

**BLOODY STABBING SPREE IN TEL AVIV  
SETS BACK FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM  
By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, March 1 (JTA) -- A bloody stabbing spree by a Palestinian from the Gaza Strip that left two Jews dead has once again brought home to Israelis the bitter conclusion that they are limited in what they can do to combat terrorism.

Hours after the attack Monday in a busy commercial neighborhood of southern Tel Aviv, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin appeared before a Knesset committee and promised to take action. But Rabin also conceded there is little one could do as long as the present political stalemate in the administered territories continues.

The Israeli army announced it was sealing off the Gaza Strip temporarily, but Rabin said a permanent ban on Palestinian laborers entering Israel proper would only fuel more unrest in the Gaza Strip.

The Arab attacker, identified as Ziad Salame, 18, of Gaza, came to Tel Aviv on Monday morning in a car bringing laborers to the city. He emerged from the vehicle brandishing two knives, then ran down a street and stabbed nine pedestrians, two of them fatally.

Salame was chased and beaten up by incensed witnesses before being taken into custody.

A spokesman for the militant Islamic Jihad group in Damascus claimed Salame acted as a member of that organization. But Israeli police said he appeared to have been acting on his own, without any political affiliation.

However, police did say Salame was an Islamic fundamentalist and that his brother had been imprisoned for a year on account of membership in Islamic Jihad, an illegal terrorist organization.

Police said Salame had no previous police record and had a valid police permit to enter Israel proper to seek work.

**Had Decided To 'Kill Jews'**

Salame told police that he had entered Israel proper from Gaza to seek work and had decided to "kill Jews" because he had not been able to find work despite daily trips to Tel Aviv.

Police said Salame told them under interrogation he had bought a commando knife in Gaza on Sunday and also brought with him a kitchen knife from home.

The two killed in Salame's attack were Gregory Abramov, 27, of Tel Aviv, an unemployed recent immigrant from the former Soviet Union, and Natan Azariya, 28, of Holon, who was killed outside the barber shop he owned.

Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital reported that four other victims of the attack were being operated on for deep stab wounds, with one of them in serious but stable condition. Three others had been sent home after treatment for minor wounds.

In the last two weeks, Israel has seen a fatal stabbing in a residential neighborhood of eastern Jerusalem and rockets launched by Hezbollah forces in Lebanon landing in a kibbutz in northern Israel.

In his address to the Knesset committee, Rabin said the only lesson to be learned from the

new cycle of violence was the need to intensify the peace efforts, while continuing to take all possible measures against terrorism.

"But in the end, without coming to a political solution," Rabin said, the reality of mixing Palestinians from the territories with Jews inside Israel proper "has within it the potential that a murderous madman like this will rise up."

**Makes Further Gestures Difficult**

Rabin rejected demands from several Knesset members to bar all Palestinians from entering Israel.

Banning the Palestinians for anything longer than a short period of time would only leave residents without work and a source of income, he argued. Such a move would not solve the security problem, but would actually inflame passions, Rabin said.

Whether or not Monday's attack was organized by militant organizations directed from outside Israel or taken at Salame's private initiative, it clashed sharply with renewed hopes here that the peace process would once again take off.

Those hopes were encouraged by last week's visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the surprise visit Sunday by Osama el-Baz, senior political adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

There were even unconfirmed reports from Cairo that Mubarak may soon visit Israel, but government officials here said they knew nothing about it.

Rabin is now being forced to face challenges on two fronts: the external front of Arab terrorism and the internal front of the right-wing opposition, which is demanding Israel take tougher measures against the Palestinians and Hezbollah, even at the cost of stalling the peace talks.

In the atmosphere resulting from the aftermath of the Tel Aviv attack, it will be more difficult for the government to make further gestures toward the Palestinians deported to Lebanon. The deportees remain a stumbling block to resumption of the peace talks.

*(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv.)*

**U.S. JEWISH LEADERS MEET IN ISRAEL  
WITH A SENIOR PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL  
By Cynthia Mann**

JERUSALEM, March 1 (JTA) -- Leaders of organized American Jewry this week had their first official meeting ever with Faisal Husseini, the guiding force behind the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned.

The meeting, which was private and off the record, began a little after 11 p.m. Sunday and concluded after midnight at Husseini's headquarters, the New Orient House, in eastern Jerusalem.

According to a source who was present, Husseini, who is a senior adviser to the Palestinian negotiating delegation, though not an official member of it, gave a presentation to dozens of members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish organizations, who were here for their annual fact-finding mission.

He explained to them the steadily declining

support in the Palestinian street for the peace process, which hit a new low after the "shock of the deportations" carried out by the Israeli government.

But Hussein, who is said to be close to the moderate wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization, reportedly said he believed returning to the negotiating table is key.

"Even though he felt the issue of the 400 deportees was a clear violation of international law and continued to insist on Israel's acceptance" of a U.N. Security Council resolution demanding the deportees' return, "he was willing to accept commitments about the future of deportations in order to smooth the way to negotiations," said the source.

In other words, "he reduced the problem of the 400 to the principle of deportations in the future," the source said.

Hussein also reportedly criticized the current Israeli negotiating delegation's position on an autonomy agreement in the territories as "reflecting too much of the previous formulation" under Likud Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The "emotional high point, however, was not about politics but the role of (Palestinian) children and the impact on children of the continuing violence," the source said.

He said Hussein described the "life-changing impact" on his own son of an encounter with an Israeli soldier in a way "that will be remembered by all those present."

This drove home, he said, the point that in the ongoing encounter between the Jewish and Palestinian communities, "the fundamental emotional issues are more powerful than the minutiae of political negotiations."

# ISRAEL HAS 'SOLID UNDERSTANDING' WITH U.S. AFTER CHRISTOPHER VISIT

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, March 1 (JTA) -- U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Israel last week created a "very solid understanding with the United States and the Clinton administration" and paved the way for a resumption of the peace talks, according to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Speaking to American Jewish organizational leaders here Sunday evening, Rabin pledged his government would do "the utmost" to exploit the opportunities posed by the peace process without sacrificing Israel's security.

The prime minister said he would not allow terrorism to affect Israel's return to the negotiating table and, by the same token, the Palestinians have "no right to condition the continuation of the negotiations on our struggle against terrorism."

He called Palestinian efforts to link the peace talks to the return of the Moslem fundamentalists Israel deported to Lebanon "totally irrelevant." And he defended the deportations themselves as lawful and as having "delivered a real setback" to the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement.

Rabin made his remarks at the final dinner of the annual mission of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, where he was warmly received.

He told the Jewish leaders that Israel stands ready to withdraw its military forces on the Golan Heights to secure and recognized borders.

But he said Israel would not negotiate the

dimensions of the withdrawal until Syria discloses the nature of the peace it is willing to offer and makes clear the agreement will stand on its own, apart from the progress made in other tracks of the peace talks.

He also said his government would do its best not to "pay the same price" on the Golan that was paid for the peace treaty with Egypt, in which Israel agreed to "withdraw from every square inch" demanded by Egypt.

In the months following his election as prime minister, Rabin rebuked organized American Jewry for its interference in U.S.-Israeli relations, prompting charges that he did not appreciate or understand the importance of the role the community plays.

But on Sunday, the atmosphere was cordial and friendly. The conference presented him with a cake and serenaded him in honor of his 71st birthday.

He then opened his remarks with a brief but pointed reference to the importance of U.S.-Israeli relations and Israel's relationship with the American Jewish community.

Throughout its mission, the conference heard a host of government officials, including Foreign Minister Shimon Peres late last week.

Peres had high praise for the Clinton administration, the seriousness with which it approaches the peace process and the visit by Christopher. He said he could not remember "so much friendship delivered" in "so few words."

## RAFI PELED IS APPOINTED NEW ISRAELI POLICE CHIEF

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- The Cabinet has appointed Rafi Peled to be Israel's new chief of police in the midst of growing tension between the current chief, Ya'acov Terner, and Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

Peled, 48, was only recently appointed as commander of the Jerusalem district of the Israeli police.

Despite Terner's request to be dismissed immediately, the Cabinet named Peled to take over the top police position only when Terner's term ends next fall. As it stands, Terner's term had already been shortened by a half year from the original appointment.

Terner said he was considering leaving at once, despite the Cabinet's request that he stay at the post until Rosh Hashanah.

Relations between Shahal and Terner had never been very good, but they deteriorated considerably after Labor Party Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli reportedly suggested to Terner that he run as Labor's candidate for mayor of either Tel Aviv or Beersheba.

Shahal was infuriated that Terner was involved in political discussions while still in uniform. He consequently asked Terner to quit by next Rosh Hashanah.

Terner believed that his heir should have been announced closer to the time of his retirement. However, Shahal surprised him by asking the Cabinet to make the appointment as early as Sunday.

Terner reportedly felt that he could not carry out his job properly with his successor breathing down his back.

But the Cabinet wanted to avoid a situation in which the police would have no formal chief for more than six months.

## KUWAIT REJECTS U.S. REQUEST TO END THE SECONDARY BOYCOTT

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, March 1 (JTA) -- Despite a direct request from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Kuwait reportedly has refused to drop its boycott of companies doing business with Israel.

The Wall Street Journal reported last week that the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber al-Sabah, was not responsive to requests to lift the boycott made by Christopher, who was in Kuwait as part of his first trip to the Middle East.

David Harris, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee, said in a statement that the emir's refusal is "both an insult to (Kuwait's) ally liberator and friend, the United States, and counterproductive to the achievement of peace in the troubled Middle East."

Following the Persian Gulf War, Kuwait had pledged to repeal the laws institutionalizing the Arab League's secondary blacklist of foreign companies that invest in Israel, purchase Israeli products or have owners with "Zionist convictions."

Evidence that Kuwait has not kept its pledge is contained in figures compiled by the U.S. Commerce Department, which tallies requests made of American companies to provide information regarding their dealings with Israel.

Under U.S. anti-boycott legislation, American firms must report all such requests for information to the Commerce Department.

In fiscal year 1992, more of those requests were received from Kuwait than from any other Arab country.

### Informal Agreement Not To Enforce Boycott

The anti-boycott laws bar American firms from responding to most requests for information on such subjects as whether they have business dealings with Israel.

Because the Arab boycott requires such questions to be answered, any American company complying with American law would be virtually unable to enter the markets of an Arab country applying the boycott strictly.

But according to the American Jewish Congress, Kuwait is in fact not rigorously enforcing the boycott, despite drafting its contracts and purchase orders in accordance with it.

Will Maslow, general counsel for AJCongress and editor of its Boycott Report newsletter, said he had been informed by a State Department official that an informal agreement has been worked out among the six Arab Gulf states: Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

"In actual practice, if a commercial firm seeks to bid on a contract, (the Gulf states) tell them to disregard the clauses pertaining to the boycott," said Maslow.

"They are accommodating themselves to American and other pressure by not enforcing it against American and other firms," said Maslow. He added that the Kuwaitis have countervailing, anti-Israel pressure from Moslem fundamentalists.

According to Maslow, the State Department official said that the Gulf states are anxious not to publicize this arrangement.

Writing in the most recent issue of Boycott Report, Maslow said, "This arrangement, while a step forward, still is not satisfactory to the anti-boycott movement."

Jess Hordes, director of the Anti-Defamation League's Washington office, suggested that the apparent willingness of the Clinton administration to publicize its dispute with Kuwait over this issue would indicate that this arrangement is not fully satisfactory to the United States either.

Maslow said he could not point to any specific firms that have won contracts with Kuwait in apparent contravention of the boycott.

And other observers say that immediately after the Gulf war, Kuwait did indeed drop the boycott.

"Many contracts coming out of the Kuwaiti reconstruction office in Washington D.C. were completely devoid of boycott terms," said Joe Kamalick, editor and publisher of the Boycott Law Bulletin.

But by February 1992, a year after the liberation of Kuwait, "Kuwaiti contracts, and especially letters of credit, were beginning again to contain the same kind of boycott provisions characteristic of the years before the Gulf war," said Kamalick.

Prior to the Gulf war, Kuwait was the most diligent Arab country concerning the boycott, to judge by the number of requests for information filed by American companies.

Hordes said Kuwaiti diligence could be linked to the strong Palestinian presence in Kuwait generally and its boycott office in particular.

But during the Gulf war, the boycott office, like all government offices, was sacked by the Iraqis.

And then, following the liberation, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were expelled from Kuwait for supporting Saddam Hussein.

Perhaps reflecting these factors, as well as its announced suspension of the boycott, only 691 boycott queries were reported from Kuwait in fiscal year 1991, from Oct. 1, 1990 to Sept. 30, 1991, down from 4,677 the previous year.

But the numbers rose again in 1992, to 2,846 requests, compared to 1,568 from Saudi Arabia.

## AJCOMMITTEE AND AJCONGRESS HOLD TALKS ON POSSIBLE MERGER

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, March 1 (JTA) -- The possibility of merging the American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Congress has been the topic of high-level talks between the two Jewish defense organizations.

The talks, the most recent of which was this past Sunday, have been constructive but not conclusive, according to participants on both sides.

"While we have made good progress, it would be premature to draw any conclusions," said Henry Siegman. Siegman is due to retire at the end of this year as executive director of the AJCongress.

Both sides hope to be able to present an initial proposal to their boards by June.

The merger discussions follows years in which the two organizations, originally fierce ideological rivals, have become increasingly strapped for funds and similar in purpose. The AJCommittee was founded in 1906 and the AJCongress in 1922.

Alfred Moses, president of the AJCommittee, said that if the merger goes through, "there should be some savings of administrative costs."

But the real benefit, he said, would be "to have a larger, more influential organization."

## NEW GUINEA CHURCHES URGE NATION TO BAN ALL NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, March 1 (JTA) -- Jewish and Christian leaders here have expressed outrage at a proposal by Papua New Guinea's Council of Christian Churches to have the government ban all non-Christian religions.

A Council of Churches spokesman told Jewish sources in Australia that the proposal was directed mainly at Moslems and secondarily at Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons and Bahais. However, the spokesman said it would also apply to Jews.

Papua New Guinea, an island north of Australia that gained independence in 1975, has a population of 4 million, of which 97 percent are Christians.

Isi Leibler, chairman of the Asia Pacific Jewish Association and president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, said there are only about 10 Jews known to live in Papua New Guinea.

But he stressed, "The number is not the issue, the principle is, and the action of the Council of Churches is outrageous."

The move by the influential Council of Churches came at the group's annual meeting last month in Port Moresby.

Papua New Guinea's attorney general, Philoemon Embel, is against enacting such a law and has expressed his support for the right to religious freedom in his country.

In Australia, the Right Rev. Brian Kyme of the Anglican Church in Perth has urged the archbishop of Papua New Guinea to discourage "discrimination against non-Christians and particularly against Jews."

## DEMJANJUK BEGINS A HUNGER STRIKE TO PROTEST 'UNJUST LEGAL TREATMENT'

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, March 1 (JTA) -- John Demjanjuk, sentenced to death by an Israeli court for war crimes allegedly committed at the Treblinka death camp, began a hunger strike Monday to call attention to what he claims is his unjust treatment by the legal establishment.

Demjanjuk's lawyer, Yoram Sheftel, told reporters here that his client will fast for three days to protest an unacceptable delay by the High Court of Justice in ruling on his appeal.

It has been nine months since the High Court concluded its hearings on his appeal of the District Court sentence, while this week marks the end of his seventh year in prison.

Sheftel claimed the delay is due to the fear of embarrassment by Israeli justice officials in having to concede that the man paraded before the world as "Ivan the Terrible" is a victim of mistaken identity.

"Everyone is more interested in face-saving than in getting (the real) Ivan Marchenko and hanging him," he said, giving the name his defense team claims is that of the real "Ivan the Terrible."

His hunger strike will help "center-stage the Demjanjuk affair" and make it "not too comfortable" to continue to withhold the decision, Sheftel said.

The attorney said the only task before the High Court is to determine whether there are reasonable doubts that Demjanjuk is Marchenko.

He said new documentation furnished by KGB officials from interviews with Ukrainians who served as guards in Treblinka make a determination in his client's favor simple.

"There is not the slightest credible proof to dispute what Demjanjuk says," said Sheftel, "that he had nothing to do with concentration camps."

Sheftel said he was concerned about the delay because of Demjanjuk's age, 73 next month. He suggested the court was putting off a ruling in the hope that he would die and the case would fade away. "Everyone (involved) will benefit from his death," he said.

Several Nazi-hunters argue that even if the evidence casts doubt on Demjanjuk's identity as Marchenko, there is evidence he is another war criminal, a former guard at Sobibor.

But Sheftel said Demjanjuk does not have to prove he was not at Sobibor. "He was specifically extradited to face charges he is 'Ivan the Terrible,'" he said. "There is no way any other allegations are part of this" case.

Sheftel said if the court grants his appeal, the United States has to take him back under the terms of the extradition and that he wants to return to Cleveland, where he lived before being extradited to Israel in 1986.

No one at the Justice Ministry was available for comment on the case.

## 5TH TEST-FIRING OF ARROW MISSILE BY ISRAEL DESCRIBED AS A SUCCESS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- The fifth test-firing of the Israeli-built Arrow anti-missile missile was carried out over the Mediterranean shortly after noon Sunday in what was described as a successful launch.

The planned test of the Arrow, or Hetz in Hebrew, had been postponed twice last week, once because of a computer malfunction and again because of unsuitable weather.

Sunday's launching took place in calm weather and clear skies, with another Arrow serving as a target, launched from the coast and headed out to sea.

The test Arrow, launched from a ship at sea, locked onto the simulated incoming missile and passed within a few yards of the target.

Design engineers stressed that the test was not necessarily intended to be a direct hit. The test Arrow was not equipped with a warhead, which under combat conditions would have detonated in the vicinity of the target and destroyed it.

Israel Aircraft Industries, the missile's main contractor, described Sunday's launch as successful.

The United States has financed 80 percent of the development and construction costs of the Arrow as part of its so-called "Star Wars" defense program.

Israeli and U.S. engineers were already examining the launch data Sunday to ascertain how all the missile components were working.

The last test launch was carried out last September, but without a dummy target.

Previous tests have revealed problems involving navigation and remote control capabilities.

Experts warn that many years of work and further large sums of money are still required before the Arrow becomes fully operational and can provide Israel with defense against incoming Scud missiles and other weapons.