

VOL. 68 - 73rd YEAR**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1990****NO. 203****NEW ROUND OF VIOLENT ARAB ATTACKS
HEIGHTENS ISRAELI SENSE OF INSECURITY
By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Another spate of Arab violence has given Israelis the uncomfortable feeling that they are not safe in their own backyards.

It has also reinforced the view that Defense Minister Moshe Arens' decision Sunday to reopen the administered territories was premature.

Arabs attacked or tried to attack Jews in three widely separated incidents Tuesday and were killed or captured for their efforts.

The incidents, which left two Arabs dead and caused injury to two Arabs and two Israelis, occurred barely two days after Arens lifted the ban that had kept Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip out of Israel proper for the previous four days.

The ban had been put into effect following the brutal slaying of three Israelis in Jerusalem last week and subsequent stabbing incidents and reprisals in various parts of the country that have left more than a dozen injured.

But the defense authorities feared that keeping the Palestinians bottled up indefinitely and deprived of their daily jobs in Israel would create an even more explosive situation.

Though the plan was lifted, more stringent measures have been taken to screen out criminal elements and potential troublemakers.

That, however, has done little to reassure Israeli parents, who are deeply concerned about the safety of their children going to and from school or playing in the streets.

'Trigger Option' Becoming Popular

Mutual suspicion between the Jewish and Arab communities is stronger than ever. Israelis who employ Arabs now constantly look over their shoulders, worried about being attacked with a hammer or knife.

They know the Islamic fundamentalist movement has called for the killing of Jews, making it almost a religious act to avenge the fatal shooting of 18 Arabs by Israeli police in the Oct. 8 riots on Jerusalem's Temple Mount.

Israelis moreover could hardly have been encouraged by Defense Minister Arens' sober warning Tuesday that the wave of violence "has not yet passed."

Members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee quoted him as saying, "We must be ready for a period that will not be easy, in which efforts will be made to harm civilians, both from outside Israel and also from inside Israeli territory."

Most Israelis seem to realize that security measures, however tough, will not root out random terror as long as there is no political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

But here opinion is sharply divided.

The right wing has begun arguing more strenuously for the "transfer" option, meaning the removal of the Palestinian population from the administered territories, presumably to a neighboring country, such as Jordan or Lebanon.

The left insists there is no choice but for Israel to withdraw from the territories.

There is another alternative: the "trigger option."

Cabinet ministers went out of their way this week to encourage Israelis to shoot to kill if they think their lives are in danger. Police Minister Ronni Milo was insistent on that point.

One of the three Jews murdered in Jerusalem's Baka neighborhood Oct. 21 was police trainee Shalom Charlie Shloush, who, when attacked by a blade-wielding young Arab, followed police procedure by firing a warning shot into the air, then aimed at his assailants legs -- and lost his life.

Swift Response To Latest Attacks

Israelis have quickly learned that going by the book could be suicidal.

So when an 18-year-old Palestinian stabbed the Israeli driver of an oil tank truck in Nablus on Tuesday morning, he was instantly shot to death by the driver's bodyguard.

Israelis were also quick to respond when a Palestinian stabbed and slightly injured a policeman in the East Jerusalem central bus station. The assailant was promptly caught. He was identified as Nidal Gidal, 16, of the West Bank village of Kibya.

In the religious township of Bnei Brak, north of Tel Aviv, one Arab was killed and two injured early Tuesday morning when a bomb they were assembling exploded prematurely.

The three Arabs were employed at a vegetable stall in the heart of town, where they spent the night.

According to police, they were preparing a bomb to be concealed in a vegetable crate, timed to go off when the market was crowded with shoppers.

In light of the tense situation, security forces announced that as many as 20,000 of the 120,000 Palestinian day laborers from the territories will permanently be denied entry to Israel.

They will be screened out because of criminal records, records of security offenses or hostile acts.

NEWS ANALYSIS:**BAKER DECISION NOT TO VISIT ISRAEL
INDICATION OF U.S.-ISRAELI TENSIONS**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- The prospect of another sweep through the Middle East by Secretary of State James Baker, with Israel pointedly omitted from his itinerary, has deepened anxieties in Jerusalem this week over the state of relations with Washington.

Yet at the same time, the Israeli government has not formally suggested to the Bush administration that Baker add Israel to his tour. The secretary leaves Saturday for Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, France and Britain.

In fact, some Israeli officials feel it might be better that Baker skip Israel until the still-seething confrontation over the Temple Mount episode simmers down.

Baker said Monday that he wants to go to Israel, but not on his present trip, to prevent any linkage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the Persian Gulf crisis.

"I very much want to go to Israel, and I intend to go Israel at the earliest possible opportunity," he said in reply to a question after addressing the World Affairs Council in Los Angeles.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said Tuesday that Jewish leaders have urged that Baker go to Israel since he has never visited the country.

But other sources said the Jewish community is divided over whether to press the issue in the midst of the Gulf confrontation.

Bush Meeting With Shamir In Doubt

Meanwhile, the potential for increased U.S.-Israeli tension looms in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's upcoming visit to New York, where he is to receive the Defender of Jerusalem Award from the Jabotinsky Foundation on Dec. 10.

Although Shamir has not requested a meeting with President Bush at this time and may not because of the Persian Gulf crisis, the failure to have such a meeting would be viewed with concern by the American Jewish community.

It would be seen as a replay of the situation last November, when Bush met with Shamir but waited until six days before the premier's arrival to invite him to the White House.

Bush's stalling angered many in the Jewish community, who charged that the Israeli leader was being insulted.

An initiative to forestall a replay of that scenario was high on the agenda of a meeting four leading Jewish Republicans had with Bush on Oct. 22.

The four longtime associates of Bush -- Max Fisher of Detroit; George Klein of New York; Jacob Stein of Great Neck, N.Y.; and Gordon Zacks of Columbus, Ohio -- reportedly urged the president to meet with Shamir.

But they got the "cold shoulder" from the president, who did not respond to their urging, according to a source not present at the meeting.

In a telephone interview Tuesday, Stein refused to confirm the report on the meeting, explaining that all those present agreed not to comment on the conversation with Bush.

But Stein acknowledged that one of the problems between Israel and the United States is a "lack of personal relations" between the top officials of the Bush administration and the Shamir government. Good personal relations have always resulted in good relations between the two countries, he said.

Hoenlein agreed that good personal relations are necessary, but expressed doubt that Bush was urged to meet with Shamir. He said such a meeting would first have to be requested by the Israeli leader.

Temple Mount Issue Still Live

The most recent irritant in U.S.-Israeli relations has been the controversy over Israel's handling of the Oct. 8 riots on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

The United States was miffed at Israel's refusal to cooperate with a U.N. investigation of the incident, despite a direct appeal Bush made in writing to Shamir. Israel, in turn, was offended that Washington supported the two U.N. Security Council resolutions criticizing Israel's behavior.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was poised this week to present a report to the Security Council that would note Israel's

defiance of the two resolutions. His report is likely to be followed by stepped-up pressure from the Arabs and Third World countries for tougher resolutions, including sanctions.

While Israel expects Washington to veto any sanctions, there is fear in Jerusalem that the U.S. position could eventually erode under ever-sharper Security Council condemnations of Israel.

Shamir continues to be adamant against admitting the U.N. team, and Perez de Cuellar does not seem to have any intention of agreeing to Israel's suggestion that he make do with the Israeli inquiry into the Temple Mount incident.

Israeli officials are disappointed that the report, submitted to the government last weekend, did not ease U.N. pressures on Israel, despite a backhanded endorsement by the State Department.

Reviewing the report, department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler told reporters in Washington on Tuesday that the commission "found that Israeli police were required by life-threatening circumstances to use live ammunition, in addition to tear gas and rubber bullets."

"The Israeli government, however, is aware of our views opposing the use of excessive or lethal force in maintaining law and order," she said. "In this case, both the president and the secretary have said that Israeli use of live fire, resulting in the death of many people, appears to have been an excessive use of force."

Tutwiler also made a point of noting that the report "criticized the attack on worshippers at the Western Wall" -- a conclusion that she said is "consistent with our view."

(Contributing to this report were JTA correspondents David Friedman and Howard Rosenberg in Washington, and Tom Tugend in Los Angeles.)

PALESTINIAN EXTRADITED FROM U.S. TO STAND TRIAL MURDER OF ISRAELI By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- An alleged Palestinian terrorist ordered extradited to Israel from the United States arrived here Monday aboard a regular El Al passenger flight.

Mahmoud Abed Atta will stand trial for the machine-gun killing of an Israeli bus driver during an April 1986 attack by the Abu Nidal terror group in the Samaria district of the West Bank.

Atta's attorneys claimed during extradition hearings in the United States that his was a political act, rather than terrorism, and that therefore he should not be extradited.

The U.S. courts decided otherwise, clearing the way for Atta's extradition two months ago. But Secretary of State James Baker delayed signing the extradition papers.

The warrant was finally signed last week by Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, but only after the Jerusalem Post alerted Washington that it would soon lapse, the newspaper claimed Tuesday.

A State Department official denied the Post's story.

"It was the game plan all along to sign it," the official said. But the United States wanted to delay doing so "until things cooled down a bit" in the wake of the Oct. 8 riots on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, the official explained.

The extradition hearings prompted threats of increased terrorist activities in Europe and the Middle East.

(JTA correspondent Howard Rosenberg in Washington contributed to this report.)

WHILE SOME CANCEL VISITS TO ISRAEL, OTHERS MAKE RENEWED PUSH FOR TRIPS

By Aliza Marcus

NEW YORK, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- In the face of widespread cancellations of visits to Israel by some Jewish groups and individuals, a number of American Jewish organizations have decided to press ahead with their original travel plans.

Still others, deterred by neither the Persian Gulf crisis nor Israel's recent decision to distribute gas masks to its citizens, are planning new trips to Israel as a sign of political support.

"At this moment of crisis, it is an honor as well as a responsibility to demonstrate our Zionist commitment to Israel," Carmela Kalmanson, national president of Hadassah, said in a statement released last week. "Our resolve is reinforced by the knowledge that we stand together now, as in the past, as one united family."

Hadassah is not making any changes in its schedule of groups going to Israel, which include a planned educational mission for nurses in November, a December trip for college-age youth and a winter stay in Netanya for older people.

"I'm very proud of our membership," Kalmanson told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "We have lots of groups coming and going. We don't want to be called heroes, it's a principle here."

The sudden spate of very vocal support for Israel trips, be it newly organized tours or already planned national conventions, is a welcome relief for Israeli tourism officials, who have seen the number of visitors decline dramatically since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Hotel Occupancy Rates Down

While the first half of 1990 saw 1.6 million people visit Israel -- a record number since the start of the Palestinian uprising in December 1987 -- tourists' fears were exacerbated by recent events in Israel, including the Oct. 8 riots on Jerusalem's Temple Mount, tourism officials said.

Hotel occupancy rates were down around 30 percent in September, and there was great fear Israel's economy would be battered by the sudden cessation of tourism, officials said.

The exact number of group cancellations was not available, but at least five large United Jewish Appeal missions were postponed over the past few weeks. Women's American ORT, which establishes training programs in Israel, recently changed the location of its national board meeting from Jerusalem to Washington.

But many Jewish organizations, from major ones to small community groups, have announced upcoming tours, some to leave within weeks, while others are scheduled for the spring.

"We are determined that Saddam Hussein not become the travel agent for American Jewry," said a statement released by the board of directors of the Jewish National Fund. "We are a free people and we are proud of our Jewish homeland, and it is for us to determine when we will visit it." Plans for an April trip were reaffirmed.

Kesher, a Zionist program for people who have traveled to Israel on group programs, has announced a four-day trip to Israel in December.

"Kesher, as a Zionist program, feels it is our responsibility, at this crucial time to further encourage tourism, contribute to the Israeli economy, and show solidarity with the State of Israel more than ever before," the organization said in a statement.

Other groups hastily putting together trips

to Israel as a sign of support include the American Jewish Committee, the Israel Seminars Foundation and Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun, an Orthodox synagogue here that is organizing "Operation L'Hitraot."

"When you don't have to wait on line to take the elevator in the Hilton, you know there's a problem," said Sandy Eisenstat, an attorney who came up with the idea for the synagogue trip after visiting Israel in early October.

"For the first time, the waiters and taxi driver were asking, 'Where are the Americans when we need you?'" Eisenstat told The New York Jewish Week.

Visits To The Wall A Priority

Despite the U.S. State Department placing East Jerusalem on the list of places Americans should use extreme caution in visiting, many groups are making a visit to the Western Wall one of their priorities.

A group of 500 people from two United Jewish Appeal missions spent last Friday evening praying at the Western Wall. The leader of the entourage said there was little fear over security.

"It was one of the most exciting moments of my life," said Marvin Lender, UJA's national chairman, who took led the mission, which arrived in Israel after a visit to Poland.

"Israel is as safe as it's ever been, and I don't think there is anyone in our group who feels any discomfort in going any place," he said.

"I think the people on this mission feel a great sense of pride in having made the decision to come, because there's an obvious lack of American Jewry at this moment."

The World Zionist Organization has called on American Jews to demonstrate their support for Israel by visiting the country and traveling to the capital, Jerusalem.

"The travel advisory of the State Department, warning Americans not to visit parts of Israel, including areas of Jerusalem, at this time was a grave error," Bernice Tannenbaum, chairwoman of the WZO American Section, said in a recent statement. "We should all prove it wrong and unjustified by going to Israel today."

Rally Of Solidarity

In Jerusalem on Tuesday, some 1,000 Jewish students from 28 countries gathered together in a "We Are Here" rally of solidarity and Jewish identification.

The students, currently in Israel on various long-term programs, were assembled under the aegis of WZO's Youth and Hechalutz Department on the grounds of the Knesset after legislators adjourned for the day.

WZO Chairman Simcha Dinitz, speaking to the crowd, announced the arrival of the 21,000th Soviet Jewish immigrant to Israel this month, another record number.

"There is a link between Soviet Jews, who stand for days in 20-degree weather to obtain visas, and you, who have come to Israel of your own free will," Dinitz said. "Thank you for coming to Israel. Thank you for saying 'We are here.'"

Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky said it was especially significant that these young people were here at this time, when adult Jewish groups were canceling their trips. "We are particularly grieved when any Jew calls off his visit," he said.

(JTA correspondent David Landau in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)

**IMMIGRATION LAW MAY BENEFIT JEWS,
BUT DOESN'T AFFECT SOVIET REFUGEES**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Jewish organizations have welcomed the landmark immigration bill adopted Saturday by the departing Congress, despite disappointment that the number of people allowed into the United States under family reunification provisions is not larger.

The number of close relatives of permanent residents allowed to come to the United States has been increased from 436,000 to 465,000 per year. After Oct. 1, 1993, this would increase to 480,000.

President Bush, who is opposed to a larger increase, has promised to sign the legislation.

Judith Golub, the American Jewish Committee's legislative director, who worked actively in pushing the family reunification issue, called the bill "pro-family" despite its shortcomings.

"Families must remain the core of the immigration policy," she said. "Immigrants and immigration are a plus for the United States and should be welcome."

This view was also underscored by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. "HIAS has always supported a generous immigration policy, so although it is not the most perfect bill, we are delighted that it has passed," said Phillip Saperia, assistant executive vice president of HIAS.

The bill would allow 700,000 people to enter the United States a year until 1995, when the number would drop to 675,000. The current ceiling is 500,000. The major change in the bill was the increase in the number of visas granted to skilled workers and their families, which will go up to 140,000 from the present 54,000.

Saperia said this category could be particularly helpful to Jews seeking permanent immigration to the United States from almost any nation.

Benefits For Religious Workers

The provision may also be taken advantage of by Israelis seeking to immigrate to the United States, including the tens of thousands of Israelis believed to be living here illegally, Saperia said.

But the bill does not immediately impact Jews from the Soviet Union and Iran. Jews from those countries are considered in danger and therefore qualify to come to the United States as refugees, a category separate from that covered by the immigration legislation.

However, Saperia said that if refugee status were ever eliminated, the new law would help Jews from those two countries.

The number of Soviet Jews allowed to enter the United States as refugees is 40,000 for the 1991 fiscal year, which began Oct. 1. That is a fraction of the hundreds of thousands who have applied in Moscow for permission to come here.

As a result, some Soviet Jews may try to come to the United States as regular immigrants. But if they are granted permission, they will not receive the U.S. financial aid for transportation and initial resettlement that refugees enjoy.

The new law also has benefits for religious workers, according to Abba Cohen, Washington representative of Agudath Israel of America.

Cohen said that members of the clergy, including rabbis, can enter the United States regardless of the immigration quota. He said Agudath Israel helped defeat an attempt to put a cap on the number of clergy members allowed to do so.

In fact, the definition of religious workers was expanded to include such people as cantors, shochets and mohels. In addition, Agudath Israel helped persuade Congress to add a new visa category that would allow people to come to this country for training as religious workers.

In the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, there are Jews who want "to rejuvenate religious life, but don't know how to do it," Cohen said.

The new law will allow Jews from these nations to come to the United States for religious training and work at the same time, which they would not legally be able to do on student visas.

**DIASPORA EDUCATION PROGRAMS
UNITED UNDER SINGLE AUTHORITY**
By Charles Hoffman

JERUSALEM, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- After more than two years of tough negotiations, Diaspora leaders and Israeli officials agreed this week to set up a Jewish Education Authority to serve youth and schools around the world.

The final decision was made Monday by the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel, which is meeting here this week. The Jewish Agency is a partnership between the World Zionist Organization and the main Diaspora fundraising bodies: the United Jewish Appeal in America and Keren Hayesod in other countries.

The new authority will bring most of the Diaspora Jewish education programs run by the Jewish Agency and the WZO under one roof. Together, the two organizations now spend about \$50 million annually on Jewish education outside Israel.

The authority is also supposed to enable the Diaspora communities and organizations served by these programs to have more influence over their design and operation.

The authority, which is to start operating next April, was approved by the Board of Governors despite the vehement opposition of Likud leaders in the Jewish Agency, who felt they were not allotted enough key positions on the new body. Likud leaders tried to get Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to block the establishment of the authority, but failed.

The ruffled Likud feathers were eventually smoothed when it was agreed to name one of their leaders, Shlomo Gravetz, as deputy chairman of the authority's Executive. The chairmen will be Simcha Dinitz, representing the WZO, and Irwin Field, representing UJA and Keren Hayesod.

The authority will be composed of a 12-member Executive and a 36-member Commission, which is supposed to set policy and oversee the work of the Executive.

IDF OFFICER ORDERED HELD 15 DAYS
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Brig. Gen. Rami Dotan, under investigation for suspicion of bribery and fraud, has been ordered held in military custody for 15 days by Gen. Dan Shomron, the Israel Defense Force chief of staff.

Dotan is suspected of offering and accepting millions of dollars in bribes in connection with the purchase of American aircraft engines and spare parts for the Israeli air force. He served with the IDF's procurement mission in New York in 1984 and 1985.

Dotan is believed to be the highest-ranking IDF officer ever charged with fraud.