

## ISRAELI FARMER STABBED TO DEATH IN BRUTAL ATTACK IN CITRUS GROVE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA) -- An 84-year-old citrus farmer from Ra'anana, north of Tel Aviv, was murdered Tuesday in his grove on the outskirts of nearby Moshav Batzra.

Avraham Kinsler was found with his throat cut and numerous stab wounds in his chest. He was buried Wednesday in the Ra'anana cemetery.

Police said the killing had all the hallmarks of an intifada-inspired murder by Palestinian nationalists. But they have not entirely ruled out the possibility of a "private criminal murder."

Police investigations disclosed that Kinsler, whose wife had died three years ago and who lived alone since then, had gone out as usual early in the morning, dressed in shorts and rubber boots, to irrigate his groves.

He employed no workers at this time of the year, taking on laborers only for citrus picking.

Kinsler, the father of three married daughters, had boasted to his friends that "it's hard work in the grove which is keeping me alive."

Police were summoned by Batzra residents when they noticed Kinsler's car standing on the outskirts of his grove toward evening, later than he usually stayed among his orange and grapefruit trees.

## ARABS BATTLE EACH OTHER IN GAZA, RAISING PROSPECT OF A CIVIL WAR

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- A youth was killed and dozens were wounded this week as unprecedented violence erupted in the Gaza Strip between activists of the Moslem fundamentalist Hamas movement and supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organization's mainstream Al Fatah faction.

Palestinian leaders expressed concern that if the violence continues, it could develop into a full-scale civil war.

The background to this latest round of Palestinian strife was the collapse of an earlier agreement between both sides to refrain from violence between each other.

Relations between Moslem fundamentalists in the administered territories and the secular nationalist organizations have deteriorated since the June 23 elections in Israel.

Hamas was particularly upset after PLO supporters in the territories expressed relative satisfaction over the Labor Party's victory in the elections.

Some PLO supporters, such as Hatem Abu-Ghazala of Gaza, went so far as to say that the Palestinians should suspend all violence against Israeli civilians as a gesture of good will to speed up peace negotiations between the projected Labor government and the Palestinian leadership.

As a result, Hamas activists sent hundreds of threatening letters to PLO activists in the territories, warning them not to adopt a policy of appeasement toward Israel.

The riots took place Tuesday in the cities of Gaza, Rafah and Khan Yunis, and in the Shati refugee camp. One Gaza youth, Shifa Diab, 17,

died Wednesday of wounds sustained the day before.

At least 30 were reported wounded, some from club and hatchet blows. Most wounded were evacuated to clinics run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, rather than to the local hospitals, for fear they might be arrested by the Israeli authorities.

Earlier this week, both sides had reached an agreement, through the mediation of a 14-member armistice committee, to put an end to all hostilities and adopt a "political dialogue" as a means to bridge differences.

## New Threats Against Ashrawi

However, on Monday evening, radical Moslem activists said they would not honor the agreement and staged attacks on the houses of Fatah activists in various parts of Gaza City.

Some Hamas activists burst into the house of Suach Abu-Seif, a journalist and Fatah activist, attacked him, his mother and his brothers with clubs and knives, smashed the furniture and the television set.

Dr. Haider Abdel-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, returned to Gaza earlier this week and urged the various parties concerned to maintain law and order and settle differences peacefully.

Abdel-Shafi described the situation as "dangerous" and warned that it could deteriorate into a civil strife.

Although the rivalry between the Moslem fundamentalist and the secular Palestinian organizations is especially bitter in the Gaza Strip, it is also escalating in the West Bank.

Nine buses were damaged last Saturday in Hebron, as Moslem extremists set them on fire in the course of a violent confrontation with the secular groups.

The fundamentalists tried to prevent a joint hike by male and female students at Hebron University. Hamas, which adheres strictly to Moslem law, was affronted by the coeducational activity. But despite the violent protest, the excursion took place as was originally planned -- men and women together.

New threats also have been made in the territories against Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, for remarks made in an interview that appears in the July issue of the American feminist magazine Ms.

In the interview, Ashrawi says she does not believe that the Islamic fundamentalist movement "is endemic to Palestinian society," which she says has "always been traditionally more secular, liberal, tolerant."

Ashrawi, who is Christian, also decries an attempt by Hamas to require Moslem women in the territories to wear veils, as is traditional in strict observance of Islam.

Hamas has distributed leaflets in the territories accusing Ashrawi of heresy and comparing her to Iranian writer Salman Rushdie, who was sentenced to death by the Iranian regime for his controversial book, "The Satanic Verses."

Ashrawi is presently overseas. Friends have warned her to delay her return, until things quiet down after the interview.

**PEROT'S FIRM MAY HAVE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST ORTHODOX WORKER, PANEL FINDS**  
By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA) -- The New York State Division of Human Rights has determined there is "probable cause" to believe that the computer company founded by Ross Perot unlawfully discriminated against an Orthodox Jewish woman who would not work on Sukkot.

The case involves Nancee Haft, a former employee of Electronic Data Systems Corp., who was dismissed from her job in September 1985 after she failed to show up for work on the Jewish holiday.

The state panel's May 28 ruling does not indicate that Perot's company broke the law, but only opens the way for a hearing before an administrative judge.

While the case concerns an incident that occurred nearly seven years ago, it has taken on importance now that Perot is a serious contender for the U.S. presidency.

Since the still-unofficial Perot campaign has provided few details about the maverick candidate's policy stances on various issues, the practices of his company have received detailed scrutiny as possible clues to what a Perot presidency might be like.

The case is also important because it is the second one to allege discrimination against Jewish employees at EDS. Jewish groups have raised concerns about the dismissal of an employee named Reggie Dallaire from the company in the early 1980s.

Dallaire, who converted from Catholicism to Judaism, was fired for wearing a beard, which he claimed was an expression of his new religious beliefs.

While EDS had a longstanding policy requiring male employees to be clean-shaven, a federal district court found the company discriminated against him on the basis of his religion and ordered him reinstated.

**Thrown Out Of Office**

The case involving the Sukkot holiday observance was filed in 1986 by Haft, who now uses her married name, Bloom.

The incident at issue occurred while Perot was still chairman of EDS, a position he left the following year. Though Perot had already sold the company to General Motors, his picture was still on the inside cover of the company's benefits books and his signature appeared on the employee agreement signed by Haft.

Haft had been hired by EDS on Sept. 13, 1985. After starting work, she requested to be absent without pay during the first two days and final days of Sukkot, which began two weeks after she was hired.

"They said that if I didn't come to work that Monday and Tuesday (the first days of Sukkot), then I didn't have a job there on Wednesday," Bloom said in an interview.

Arriving at work Wednesday, she was indeed dismissed and allegedly thrown out of the office.

EDS claimed in its court papers that allowing Haft to take off for the holiday would have posed an "undue hardship," which would legally exempt the company from having to accommodate an employee's religious observances.

But the American Jewish Congress, which helped litigate the case for Haft before finding her a pro bono law firm, maintained in a letter to

the New York State Division of Human Rights that the company "plainly viewed Ms. Haft's religious needs as 'unreasonable' from the start and made no effort to work around them. It simply fired her."

Morton Meyerson, Perot's top Jewish adviser and the president of EDS in 1985, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in a statement that he had no knowledge of the case, pointing out that the company had 45,000 employees at the time.

"We had a policy of not discriminating against anyone based on religion, race, color or sexual orientation," he said. "Since I am Jewish, I vigorously enforced that policy."

The relevance of Meyerson's Jewishness was recently dismissed by the Anti-Defamation League, when Perot himself mentioned it in response to a question about the Dallaire case asked during an ABC television appearance.

"The fact that the president (of EDS) was a Jew is nice, but it's irrelevant," said Abraham Foxman, ADL's national director.

For Bloom, Perot's candidacy has reawakened unpleasant memories that lay dormant in New York State's slow-moving legal system.

An official of one Jewish organization familiar with the case said he did not think the issue is one of anti-Semitism.

"The question is one of pluralism and tolerance of difference," said the official, who asked not to be identified. "It's very clear EDS had a corporate culture of inhospitality to anyone who was somewhat different."

**PEACE WINDOW OPENED BY GULF WAR ONLY TEMPORARY, THINK TANK SAYS**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA) -- The window of opportunity for Middle East peace that was opened last year by the Persian Gulf War is only temporary, according to an Israeli think tank.

Researchers at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University said the "open window" might remain so for only another six to 12 months, and every effort should be made by the incoming Israeli government to move toward political solutions, both with the Palestinians and the Arab states.

In their annual, 480-page report on "The Middle East Military Balance -- 1990-1991," the researchers said Israel should also talk with members of the Palestinian diaspora.

The head of the Jaffee Center, reserve Maj. Gen. Aharon Yariv, was tough and circumspect on prospects for peace under the aegis of Labor leader Yitzhak Rabin.

Responding to journalists' questions, he described Rabin, the probable next prime minister, as a "Labor do-awk -- a Labor Party leader part dove and part hawk."

Asked about possible future dangers from nuclear weapons in the Middle East, Yariv suggested that Israel should abandon its frequently used slogan that it "will not be the first to introduce atomic weapons" into the region.

One or more of the Arab states will have them within the next decade, and the Israeli air force bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor in June 1981 could not be repeated under present circumstances, he said.

Yariv stressed that there is at present no existential threat to Israel or danger of war in the immediate future. But the risk remains in the long term, he said.

## RUSSIAN COURT RULES AGAINST PAMYAT, SAYING ITS PAPER LIBELED AN ISRAELI

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA) -- In a landmark decision, a Russian court has ruled that a newspaper published by the anti-Semitic group Pamyat libeled Professor Herman Branover of Israel.

The Dzhherzinski District Court in Moscow ruled that the newspaper, Nash Sovremenyik ("Our Contemporaries"), must publicly apologize to Branover, a former Soviet citizen, and retract false statements it made against him.

The court also awarded damages to Branover, yet to be determined, said Dr. Marvin Aschendorf, executive director of American Friends of SHAMIR, the Association of Jewish Professionals from the Soviet Union in Israel, which Branover founded.

Branover, a prominent physicist and scholar, had asked for 100,000 rubles, or about \$1,000.

Branover never appeared at the court proceedings, which took place over the course of 10 months. He was represented free of charge by a Moscow Jewish lawyer, Henry Reznik. A SHAMIR representative often attended as Branover's envoy.

The charges were filed against the Russian paper after it published an article falsely quoting Branover's autobiography as saying that among the accomplishments of early communism was the killing of many non-Jews.

It also quoted Branover as having written that in Israel, a national hero is one who kills the greatest number of non-Jews.

The newspaper has a circulation of 500,000 and is the largest of all Pamyat-supported publications, Branover said.

His autobiography, "The Return," is about the former atheist's embrace of his Jewish identity, Orthodox Judaism and ultimately, his aliyah.

### Soviet Jewry Group Gratified

The prominent physicist, who was thrown out of the Soviet Union in 1972 for asking to leave for Israel, expressed gratification at the ruling.

Branover acknowledged he had been reluctant to initiate the proceedings. He credited Jews in Russia with pushing him to take on Pamyat.

"I got a number of letters from Jews in Moscow, and they urged me to do it, because they believed it was very important for their sake. And I gave in," said Branover, who was in New York for a two-day visit this week.

Branover's victory over the virulently anti-Semitic Pamyat drew warm praise from the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Shoshana Cardin, chairman of the conference, said, "We are gratified by the decision in the Branover case, as it indicates that the rule of law is at work in Russia. We also are pleased that the decision may affect the activities of Pamyat."

Branover, who helps emigres from the former Soviet Union find professionally meaningful work in Israel, has been invited by the highest levels of the Russian government to develop technological and economic exchange programs with Russia.

He is the first Israeli to be named an ex-officio member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, as well as its Latvian counterpart.

And he has been invited by the Russian Academy of Sciences to edit a five-volume encyclopedia about the Jews of Russia from the Middle Ages to the present. The academy recently opened an office in Israel expressly for this purpose.

## RABIN SAYS FAIR TREATMENT OF ARABS WILL HELP TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM

By Michel Di Paz

BRUSSELS, July 8 (JTA) -- Yitzhak Rabin, in one of his first public addresses since being asked last week to form a new Israeli government, told delegates to a conference on anti-Semitism that Israel could best combat hostility toward Jews worldwide by setting an example in how it treats its own minority.

"I believe we have to prove that once we are the sovereign power, we have to behave vis-a-vis the minority and other religious groups in a way we expect others to respect us," he said.

Rabin told participants at the conference, sponsored by the World Jewish Congress, that Israel should set "certain moral standards of behavior" toward its Arab population. He spoke Wednesday via satellite from Tel Aviv.

The Labor Party leader also said one of his first priorities will be to advance the peace talks toward Palestinian autonomy in the territories.

"I see in this issue one of the most important goals, and an attainable one, that might change the whole atmosphere in the Middle East," he said.

Leonid Kravchuk, president of Ukraine, in his own address on Tuesday, quoted the Talmud to explain that he regretted that Jews were leaving Ukraine but that all people have the right to live where they choose.

And Cardinal Edward Cassidy, president of the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews, called for cooperative Catholic-Jewish efforts to fight anti-Semitism and racism on the national and international level.

The prelate stressed that the historical position of the Catholic Church on Jews and Judaism "called for an act of 'teshuvah' (repentance) and of reconciliation on our part."

### Resolution On Yugoslav Unrest

He said that the teachings of the church must be updated to reflect the new Catholic attitude, which regards Jews as "our elder brothers in the faith of Abraham.

"We must explore every possible area of cooperation with the Jewish people," he said.

Cassidy reaffirmed that "anti-Semitism, as well as all forms of racism, are a sin against God and humanity."

At the closing session of its Conference on Anti-Semitism and Prejudice in a Changing World, WJC leaders resolved to create new offices and resources to combat anti-Semitism "and its related evils."

WJC leaders said that they will be working with the World Zionist Organization, Israel's quasi-governmental agency, to improve the teaching of Jewish history in schools, to monitor ultranationalist political movements worldwide and to monitor anti-Semitism in international agencies affiliated with the United Nations.

Delegates to the conference passed a resolution calling on the European Community and the United Nations "to use all means at their disposal to halt the armed conflict and the loss of life taking place in the territories of the former country of Yugoslavia."

Other speakers included Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, former U.S. representative to the United Nations; Judge Israel Feinstein of the Board of Deputies of British Jews; and Luis Alberto Lacalle, the president of Uruguay.

**AUSTRIA GETS NEW PRESIDENT,  
ENDING PAINFUL WALDHEIM ERA**

By Marta S. Halpert

VIENNA, July 8 (JTA) -- Thomas Klestil was sworn in Wednesday as Austria's new president, bringing to an end a bitter six-year period in which his predecessor, Kurt Waldheim, was shunned by most of the world.

A certain relief could be felt in both houses of Parliament, as the new president, a 59-year-old career diplomat, took over the presidential mantle.

The era of Waldheim, the former U.N. secretary-general and World War II German officer, provoked intensely negative feelings among the world's Jewish community and Israel because of his wartime duties in the Balkans, where tens of thousands of Jews were deported and there were reprisal killings against anti-Nazi partisans.

Waldheim denied he had known anything about these actions. His place on the U.S. "watch list" of undesirable aliens, and his ostracism by most of the Western world, kept Austria in an embarrassing diplomatic limbo.

Klestil, who won a runoff election against his Social Democrat competitor with 57 percent of the vote, is expected to end the isolation.

The president of the Austrian Parliament, Heinz Fischer, a Social Democrat, said in his farewell speech to Waldheim that the "human being" Waldheim had experienced injustice when war crimes were attributed to him. But Fischer also criticized the outgoing president for not having found the right words of regret.

Waldheim himself conceded in his farewell address that during his presidential campaign, "under massive and, for me, often hurtful attacks, I was not always able to find the appropriate words to describe my life, my feelings, the fate of my generation and my homeland, and also match the dimension of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime."

The outgoing president ensured his listeners that his remaining in office after all these attacks was "a necessity in order to avoid a general guilt charge against a whole generation."

The new president, a former ambassador to the United States, had very clear words regarding the country's past: "Whoever forgets his own history is condemned to relive it," he said.

The World Jewish Congress, the Jewish organization that mounted the strongest campaign against Waldheim, expressed relief that his days in office are over.

"We hope that Austria," now that Waldheim is "out of the way, will join the rank of decent nations," WJC President Edgar Bronfman said in Brussels at the a conference on anti-Semitism.

**DEATH OF HASIDIC REBBE OF GER  
DRAWS FUNERAL CROWD OF 100,000**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- The Hasidic rebbe of Ger, Rabbi Simcha Bunim Alter, died in Jerusalem on Wednesday at age 95 and was laid to rest on the Mount of Olives just before sunset. A crowd estimated at 100,000 attended his funeral.

The rebbe's only son, Rabbi Ya'acov Alter, is expected to be named his successor, but there will be no confirmation until it is announced whether there is a will and what it provides.

Ger is the largest Hasidic house in Israel and traditionally leads the Agudat Yisrael party, now part of the United Torah Judaism bloc. But

the late rebbe's lengthy illness meant that he had not been personally involved in national politics for years -- although he did make a special effort to vote in the June 23 elections.

He was taken to the polling station by car, and the ballot box was brought out to him.

Alter was born in Ger, also known as Gur, a small village near Warsaw that had been the center of the dynasty since the 1860s.

His father, Rabbi Avraham Mordechai Alter, was the acknowledged leader of Orthodoxy in prewar Poland and the founder, in 1912, of the Agudat Yisrael movement.

So many Hasidim and other followers traveled between Warsaw and Ger that a special train made the trip regularly between the two places before the war.

Simcha Bunim moved to Palestine in the 1930s and engaged in the real estate business. He became rebbe in 1977, on the death of his elder brother, Rabbi Yisrael.

Simcha Bunim quickly surprised his community, which had expected a quiet and understated style of leadership, by issuing a series of tough regulations designed to cut back on conspicuous consumption and force the Gerrer Hasidim to adopt modest lifestyles.

Young couples were required to live away from the main centers, Jerusalem and Bnei Brak, in Hasidic townships. The size of apartments, their furnishing, the money spent on weddings, bar mitzvahs and even Sukkot etrogs were all subject to minute regulation in the rebbe's rules, which still remain in force in the community.

**A Reputation For Modesty**

The effect was to give Ger a sense of solidarity and to give the entire Hasidic community a new understanding of hard economic truths and of its own power as a consumer group.

Over the years, the rebbe's age caught up with him, and he began flagging in the amount of energy he could devote to the spiritual leadership of his fast-growing community. In recent years, he effectively stopped running Ger and also ceased holding the "tishen," the festive Shabbat and holiday meals that are the core of every Hasidic rebbe's home.

He would make rare appearances, in a wheelchair, and the Hasidim would crowd around to get a brief viewing of the sick and elderly man, bent over and clearly in discomfort.

But he remained lucid and received intimate associates for brief interviews.

His successor is expected to be Rabbi Ya'acov, even though the late rebbe leaves a younger brother, Rabbi Pinchas Menachem, head of the Sefat Emet Yeshiva and chairman of Agudah. Inside sources say that while the brother is respected in the community, the son is seen as the natural heir.

At 52, Rabbi Ya'acov would be the sixth Gerrer rebbe and the first to have grown up in Israel.

He has lived in Bnei Brak until now, spending his time quietly in Torah study. His reputation is for modesty -- he travels by bus, for instance, from Bnei Brak to Jerusalem.

But he has the striking appearance of his late uncle, Rabbi Yisrael, who was an imposing man with a sharp look that sent shivers up the spines of his adherents.

Rabbi Ya'acov, once "crowned," is expected to move to Jerusalem, where Ger is building a new headquarters.