

75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR**MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1992****VOL. 70, NO. 104****ISRAEL HOLDING JORDAN RESPONSIBLE
FOR TERRORIST INCIDENT NEAR EILAT****By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, May 31 (JTA) -- Top Israeli officials are holding Jordan responsible for a terrorist infiltration over the weekend that claimed the life of an Israeli watchman and might have led to a bloodbath on the Eilat beach.

But such a disaster was averted when Israeli security forces gunned down two heavily armed terrorist frogmen after they swam ashore south of Eilat early Saturday morning and murdered the night watchman at a Hebrew University research facility.

One of the killers was shot to death in an exchange of fire with police and Israel Defense Force soldiers shortly after the murder. The second was wounded and captured. Both apparently reached Israel by swimming from Aqaba in Jordan, less than four miles away.

Two other terrorists are believed to have drowned during the swim. All apparently belonged to an extremist Moslem religious organization.

According to the IDF high command, the type and quantity of their weapons and equipment indicated that the infiltrators planned a large-scale massacre of Israeli and foreign vacationers on the beach at Eilat, one of Israel's major seaside resorts.

The murder victim was identified as Yosef Shirazi, 55, of Eilat. It was his second day on the job as night watchman at the Hebrew University's Marine Biology Research Institute. According to the security service contractor that hired him, the job did not require him to be armed.

Shirazi was patrolling the institute grounds near Coral Beach, on the road from Eilat to the Egyptian border outpost at Taba, when he was shot to death at about 7 a.m. local time.

His assailants had changed from their scuba gear into track suits under which they wore bullet-proof vests.

The suits were designed to carry a large selection of arms, which included two Kalachnikov assault rifles with many rounds of ammunition, about 40 hand grenades and an LAW shoulder-mounted missile launcher.

In addition, a copy of the Koran was packed in the water-tight weapons containers that the invaders were pushed ahead of them in their swim.

Jordan Denies Responsibility

Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Benjamin Netanyahu, a deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office, held the Jordanian authorities responsible for the attack. They said the assailants carried weapons in use in the Jordanian army.

But Jordan denied responsibility or any connection with the incident Sunday. An official spokesman declared that Israel had no proof the infiltrators came from Jordan. He suggested they might have crossed the Sinai border from Egypt or come from "another country bordering on the Gulf." The only other country is Saudi Arabia.

After first reports of the incident, top IDF brass flew to Eilat. They included the chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak; the commander of the southern region, Maj. Gen. Matan Vilnay; and the

commanding officer of the Israeli navy, Micha Ram. They praised the prompt reaction of the IDF and local police and agreed that a major tragedy had been averted.

The shot that killed the watchman was heard by a passing taxi driver, who told his dispatcher by car phone to send the police.

The police arrived in minutes. They were told by four Israelis who had been sleeping on the beach that they had seen two men with rifles crossing the road and making for an IDF post in the overlooking hills.

The police, joined by soldiers, quickly tracked the gunmen and subdued them after a brief exchange of fire.

Eilat was closed to visitors for several hours after the attack while police and troops searched the area to make sure no other infiltrators had penetrated.

Hotels were instructed to keep their guests indoors until the all-clear was given. While local residents seemed tense Sunday morning, foreign visitors swam and sunbathed as usual.

**ISRAELI AIR FORCE RENEWS ATTACK
ON HEZBOLLAH POSITIONS IN LEBANON****By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, May 31 (JTA) -- Israel's two-week-old battle against Hezbollah guerrillas escalated Sunday with a new wave of air raids and assault helicopter attacks on targets in eastern and southern Lebanon.

Reports from the target areas said planes and helicopters made three sorties between 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. According to Israeli sources, the first target was a Hezbollah training camp in the Janta region of the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon, about three miles from the Syrian border.

A military spokesman said all aircraft returned safely to their bases. Syria claimed its anti-aircraft gunners hit and damaged one of them in a raid over the Bekaa Valley.

According to foreign news agencies, Hezbollah sealed off the area to prevent the news media from approaching. But dense clouds of smoke could be seen rising from the targets, the reports said.

Two missile-firing Cobra helicopters were used to demolish the homes of two leaders of the pro-Iranian Islamic fundamentalist group Sunday.

One, belonging to Ibrahim Jamal Karim in Bir a-Sanusul, was destroyed by three air-to-ground missiles. Other helicopters blasted the home of Ali Abdel Kerim Yasin in Majdal Shams. Both are local Hezbollah commanders. According to local reports, both buildings were empty.

Israel has been using helicopters for pinpoint attacks on individual Hezbollah leaders or their property. But on Friday, troops were used.

Israel Defense Force soldiers swept out of the southern Lebanon security zone to occupy Arnoun village while bulldozers knocked down houses. Other Israeli troops blew up a house on the outskirts of Yater village and planted road mines that killed three guerrillas who drove by.

It was the first IDF ground action outside the security zone since Israeli troops attempted to knock out Katyusha rocket batteries in Yater and Kafra villages in February.

PARTIES USE JERUSALEM DAY EVENTS TO SCORE POINTS FOR JUNE ELECTIONS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 31 (JTA) -- Festivities marking the 25th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem drew more than a quarter million visitors to the flag-decked capital Sunday.

But they entered a political war zone with Labor and Likud each claiming credit for the 1967 feat and the growth of united Jerusalem since then.

For many participants, the spirit of the celebrations drowned out the partisan oratory and sniping of a fiercely contested election campaign. Tens of thousands of schoolchildren and soldiers joined in the annual Jerusalem Day march, "on the footsteps of the fighters for Jerusalem's reunification."

It was the retracing of the route Israel Defense Force units took in the crucial battle that ousted the Jordanian army and brought East Jerusalem and the holy shrines of the Old City under Israeli governance.

A state memorial ceremony for all IDF soldiers who fell in the Six-Day War was held on Mount Herzl. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir vowed that out of respect for its war dead, Israel would continue to act tirelessly for "peace and security."

But he also affirmed Israel's determination to retain permanent control of the entire city. "Our capital is one, Jerusalem, forever. Never will it be a capital for a foreign power," he declared.

A monument to the memory of thousands of Ethiopian Jews who died on their long trek to Israel was dedicated at Kibbutz Ramat Rachel, on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

The monument was a joint project of the Jewish Agency, the Absorption Ministry and the Jewish National Fund. The Ethiopian emigres chose Jerusalem Day for the dedication to symbolize their yearning for Zion.

Labor Shells Out \$200,000

But inevitably, many major events were blatantly partisan, arranged by the rival parties to advance themselves and vilify their opponents.

Labor allocated a substantial \$200,000 from its election war chest to stage elaborate Jerusalem Day events. Likud saturated the city with huge advertisements extolling its role in the unprecedented expansion of the capital since it came to power in 1977.

Labor stressed the personal part in Jerusalem's liberation played by the party's leader and would-be prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, who was IDF chief of staff during the Six-Day War.

Likud, buoyed by opinion polls showing it is narrowing Labor's early lead with the voters, continued to slander Rabin personally.

It claimed that victory in the Six-Day War should be credited to the late Moshe Dayan, who was named defense minister shortly before its outbreak, and to the late Likud leader Menachem Begin, who joined a unity government with Labor in the time of crisis.

Dayan, originally a Laborite, defected to Likud in 1977 but left it subsequently after falling out with Begin.

Labor's biggest event was a giant rally in the huge Binyanei Ha'uma convention hall, which featured Rabin and the officers who led the IDF into battle in East Jerusalem.

Among them were war heroes of old, such as

Gen. Uzi Narkiss, who commanded the central region at the time, and Gen. Mordechai Gur, who commanded the paratroop division that captured the Old City.

Likud organized a pilgrimage by about 5,000 supporters to historic spots in the city. It ended with a rally near the High Commissioners Palace, a vestige of the British Mandate, which overlooks the Old City from the south.

Another Building In Moslem Quarter

Likud Housing Minister Ariel Sharon demonstratively presided over the inauguration of yet another building for Jewish occupancy in the heart of the Old City's Moslem Quarter.

He vowed that Jews would live in every Palestinian neighborhood in the Old City and the rest of East Jerusalem, a policy many Israelis, and notably Jerusalem's venerable mayor, Teddy Kollek, consider deliberately provocative and divisive.

In fact, Kollek called Sharon's policies a "national crime."

Sharon accused Kollek of trying to impose Labor's blueprint on Jerusalem, which he claimed amounts to a divided capital.

Even a seemingly "innocent" ceremony, the signing of the Jerusalem Charter at the presidential residence, raised controversy.

The charter, written by Judge Menahem Elon of the High Court of Justice, reiterated the commitment of the Jewish people and the State of Israel to the unity of Jerusalem.

Kollek resented that among the dignitaries asked to sign the charter were none of the commanders of the military units that recaptured East Jerusalem 25 years ago.

Although Rabin and Narkiss were on hand to represent them, Kollek refused to speak at the event, saying he did not want to "spoil it."

Another politician who scarcely attempted to disguise his bruised feelings was Labor's No. 2 man, Shimon Peres, replaced recently by Rabin as party leader.

Peres apparently deeply resents Labor's "glorification" of his longtime rival, Rabin, which has turned out to be the keystone of Labor's election campaign strategy.

Student Stabbed By Arabs

Peres has managed to suppress his feelings in public until now. But they flashed to the surface Sunday when he declined to attend Labor's Jerusalem Day rally. His spokesperson said Peres had a "family engagement." But there was little doubt he refused to attend because was not invited to speak.

Party officials said the speakers list consisted only of persons who were directly involved in the battle for Jerusalem, such as Rabin and Gur. But that apparently failed to sway Peres.

Israel barred a million Palestinians from the West Bank from entering Jerusalem for 24 hours on Jerusalem Day. The 700,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have been sealed off from Israel for the past week.

But it was clear Sunday that security measures cannot ensure peace in the city which, if no longer physically divided, is divided by conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

A 17-year-old yeshiva student, Assaf Hasson, was reportedly stabbed by two young Arabs in the Mekor Chaim neighborhood of Jerusalem on Sunday afternoon. He suffered only slight shoulder wounds and was expected to be released from the hospital later in the day.

ARISTIDE ASKS U.S. JEWISH LEADERS TO HELP RESTORE DEMOCRACY TO HAITI

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, May 31 (JTA) -- Exiled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has asked Jewish organizational leaders to help rally the pressure needed to force out of power the military junta that overthrew him last fall.

"The more people who know what's going on in our country, the easier it will be to change things," he told representatives of the New York Jewish Community Relations Council's constituent agencies in an address last Friday.

"Talk to friends and see how, together, we can put pressures on them," he said. "Through peaceful resistance, let's show how the power of 'shalom' is stronger than the power of war.

"We are stronger than one criminal and his thugs," he added, referring to Gen. Raoul Cedras, who forced Aristide out of power on Sept. 30.

He urged wider adoption of the trade embargo against Haiti imposed by the United States and the Organization of American States. Other countries, including the 12 nations of the European Community, have declined to support the embargo.

"If we could stop the ships going to Haiti with oil, the coup would have been over long ago. Once they make the embargo a real one, it will be a matter of days" until it ends, he said.

Aristide, a Roman Catholic priest known to adhere to the political-religious philosophy known as "liberation theology," spoke to the Jewish leaders in both English and Hebrew.

The ousted president studied theology at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Jerusalem for three years, beginning in 1979, and is able to express himself in fluent Hebrew.

Doesn't Object To Refugee Policy

Though the exiled leader said that his countrymen are "fleeing political repression," he stopped short of criticizing President Bush's position that Haitians are simply running from economic distress.

Nor did Aristide attack the Bush policy of forcibly returning Haitian refugees back on the high seas each day, rather than allowing them to apply for political asylum from the safety of the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Jewish groups have been highly critical of the policy shift, which was announced May 24. But Aristide saw the matter differently.

Bush "wants to stop refugees from fleeing Haiti, and of course, I want that too," he said. "We say let's stop the flow of refugees by promoting democracy in Haiti today."

When asked about a report that U.S. Navy commandos had rescued a small group of his followers from Haiti about two months ago, Aristide demurred. "I heard about the Navy Seals rumor, but I don't know anything more than what I heard," he said.

More than 2,000 people have been killed since the coup, according to Aristide, "even children. It's not a war, it's a massacre," he said. "The very few people who have weapons and money are killing many with nothing."

In Hebrew, he said to the Jewish leaders, "Alone, we can't do it. But with you, always together, we have an excellent chance.

"I read in the Tanach (Bible), 'Love your neighbor like yourself.' Please speak with all our friends so that we can again be in a democratic Haiti," he pleaded.

SPAIN PROVIDES REFUGE TO JEWS WHO FLED STRIFE-TORN SARAJEVO

By Judith Lew

MADRID, May 31 (JTA) -- The Spanish government has given temporary refuge to 52 Jews from the war-torn former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Twenty-one of them arrived here last Friday in an operation arranged by the Federation of Jewish Communities in Spain, which had received a request from the Belgrade Jewish community. The rest were due Monday.

The group that arrived Friday had left the besieged Bosnian capital of Sarajevo in April with some 300 other evacuees and remained in the Serbian capital of Belgrade until they flew to Spain.

About half of the 1,500 Jews who lived in Sarajevo before the war broke out have left. Before the war, between 5,000 and 6,000 Jews lived throughout Yugoslavia.

Those who have fled are among an estimated 1.5 million former Yugoslav citizens who have left or been forced out of their homes in what is being called Europe's worst refugee emergency since World War II.

Rosita Iles, who worked at the Jewish Community Center in Sarajevo, led the group and faced reporters at Madrid's Barajas airport after a weary flight from Yugoslavia.

"You all know what we have gone through," she said. "You have seen it every day in the news. We are very grateful to the Spanish government for their help, for giving us this opportunity to start over."

Flora Iles, Rosita's mother, said a few words in Ladino, the Judeo-Spanish language, and ended her comments with "Viva Espana."

A Precedent For Spain

Upon arrival, the group was greeted by Samuel Toledano, secretary of the Jewish federation, and representatives of several Spanish ministries responsible for taking care of the refugees.

Toledano said the time lapse between the day the federation requested the Spanish government's aid and the day the first group arrived was just two weeks.

When asked why the Belgrade community requested the Spanish Jewish community's help, Toledano said, "I suppose being Sephardim it is logical that they come to Spain. They have very strong ties to the country."

According to the Spanish Foreign Ministry, the refugees will remain in Spain from three to six months, or until the situation in Yugoslavia and the breakaway republics settles down. They will be taken in by several of Spain's autonomous communities.

There were some 75,000 Jews in Yugoslavia before World War II. Eighty percent of them were killed, including 20,000 who perished in Jasenovac, the only death camp in Europe installed outside of areas directly controlled by the Nazis.

The Ustashi -- pro-Nazi Croat forces-- were responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Jews, Serbs and Gypsies.

Though in the past Spain has helped Jewish refugees -- especially during World War II, when it admitted those with Spanish nationalities-- this may be the first time it has taken in refugees solely on the basis of their being Sephardim.

The Spanish constitution allows for Jews of Spanish origin to become citizens after two years.

ITALIAN JEWS IRATE AS CARDINAL CALLS MAFIA 'SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN'

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, May 31 (JTA) -- The Italian Jewish community is up in arms about remarks by a leading church figure who referred to Mafia assassins as members of the "synagogue of Satan."

But Cardinal Salvatore Pappalardo of Palermo, who made the statement, assured Italy's Jewish community last week that his reference meant no offense and would be speedily corrected.

"In order to dispel any misunderstanding, I assure you that when my speech is published in the official diocese magazine, the offensive expression will be changed to 'church of Satan,'" Pappalardo said in a widely published statement.

Other church figures said he had been mistranslated.

Pappalardo's response came after he received a muted but strong protest from Tullia Zevi, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, to his terminology and its context.

The Sicilian cardinal delivered a nationally televised funeral homily May 25 for Judge Giovanni Falcone, a leading crusader against the Mafia crime families who was killed with his wife and three bodyguards by a bomb on May 23.

The cardinal, speaking of the "ominous perpetrators of so many crimes and such violent carnage," asked, "Can we count on them as true Christians? Are they worthy of forming part of the community of the children of God? Or do they form, rather, part of the synagogue of Satan?"

His words astonished many non-Jews as well as Jews, whose protests were widely published.

Unhappy At 'Offensive Interpretation'

Rabbi Abramo Alberto Piatelli of Rome, quoted in the Rome daily newspaper La Repubblica, observed that contrasting the terms "community of the children of God" and "the synagogue of Satan," evokes the most reactionary kind of language used in past evangelical polemics against the Jews.

Alfredo Dioni, vice president of the Chamber of Deputies, said that "to place the devil in the temple of the Jewish religion seems to me to be an unjust, rather inadmissible, forcing of the issue." He said the usage "disturbed" him.

Zevi, who said she was protesting "with great reluctance," wrote: "You spoke of the 'synagogue of Satan' -- a term that in many new translations has been modified to mitigate its possible anti-Jewish content -- in front of a crowd justifiably eager to identify the perpetrators of the horrible crime."

Zevi pointed out that Pappalardo was paraphrasing verses from the book of Apocalypse, substituting "true Christians" and "children of God" for the word "Jews" found in the text.

"I only ask, above all in this hour of public mourning, a greater clarity that can avoid rekindling ancient, tragic prejudices that unfortunately were never fully put to sleep."

"I am certain you have no hostile or offensive intentions," she wrote.

In his response, the cardinal said he was "unhappy over the offensive interpretation" of his words and wanted "to clarify that the term synagogue was not at all used with reference to the places of worship of the Jewish people, but rather with the general meaning of a place where people gather."

HAVEL WARNS OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN CZECH AND SLOVAK CAMPAIGNS

By Josef Klansky

PRAGUE, May 31 (JTA) -- With anti-Semitism running dangerously high in Slovakia and visible even in the more liberal Czech part of the Czechoslovak federation, President Vaclav Havel has issued a timely warning on the eve of the national elections here June 5 and 6.

While acknowledging that as chief of state he cannot publicly identify with any political party, Havel made clear to an audience in Presov, Slovakia, last week that he would not vote for a party that has an anti-Semite on its slate.

Havel named no names. But it was clear he had in mind Alexej Pludek, a 69-year-old writer whose several novels and historical romances have unmistakably anti-Semitic overtones. Pludek is one of the Left Bloc's nominees for a seat in the People's Assembly of the federal legislature in Prague.

The Left Bloc is a coalition formed by the Communist parties of Bohemia and Moravia and its fellow traveler groups.

The Czech extreme right will be represented in next weekend's elections by the Republican Party of Dr. Miroslav Sladek. It is running on a platform of white supremacy, xenophobia and anti-communism.

While the prime targets of Sladek's rhetoric are the Gypsies, Third World asylum-seekers and Havel, his party's weekly Republika has also attacked "the satanic work of Bolshevik Jews Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin."

Election forecasters do not expect Sladek's Republicans to scale the 5 percent barrier necessary to enter Parliament.

Poll Reveals Anti-Jewish Views

In the Czech republic, a majority of liberals, conservatives and centrist forces is expected to win. In Slovakia, the forecasters predict a victory of nationalist and left-wing forces.

The far-right separatists, who are openly nostalgic for the Nazi-allied wartime regime of Josef Tiso, are not expected to get a large share of the votes.

The predicted winners are the Slovak National Party, headed by Jozef Prokes, which, though separatist, has declared its democratic intentions, and the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia, headed by former Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar.

But both parties built their popular support on nationalist demagoguery, intolerance and xenophobia.

Regardless of the winners, troubling news emerged from a recent public opinion survey commissioned by the American Endowment for Democracy.

It showed that 13 percent of Czechs and 57 percent of Slovaks believe that Jews have too much economic influence.

The poll found that 12 percent of Czechs and 42 percent of Slovaks believe Jews play an excessive role in the country's political life.

A third of Slovakia's population and 6 percent of the Czech republic believe that their further development might be endangered by Jews, who do not constitute even a tenth of a percent of the total population.

The elections next weekend could determine whether Czechs and Slovaks will continue to live in a common federation.