

VOL. 68 - 73rd YEAR

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1990

NO. 221

**POLICE AND POLITICIANS COMBAT
ANTI-ARAB CAMPAIGN IN JERUSALEM**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 26 (JTA) -- Three leading activists of the anti-Arab Kach movement were detained for questioning Monday about recent incidents of arson and harassment of Jewish shopkeepers who employ Arabs.

Jerusalem police acted as the Knesset prepared to consider motions from both the left and right wings to outlaw Kach as a terrorist organization.

"We don't have to tolerate racism in our streets," Justice Minister Dan Meridor declared Monday after alluding to the Jewish experience of racism in the past.

The Kach movement, founded by the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, who was assassinated in New York on Nov. 6, is suspected of fanning Jewish vigilantism in Jerusalem.

Several shops where Arabs were employed have been gutted by fires of suspicious origin.

On Saturday, a group of Kach members returning from the Western Wall got into a brawl with Arab youths in the Old City. The police had to use force to break up the melee. An Arab shop was severely damaged.

The three taken into custody Monday are Noam Federman, Tiran Pollak and Baruch Merzel, all longtime leaders of Kach locally.

They are suspected of using intimidation and violence against shopkeepers who give jobs to Arabs. A number of shops around the city display signs reading, "No Arabs employed here."

This has been greeted with anger and disgust by most of the political community.

Some Shopkeepers Fired Arabs

Shopkeepers in the Bukharan Quarter and Geula, two large Orthodox districts close to the center of Jerusalem, confirmed they had been threatened by Kach activists.

Several told reporters they had complied with demands to fire their Arab workers. Others said they would if Kach provided Jewish replacements.

The owner of one burned-out shop said he was punished by unknown arsonists even after he fired his Arab employees.

Pollak denied in a radio interview that his group was responsible for the arson against two Jewish-owned shops in Jerusalem this week.

It was not the work of Kach, he said, but of "citizens" reacting to shops employing Arabs. He claimed his movement does not resort to violence but rather seeks "to persuade by gentle means" that Jews should not employ Arabs.

Observers here say the Kach activists are exploiting the residue of fear and anger that has hung over the city since an Arab day-laborer fatally stabbed three Jewish residents of the Baka neighborhood on Oct. 21.

That incident was followed by a spate of seemingly random attacks on Jews in the streets by knife-wielding Arabs.

Knesset member Binyamin Begin of Likud introduced an urgent motion Monday deploring the situation, which he called a cancer eating into the fiber of Israeli democracy.

Amnon Rubinstein of the Center-Shinui Movement entered a motion of his own chastising the police for "inexplicable indifference" to the intimidation campaign.

Police officials maintain they are taking the latest developments seriously and have beefed up patrols in areas where shops were threatened by vigilantes.

Meir Tsaban of Mapam, the United Workers Party of Israel, said shopkeepers putting up "No Arabs Here" signs could be prosecuted under existing legislation.

Tsaban also said Kach fits the definition of a terrorist organization and should be outlawed under emergency regulations. The regulations define a terrorist organization as one that uses force or threats of force to advance political ends.

Yossi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement sent an open letter to the justice minister, in which he spoke of the "crystal fragile" situation in Jerusalem and expressed hope that no "night" was in store for the city.

His was a thinly veiled allusion to Kristallnacht, the Nazis' first organized pogrom against German Jews in November 1938.

**SECURITY COUNCIL POSTPONES DEBATE
OVER RESOLUTION ON THE PALESTINIANS
By Aliza Marcus**

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 26 (JTA) -- The U.N. Security Council has postponed a meeting to discuss the latest draft resolution calling for measures concerning the Palestinians in the Israeli-administered territories, and the issue is not expected to come up again until next week.

Last Friday's scheduled meeting was unexpectedly canceled, and a new date has not yet been set. The Security Council is expected to spend most, if not all, of this week on a resolution allowing the use of force against Iraq, which invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

The postponement was a welcome development for the United States, which wanted to move the focus of the Security Council back to Iraq.

Washington also wanted to avoid voting on another resolution in which its longstanding ties to Israel would come into conflict with its desire to sustain the Arab coalition against Iraq.

The United States twice supported resolutions in October censuring Israel for the rioting on Jerusalem's Temple Mount, in which Israeli police fatally shot 17 Arabs.

The latest draft resolution, introduced Nov. 16 by the four non-aligned members of the Security Council, calls for convening a meeting of the signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, as suggested in a report by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Israel is a signatory to the convention, which protects civilians living in occupied territories, but Israeli officials have said the convention does not legally apply to the administered territories.

The draft resolution also calls for the stationing of U.N. military observers in the administered territories, something that is unlikely to be accepted by the United States.

With the Dec. 1 regular monthly rotation of the Security Council presidency -- Yemeni Ambassador Abdalla al-Ashtal will take over from U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering -- Israel potentially faces a tougher time during the upcoming month.

Yemen was one of the sponsors of the latest resolution concerning Israel and Ashtal was the person who first called for Security Council discussions about the situation of the Palestinians following the Oct. 8 Temple Mount incident.

Meanwhile, the expected visit to Israel by the secretary-general's personal representative, Jean-Claude Aime, has yet to be officially confirmed by Perez de Cuellar. Israeli officials have invited Aime to investigate the overall situation of Palestinians in the administered territories.

INFILTRATION INCIDENT SEEN AS SIGN OF GROWING FUNDAMENTALIST INFLUENCE **By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Nov. 26 (JTA) -- The Egyptian authorities seem to be badly shaken by a border guard's infiltration of Israel on Sunday morning and the fatal shooting spree that followed.

They fear the growing influence of extremists, who could turn their weapons against local officials, Israeli correspondents in Cairo reported Monday.

The lone gunman, captured after he fled back across the Egyptian border, killed three Israeli soldiers and a civilian, and wounded 23 other people as he sniped at Israeli vehicles along a road that parallels the frontier.

He was identified as Mohammed Ayman Husni, 23, from the town of Zigazig. He reportedly is a member of the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad movement.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir charged Monday that the assailant was the product of continuous incitement by extreme Arab nationalist and fundamentalist religious groups active in both Egypt and Jordan.

There have been two fatal infiltrations from Jordan this month. Shamir warned that Israel would not allow this situation to continue, though he did not indicate what Israel might do.

He said, however, that he is convinced there was no official Egyptian involvement in the incidence and that President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt is equally opposed to such violence.

Foreign Minister David Levy said there could be no peaceful coexistence in an atmosphere of terrorism.

Israel lodged a stiff protest with Egypt over the infiltration. Levy said Israel demanded that the Egyptians take every possible measure to prevent a repetition of the incident and mete out the harshest punishment to anyone who harms an Israeli.

U.S. Sends Its Condolences

Nevertheless, Israeli political and military leaders stressed that they still regard the border road to be essentially a "road of peace running alongside a frontier maintained peacefully under Israel's only formal peace treaty" with an Arab state.

Israeli political leaders made clear, though, that they expect the Egyptians to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident and to keep Jerusalem fully informed of the results, including the interrogation of the gunman.

The Israelis pointed out that they have yet to get a report from Cairo on the inquiry into an

assault last February on an Israeli tour bus near the Suez Canal port of Ismailia. The attack left nine Israelis and two Egyptians dead.

In Washington, the State Department on Monday condemned Sunday's "barbaristic and terroristic attack, which resulted in four deaths and many wounded."

The department's deputy spokesman, Richard Boucher, expressed "our condolences to those wounded and the families of those killed."

Noting that the Egyptians are questioning a suspect, Boucher said the United States hopes that "those responsible will be brought to justice expeditiously."

Meanwhile, the victims of the border ambush were buried in their home towns Monday. The soldiers were identified as Regimental Sgt. Maj. Avi Serlin, Sgt. Maj. Michael Tzubari and Chief Sgt. Chaim Ashkenazi. The civilian was Eliezer Zakoura, an Egged bus driver from Eilat.

All had been driving their vehicles when they came under fire. The Egyptian assailant, who apparently deserted his guard post on the Egyptian side of the border, shot at them from ambush about 300 yards inside Israel. When he slipped back into Egypt, he was apprehended.

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

EHUD BARAK TO BE NEXT IDF CHIEF, BELIEVES ISRAEL MUST TALK TO FOES **By Cathrine Gerson**

TEL AVIV, Nov. 26 (JTA) -- A tough 48-year-old career soldier who believes Israel has to talk to its enemies will be the Israel Defense Force's next chief of staff.

The elevation of Maj. Gen. Ehud Barak to the country's highest military office was announced after the regular Cabinet meeting Sunday.

The much-decorated veteran of nearly 30 years' IDF service will take over from incumbent Gen. Dan Shomron on April 1, the start of the new military year, when Shomron's term is up.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir expressed appreciation to Shomron for his service on behalf of the Cabinet.

The naming of Barak elicited no surprise. Barak was a serious contender for the position of chief of staff as far back as 1987 when Shomron got the nod. Barak was promised then that he would be seriously considered as next in line.

Although Barak is known to dislike giving interviews, he has stated publicly that Israel must talk to its enemies.

At a recent memorial service for the late Moshe Dayan, who was IDF chief of staff, defense minister and foreign minister during his career, Barak said, "We are currently in a struggle with the Palestinians. A long, bitter and continuing struggle. A man does not choose his parents, and a people cannot chose its neighbors.

"But we will have to talk to the Palestinians about matters, especially about subjects that are vital to them."

Drafted into the IDF at the age of 18, Barak served in an elite reconnaissance corp and was later transferred to the tank corps. He was frequently decorated for bravery, though many of the actions he took part in remain classified.

Barak was born in 1942 at Kibbutz Mishmar Hasharon. He has a bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a master's degree from Stanford University in California.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:

**JEWS' MEETING WITH POPE NEXT WEEK
TO HAVE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENDA**
By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Nov. 26 (JTA) -- When Jewish leaders meet with Pope John Paul II in Rome next week, the public focus will be on educating Catholics around the world about the Vatican's revised position on Judaism and the future of Catholic-Jewish dialogue.

Privately, however, the 20-plus representatives of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, or IJCIC, plan to raise a number of more delicate issues.

One sensitive topic will be the Vatican's reluctance to establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

The formal purpose of the meeting between Jewish leaders and Vatican leaders is to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, the Second Vatican Council's declaration of its relationship to other religions, including Judaism.

That document helped pave the way to increased communication between Jewish and Catholic leaders, and closer cooperation between the two faiths.

But beginning in 1987, that progress was interrupted by a series of controversies, including the pope's decision to meet with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, his embrace of Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat and the continuing occupation of a convent on the site of the Auschwitz death camp by a group of Carmelite nuns.

The start of construction on an interfaith prayer center, where the nuns eventually will be relocated, has brought an end to nearly three years of tense Catholic-Jewish relations.

Endorsement Of Prague Declaration

The rift was formally mended at a meeting of Catholic and Jewish leaders in Prague early in September, when Vatican representatives put forth a statement condemning anti-Semitism as a sin against God and humanity.

The pope is expected to endorse the Prague declaration personally at next week's meeting, according to Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, one of six Jewish groups that make up IJCIC.

The pope's imprimatur is considered especially important if the declaration is to have any impact in Eastern Europe, where the influence of the church is great.

The public sessions of next week's two-day meeting will be devoted to reflections on Nostra Aetate and statements of good will.

The central themes will be the promulgation of the church's revised teachings regarding Jews and Judaism, and their impact, particularly in Eastern Europe.

Jewish speakers are to include Seymour Reich, chairman of IJCIC; Rabbi Jack Bemporad, director of interreligious affairs for the Synagogue Council of America, an IJCIC constituent; and Rabbi Elio Toaff, chief rabbi of Rome.

Catholic speakers will include Archbishop Edward Cassidy, president of the Vatican Commission on Religious Relations With the Jews; Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, president emeritus of the Vatican Commission; and Cardinal Franz Koenig, former primate of Austria.

At private meetings between the Jewish and Catholic delegations, and at the private audience

the delegates will have with the pope, sensitive issues like the convent at Auschwitz and the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel will be raised, say those involved with the dialogue.

"We want to make it clear to the Vatican that Prague cannot really have its full impact on Christian-Jewish relations if they do not extend full diplomatic relations to Israel," said Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld, co-chairman of interreligious affairs for the Synagogue Council, who will not be going to Rome.

Israel 'Tired Of Raising The Question'

The Vatican's rationale for "consistently refusing to recognize Israel -- the question of Jerusalem, the unsettled borders and Israel's treatment of the Palestinians" -- is suspect, said Schonfeld.

"They keep saying that they don't have a theological problem with recognizing Israel, but we don't believe that.

"They really have a problem because we have come back to the Holy Land when, according to their belief, we were exiled because we didn't believe in Jesus," he asserted.

While Israel would "welcome" a diplomatic relationship with the Vatican, Israel "is tired of raising the question without seeing the dividends," said IJCIC Chairman Reich.

"It is something Israel believes is long overdue, but it must be extended by the Vatican," he explained. "Israel will not be a supplicant, and neither will we.

"While it is one of many subjects that we will be raising," he said, "it is up to the State of Israel to conclude these discussions."

That the subject of Vatican relations with Israel is even to be discussed, albeit privately, is indication itself of progress. As recently as a year ago, Vatican officials requested that Jewish leaders not raise the issue in meetings with the pope.

Next week's meeting with the pope, which was originally scheduled to take place in mid-November, was postponed because of disputes within the Synagogue Council.

Synagogue Council Tensions Resolved

Those problems have been solved, at least temporarily, with the election of a new president to head the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

Sheldon Rudoff is succeeding Sidney Kwestel as the head of the Orthodox Union, which is one of the six rabbinic and congregational bodies that make up the Synagogue Council.

The O.U. had insisted it had the right to veto any delegate selected by another Synagogue Council member group, including delegates who would participate in the meetings with the pope.

Rudoff, who is considered more of a conciliatory leader than Kwestel, has, for the moment, put the controversial issue aside. "Anything that took place, took place during the last administration," he said.

Since the postponement, two Jewish groups that were formerly involved in IJCIC have rejoined the umbrella group, which the Vatican recognizes as its sole Jewish partner in interfaith dialogue.

They are the American Jewish Committee, which pulled out of IJCIC last year, and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, which is returning as part of the B'nai B'rith International delegation, after leaving the group in 1985.

**TWO JEWISH GROUPS IN GERMANY
VYING FOR SOVIET IMMIGRANTS**

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 26 (JTA) -- The established Jewish community in Berlin is competing with a small but well-connected rival for the allegiance of Soviet Jewish emigres arriving in the newly united city.

The mainstream Jewish community, led by Heinz Galinski, is being challenged in its authority by Adass Jisroel, a congregation now located in what was formerly East Berlin which claims to be the legitimate successor to the Adass Jisroel that was destroyed by the Nazis before World War II.

The Orthodox group, formed in 1869, seceded from the main wing of the Jewish community in 1885.

In today's Jewish community in Germany, both the main body and Adass Jisroel hope to increase their numbers and influence by co-opting Soviet Jews who arrive in Berlin at a rate of about 20 a day.

Galinski's organization, which represents the merged East and West German Jewish communities, has expanded its Jewish education programs and social assistance.

Adass Israel, led by members of the Offenbergs family, is offering Hebrew courses at its headquarters in former East Berlin.

The premises were made available to Adass Jisroel by Lothar de Maiziere, the last prime minister of East Germany before unification last month with West Germany.

De Maiziere, a Christian Democrat and an attorney, used to represent the Offenbergs at the time the Communists were in place.

When he was chosen to be East Germany's first non-Communist leader, de Maiziere enabled large sums of money to be made available to start a revived Adass Jisroel community and accorded the group official government recognition.

He did this despite bitter opposition from the East and West German Jewish communities, which were still separate entities when de Maiziere took office in April.

Groups Don't Speak To Each Other

The leaders of the mainstream and Adass Jisroel communities do not speak to each other, much less coordinate activities aimed at absorbing Soviet Jews.

Galinski has complained repeatedly about the preferential treatment the Offenbergs get from de Maiziere.

Legitimacy is the root of the conflict. The Offenbergs and the small group they lead insist they are the rightful successors to the separate Orthodox community that once existed in Berlin. They have held several memorial meetings to emphasize that fact.

Leaders of the national Jewish community say Adass Israel's real aim was to gain control over the land and buildings once owned by the pre-war congregation.

They argue that the division of Berlin Jewry more than 100 years ago between a mainstream liberal and a smaller Orthodox group is not relevant today.

The Offenbergs and their supporters say they are not motivated by religious arguments, as there is little or no difference in the religious practices of the two groups.

They frankly admit they are striving for control.

**ISRAELI OFFICIAL RAISES EYEBROWS
AFTER MEETING WITH GREEK PREMIER**

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, Nov. 26 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy undoubtedly was anxious to show his gratitude for Greece's vastly improved relations with Israel when he sought -- and got -- a meeting with Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis in Paris last week.

But some of his remarks, at least as reported by the Greek media, raised eyebrows here.

After congratulating the Greek prime minister on his electoral victory, Levy was said to observe, "You know, when democracy prevails, it is a victory for all us democrats."

One Greek reporter who was there commented that "someone should tell Levy that before Mitsotakis, Greece did not have a dictatorship."

The center-right New Democracy Party came to power in April after 10 months of a caretaker all-party coalition government, which had replaced the disgraced Socialist government of Andreas Papandreu. The Papandreu government, a democratic, albeit scandal-ridden regime, had sympathized with the Palestinian cause.

Mitsotakis lost no time elevating Greece's recognition of Israel from de facto to de jure. The two countries, for the first time, have full diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level.

Levy's parting words to Mitsotakis were, "For us, your victory is a great pleasure, since we see in you not only a friend but also a person with whom we can exchange ideas."

Mitsotakis replied, "That is for sure, Mr. Foreign Minister. I am a friend of your country."

**LEADER OF CZECH JEWISH COMMUNITY
IS KILLED IN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT**

By Josef Klansky

PRAGUE, Nov. 26 (JTA) -- The head of the Czech Jewish community, Desider Galsky, was killed in an automobile accident Saturday night.

Galsky, a 69-year-old wartime resistance fighter, was held in highest esteem by President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia. He enjoyed the friendship of other government officials and church dignitaries and maintained close relations with Jewish communities abroad, including Israel.

Galsky was re-elected president of the Council of Czech Jewish Communities in February.

In effect, he was restored by popular acclaim to an office he was forced to leave in 1985 after running afoul of the Communist authorities because of his contacts with Jews in the West.

Born in 1921, Galsky survived the Holocaust, which took the lives of both his parents. He escaped from a labor camp for Jews and joined partisans fighting the Nazis and their collaborators in the mountains of Slovakia.

He earned a doctorate after the war and built a career as a writer and diplomat.

Galsky worked at the Foreign Ministry in Prague but was fired from the diplomatic service in 1952 after the anti-Semitic show trial.

For eight years thereafter, he earned his living by manual work in a machinery factory. He wrote several books and eventually landed a job as a book editor at a publishing house.

Pending elections for a successor, Galsky's duties will be assumed by Karel Wasserman, chairman of the Prague Jewish Community and vice president of the Council of Jewish Communities.