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**AS DEMJANJUK APPEAL WINDS DOWN,
U.S. COURT RAISES DOUBT ON PROOF**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 8 (JTA) -- The chief prosecutor in the trial of alleged war criminal John Demjanjuk urged the High Court of Justice once more Monday to uphold his 1988 conviction and death sentence.

But as state prosecutor Michael Shaked completed his arguments before the five-judge panel hearing Demjanjuk's appeal, an unexpected initiative by a federal appeals court in Ohio cast some doubt over the strength of the case against the Ukrainian-born defendant.

Acting on its own initiative last Friday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Cincinnati ordered the reopening of the case that resulted in Demjanjuk's 1986 extradition to stand trial in Israel.

The U.S. court said the extradition warrant "may have been improvidently issued because it was based on erroneous information."

The federal court acted independent of any request for a rehearing from either side.

Its action appears to have been prompted by newly available evidence from the archives of the former Soviet Union, which the defense counsel here says refutes the identification of Demjanjuk as the sadistic Treblinka death camp guard "Ivan the Terrible," who operated the gas chambers and tortured Jews on the way to their deaths.

Dispute Over Sobibor Evidence

That evidence, which includes testimony given by other Treblinka guards over 40 years ago, points to a Ukrainian named Ivan Marchenko as the dreaded "Ivan."

So it was argued by Yoram Sheftel, Demjanjuk's Israeli lawyer, who last week urged the High Court of Justice to acquit his client.

Prosecutor Shaked obtained a conviction two years ago on the basis of eyewitnesses who identified Demjanjuk. Eyewitness identification was also key to his extradition, which the U.S. court has now called into question.

Demjanjuk has insisted from the outset that he was a victim of mistaken identity. A longtime resident of Cleveland, he was stripped of his U.S. citizenship in 1981 for having lied about his wartime activities when he obtained it.

But the state prosecutor has dismissed the new evidence as irrelevant. He has said that Demjanjuk may have used the common name Marchenko, which was his mother's maiden name.

Moreover, he produced his own new evidence purporting to show that Demjanjuk was a guard at the Sobibor camp in Poland, as well as at Treblinka.

Sheftel demanded last week that the court disregard evidence of alleged offenses at Sobibor because it was not mentioned in Demjanjuk's indictment. The prosecution replied that was only because the evidence was not available then.

When Justice Aharon Barak remarked that there may not be sufficient evidence regarding Demjanjuk's alleged service at Sobibor, Shaked replied that where offenses against the Jewish people are concerned, the exact location does not matter.

**ISRAEL DENIES LINKS TO MURDER
OF HIGH PLO OFFICIAL IN PARIS**
By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, June 8 (JTA) -- Israel has flatly denied any connection with the murder of a top Palestinian security official in Paris early Monday.

The chief of Israel's military intelligence in Tel Aviv, Maj. Gen. Uri Saguy, rejected the charge by Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat that Israel's intelligence agency, Mossad, was responsible for the death of the PLO's deputy security chief, Atef Bseisu.

He was gunned down outside his hotel by two unidentified men after midnight.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Monday that he had no information about Bseisu's killing but doubted any Israeli connection.

Some officials attributed the killing to a power struggle inside the PLO.

But Israeli intelligence sources are pinning the murder on Palestinian terrorist groups hostile to the PLO, and French intelligence agencies seem to agree.

They recall that an agent of the PLO's archenemy, Abu Nidal, assassinated Bseisu's predecessor, Abu Iyyad, in Tunis in 1991 after becoming a member of his bodyguard corps.

Bseisu, in his 40s, was a veteran terrorist who helped plan the massacre of the Israeli Olympics team in Munich in 1972. After Abu Iyyad's assassination, he reorganized the PLO's security system.

A Meeting With French Officials

Police said Bseisu returned to his hotel in Montparnasse at about 1:15 a.m. Monday after dining with friends.

As he stepped out of a car driven by a friend, he was accosted by two men, who pushed him against the car and shot three bullets into his head at point-blank range. The two men simply walked away, leaving the body on the sidewalk.

Police here were surprised that the PLO security official traveled without a bodyguard and allowed two apparently unknown men to get close to him.

Investigators are now wondering whether the assassins were indeed unknown to the victim.

Bseisu, who was born in Gaza, was traveling on a passport in the name of Atef. He was in Paris for a Monday meeting with French police officials on security matters, the Interior Ministry has confirmed.

The PLO and French security services are known to exchange information on Palestinian terrorist groups run by Abu Nidal and Ahmed Jibril.

News of the murder was announced by police at noon Monday. Shortly afterward, two anonymous telephone calls were received by a news wire agency claiming responsibility in the name of Kach, the militant anti-Arab group of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned, meanwhile, that the police investigation is being monitored "at the highest level."

(JTA correspondent Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv contributed to this report.)

ISRAEL LIFTS BAN ON GAZA WORKERS, BUT HARSH RULES COULD CAUSE RIOTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 8 (JTA) -- A 14-day ban on the entry into Israel of Arab workers from the Gaza Strip was lifted Monday, but with such severe restrictions that it could cause serious disturbances in the territory, critics said.

The strongest objections came from the security services, which warned that the territory is a powderkeg that could blow at any time if the inhabitants are prevented from entering Israel, their only source of employment.

Normally, about 40,000 Palestinians from Gaza cross into Israel daily to work or to seek employment. But on Monday, fewer than 100 trickled through the barriers at the Erez checkpoint.

Their Israeli employers were required to collect them and return them there at the end of the work day.

The ban was imposed after the fatal stabbing May 24 of 15-year-old Helena Rapp, an Israeli schoolgirl in Bat Yam, south of Tel Aviv. Her assailant, who was swiftly captured, was a young unemployed Palestinian from the Nuseirat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

The killing triggered anti-Arab rioting by Jewish mobs in the Greater Tel Aviv area. The Israeli authorities sealed off the territory for the protection of its inhabitants, they said.

Originally, the ban was to have lasted a week. But it was extended because anti-Arab passions continued to run high in Israel, especially after a second Jew, Rabbi Shimon Biran, was fatally stabbed by an Arab on May 27, this time inside the Gaza Strip, where Biran was a settler.

The ban was only partially lifted Monday. Entry to Israel was limited to Arab workers over 28 who hold permanent work permits and are employed in places that employ at least 10 other Palestinians with permanent work permits.

Workers who meet those requirements were issued special passes. But all residents of the Nuseirat camp were excluded.

Arabs were not the only critics. Unnamed military sources and the Shin Bet, or General Security Services, warned that keeping some 700,000 Gaza Strip residents bottled up was asking for trouble.

IDF sources demanded that the ban be lifted in toto.

But Police Minister Ronni Milo insisted Monday that the decision to maintain limited access was taken by the police in consultation with the defense minister and prime minister and reflected their views.

U.N. LABOR ORGANIZATION ISSUES A MIXED REPORT ON ARAB WORKERS

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, June 8 (JTA) -- The International Labor Organization issued a mixed report on the condition of Arab workers in the Israeli-administered territories at its annual conference here last week.

While the U.N. agency claimed that workers' freedoms of choice, association, movement and expression are severely limited, it blamed economic conditions as well as the Israeli occupation.

Its report, in fact, approved of efforts by the Israeli authorities and civil administration to relieve the territories' economic overdependence

on Israel and urged more initiatives in that direction.

It noted "other positive signs," such as the reopening of universities and the improvement of vocational training facilities and labor exchanges.

Michel Hansenne, secretary-general of the ILO, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview that his organization was ready to help promote a dialogue between Israelis and Palestinian workers in the territories to solve the social and labor problems referred to in the report.

The report was based on a fact-finding mission to Israel and the territories by representatives of the secretary-general in March and April.

It asserted that "the continuing state of military occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights renders impossible a situation in which the ILO's standards and principles can be fully respected."

The report expressed "the gravest concern" over the consequences which the establishment or expansion of Jewish settlements are having on the livelihood of the population of the territories.

It urged the Israeli authorities to put no obstacles in the way of more technical training programs for the workers in the territories. It said the ILO would develop further programs to accelerate economic development and promote employer and worker institutions that could contribute to social peace and economic betterment.

The ILO urged the Israeli authorities to encourage trade unions in the territories. "The trade unions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have demonstrated that they are authentic organizations determined to pursue the economic and social interests of the many workers they represent," the report said.

ISRAELI POLICE DETAIN FOREIGNERS WHO STAGED WAR ANNIVERSARY MARCH

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 8 (JTA) -- Israeli officials are pondering what to do with over 100 peace marchers, most of them foreign, who were detained Sunday for disobeying police orders.

Right-wing politicians are demanding their immediate expulsion from the country. More likely, the duration of their visitors visas will be reduced.

The police jailed 115 demonstrators Sunday, some of them Israelis but the rest visitors from about 20 countries.

They came to Israel to hold a peace march through the West Bank on the 25th anniversary of the Six-Day War in which that territory was captured by Israel.

The authorities say they were brought here by the Hadash Communist Party, allegedly with funds provided by the Palestine Liberation Organization and left-wing pro-PLO groups abroad.

The visitors joined some 200 Israeli peace marchers who set off from Megiddo on Sunday for the Arab town of Jenin in the West Bank.

But at the Green Line, Israel's pre-1967 border, their way was barred by police, who told them the Jenin region was a "closed military area." They were ordered to disperse.

The demonstrators refused to move, however, blocking the main road, and were arrested.

One of the detainees, Michel Maertens, a member of the Belgian Parliament, was released Monday. So were two Israelis, one of them a student who had to take his final exams.

BEGIN HAD DOUBTS ABOUT EXPANDING WAR IN LEBANON, SAYS A FORMER AIDE
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 8 (JTA) -- Menachem Begin did not want to expand the Lebanon war in 1982. But he hesitated a full month before saying no to Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, by which time it was too late, according to sensational new testimony by the late prime minister's personal secretary at the time.

Yona Klimowitzky made that disclosure in a long article in the weekend edition of Yediot Achronot appearing on the 10th anniversary of the war, which began with the limited objective of "Peace for Galilee."

Begin died March 9 at age 78. The revelations of his ambiguous attitude toward the war and apparent deferral to the hawkish Sharon are not new. But their appearance in Israel's largest newspaper 16 days before the Knesset elections had a strong impact.

She wrote that Begin was confident when the war began on June 6, 1982, that it would be over in two days.

She recalled that before leaving that day on his first and only visit to the front lines, Begin phoned his wife, Aliza, and told her, "I am going north to the bunker. We shall finish everything in 48 hours, and I shall come home."

But according to Klimowitzky, Sharon insisted on continuing the fighting and no one would stand in his way. Begin's military aide, Azriel Nevo, tried, but Sharon had more influence.

It was only at the end of June that the Cabinet refused for the first time to approve Sharon's proposals. Begin began gradually to consult more with Nevo and with the Israel Defense Force chief of staff, Gen. Rafael Eitan, and began overruling an angry Sharon.

No Longer Used His Nickname

His disenchantment with the defense minister peaked when Begin learned belatedly that Sharon had ordered a large call-up of reserves on Aug. 7 without consulting him, Klimowitzky said.

She said she could tell that Begin was fed up with Sharon when he started addressing him as "Mr. Defense Minister" instead of by his nickname, Arik.

Asked to comment, Sharon said that as far as he could recall, Klimowitzky's job was to open the door to let in the maids who served coffee and tea during his conferences with the prime minister. "One should weigh her comments in that perspective," he said.

Likud election headquarters also said it would not comment on a secretary's remarks.

But Klimowitzky's account was confirmed by Yitzhak Berman, who resigned from Begin's Cabinet to protest the Sabra and Shatila massacres in September 1982, and reserve Maj. Gen. Amos Yaron, who commanded IDF forces in Beirut.

Yaron said her article confirmed his belief that "the confusion and the lack of coordination in the war originated in the political echelons."

A television interview with Yaron was called off for fear that it might be seen as taking sides in the upcoming elections.

One member of the political echelon in 1982 was Shamir, who served as Begin's foreign minister. According to Klimowitzky, the current premier never expressed his views during the entire war, nor does she remember "even once that Begin wanted to consult with him."

HOLIDAY OFFERS NO LETUP IN LEBANON BOMBARDMENT
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 8 (JTA) -- The holiday weekend brought no letup in the Israel Defense Force pounding of guerrilla bases in southern Lebanon, which began last month.

As Israelis marked Shavuot, IDF artillery laid down a barrage against Hezbollah, the Islamic fundamentalist group, Sunday evening. More than 25 shells were lobbed into Joun village northeast of Sidon, causing damage but no casualties according to reports from the area.

The Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army joined the IDF in shelling a guerrilla stronghold on a mountain ridge at Iqlim Toufah near Sidon.

The SLA also aimed artillery fire at the source of shells and rocket-propelled grenades that hit its outpost on Sojud Hill, on the edge of the security zone.

The Israeli-backed Lebanese Christian militia suffered two fatalities when a road mine detonated by remote control exploded as an SLA patrol passed by just west of Jezzine, north of the security zone. Another road mine found nearby was safely defused.

The Islamic Resistance, a coalition led by Hezbollah, claimed responsibility in a statement issued in Sidon. IDF officers vowed to keep up the pressure until Hezbollah attacks on the SLA and on Israeli soldiers ended.

On Friday, air force planes raided a base of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command in the Ein Hilweh refugee camp near Sidon. It was Israel's 11th air raid over southern Lebanon since May 21.

Reports from the scene said two guerrillas and four Palestinian civilians were wounded.

The IDF said a single-story sports club serving as headquarters was destroyed.

The Syrian-backed PFLP-GC, headed by Ahmed Jabril, claimed credit for the ambush of an IDF convoy in southern Lebanon on May 27 in which one soldier was killed and two wounded.

The Syrian foreign minister, Farouk al-Sharaa, charged that the Israeli offensive was a deliberate attempt to undermine the peace talks.

He accused Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of ordering IDF ground and air attacks in southern Lebanon to stir anti-Arab sentiments in Israel and benefit Likud in the June 23 elections.

That policy is "pushing the region into confrontation," the Syrian minister said. He said Syria did not seek a confrontation with Israel, "but if Israel does, we will respond and not sit idle."

SYRIA WON'T ANSWER ISRAELI CALLS

TEL AVIV, June 8 (JTA) -- Syria refuses to take telephone calls from Israel.

The Damascus government announced June 4 that it was halting the direct-dial service that Bezek, the Israeli government telecommunications corporation, had inaugurated the day before.

The Syrians said telephone calls from an enemy country contravened the international telephone conventions and warned that action would be taken against any country aiding their transmission.

Bezek introduced direct dialing from Israel to several Arab countries a month ago. The calls are routed to London, where a private subsidiary directs them via satellite to the Arab receivers.

LIBERALS AND SUPPORTERS OF UNITY ARE LOSERS IN CZECHOSLOVAK VOTE

By Josef Klansky

PRAGUE, June 8 (JTA) -- The main losers in Czechoslovakia's general elections over the weekend were the liberals in the center of the political arena, who presumably received most of the Jewish votes.

Otherwise, the results do not bode well for national unity two years after the so-called "Velvet Revolution" ended 40 years of Communist rule.

They brought into power two strong-minded politicians with agendas so different that their chances of agreeing on a national coalition are regarded here as very slim.

The Czech winner was Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus, whose conservative, free market-oriented Civic Democratic Party amassed just over 33 percent of the ballots cast for the national Parliament. Along with its small ally, the Christian Democrats, it will occupy 83 of the 300 seats in the bicameral legislature in Prague.

Klaus' party won about 30 percent of the vote cast for the Czechoslovak Parliament, making it the largest single bloc.

Slovak populist Vladimir Meciar and his Movement for a Democratic Slovakia also won about a third of the votes for the national Parliament, giving him control of 57 seats. He got 37 percent of the Slovak Parliament, which sits in Bratislava.

Neither Klaus nor Meciar can form a central government without the other. But they differ fundamentally on the future form of Czechoslovakia, on the depth and speed of economic reform, on social as well as on personal issues.

They disagree most sharply on the next chief of state. Klaus insists on the re-election of poet-playwright Vaclav Havel as president. Meciar will not accept another term for Havel, who has been supportive of Israel and has spoken out strongly against the resurgence of anti-Semitism.

The differences between Klaus and Meciar may make it impossible to agree on how to establish national rights, political stability and economic prosperity in both the Czech and the Slovak republics.

14 Seats For Far-Right Party

Neither the Civic Movement in Bohemia and Moravia, components of the Czech republic, nor the Civic Democratic Union in Slovakia managed to scale the threshold of 5 percent of the vote cast necessary to enter Parliament.

Swept away by the political polarization of the electorate were Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier; Defense Minister Lubos Dobrovsky, who has one Jewish parent; Czech Prime Minister Petr Pithart; and other former dissidents and political associates of Havel's.

Another casualty was the federal prime minister, Marian Calfa, and Dagmar Buresova, chairwoman of the Czech National Council.

On the fringes of the political spectrum, Communists in both republics will have a combined bloc of 57 seats in the federal Parliament.

The far-right Republicans, a racist party led by Czech firebrand Miroslav Sladek, will occupy 14 seats.

The separatist Slovak National Party, which demands immediate independence for Slovakia, will be represented by 15 deputies.

But separatist splinter groups, swearing

fidelity to the memory of the wartime pro-Nazi Slovakia that was headed by Catholic priest Josef Tiso, a war criminal, were shut out of both the Slovak and federal parliaments by the 5 percent vote minimum.

Nevertheless, The Prague daily Lidove Noviny called the elections the "Black Friday of the federation."

Most of the rest of the news media was equally pessimistic, even though Klaus and Meciar promised open-mindedness in their upcoming coalition negotiations.

Havel has asked Klaus, as leader of the strongest party, to start negotiations. In a radio address Sunday, the Czech president said that he would stay in the race for the presidency as long as he sees a chance to fulfill his duties in line with political and moral principles he can identify with.

The Czech-Slovak dichotomy, which could lead to dissolution of the 74-year-old Czechoslovak state, is as much a product of economic conditions as of parochial nationalism. The Czech economy is relatively good, with a low rate of unemployment.

In contrast, Slovakia in the east is suffering from the economic trauma that has afflicted much of Eastern Europe since the collapse of the Soviet system.

Slovak heavy industry, especially armaments, no longer has a market in the East. Prague, meanwhile, is restricting the export of weapons to other parts of the world. As a result, the jobless rate is high.

Nearly 88 percent of the 11.3 million voters went to the polls Friday and Saturday.

ORTHODOX KNESSET MEMBER BLOCKS PLANNED HOROSCOPE-BY-PHONE SERVICE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Communications Ministry slipped up last week when a representative failed to do his homework before asking the Knesset Finance Committee to authorize a new telephone service.

The representative, proposing a new information-for-fee service, suggested a caller could get a horoscope over the phone. What the agent failed to note was that one of the two panel members present was an Orthodox Jew whose interest was more Torah than tarot.

Ministry representative Avi Levy asked the committee chairman, Moshe Ze'ev Feldman of Agudat Yisrael, and Dan Tichon of Likud for formal approval to charge fees for a proposed dial 056 service.

When Feldman said he did not understand what such a service was, Levy explained that a subscriber could, for example, dial up his horoscope for the day. He did not mention he could also phone in for a daily Talmud lesson.

Feldman cut him short. Getting horoscopes will corrupt the souls of Jewish children, the Agudah minister ruled.

Nor was Feldman impressed when Levy informed him that Communications Minister Rafael Pinhasi of the rival Shas party had already approved the service.

Feldman delayed indefinitely the beginning of the new Bezek Corp. service, saying he would not approve the rates until he had received an explanation of the criteria for allowing entrepreneurs to offer information for a fee over the phone.