

**BOMB ATTACK KILLS JEWISH WOMAN
AS WAVE OF UNREST ALARMS ISRAEL**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Israel in recent days has rehearsed, the hard way, a lesson it has learned time and again in the past -- that no matter the political developments, it must live with terrorism.

In the long history of terrorist attacks, the last week has been especially painful. Over the weekend, a woman was killed in the West Bank, just east of the pre-1967 line, in a roadside bomb explosion that wounded nine others.

And last week, a moshav member in northern Israel was brutally stabbed to death in an incident that led the government to promise outraged farmers greater protection.

The bomb attack killed Yehudit Ostern, 57, who was returning home to the settlement of Matityahu, east of Lod, after a visit to her daughter at the nearby settlement of Dolev.

The van in which she was traveling struck a cable on the road between Matityahu and the Arab village of Harbat, triggering an explosive charge planted 10 yards up the road.

Most of the passengers managed to jump out of the van, but Ostern, a heavy woman, was unable to move quickly enough and burned to death.

Her husband, Moshe, 61, said everyone jumped from the burning car fearful that terrorists were still in the vicinity. "I wish I was burned with her," he said of Yehudit. "My dear wife was burned before my eyes, and I could not help her."

Two other passengers suffered burns, three sustained smoke injuries and three others slight injuries. Six of the injured were new immigrants taken by the Osterns "to see the pioneers of Israel" by visiting their daughter Micky Degani at Dolev, in the Judean Hills.

Technical Sophistication Demonstrated

The terrorist attack near Matityahu was particularly alarming for several reasons:

- The terrorists demonstrated technical sophistication in Lebanon-style sabotage by successfully deploying a roadside bomb with a trip wire.

- The attack took place close to the Green Line, near the newly populated towns of Modi'in and Re'ut, virtually in the backyard of Ben-Gurion Airport. Arab terrorism has suddenly come much closer to home for many Israelis.

- The attack took place even though a hunger strike mounted by jailed Palestinians, which had been the immediate cause of the latest wave of violence, had ended, following an agreement reached between the authorities and the prisoners. This suggests that the intifada has picked up momentum, regardless of external developments.

The attack also appears to reflect the determination of terrorist organizations to escalate the intifada, on the eve of the new round of peace talks in Washington, thereby presenting Israel with a serious dilemma: Even if an agreement is reached with the Palestinian negotiators, will it be honored by the Palestinians in the street?

Even as the security forces were staging a

massive search for the attackers, an atmosphere of near-explosion prevailed in the northern Ta'anach region, near Afula, where farmers were up in arms following the brutal murder of Shimon Avraham, 33, of Moshav Meitav, who was stabbed to death Oct. 15 while working in the fields.

Many of the Jewish farmers demanded revenge and tougher security measures, such as a security fence along the Green Line and greater control over Arab workers entering the area from the West Bank.

Arab Fields Burned By Extremists

Dozens of Jewish extremists spent much of the weekend burning fields of the neighboring Arab villages, throwing stones at cars owned by residents of the territories and gathering outside the Afula police station to demand tougher measures to increase security in the area.

Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur visited the Ta'anach region Sunday and paid a condolence call on the bereaved family. He said the security situation in the area was tied to employment arrangements. Had more Jewish workers been employed, he said, it was doubtful that the murderers of Avraham would have succeeded.

But farmers said they could not give up the service of Arab workers altogether. Jewish workers, even those unemployed, refuse to work in the fields for the pay they get from Jewish farmers.

The demands of the Ta'anach farmers were partially met Sunday, as Police Minister Moshe Shahal convened a special meeting of officials of all security branches in his office in Jerusalem.

It was decided to beef up the police presence in the Ta'anach region and exercise tighter control over the area between that region and the West Bank town of Jenin. It was also decided to push forward with the planned recruitment of 400 new police officers.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**NEW ROUND OF MIDEAST PEACE TALKS
MUST PRODUCE RESULTS, EXPERTS SAY**

By Cynthia Mann
States News Service

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Experts say the seventh round of Middle East peace talks, scheduled to open here Wednesday, must produce substantive results to satisfy the fragile mandates of the negotiating parties.

All acknowledge the new round of bilateral talks begins at a sensitive time, less than two weeks before a U.S. presidential election whose outcome could change U.S. policy in the region, however subtly. It also comes amid heightened Palestinian unrest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which some ascribe to frustration over lack of progress in the peace talks.

But there was some optimism Friday at this year's annual conference of the Middle East Institute, a Washington think tank.

"There is a window of opportunity for a breakthrough in Arab-Israeli relations," said Shimon Shamir, a professor at Tel Aviv University and former Israeli ambassador to Egypt who is currently a fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington.

"It is crucial to use the window of oppor-

tunity" rather than "give in to those waiting for failure" on both sides, Shamir said during a panel discussion on Israeli-Palestinian peace prospects.

While the previous rounds have "exhausted the possibilities" of negotiating about protocol and agenda and terms of reference, said Shamir, "in the next round, we will have to face the substance."

"We are at an impasse in (the) negotiations that must be faced head on," agreed panelist Salim Tamari, a professor at Bir Zeit University. The impasse, he said, is "partly a result of heightened expectations" among the Palestinians that have not been met following the election of Labor Party Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

But Tamari held out hope. "We should not overstate the obstacles," he said.

Not Ready For 'All Or Nothing'

"It has taken one year to resolve agenda problems," and now the parties are "ready to address substance," offered Michael Van Dusen, staff director for the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

The subcommittee is chaired by Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.), whose name has come up frequently in discussions of possible picks for secretary of state in a Clinton administration.

Van Dusen, who stressed he was speaking only on his own behalf, cautioned that "progress will be slower than expected" in the talks and will require active U.S. engagement and re-assertion of all parties, no matter who wins in November.

The Arabs have expressed nervousness at the prospect of a Clinton presidency, which they believe would tilt more toward Israel than the Bush administration.

The last round of the bilateral talks ended in apparent stalemate before the start of the Jewish High Holidays. Syria called on Israel to declare its willingness to withdraw from the entire Golan Heights before it would spell out the terms of the peace agreement it has promised, while Israel demanded to hear the terms before it committed itself to any territorial concessions.

The Palestinian and Israeli delegations were bogged down in their efforts to agree on an interim plan for Palestinian autonomy. The Palestinians insisted that Israel accept the application of U.N. Resolution 242, which calls for the return of land in exchange for peace, to the current round of talks. Israel has maintained 242 applies only to the talks on the final status of the territories, slated to begin after three years.

Panelist Shamir stressed the importance of linking the interim and final phases in both the Syrian and Palestinian tracks.

Syria has balked at the idea of an interim agreement leading to an ultimate exchange of land for peace. But Israel "wants to go slowly," Shamir said, "because we don't know the depth of the change" in Syrian President Hafez Assad.

"Israelis are not ready for all or nothing" without seeing a willingness for "dramatic change in attitude" on the part of Assad and the Syrians, he said. "We want the relationship to evolve."

Shamir said the "only real issue" in the Israeli-Palestinian talks on the composition and powers of an interim Palestinian self-governing authority is whether the arrangement "will create the right conditions to produce a final autonomy arrangement."

"What reality will emerge between the two

peoples" as a result of the interim agreement? Shamir asked. "Daily friction or cooperation and mutual trust and confidence?"

Tamari agreed that the success of the process will depend on the transition between the interim and final phases worked out in the current talks.

The solution, he said, lies in the creation of an interim elected Palestinian body that has legislative as well as administrative functions.

High Stakes Involved

But he cautioned that the Rabin government's continued ban on participation in the talks by the Palestine Liberation Organization and residents of Jerusalem would doom any agreement, because it would not be "binding to the Palestinian people as a whole."

He also said Israel's policy on Jewish settlements, particularly around Jerusalem, could derail the peace process. And he warned that Israel should not expect to achieve "stability" with the Arabs states without reaching an agreement on Palestinian self-determination.

Shamir, meanwhile, stressed the high stakes of the talks. The regional arms race, which has accelerated in the wake of the Persian Gulf War, means that "within a few years we will live in an arena not conducive to diplomatic means to solve conflict," he said.

And Shamir said that with rejectionists waiting in the wings on both sides, he could not envision another prospect for engagement in the peace process.

Van Dusen emphasized the need to curb arms sales to achieve stability in the region. He added that Israel's reported nuclear capability eventually "has to be on the table with everything else."

ISRAELIS REMEMBER DOWNED PILOT ON SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF CAPTURE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- The sixth anniversary of the capture of downed Israeli air force navigator Ron Arad was marked Friday by the release of hundreds of blue and white balloons over the border with Lebanon, where he was shot down in 1986.

The gas-filled balloons were launched by hundreds of children from the cliffs overlooking the sea at Rosh Henikra, in the hope that they would be seen and taken as a message of hope by Arad, wherever he is being held.

The pilot of the plane on which Arad was navigator was saved by a helicopter rescue crew, but they could not get to Arad before he was captured by local farmers and handed over to a terrorist organization.

According to reports, he was subsequently "sold" by one organization to another, and his exact whereabouts are not known.

During the anniversary ceremony, a small plane circled overhead, dragging a banner reading: "Ron Arad -- Born Free."

The fate of Arad, and the lack of news about other Israelis posted as "missing," was raised Friday by Israel's new ambassador to the United Nations, Gad Ya'acobi, when he presented his credentials to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali.

The U.N. head is reported to have assured Ya'acobi that he is making every effort to obtain information about Arad and other Israelis missing in Lebanon.

RABIN COURTING OTHER PARTIES AS 2 PARTNERS THREATEN TO BOLT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- The controversy over Education Minister Shulamit Aloni, whose secular perspective raises the hackles of the religious parties, has escalated into the first full-fledged coalition crisis of Yitzhak Rabin's new government.

The prime minister met with Aloni in Tel Aviv on Sunday as the Shas party warned it would pull out of the government if she remained in the education post.

The fervently Orthodox Sephardic party is threatening to vote against the government in no-confidence motions on the Aloni issue, submitted to the Knesset by opposition religious parties.

Aloni's colleagues at the helm of the left-wing Meretz bloc said they would rather quit the government than allow their leader to be compromised by being forced out of her post.

In an effort to ease the crisis and shore up his majority, Rabin was involved in intensive contacts with two parties on the right, seeking to woo one or both of them into the government.

To Rafael Eitan, leader of the right-wing Tsomet party, the prime minister sent a written proposal on the basis of which he hopes to resume negotiations broken off when the government coalition of Labor, Meretz and Shas was sworn in last July.

According to officials in the Prime Minister's Office, the paper represents no new development in the premier's policy thinking.

But they would neither confirm nor deny media reports that Rabin had expressed willingness to hold a referendum before any territorial deal on the Golan Heights. Tsomet opposes territorial concessions.

Tsomet Offered Two Ministries

According to media speculation, Eitan is being offered the Police Ministry, now headed by Communications Minister Moshe Shahal of Labor, and an economic ministry -- possibly Labor and Welfare, currently held by the premier himself in anticipation of coalition changes.

The prior "tenant" at Labor and Welfare was the Agudat Yisrael party, now part of the United Torah Judaism bloc. Rabin would presumably be happy to see a United Torah man return to this post. A meeting between the premier and the party's Knesset members last week was inconclusive, with both sides insisting it had not focused on coalition politics.

An obstacle to United Torah joining the coalition is the presence of Aloni at Education. Sources in the haredi, or fervently Orthodox, community say the rabbis of the Agudah Council of Sages would not contemplate entering the government unless Aloni were shifted out of that slot, and perhaps not even then.

And the leader of United Torah's other component, Degel HaTorah sage Rabbi Eliezer Shach, is said to be opposed to joining the present government on any terms as long as Meretz is a part of it.

Observers question, however, whether Shach can call the shots in United Torah, given that only one of its four Knesset members, Avraham Ravitz, is a Degel man. The other three are Agudah politicians.

Meanwhile, the key figure around whom the crisis swirls is Shas' spiritual leader, Rabbi Ovadia

Yosef. Yosef is scheduled to chair a session of the Shas Council of Sages after the Sukkot holiday ends, at which the party's final position regarding the coalition and the upcoming confidence votes will be determined.

The motions of no confidence, submitted by the National Religious Party and United Torah Judaism, are to be heard when the parliamentary winter term starts at the end of the month. They criticize controversial statements by Aloni on religious issues.

Sources close to Yosef, quoted Sunday by the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, say he is loath to leave the government, whose positions on the peace process he strongly supports.

But Shas Knesset members claim they are coming under increasing pressure from the rank and file over Aloni's statements.

Tsomet and United Torah are also expected to decide soon on whether to join the coalition.

For its part, the opposition Likud bloc has urged Tsomet to reject Rabin's overtures. In a statement, it reminded Eitan and his supporters that they oppose territorial concessions while the Rabin government is committed to offering such concessions.

GERMANY ALLOWING ISRAEL TO KEEP SEIZED SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT

By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- A shipment of Soviet-made military equipment bound for Israel that was seized a year ago will be given to the Jewish state after all, the German Defense Ministry has confirmed.

The decision to provide Israel with the equipment, which was left behind in the withdrawal of Soviet troops from East Germany, was made following talks here last month between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and German Defense Minister Volker Ruhe.

Germany's decision to release the equipment for Israeli research and testing broke a logjam in the disposition of the equipment, which had been confiscated by Hamburg customs authorities from the Israeli freighter Palmach II.

The arms, which were identified as "agricultural equipment," apparently included armored vehicles with anti-aircraft capability.

The clandestine shipment, arranged by high-ranking officials of Germany's intelligence service and defense establishment, was at the time challenged by the German opposition but strongly defended by Gerhard Stoltenberg, who was then defense minister.

German law forbids the export of weapons to crisis areas such as the Middle East. But the German intelligence service, known as the BND, has long had an arrangement with its Israeli counterpart, Mossad, to exchange weapons of Soviet origin for examination and testing.

The announcement comes against a background of media reports about an agreement between the two countries on stepped-up cooperation in defense.

The arms are of the kind Israel might face on the battlefield, because similar equipment is used by such adversaries as Syria and Iraq.

They are now due to be picked up by an Israeli ship at a port in northern Germany.

REMINDER: There will be no Daily News Bulletin Tuesday, Oct. 20, or Wednesday, Oct. 21.

HOLOCAUST REVISIONIST IRVING IS BARRED FROM ENTERING CANADA

By Gil Kezwer

TORONTO, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Canada's immigration minister has barred a Holocaust revisionist from entering the country.

David Irving, 54, a British historian who turned from mainstream history into rewriting the Holocaust, had intended to come to Canada after speaking engagements in the United States.

Jewish organizations here were pleased by the decision by Immigration Minister Bernard Valcourt, which reversed an earlier Immigration Department ruling that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police would watch Irving but not stop him at the border.

Irving's lawyer, Douglas Christie of Victoria, British Columbia, a defender of neo-Nazis and Holocaust deniers, filed an appeal with the Federal Court, seeking an injunction against the ban.

John Laskin, counsel for the Canadian Jewish Congress, is asking leave to intervene at that hearing.

Irving, author of pro-Nazi apologetics, such as "The Destruction of Dresden" "Churchill's War" and "Goring," had been slated to be in British Columbia on Oct. 28 to receive the Canadian Free Speech League's eighth annual George Orwell Award for courageous defense of free speech.

His tour would have included addresses to Holocaust revisionist groups in Calgary, Alberta; and Kitchener, Hamilton, Ottawa and Toronto, Ontario.

Irving was told of the decision while he was in Los Angeles for a speaking engagement. The United States did not bar his entry.

On Oct. 9, he was hand-delivered a letter informing him that he was denied entry to Canada because of his criminal record and because "there are reasonable grounds to believe (you) will commit one or more offenses" in Canada.

A Conviction In Germany

Both the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Canadian office argued before Judge Valcourt that Irving's conviction this year in Germany on a charge of defaming Holocaust victims made him an "ineligible class" under Canada's immigration laws.

Irving was fined \$7,200 in May by Munich Judge Thomas Stelzner for denying that Jews died in the gas chambers at Auschwitz. He has long maintained that the crematoria there were built as tourist attractions.

Canada's Immigration Act says no visitor shall be granted admission to Canada if he has been convicted of a crime in a foreign country that would constitute an indictable offense here.

The CJC and Wiesenthal Center contended that Irving's conviction in Germany amounted to a violation of Canada's anti-hate law.

Bernie Farber, associate national director of the CJC, said, "The Ministry of Immigration acted with speed and great sensitivity in its justifiable decision barring Irving from the country. This is yet another blow to the Canadian neo-Nazi movement."

Irving gained notoriety in July, when the Sunday Times of London appointed him to translate diaries of Nazi propagandist Josef Goebbels that were recently uncovered in a Moscow archive.

Last Friday, Irving spoke in Portland, Ore., at an engagement organized by a group called

the Siegfried Society. Some 75 people paid to hear him call the Holocaust a hoax.

But an estimated three times as many people were outside the hall at Mount Hood Community College protesting his appearance, The Oregonian, a Portland daily, reported. A group of some 30 groups of Holocaust survivors, churches and others organized the protest.

With heavy security, there were no clashes between protesters and supporters. Reporters were not allowed inside, except for Philip Stanford of The Oregonian, who has been highly criticized for writing columns defending Irving's right to speak.

Police brought the members of the audience out a rear exit where there were no protesters.

About 20 people gave Irving standing ovations after he gave his view that there were no gas chambers, The Oregonian reported.

On Oct. 9, Irving addressed the national conference of the Institute for Historical Review in Southern California.

Irving's U.S. visit was sponsored by the Milwaukee-based Siegfried Society, described as an organization for the preservation of Germanic culture and history.

Its founder, born Michael Clinton but who uses the name Reinhold Clinton, was arrested in May by police in Lake Oswego, Ore., for distributing Holocaust literature.

An organizer of the protest in Portland, Shelly Shapiro of Holocaust Survivors and Friends in Pursuit of Justice, an Albany, N.Y., group, said she believes his visit was a test to see if his appearances would be allowed in the United States.

(Contributing to this report was JTA staff writer Susan Birnbaum in New York.)

KOHL VOWS INCREASED EFFORTS TO COMBAT NEO-NAZI VIOLENCE

By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has vowed to step up efforts to combat neo-Nazi violence against foreigners living in Germany.

In a meeting Oct. 14 with Ignaz Bubis, the chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, the chancellor also said he fully understands the special concern of the Jewish community over the recent wave of attacks against foreigners.

Bubis also met with President Richard von Weizsacker in Berlin, where the issue of neo-Nazi violence was again the focus of talks.

Last week, Kohl angrily rejected criticism by Bubis that the government encouraged nationalist violence against asylum-seekers. Bubis had called it scandalous that neo-Nazi activists were routinely released shortly after being arrested.

His claim was challenged by government spokesman Dieter Vogel, who said Bubis had "a rather unusual idea" about what the government was able to do.

Meanwhile, the government's coalition parties passed a resolution last week calling for a change in the country's constitution to sharply limit the influx of asylum-seekers into Germany.

The opposition Social Democratic Party, whose votes are indispensable to change the law, boycotted the parliamentary vote, arguing that it was nothing but a tactical maneuver.

The Social Democrats have scheduled a special convention to be held in three weeks to decide whether they will support the proposed constitutional change.