

**STUDENT STABBED IN OLD CITY,
BUT 2 OTHER TRAGEDIES AVERTED**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 22 (JTA) -- A Jerusalem yeshiva student was stabbed badly in the neck Sunday by an 18-year-old Arab woman.

But a terrorist incident of far greater scale was averted in the Tel Aviv metropolitan region when an alert patrol led police to the detection and destruction of a powerful car bomb.

Another bombing was averted when a bus conductor found a booby-trapped parcel, which was safely defused.

The Jerusalem stabbing occurred as Yaron Shefi was walking from his apartment to the Ateret Cohanim yeshiva in the Moslem Quarter of the Old City. The teen-age assailant came up from behind Shefi and plunged a knife deep into his neck.

Shefi had no time to reach for the handgun he was carrying, but a fellow student pulled a pistol and shot the attacker in the leg.

Paramedics from the yeshiva then proceeded to treat both the victim and the assailant until police and ambulances arrived.

Shefi was undergoing examination to determine whether he would need surgery. Doctors said they were hoping no vital organ had been hurt.

In the Tel Aviv area, meanwhile, a dramatic sequence of events began about 2:30 in the morning, when a civilian patrol noticed a van without rear lights traveling with three Arab occupants on a road in Or Yehuda, about four miles southeast of Tel Aviv.

Policeman Aharon Bin-Nun and his partner, Civil Guard volunteer Leon Cahalon, a 42-year-old building worker, flagged the car down, but it sped off. The patrol set off in pursuit, radioing for reinforcements.

The chase led them several miles northward to the upscale suburb of Ramat Efal, where the van hit a dead end street and was blocked by a police car.

Its three occupants jumped out. One was captured almost immediately.

Detonation Shatters Windows

A second was seized outside a private home, the door of which he had knocked down, begging for admission. The only occupants of the house at the time were a 14-year-old girl and her Labrador retriever.

Sharon Guzman, alarmed by police sirens and hearing knocking at the door, accompanied by what she later described as "cries and sobs," phoned her parents, who were visiting friends out of town. They told her to take refuge in the family shelter until they got home.

A third man, believed to be the group's leader, got away and was being sought by police.

One of the captured men told police the van was booby-trapped. Police sappers discovered it contained five 25-pound cylinders of cooking gas, attached to explosive charges with a timing device.

The van had been stolen Nov. 19 from the Shikun Dan suburb of Tel Aviv. Its owner had left two full gas cylinders in the vehicle, together with a licensed pistol that he left under the seat.

The terrorists added three more large gas cylinders and explosive charges, to convert the van into a major car bomb. Police believe the missing terrorist is in possession of the stolen weapon.

The car owner was detained and released on bail pending questioning about the careless handling of a firearm.

A police anti-bomb robot, operating by remote control, blew up the explosive charges as Ramat Efal residents took shelter in bomb blast rooms prepared at the outset of the Persian Gulf War nearly two years ago.

But the blast, which damaged nearby cars and broke windows over a wide area, left the gas cylinders intact.

Police then towed the booby-trapped car to an empty field on the outskirts of the residential quarter and destroyed it by explosives.

Experts said the detonators had been timed to go off two hours after the occupants had fled, allowing them sufficient time to set the car bomb in a crowded area, such as a Saturday soccer match.

Prime Minister Woken Up

The Or Yehuda team were on Sunday awarded police force certificates of commendation for averting what might have been a major disaster in the Tel Aviv metropolitan area.

Police said the three suspects are members of the Moslem fundamentalist Hamas organization from the West Bank village of Salfit, near Tulkarm, about 10 miles east of Netanya.

The police minister awoke Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin early Sunday morning to tell him "we had a miracle last night."

As Moshe Shahal spoke to the prime minister, another vehicle bomb was setting out on its way from Tel Aviv to Kiryat Shmona.

The 6:30 a.m. local bus from Tel Aviv reached its northern terminus at about noon. The conductor, carrying out a routine inspection, found an unclaimed parcel on the overhead rack just behind his seat.

Police investigators found four smaller packages inside, each containing an explosive charge and a delayed-action firing mechanism. They were removed and defused without causing casualties or damage.

In Jerusalem, meanwhile, the yeshiva in which the stabbed pupil studied responded Sunday by moving its entire study hall to the narrow street in the Moslem Quarter where the incident took place.

Ateret Cohanim said it would conduct its studies there until further notice.

The head of Ateret Cohanim, Rabbi Shlomo Aviner, said the decision to study in the street, thus effectively blocking the narrow thoroughfare, had been taken in consultation with the police.

"We want security!" yeshiva students chanted when television and still photographers came to record their novel form of protest.

Ateret Cohanim is the largest Jewish institution in the Moslem Quarter. It is involved in often-controversial purchases of real estate elsewhere in the quarter.

(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent David Landau in Jerusalem.)

AIPAC PICKS DEMOCRATIC ACTIVIST, LABOR PARTY BACKER AS NEW HEAD

By Cynthia Mann
States News Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22 (JTA) -- Steven Grossman, a Massachusetts businessman and Democratic activist, has been named acting president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and nominated to the permanent post of president.

Grossman pledged to bring a new flexibility to AIPAC, to meet the challenges of new, more liberally minded governments in both Israel and the United States.

Grossman has long been an advocate of Israeli territorial compromise. As such, his stewardship of AIPAC will send a clear signal that the pro-Israel lobby, accused in some quarters of being boosters for Israel's previous hard-line Likud government, is trying to establish closer ties to the Labor regime installed last summer.

He also will have the ear of some members of the team of President-elect Bill Clinton, with whom he worked closely during the presidential campaign.

AIPAC's executive committee has yet to approve formally the unanimous recommendation of Grossman by the nominating committee, but it is almost certain he will take over the helm. The committee is scheduled to vote on the recommendation Feb. 9.

Grossman, now AIPAC's regional vice president for New England, begins his tenure at a rocky time in the life of the powerful lobby.

AIPAC suffered a humiliating rebuke last August from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who charged the lobby's confrontational style on behalf of Israel actually undermined Israel's interests.

The organization also has been subject to a recent rash of press reports criticizing its heavy-handed tactics with people who do not toe its political line.

'Opportunity To Redefine Ourselves'

But perhaps the most embarrassing incident came three weeks ago, when AIPAC's president, David Steiner, resigned after admitting he had untruthfully exaggerated the lobby's clout in a telephone conversation secretly taped by a man posing as a would-be contributor.

Steiner admitted boasting that he had struck a secret deal for Israel with White House Chief of Staff James Baker when Baker was secretary of state. He also told the caller, a New York businessman named Harry Katz, that he was "negotiating" with the Clinton team on candidates for secretary of state.

Steiner recanted the claims after finding out they had been taped and were about to be published by The Washington Times.

Grossman is poised to stabilize the shaken enterprise.

"I prefer to see in pitfalls challenges and opportunities," he said, when reached at home Sunday. "Out of the adversity comes the opportunity to redefine ourselves for the important constituencies we work with."

AIPAC's basic principles of nurturing a strong U.S.-Israel relationship will not change, he said. "But AIPAC needs to be flexible and work in an environment where the new prime minister and the new president redefine their relationship."

"Our role won't diminish, but it will change," he emphasized.

Grossman has been chairman of the Massachusetts Democratic Party since 1990, served on the party's platform drafting committee this year, is a member of the Democratic National Committee and helped found the National Jewish Democratic Council.

A member of AIPAC's executive committee since 1986, Grossman is also the honorary national vice chairman of the United Jewish Appeal and director and former campaign chairman of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston.

He is the president of the Massachusetts Envelope Company, a family-owned business.

Mayer Mitchell, named acting president immediately following Steiner's resignation, sent a memo Friday to the executive committee in which he praised Grossman. "I have known and admired Steve for many years," he wrote.

"He has demonstrated an extraordinary capacity for leadership, judicious decision-making and sound management, as well as commitment to our cause."

Meanwhile, AIPAC apparently wants to make it clear there is a political shift of gears afoot. Conveniently circulating is an article that was published in The New York Times on July 3, 1980, which lists Grossman among 56 "prominent U.S. Jews" who backed the Israeli peace movement.

The 56 signed a statement advocating territorial compromise and decrying "extremists" within the Israeli government who are "guided by secular and religious chauvinism" and thereby "distort Zionism and threaten its realization."

SHLOMO HILLEL SAYS HE'LL RUN TO SUCCEED HERZOG AS PRESIDENT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 22 (JTA) -- A Labor hawk has thrown his hat into the Israeli presidential ring to battle two party doves for the largely ceremonial post.

Shlomo Hillel, chairman of Keren Hayesod, which is the United Jewish Appeal's counterpart outside the United States, announced over the weekend he would run for the top state office against declared Labor candidates Ezer Weizman and Arye (Lova) Eliav.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has indicated he wants Labor to choose its candidate in a more discreet and intimate forum than the 700-member party Central Committee, sources say.

Apparently stung by criticism of the overly blatant politicization in the presidential stakes, Rabin reportedly prefers moving discussion of the issue to the parliamentary caucus or to a unit made up of the caucus and the party's leadership.

The president will be chosen by the Knesset next spring as Chaim Herzog completes his second, and by law last, term in office.

Labor has begun wooing both coalition and opposition parties to mobilize a parliamentary majority for the candidate it eventually chooses.

But the vote is secret and even the best-laid plans are apt to come unstuck.

The Likud has yet to put forward a candidate. Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan tried unsuccessfully last week to persuade Rabin to back State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat for the post.

The only member of the Sephardic community in the race so far, Hillel served as minister of police in the government of Golda Meir and subsequently as speaker of the Knesset.

GERMAN STATES AGREE ON MEASURES TO CRACK DOWN ON NEO-NAZI VIOLENCE
By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 22 (JTA) -- Setting aside differences, all 16 states of Germany have agreed on tough new measures to combat a wave of neo-Nazi violence.

At the same time, the governing coalition and the opposition have failed to agree on a change in the constitution designed to curtail the influx of foreigners into Germany.

But both the Kohl government and the Social Democratic Party reported progress in efforts to reach agreement on curbing a flood of refugees they blame for the upsurge in right-wing extremist violence.

Under the country's liberal asylum laws, some 1.4 million refugees have crossed into Germany, a far higher level than that in neighboring European countries.

The new measures to crack down on violence were adopted Friday by the interior ministers of the 16 German states at a meeting in Bonn also attended by federal Interior Minister Rudolf Seiters and high-ranking officials of the domestic security service.

Among the new measures:

- * Federal police and border police will be called in promptly when trouble arises that local or regional forces cannot handle. Toward that end, the government will recruit more police and train them in handling riots and violence against foreigners.

- * The states will expedite the exchange of data on suspects in violent attacks against hostels for asylum-seekers.

- * The federal government will expedite transmission to local police forces of information on suspects and extremist organizations.

- * All major police stations will assign an officer to deal with complaints by asylum-seekers.

Right-Wing Groups To Be Banned

The government plans to ban a number of extreme right-wing organizations, Seiters said over the weekend. The interior minister told reporters the ban will clearly signal Germany's refusal to accept continued neo-Nazi violence.

Seiters said the belief that the motivation for violence was economic rather than ideological had been proved wrong over the past few weeks when vandals attacked Jewish memorials and cemeteries.

In a similar vein, the chairman of the German Jewish community, Ignaz Bubis, said Sunday that violence must be the first problem tackled, not the influx of refugees.

At the same time, a coalition spokesman urged popular pressure on legislators to amend the constitution to curtail the intake of refugees.

Justice Minister Sabine Leutheuser said she supported an "initiative by the people" to force the parliamentary factions in the Bundestag to reach a compromise, in the face of inability by the political leadership to adopt measures consistent with the wishes of a great majority of the Germans.

Meanwhile, the German Catholic Church has issued a statement rejecting the use of violence by the left or the right, and has denounced anti-Semitism and hatred of foreigners.

The statement, issued by the central committee of the Catholic Church in Germany, came as left-wing anarchists fought with right-wing

skinheads in three German cities over the weekend. The violence left one person dead and at least six others injured.

The declaration was promptly welcomed by the Jewish community, and a spokesman urged that all German churches unite in a rejection of neo-Nazi violence.

INTELLECTUALS SIGN STATEMENT DEPLORING WREATH FOR PETAIN
By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, Nov. 22 (JTA) -- A number of French intellectuals have signed a statement deploring French President Francois Mitterrand's decision earlier this month to have a wreath placed on the grave of a leader of Vichy France.

They said the president should not have honored Marshal Philippe Petain, who "betrayed the confidence the French in 1940 placed in the victor of Verdun."

Mitterrand himself has apparently had second thoughts about including Petain among the World War I generals honored with memorial wreaths on Nov. 11, the 74th anniversary of the armistice ending World War I.

In an interview with a Paris Jewish radio station broadcast Sunday, Mitterrand said that in the future he would have to "deal differently" with the discrepancy between the hero of World War I and the Vichy leader and "shame of World War II."

Mitterrand's remarks were taped Nov. 12 as he prepared for his state visit to Israel later in the month.

The statement by the French intellectuals said Petain had "chosen a policy of collaboration that fulfilled the wishes of the (Third) Reich, and was an accomplice or directly responsible for the deportation of Jewish and Gypsy men, women and children."

Petaïn's history should convince the president of the republic "to pay not the slightest homage" to him in the future, they said.

In his interview, Mitterrand said he was ready to make a "significant gesture" in an effort to dissipate the impression left by the incident. He did not specify.

Mitterrand's gesture had been vigorously protested by Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld and about 40 members of the Union of French Jewish Students.

At the time of the wreath-laying, Klarsfeld said, "We cannot understand how the president, who came this summer to pay his respects to the memory of those who were arrested and deported, can also lay a wreath on the tomb of their persecutor."

He spoke on the tiny Atlantic island of Yeu, just off the French coast, where Petain is buried.

Mitterrand insisted in the radio interview that present-day France could not be held responsible for the crimes of the Vichy regime toward the Jews.

That view was contradicted by a leader of his own Socialist Party.

Henri Emmanuelli, president of the National Assembly, said France should take as its model the actions of the late German leader, Willy Brandt.

"I note that Germany didn't say the Third Reich had nothing to do with the German Federal Republic. Willy Brandt asked for forgiveness. I think France should also ask for forgiveness, and settle this issue once and forever," he said.

HITLER'S WATERCOLORS FETCH LITTLE INTEREST AT AUCTION

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Nov. 22 (JTA) -- Twenty watercolors by Adolf Hitler put up for auction last Friday in Trieste failed to find a buyer after Jews protested and Italian authorities set strict conditions for their sale.

The 20 small cityscapes of Vienna and Munich, painted before World War I and signed "A. Hitler," had been expected to fetch at least \$300,000.

But nobody even bid -- though the auction room at the Hotel Savoia Excelsior was full of spectators.

Controversy over the propriety of auctioning off the paintings had arisen during the week before the sale. Fears were raised that they could be used for neo-Nazi propaganda purposes.

A strong protest from the European Jewish Congress denounced "the provocation that hides behind the auction of pseudo-works of art which in reality do not have any other basis except that they were painted by Hitler."

The statement said, "The people responsible for the sale make themselves accomplices of those who attempt to rehabilitate the person responsible for the greatest tragedy in contemporary history."

The EJC appealed to the Italian authorities to prohibit the auction, saying that if it took place, "it would be synonymous with incitement to racial hatred."

The Italian authorities did not ban the sale, but they put strict conditions on it.

They decreed that the paintings had to be sold in one lot, rather than in five lots as originally planned. And they also ruled that the paintings could not be sold out of Italy.

The paintings -- whose artistic quality has been described by a leading Italian art historian as "disgusting" -- belong to Imelde Siviero, who inherited them from her brother, Rodolfo.

He is believed to have acquired them at the end of the war from the widow of Martin Bormann, Hitler's deputy.

SKINHEADS HAVE TIES TO EXTREMISTS, ITALIAN INTERIOR MINISTER REPORTS

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Nov. 22 (JTA) -- There are only about 1,000 or so hard-core neo-Nazi skinheads in Italy, according to official estimates.

But Interior Minister Nicola Mancino is concerned about signs that the violent shaven-headed youths have increasing contact with right-wing extremists abroad.

In a report to an Italian Senate commission, Mancino warned last week that members of the Rome-based Political Movement of the West, the biggest skinhead group here, have had "increasingly intensive contacts" with right-wing extremists who fled to London to escape Italian law.

Also alarming, he said, is the apparent "return to activism" of several extremists linked to right-wing terrorist attacks that took place in the 1970s and 1980s.

"The phenomenon of anti-Semitism should not be minimized," he said. "To say that it is under control doesn't mean that right-wing extremism has been canceled out completely, either in terms of violence or anti-Semitism."

Mancino said that 44 acts of anti-Semitism had been registered so far this year.

He said he worried that any appearance that the authorities are "lukewarm" in reacting to anti-Semitism and skinhead activities might be seen as "tacit approval" and lead to "more significant actions against the Jewish community."

In connection with these findings, Rome Mayor Franco Carraro met last week with Prosecutor General Vittorio Mele to discuss the possibility of closing down known headquarters and hangouts of neo-Nazi skinhead groups in the capital.

At the same time, Justice Minister Claudio Martelli visited the hospital bedside of Zuhir Sayad, a Palestinian boy who was severely beaten by classmates in a Rome school a few days ago because he defended the Jews.

"A young Palestinian was beaten up because he wanted to defend the Jews. It's a little incident that nonetheless is very instructive," Martelli told reporters as he left the hospital.

GEN. MOSHE BAR-KOCHBA DEAD AT 62 AFTER A BRILLIANT MILITARY CAREER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 22 (JTA) -- Reserve Maj-Gen. Moshe Bar-Kochba, regarded as one of Israel's brilliant military tacticians, died Nov. 19 of a heart attack and was buried the following day in Tel Aviv with full military honors. He was 62.

Bar-Kochba, known popularly by his original last name, Brill, was often in conflict with fellow generals over his ultranationalist views.

He was cited for negligence in 1984 by then army Chief of Staff Moshe Levy in connection with fatal beatings of two Arab bus hijackers who were already in custody.

But neither Bar-Kochba nor the Shin Bet official involved in the beatings during interrogation was directly implicated in the incident.

Bar Kochba resigned from the army two years ago in protest against failure to heed his recommendations as senior adviser to the general staff.

He was chided by army Chief of Staff Dan Shomron for publicly airing his complaints that Israel's military leadership had not learned from mistakes and was not prepared for a war.

Bar-Kochba was born in Poland in 1930 and immigrated to Palestine at the age of 12. He linked up with Irgun Zva' Leumi, the underground group headed by the late Menachem Begin, at age 16 and joined the Israel Defense Force when it was established in 1948.

He was awarded a medal of valor as a tank company commander in the 1956 Sinai campaign against Egypt.

During the Six-Day War in 1967, Bar-Kochba commanded a tank brigade and was wounded in a battle with the Jordanians that resulted in the Israeli army's capture of the Samaria region of the West Bank.

Despite his wounds, he refused to be evacuated and went on to lead his brigade against the Syrians in the battle for the Golan Heights.

In the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Bar-Kochba commanded a divisional tank formation against Syrian and Iraqi forces. He later served as chief of the Southern Command and commander of the armored corps.

Bar-Kochba joined the right-wing Likud bloc and was appointed director-general of the Israel Railways Authority, a post he held at the time of his death.