

**2 MORE DEADLY ATTACKS IN ISRAEL
PROMPT A CALL TO CARRY FIREARMS****By David Landau and Cynthia Mann**

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA) -- An atmosphere of deepening apprehension and outright fear in some quarters over the security situation in the wake of a spate of terror attacks here has spread even to Israel's Cabinet.

Government ministers on Sunday argued vigorously about an unprecedented statement made over the weekend by the nation's police chief that all citizens with gun licenses should carry their weapons with them at all times.

The heightened level of concern came as the country learned over the weekend of two more brutal murders.

Last Friday, Palestinian militants hacked to death with axes a 51-year-old Israeli woman, Simcha Levy, who regularly shuttled Arab laborers from the Gaza Strip to farms in Israel proper.

The same day, the army found the body of one of its soldiers, 24-year-old Yehoshua Friedberg, dumped on the side of the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway after he apparently was kidnapped and shot through the heart three times at close range.

The killings followed four other fatal attacks in the preceding two weeks and a number of less-mortal stabbing incidents.

The call to arms by Police Inspector-General Yaacov Terner had some Cabinet ministers worried that the appeal could depress the public mood further and decrease confidence in the army and the security services.

Ministers also were concerned the remarks might encourage both soldiers and civilians to shoot first and ask questions later.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir of the Labor Party spoke of the risk of inciting a "Wild West-type" culture in the country and termed Terner's proposal "irresponsible."

Police Force Beefed Up

But Terner defended his decision.

In comments to the media, the police chief recalled that a number of past terrorist attacks had been prevented by the intervention of armed civilians.

"Rather than keep their pistols in their safes," Terner said, "I would prefer people to wear them."

The Cabinet, meeting under the chairmanship of Shimon Peres while Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was abroad on a visit to the United States, made a number of operational decisions in the realm of security, some of which were not made public.

It moved to increase the size of the national police force and also discussed favorably a proposal to replace Palestinian agricultural workers with Jewish workers.

A number of Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip have already announced their firm determination to replace all of their Palestinian employees, but they are looking to the government to subsidize the additional cost of hiring Jewish labor.

Cabinet ministers said they would not support importing Thai or other foreign workers,

when so many new immigrants and veteran Israelis are unemployed.

As the Cabinet met, more violence in the territories was reported. A 3-year-old Palestinian girl from the West Bank town of Hebron died from wounds suffered when she was hit in the stomach by shots fired by Israeli soldiers Saturday night as she sat in the back of her father's car.

The army said the car had failed to stop at a military roadblock. The spokesman said the soldiers had acted according to standing orders when they opened fire at the vehicle.

PFLP Gang Claims Credit

Meanwhile, security forces searched for the killers of the soldier found dead on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway. Friedberg, who immigrated from Montreal two years ago, disappeared March 7 when he was en route to the Tel Hashomer army base, where he was scheduled to take an exam early Sunday morning.

Friedberg's friends and family have complained that the army delayed investigating his case for several days. They charged that despite their repeated calls beginning March 7, the army did not begin a full search until four days later.

The army defended its actions, saying the military police were notified on the morning of March 8 that Friedberg had not showed up for his exam the day before.

Friedberg, also a yeshiva student, was due to be discharged from the army in two weeks.

In Montreal, the Canadian Jewish Congress extended its condolences to Friedberg's family.

The murder of Levy in Gaza also shocked Israelis. The Red Eagles, an armed group affiliated with the George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Levy, a longtime resident of Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, apparently was killed by men disguised as women who flagged her down for a ride.

Sources said her murder showed signs of being carefully planned, possibly with the help of someone who rode with her regularly and knew her schedule and route.

Levy, who according to her friends believed strongly in building bridges between Palestinians and Jews, had been warned repeatedly by the military that her work was dangerous.

Friends said she insisted she knew the Arabs she drove and that they would not hurt her.

**RABIN HOLDS WARM SESSION AT STATE
IN ADVANCE OF WHITE HOUSE MEETING****By Deborah Kalb
States News Service**

WASHINGTON, March 14 (JTA) -- In a further indication that relations between Israel and the Clinton administration are getting off to a good start, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin held what was termed a positive meeting Friday with Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Rabin arrived Friday morning in Washington for a visit scheduled to last over a week that will include busy rounds of meetings with U.S. officials and American Jewish groups.

During Friday's meeting, which a State

Department spokesperson termed "very good," the officials discussed the Middle East peace process, the rise of Islamic fundamentalism and the threat posed by Iran.

Neither the State Department nor the Israeli Embassy would provide many details about the meeting, which ran for approximately three hours and included a working lunch.

The purpose of Friday's discussions was, primarily, to prepare for Rabin's scheduled meeting Monday with President Clinton.

National Security Adviser Anthony Lake and Edward Djerejian, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, also took part in the meeting.

Rabin's U.S. visit comes at a crucial time as Christopher works to persuade the various Middle East parties to return to the peace talks here April 20.

It is also a time when, facing pressure to reduce the federal deficit, the U.S. Congress has begun discussing the future of foreign aid, including the once sacrosanct economic and military assistance package for Israel.

Hope For Progress With Syria

Christopher and Rabin had already forged a good working relationship in the early weeks of the Clinton administration as they crafted a compromise deal on the 415 Palestinians whom Israel deported to Lebanon in December.

The relationship was enhanced by what most observers called successful meetings during Christopher's recent trip to Israel and other Middle Eastern countries.

But questions still hang over both the peace process and the issue of U.S. aid to Israel.

The Clinton administration has made the peace process a high priority, agreeing to serve as a "full partner" in the talks, assuming the parties engage in serious negotiations.

It is still unclear, however, whether the Palestinians will return to the negotiating table.

Although Christopher has expressed optimism that they will come back, Palestinian leaders have said they will not return until the Palestinian deportees are allowed to return to the administered territories.

Both Israeli and American officials, on the other hand, have spoken positively about the prospects for progress in the bilateral talks between Israel and Syria.

On the issue of foreign aid, the Clinton administration has strongly endorsed maintaining aid to Israel at its current level of \$3 billion annually for the 1994 fiscal year.

But at a news conference last week, Christopher would not speculate on aid levels beyond 1994, saying it was hoped that progress in the peace process and in economic reforms in Israel would lessen the need for American aid.

U.S. Deductions Expected

Israel is about to receive the first installment of U.S. guarantees for \$10 billion in commercial loans it hopes to take out over the next five years.

The once-controversial guarantees will be given to Israel in installments covering up to \$2 billion in loans per year, with the first billion being released Monday, according to the Israeli Embassy.

But Israel expects it will not receive guarantees for the full \$2 billion this year. That is because the United States reserves the right to

reduce the guarantees by the amount Israel spends in the administered territories, if that spending is considered inconsistent with terms of the loan agreement.

Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, who has been visiting Washington for meetings with U.S. officials, told Israeli reporters at a briefing here last week that he expects the United States to begin such deductions with the second installment of the guarantees.

While Israel has, for the most part, frozen the construction of homes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, it expects to spend some money in the territories that Washington would find objectionable.

Shohat said that starting this year, Israel will keep the United States informed on its expenditures, and that the deductions would begin in late 1993.

He declined to name a specific figure by which he expected the loan guarantees to be reduced.

Rabin and Shohat met Friday with Robert Rubin, a Clinton economic adviser, who gave them a briefing on the administration's economic plan and the economic situation in the United States, the Israeli Embassy said.

AID PACKAGE FOR SYRIA DEFEATED IN NARROW VOTE BY E.C. PARLIAMENT By Joseph Kopel

BRUSSELS, March 14 (JTA) -- Despite recent lobbying here by the Syrian foreign minister, the European Parliament has narrowly blocked the release of a long-withheld financial aid package to Syria because of that country's poor human rights record.

The vote this week marked the third time in a year that European Community financial aid to Damascus was denied.

The European Parliament, based in Strasbourg, France, has the power to veto agreements between the E.C. Executive Commission and non-E.C. countries.

It voted 249-75 with 29 abstentions on the proposal to provide \$184 million in financial aid to Syria. But since the motion failed to be supported by the requisite number of 260 votes, the aid package was denied.

Of the European Parliament's 518 members, just 353 were present during the vote.

During the debate on the proposal, the E.C. commissioner in charge of external affairs, Hans van den Broek, stressed Syria's important role in the Middle East peace process, but also insisted that Syria must let its Jews leave the country if they wish to do so.

Jews had been permitted to leave Syria on travel visas since April 1992. But last October, the steady flow came nearly to a halt and has remained at barely a trickle ever since.

The European Parliament also criticized Syria for harboring Nazi war criminal Alois Brunner since the 1950s.

Last month, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa visited the E.C. headquarters in Brussels and lobbied European leaders to release financial aid to Damascus.

During Sharaa's visit, Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld demonstrated here with the support of the Green bloc in Parliament and insisted that any aid to Syria be linked to the respect of human rights and Brunner's extradition, long sought by Germany and France.

POPULAR GENERAL DOFFS HIS UNIFORM, ANNOUNCES BID TO BECOME HAIFA MAYOR By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA) -- Maj. Gen. Amram Mitzna, a popular if controversial Israel Defense Force general who retired from his military career last week, has announced he will run for mayor of Haifa.

Mitzna said he would decide within the next few days whether to compete in the Labor Party primaries for the mayoral candidate or whether to run as an independent.

Mitzna attracted national attention as a colonel during the war in Lebanon when he wrote a letter to the army's chief of staff asking that he be suspended from his duties because of his "lack of confidence" on the political level.

The letter, which was subsequently leaked to the news media, was clearly referring to then-Defense Minister Ariel Sharon.

In parting interviews this weekend, Mitzna said he took some of the credit for Sharon's subsequent removal from the Defense Ministry, following recriminations leveled at the defense establishment in the aftermath of the September 1982 massacre at the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila in Lebanon.

Mitzna, who has been known in Israel as a dovish army general, said he was hounded by rightist political forces while serving as the army's chief commander of the central front in the late 1980s.

As part of that job, Mitzna was responsible for security in the West Bank when the intifada broke out in December 1987.

Mitzna's decision on whether to run as a Labor candidate or as an independent apparently depends whether the incumbent mayor, Labor's Arye Gurel, decides to step aside.

Local polls show a high percentage of satisfaction with municipal services, but only a low level of support, 22 percent, for Gurel.

Complaints About 'Parachuters'

Mitzna's announcement that he was entering politics comes just weeks after word leaked out that the nation's chief of police, Yaacov Terner, had been discussing with Labor Party officials his possible political career as Labor candidate for the mayorship of Tel Aviv or Beersheba.

In the ensuing scandal, many Israelis said that senior military or security officials should not be discussing their political futures while still in uniform.

As a result of the outcry, Terner was forced to resign his post earlier than he had previously intended. His resignation will take effect at Passover, and he is expected to run for mayor of Beersheba.

Like Mitzna, Terner was a decorated military leader. He was a senior air force officer before taking over the top spot on the national police force.

Although Israel, like many other countries, has a long history of military leaders becoming politicians, Mitzna's and Terner's immediate jump from uniformed officer to political candidate has some Israelis complaining about such "parachuters."

Supporters of the so-called parachuters cite the famous examples of Ezer Weizman and Ariel Sharon, both of whom immediately joined the front ranks of the Likud party after ending military careers, and Haim Bar-Lev and Mordechai

Gur, who similarly swapped their jobs as generals for Labor Party Knesset seats.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, though, served as ambassador to the United States between his army retirement and entry into politics.

The "parachuting" phenomenon has been declining to some extent in recent years, in response to a greater sensitivity regarding "separation of powers" and a repeated condemnation of politicization in the civil and military services.

Now, however, with the introduction of direct elections for mayors and other electoral reforms, party leaders are tempted to support popularly known, charismatic military figures to run for key public offices.

GERMANY SAYS NO TO INVESTMENT FUND BUT WILL GUARANTEE LOANS FOR ISRAEL By David Kantor

BONN, March 14 (JTA) -- Germany has rejected an Israeli proposal to establish a government-backed fund for investments in Israel, according to diplomatic sources here.

But after two days of intensive talks last week with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and an economic delegation from Jerusalem, Bonn said it would support an agreement that would provide guarantees for German private investment in Israel.

The agreement had been negotiated in 1982 and was ready for signature, but the Germans backed down because of political and legal problems concerning the status of Jerusalem.

According to some observers, Israel's military intervention in Lebanon, in the summer of 1982, may also have played a role in the German reversal.

The most tangible result of Peres' visit here was a decision by Germany and Israel to double to \$180 million a joint fund to finance scientific and technological research.

Most of the research is being done in Israel with the participation of scientists and scholars from both countries.

In several meetings here, notably with President Richard von Weizsacker and Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Peres outlined his vision of large-scale regional infrastructure projects financially backed by the Europeans, in particular Germany.

But the Germans apparently remained skeptical about their role in such projects and repeatedly pointed out that political differences in the region should be settled first.

MAN ADMITS BOMBING BERLIN MEMORIAL By David Kantor

BONN, March 14 (JTA) -- A 31-year-old right-wing extremist has confessed to the August 1992 bombing of a Holocaust memorial in Berlin.

The German worker, who appeared before the district court of Berlin, said he was motivated by neo-Nazi ideology and a belief in using violence to promote political change.

The defendant also confessed to two other bombings, one at a hostel for foreign asylum-seekers and a second at a cemetery in the Berlin neighborhood of Wedding.

The bombed Holocaust memorial, which commemorates the spot where Jews were collected by the Nazis for deportation to concentration camps, was visited shortly after the attack by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who came to Germany on a state visit last September.

LUBAVITCHERS GET A FIRST PEAK AT LOST BOOKS IN MOSCOW LIBRARY

By Alexander Lesser

MOSCOW, March 14 (JTA) -- In the midst of a turbulent week in Russian politics, Lubavitcher Hasidim won a small victory here.

For the first time in nearly 70 years, Lubavitch rabbis laid eyes on some of the books that once belonged to the father-in-law of their current rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson.

The Lubavitchers have been trying for nearly two years to recover the collection of roughly 12,000 volumes of religious books and manuscripts, which were seized by Communist authorities during the Russian Revolution and have been languishing in the Russian Library since 1919.

Rabbi Boruch Cunin of Los Angeles, who has spearheaded the recovery effort, visited what until recently was called the Lenin Library last week with some 30 other Lubavitchers from Russia, the United States and Israel.

"It was incredible happiness and pain all at once. I held a 200-year-old manuscript in my hands," said Cunin.

The visit was made possible by Russian Culture Minister Evgeny Sidorov, who early this month gave Cunin a letter authorizing the Lubavitchers to inspect the collection.

But as has so often happened in the Chabad movement's long struggle to regain the books, there was bad feeling on both sides in this round.

"The librarians were not cooperative," said Cunin. "At first, they showed us what purported to be a catalogue of the Schneerson collection, but it listed only about 600 books. Nevertheless, we selected 50 or so to look at."

"By the end of the day, the librarians brought out only 19. And they assigned us only four places in the reading room," he said.

"It's impossible to work at the library under those conditions," Cunin declared. "And there was harassment. Some lunatic came up to me and showed me a swastika, saying, 'We're going to finish what Hitler left off.'"

Considered 'National Treasures'

The librarians saw things differently.

"They were praying very loudly," complained librarian Mary Trifanenko. "We can't have that in the reading room. And they wanted to take pictures, but that requires special permission."

Chabad was nearly successful in obtaining the collection's release in the liberal atmosphere following the failed hard-line Communist coup of August 1991. But the matter became mired in conflicting court decisions and political wrangling.

In February 1992, Chabad activists briefly occupied the library to stress their demands, a move that, in the view of one source familiar with the matter, "only alienated those who might otherwise have been disposed to help them."

Last week Deputy Culture Minister Tatyana Nikitina told a local Moscow paper that the books are considered "national treasures" that cannot leave Russia without a "special decision" exempting them from a decree signed by President Boris Yeltsin forbidding the export of such treasures.

The Lubavitchers, for their part, have no intention of stopping their fight for the books.

"I'm going to Vancouver for the summit to lobby Clinton and Yeltsin, and I can still be in Los Angeles for Pesach," said Cunin, referring to the planned April 4 meeting in British Columbia between the U.S. and Russian presidents.

CZECH JEWISH COMMUNITY LAYS CLAIM TO PROPERTY CONFISCATED BY THE NAZIS

By Josef Klansky

PRAGUE, March 14 (JTA) -- Efforts to get back Jewish property confiscated during the Nazi occupation of this country have become a hotly debated issue here as property confiscated by the former Communist government is returned to its original owners.

The federation of Jewish communities of the Czech Republic has drawn up a list of 120 sites qualifying for restitution. They include synagogues, cemeteries, the Prague Jewish Museum and property that had belonged to B'nai B'rith lodges and Maccabi Hagibor sport clubs.

Jewish leaders, such as Jiri Danicek, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities, have proposed that the properties be returned to them under legislation to be drafted specifically for that purpose, since the current restitution laws would not apply to them.

After the collapse of the Communist regime in 1989, the new government passed laws to return confiscated property to its rightful owners, but they applied only to property taken after Feb. 25, 1948, the date of the Communist takeover.

Czech Jewish leaders insist that they, too, should be able to claim back buildings and land taken from the community between 1939 and 1945.

The government, however, is loath to push back the time limit of the current legislation to before 1948, since property restitution claims might then be applied to the nearly 3 million ethnic Germans who were expelled from Czechoslovakia and resettled in Germany, in accordance with the Potsdam agreement worked out with the victorious Allies.

The property was said to be expropriated from these ethnic Germans because they collaborated with the Nazis.

To get around this problem, Jewish leaders have proposed that special legislation pertaining to them be passed. The issue has become controversial, dividing political parties here.

Support From One Party

Jewish communities and individuals were dispossessed of their property during the Nazi occupation of the Czechoslovakia. After Adolf Hitler's defeat in 1945, the former Jewish property was considered as confiscated from Germans, who had been its last users.

Postwar decrees enabled Jews and Jewish organizations to apply for restitution of their former property, but the decimated minority of Holocaust survivors in most cases did not have enough strength or interest to make the necessary inquiries and start legal procedures in time.

As the current post-Communist government begins returning property that the Communist regime expropriated, the Jewish community feels that it has a second chance, and the right, to present its claims again. Accordingly, the list of major Jewish properties was drawn up.

The Liberal Civic Democratic Alliance, one of the coalition parties, has said it strongly supports the return of Jewish property.

Daniel Kroupa, one of the party's senior politicians, said the restitution should not be considered as violating the February 1948 time limit in the general restitution laws, but as a special case of undoing injustices committed by the Nazis. The move would constitute a gesture of good will on the part of the state, he said.