermine Israel's claim to sovereignty over East Jerusalem, which it annexed in 1967 and views as an inseparable part of its capital.

Instead, Israel has offered to submit the findings of its own investigation of the shooting incident, which should be completed by the end of the week. But that offer has been rejected by the U.N. secretary-general.

An Israeli official explained his government's reasoning this week: During a talk in New York with members of the American Jewish Committee.

"Would the United States allow the United Nations to investigate an event in Washington? Would France let them into Paris?" asked Uriel Savir, the Israeli consul general.

(JTA correspondents David Friedman in Washington and David Landau in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)

ZOA DEMONSTRATES IN WASHINGTON TO DENOUNCE ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTION
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- The Zionist Organization of America held a rally near the White House on Wednesday, to voice its support of Israel in the face of the Oct. 12 U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israel for its handling of the Oct. 8 riots on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

At a rally in Lafayette Park sponsored by the Greater Potomac Region of ZOA, some 400 demonstrators held placards reading, "Jerusalem is not Kuwait," and "Rocks and Stones Can Break Bones."

Another placard said, "Fact: PLO Alerted Media to a 10 a.m. event at the Temple Mount," referring to claims that the Palestine Liberation Organization helped promote the Oct. 8 riot, which left 21 Arabs dead.

"We oppose resolutions which fail to recognize the unthinkable acts of Palestinian Arabsstoning Jewish worshipers celebrating a major Jewish holiday at the holiest site in the Jewish world," said Rickey Chernow, the ZOA district president.

A small counter-rally took place on the White House side of Pennsylvania Avenue, where nine members of the Jewish Committee for Israel-Palestinian Peace held up posters that said, "Cooperate with the U.N." and "Israelis and Palestinians: 2 Peoples, 2 States."

'Abominable' U.N. Resolution

Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.) told the ZOA rally that Israel needs support "more than ever."

He spoke of Israel's $3 billion foreign aid package which is working its way through Congress, but said, "The moral support is just as important as the economic support."

Gilman called the U.N. condemnation of Israel "abominable," and said Israel was the victim of an "act of provocation, a determined act to try to bait Israel into the Kuwait-Iraqi problem and we'll have no part of it."

The crowd also heard from Rep. Benjamin Cardin (D-Md.) and former refusenik Yosef Begun.

At the counter-demonstration, Hilda Silverman, a member of the peace group, said, "We support the U.N. resolution and we would like Israel to comply with it. We're terribly pained by the loss of life on both sides."

Silverman added that her group originally had planned to carry the names of the 21 Arabs who were killed on the Temple Mount, but changed its tactics after three Israelis were killed Sunday in stabbing attacks by Arabs whose apparent motivation was retaliation.
SYDNEY, Australia, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- Nelson Mandela's harsh attack on Israel at the start of his three-day visit to Australia has angered and alienated Australian Jewry.

The deputy president of the African National Congress likened Israel to a "terrorist state" and reiterated his often expressed solidarity with the Palestine Liberation Organization at a news conference on his arrival in Canberra on Tuesday.

"We identify with them because we do not believe it is right for the Israeli government to suppress basic human rights in the conquered territories," Mandela declared.

He accused Israel of "slaughtering defenseless, innocent Arabs."

In response, the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies withdrew from an ecumenical service at which Mandela will be honored.

The Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the umbrella body of Australian Jewish organizations, announced it had no plans to participate in any functions honoring the anti-apartheid leader.

Mandela's remarks seemed likely to shatter the delicate truce he reached with the American Jewish leaders he met in Geneva on June 10, shortly before his visit to the United States.

On that occasion, Mandela said he was sorry if any of his past statements on Israel had offended Jews. He said he hoped to visit Israel soon and looked forward to good relations between Israel and the new democratic state that would soon emerge in South Africa.

The Geneva meeting, described as "warm, friendly and cordial," was credited with averting protest demonstrations against Mandela by American Jewish groups during his U.S. tour.

Yet in the United States, Mandela dismayed Jews sympathetic to his anti-apartheid cause by public references to PLO leader Yasir Arafat as a "comrade in arms."

'Slaughtering Defenseless Arabs'

He told the Australian news media, "We agree with the United Nations that international disputes should be settled by peaceful means. The belligerent attitude which is adopted by the Israeli government is to us unacceptable."

Mandela said the ANC does not consider the PLO a terrorist group, adding: "If one has to refer to any of the parties as a terrorist state, one might refer to the Israeli government, because they are the people who are slaughtering defenseless and innocent Arabs in the occupied territories, and we don't regard that as acceptable."

His comments were denounced by Gerry Levy, president of the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies.

"His claim that Israel slaughters the defenseless and innocent is not only unacceptable and offensive, but totally untrue," said Levy.

Leaf, deputy chairman of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, said his own struggle against apartheid, which began 30 years ago, would not diminish. But he did not equate the cause of the ANC with the cause of the blacks of South Africa, Caplan said.

Mandela meanwhile said he "unreservedly" supported Zionism insofar as it meant a Jewish state within secure borders. But he opposed Zionism "when it meant deprivation of human rights in the occupied territories."

TEL AVIV, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- The oldest profession in the world is rapidly being taken up by the newest immigrants to Israel, according to newspaper reports.

Over the last two weeks, Israel's leading papers have published several articles on the growing phenomenon of young Soviet women turning to prostitution in order to earn a living for their children and sometimes, even, for their husbands.

While no official report has been issued on this very unofficial subject, one owner of a large Tel Aviv escort service estimates that Soviet women constitute some 10 to 15 percent of the total number of women in Israel working in the sex industry, be it in massage parlors, escort services or street prostitution.

"In Tel Aviv, there are a total of 100 to 150 women working at escort services, 200 to 250 masseuses and some 500 whores," said the owner of V.I.P. Claiming he is "no expert," he added that he does not think the percentage of Soviet women in the trade is that high.

His view was echoed by Yuli Kosharovsky, a well-known former prisoner of Zion who now lives in the religious kibbutz Alon Shvut in the Etzion Bloc, southeast of Jerusalem.

"A whole people is immigrating to Israel, so what can you expect? All of them would be musicians, professors and 'good Jews'" he asked the daily Ma'ariv last week.

While the phenomenon is already common in the center of the country and in the North, the southern parts of Israel still lag behind.

But one escort service office in Beersheba was found to have a Russian woman working for it. Patricia is a 27-year-old childless divorcee who arrived in the country only three months ago.

The owner, who claims to have Soviet women coming to him daily for jobs, told one of the papers that he "saw immediately that she has a lot of class and is suitable for the job."

"She wants to make enough money to buy a apartment and has already managed to save up a couple of thousands of shekels," he claimed.

Some Severely Beaten Up

Other women have not fared as well as Patricia. In Carmiel, near Haifa, which has one of the highest percentages of new immigrants from the Soviet Union, there are stories circulating about Soviet prostitutes who have been severely beaten up by men trying to be their pimps.

According to reports, the clients of these Soviet prostitutes in the North seem to be mostly Arabs, something which police consider to be a security risk.

In different interviews given to newspapers, the women all claimed to have been working in other professions while in the Soviet Union. One was an architect, another an engineer. But all said they had been unable to find work in their profession in Israel and had only turned to prostitution as a last resort.

Both the Jewish Agency and the Absorption Ministry place only the slightest importance on the phenomenon.

Gad Ben-Ari, the Jewish Agency spokesman, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that prostitution appears to be "the exception and not the rule to an otherwise very high-quality aliyah."