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**RABIN ANNOUNCES NEW SECURITY STEPS
AS TWO MORE ISRAELIS ARE SHOT DEAD**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 30 (JTA) -- The unrelenting wave of Palestinian attacks that has swept over Israel intensified this week, leaving Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin little choice but to announce new security measures he previously insisted were unnecessary.

After two policemen were shot dead in their patrol car Tuesday near Hadera, Rabin announced he would immediately beef up army troops in the territories, loosen regulations on when soldiers are allowed to fire live ammunition and ban West Bank Palestinians from entering Israel proper for an unspecified period of time.

He also said, in a somber television address to the nation Tuesday evening, that his goal is to create a "gradual reduction, as expeditiously as possible," in the number of Palestinian workers employed in Israel proper.

The Gaza Strip had already been sealed off since Sunday, after an Israeli man was stabbed to death there. But the move did not prevent another fatal stabbing from taking place Monday.

The almost daily killings have catapulted the level of violence to an unprecedented level, provoking rage at the government from the political right, and insecurity and fear on the part of average Israelis.

Last week, Rabin stressed that ultimately the only solution to the violence was a political one, reached in the peace process with the Palestinians and Israel's Arab neighbors.

But the worsening security situation apparently pushed the prime minister this week to take bolder security measures in the field.

Rabin's decision to allow soldiers to shoot at any armed Palestinian, even if not in imminent life-threatening danger, has long been sought by the right-wing parties and settlers.

Talk Of A National Unity Government

The deepening mood of gloom among the public has even prompted some Israelis to float the idea of Rabin joining forces with the right-wing opposition in a national unity government, a move that past Israeli governments have adopted in times of emergency.

Although nearly all Labor Party figures have so far rejected the idea outright, the mere fact that it was being discussed illustrated the gravity of the situation.

In Tuesday's attack, two traffic policemen were shot at close range as they sat in their patrol car before dawn near the village of Talmei Elazar, outside Hadera in central Israel.

Police say they were attacked by at least two assailants, who also stole the victims' service revolvers.

Some witnesses said the two victims, Sgt. Mordechai Yisraeli and Sgt. Danny Hazut, had been sleeping in their cars, but national Police Chief Ya'acov Terner discounted these reports.

The attack near Israeli Arab villages in the Wadi Ara region came on Land Day, when Israeli Arabs commemorate the 1976 protests against land confiscation in which six Arabs were killed.

Arab civic figures expressed sympathy for

the families of the two murdered policemen but said it was too late for them to call off the Land Day events they had planned.

Investigators said they had no positive clues as to the identity of the killers, though they were checking out reports of a white Peugeot van leaving the scene.

In graffiti scrawled on the walls in the Gaza Strip's Rafah refugee camp, the Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas claimed responsibility for the Hadera attack.

The assailants in the two Gaza killings earlier this week have not been captured either.

Likud Mounts An Attack

While Gaza settlers have been the leading voice this week of the anger and anguish that has engulfed the country, the settlers are not alone in their demands for firm action.

The attacks in Jerusalem and Hadera have drawn the entire populace into the eye of the storm, with a sense of personal insecurity pervading every sector of the Jewish population.

The Rabin government is suffering from the backlash of these attacks. Almost nightly demonstrations outside the prime minister's home in Jerusalem and elsewhere around the country have pilloried Rabin personally and demanded his resignation.

Several leading Labor Party officials have accused opposition leaders of deliberately fanning and exploiting the public unrest for their party's political purposes.

Meanwhile, the opposition has been invigorated by the election last week of Knesset member Benjamin Netanyahu as Likud's new chairman.

The two political camps sides clashed Tuesday in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, with Rabin squaring off for the first time with Netanyahu acting in his new capacity.

A special session of the full Knesset to discuss the opposition's criticism of the government was scheduled for next week.

At the Tuesday meeting, Rabin disclosed the decisions of an emergency Inner Cabinet meeting held hours after the Hadera attack to loosen the military's standing shooting orders and take other security measures.

The closure of the territories was to take effect at midnight and last "until further notice," Rabin said.

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer told army radio the government had information on heightened terrorist activity on the West Bank.

'Terror Has Never Defeated Us'

Terner, in comments to the media Tuesday, reiterated his call to the public at large to step up its security consciousness.

The outgoing police chief has urged all gun-owners to carry their weapons with them and has called for mass voluntary enlistment in the Civil Guard.

The Cabinet has resolved to beef up the police force immediately by 1,000 new cadets, diverting budgets from other ministries to cover the costs.

Proposals are also under study for the distribution of nightsticks to 11th- and 12th-graders in high schools, and the compulsory

teaching of self-defense techniques to younger pupils.

Rabin, in a series of public addresses, has called for a revival of the "spirit of '48," a reference to the days when the small Jewish Yishuv was pitted against armed attacks by Palestinians and defended itself with vigor and resoluteness.

In his TV appearance Tuesday night, the prime minister vowed a "war with all our strength" against the wave of terror, saying, "Our enemies must not begin to think we are weakened."

But other public figures have voiced queasiness over Rabin's approach, suggesting it may be seen in some quarters as giving license to Jewish vigilantism in defiance of the law and the law-enforcement agencies of the state.

That is apparently a risk the prime minister is prepared to take. He knows that if the deterioration in the security situation continues unchecked, his government could be in real danger of losing the public base of confidence needed to govern.

In an effort to boost morale, Rabin reminded the nation Tuesday night that Israel has won wars in the past "not by weaponry, but by strength of spirit."

"I understand the grief, the pain and the anger" that Israeli citizens are feeling, the prime minister said. But he added, "Terror has never defeated us, and it is not going to defeat us now."

U.S. SAYS IT WON'T LOWER AID TO ISRAEL TO PAY FOR INCREASED FUNDS FOR RUSSIA

By Deborah Kalb
States News Service

WASHINGTON, March 30 (JTA) -- The Clinton administration does not intend to take foreign aid money away from the Middle East to pay for new aid programs for Russia this year, Secretary of State Warren Christopher told a Senate subcommittee this week.

"We do not intend to find that money in aid to Israel or Egypt or the other of the Middle East countries at the present time," Christopher testified before the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations Tuesday.

Israel, which receives \$3 billion from the United States annually, and Egypt, which receives \$2.1 billion, are the two largest recipients of American foreign aid.

Because of the ongoing political and economic turmoil in Russia, the Clinton administration has called for an increase of at least \$300 million over the \$400 million Russian aid level this past year.

Questions had arisen on Capitol Hill about where the administration intended to find the money to pay for this new program.

In response to questioning from Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), the subcommittee chairman, Christopher said the money would not come from Middle Eastern countries because of "their needs and their importance in the peace process."

"The president said we intend to keep those items at a level amount this year," Christopher said.

President Clinton and other administration officials have said they would ask for aid levels for Israel to remain constant for fiscal year 1994.

The administration intends to present its foreign aid budget to Congress next week.

JEWISH GROUPS PRESS WHITE HOUSE TO TAKE A FIRMER STAND ON BOSNIA

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, March 30 (JTA) -- A delegation representing several Jewish organizations met with the White House on Monday, to press the administration to take a firmer stand regarding the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The meeting came in the wake of a meeting last week between Jewish groups and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic.

At that time, participants in the meeting promised to redouble their lobbying efforts for American intervention against what they feel are uncomfortable echoes of Nazi genocide.

In their meeting with Nancy Soderberg, staff director of the National Security Council, the delegation expressed the view of the organized Jewish community, as approved by the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council in February, that the situation in the former Yugoslav republic requires greater American involvement.

"We did express our disappointment that there was not until now a more forceful effort to stop the killing," said Abraham Bayer, director for international affairs of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council.

"But we did get a feeling that the president was giving them some kind of deadline."

Bayer said that when the Jewish community had broached the issue with the Bush administration, they were told it was not their affair.

"Now we're being invited to the White House," said Bayer.

The meeting was organized by NJCRAC. Participating were representatives of the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the Anti-Defamation League, B'nai B'rith, Hadasah and the National Council of Jewish Women.

VANDALS DESECRATE A PLAQUE RECALLING AN EARLY NAZI CAMP

By Igal Avidan

BERLIN, March 30 (JTA) -- A plaque commemorating Oranienburg concentration camp, one of the first Nazi camps established, has been desecrated, police said this week.

Packets of paint were thrown at the plaque, which is placed on a wall surrounding the concentration camp that served the Nazi Storm Troopers between 1933 and 1935, when the nearby Sachsenhausen camp was opened.

Police have not identified those responsible for the vandalism.

Wednesday marks the 60th anniversary of the day in 1933 when the first transport of prisoners arrived at Oranienburg, located north of Berlin.

A German supermarket chain had intended to build a market on the site in Oranienburg's city center, but the project was halted when the property's history became known.

A similar issue arose at the former concentration camp of Ravensbruck, where protesters blocked the opening of a supermarket at the site.

In a related development, police in Halberstadt, 93 miles west of Berlin, have arrested four right-wing extremists, ages 20 and 21, who desecrated a monument to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust last April.

Two of the perpetrators confessed to having planned and carried out the offense. Three stood guard while the fourth desecrated the memorial.

NEWS ANALYSIS: VOTE ON PEACE NOW MEMBERSHIP BID TESTED LIMITS OF JEWISH CONSENSUS

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, March 30 (JTA) -- A long-running debate that was resolved this week over whether to admit Americans for Peace Now to organized American Jewry's central umbrella group raised questions about how far the Jewish communal consensus stretches and how tight its grip should be.

APN's application for full membership in the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations was approved Monday during a closed-door meeting of the umbrella group's constituents.

The closely watched vote, which came after two hours of late-afternoon debate, was 27-10, with eight abstentions. Another two of the member groups present did not cast ballots.

"We're happy to be in," APN Chairperson Letty Cottin Pogrebin said after the vote. "We represent a sizable proportion of Jewish communal opinion, and I think we belong in."

But some Jewish groups had argued that APN's policy stances were outside the consensus of mainstream Jewish opinion and that, therefore, the group should not be admitted to the Conference of Presidents.

The Zionist Organization of America, for one, had argued prior to Monday's vote that membership in the conference would "give legitimacy to an organization that has for a long time advocated" that the Palestine Liberation Organization is an acceptable negotiating partner for Israel.

Such a move would "undermine Israel's negotiating position and show a weakness of the community's support for Israel," the group argued.

"Obviously, we're disappointed with the way the vote turned out, but that's democracy in action," ZOA President James Schiller said Tuesday.

But the majority of Presidents Conference constituents viewed the vote as a referendum not on APN's policies but on whether the Jewish community is broad enough to include them.

"If we are to be what we claim to be, a democratic community, we should be able to tolerate diversity and divergent views within our institutions," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

Foxman voted to accept APN, notwithstanding his disagreement with many of the group's positions.

Procedural Obstacles

Just how consensus binds members of the Presidents Conference has been a source of dispute for some time, a matter not made easier by the organization's lack of bylaws.

Prior to the vote, opponents of APN's entry had circulated what purported to be bylaws under which a single dissenting organization could block the conference from taking a stand.

But in fact, and as confirmed in the discussion prior to the vote, the consensus the Presidents Conference represents is determined by a simple majority vote.

While APN's admission was ultimately approved by a wide majority of Presidents Conference constituents, the victory came only after the group surmounted various procedural obstacles.

Within a week of submitting its application for membership last summer, a measure was

proposed that would require new members to be approved by a two-thirds majority, and only at the conference's annual meeting. That measure was approved, but it was not applied retroactively to APN.

And immediately prior to Monday's balloting, a motion to defer the vote pending further discussion by the membership committee was only narrowly defeated, reportedly by a vote of 21-17.

One of those supporting the motion to table consideration of the application was the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Steven Grossman, AIPAC's president, explained that "we felt that there was a lack of clarity expressed during these last months concerning the nature of APN's role in lobbying Capitol Hill and the administration on specific issues like arms sales, strategic cooperation, foreign aid.

On the vote to admit, however, AIPAC abstained, since it felt there was no agreement among its membership on what stance to take.

But another bloc that sensed no consensus among its membership, the Conservative movement, decided that its four member groups in the conference would vote in favor of APN.

"By excluding APN, the Presidents Conference would be sending a signal to the Israeli government and general public that the conference, rather than representing the community, espouses the views of one particular element of the Israeli body politic. In so doing, the conference would irrevocably damage its reputation as the legitimate voice of American Jewry," the Conservative movement said in a statement.

'Distressed' By The Rhetoric

Foxman of ADL said he was "distressed by the tenor of some of the rhetoric" he had heard opposing APN's entry.

Since ADL "declared early on that we would be supportive, we have received lots of phone calls and letters," Foxman said. "A number had a tone that disgusts me. That indicates a level of intolerance in our community," he said.

One leader of the bloc opposing APN's membership said he considered the vote at least a partial victory.

"If Peace Now's positions hadn't been exposed, the vote would have been unanimous," said Morton Klein of Philadelphia, a member of ZOA's national executive committee who wrote articles and letters attacking APN and its chief executive, Gail Pressberg, that were sent to Presidents Conference members in recent weeks.

"An important inroad was made. Many Jewish organizations will be vigilant in carefully monitoring the statements and positions APN takes in the future, and that's an important success," he said.

On a slightly more conciliatory note, the ZOA released a statement expressing hope that "APN will prove to be a positive factor in solidifying the base of support on behalf of Israel in the American Jewish community."

Meanwhile, Pressberg of APN is looking forward to joining the Presidents Conference.

"It will be good for us to be in discussions with organizations that represent many diverse points of view, to hear questions in people's minds, particularly people more conservative than we are," she said.

"Often, people with more liberal perspectives spend too much time talking to themselves, rather to people more conservative and vice versa."

**ISRAEL BEGINS RETURNING
SINAI ARTIFACTS TO EGYPT****By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, March 30 (JTA) -- The first of three shipments of ancient artifacts dug up in Sinai by Israeli archaeologists and slated to be returned to Egypt will be sent to Cairo this week.

The artifacts, collected during the time Israel held the Sinai desert from 1967 to 1982, are to go on display at the Cairo Museum.

Agreement on returning the archaeological finds unearthed in the Sinai, including some artifacts privately purchased by Israelis from antiquities dealers, was reached last January in accordance with international treaties.

The accords stipulate that in certain cases ancient artifacts must be returned to the country in which they were found.

At a handing-over ceremony Monday in Jerusalem, Egyptian Antiquities Department officials explained the decision to mount an exhibition at the Cairo Museum: "We want to show the Egyptian public that Israel is returning these finds that are part of the Egyptian heritage."

But Israeli archaeologists said the exhibition decision appears to be more of a political issue than a scientific, cultural or artistic matter.

The artifacts themselves are of relatively minor value and would not warrant a special exhibit in as prestigious an institution as the Cairo Museum, the foremost world museum housing ancient Egyptian and Pharaonic relics.

The Egyptians are to build a museum for the Sinai exhibits at El Arish within two years.

The artifacts include 10 tombstones from a Byzantine fishing village on the Bardiwill Lagoon in northern Sinai, purchased by the late Moshe Dayan from a dealer in Jaffa.

The tombstones include crude drawings of a face and a standard inscription in crude Greek noting that "no one lives forever."

**A TROUBLED RUSSIAN OLEH
STABS HIS WIFE TO DEATH****By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, March 30 (JTA) -- An immigrant from the former Soviet Union who had been ordered to stay away from his wife knifed her to death in Haifa on Monday as their 11-year-old son tried to stop the attack.

Anatoly Zubkov, who immigrated to Israel two years ago, had been ordered by police to stay away from his wife's home after a complaint was filed that he was beating her.

Despite the order, Zubkov forced his way into the apartment early Monday morning. Seizing knives from the kitchen, he stabbed his wife, Kira, repeatedly as she lay in bed.

Awakened by the noise, their son tried to pull his father away but, failing to do so, jumped through the ground-floor window and called the police.

Officers were on the spot at the house in Kiryat Ata in Haifa Bay within minutes. They found Zubkov crouching by his wife's body, with the knives still in his hands.

Anatoly had complained that his wife was having an affair with another man.

In related news, a survey carried out by the Kupat Holim Psychiatric Hospital in Jerusalem shows that some 40 percent of immigrants from the former Soviet Union describe themselves as being depressed.

**OVER 28,000 POUNDS OF MATZAH
DELIVERED TO NEEDY IN MOSCOW****By Alexander Lesser**

MOSCOW, March 30 (JTA) -- More than 28,000 pounds of kosher for Pesach matzah was distributed free of charge to needy Jews in Moscow by Lubavitcher rabbis the week before Passover.

First priority was given to the elderly and Holocaust survivors, who were identified through lists provided by local Jewish organizations.

The synagogue on Bronnaya Street, a stone's throw from the McDonald's in downtown Moscow, was filled with stacks of 2- and 3-kilogram packages of the unleavened bread.

"It smells like matzah everywhere," said one rabbi.

For those unable to come to the synagogue, volunteers delivered the matzah to their homes. Rabbi Boruch Cunin of Los Angeles estimated that 10,000 Jewish families would get matzah.

Across town at the Choral Synagogue on Arkhipova Street, the same process was under way.

A matzah volunteer at that synagogue estimated that more matzah was baked and distributed in Moscow this Passover than at any time since the Russian Revolution.

This year's production was a bonanza.

Massive matzah machines were used to make the unleavened bread, underscoring the fact that the era in which matzah served as a symbol of resistance to Communism has passed into history.

In Moscow, matzah is now a matter of mass production.

TWO JEWS WIN ACADEMY AWARDS**By Tom Tugend**

LOS ANGELES, March 30 (JTA) -- In a year in which remarkably few Jewish artists received Academy Award nominations, only two Jews managed to take home Oscars from Monday evening's presentation.

Author and screenwriter Ruth Prawer Jhabvala, who was not present at the ceremony, was awarded the Oscar for best screenplay adaptation of E.M. Forster's novel "Howards End."

It was the second such Oscar that Jhabvala has won for adapting a Forster novel. She received another in 1987 for her adaptation of "A Room With a View."

Born in Germany, where her father served as the cantor of Cologne's largest synagogue, Prawer Jhabvala immigrated to England when she was 12.

She is married to Indian architect C.S.H. Jhabvala and has three daughters. In a prolific career, she has written nine novels, all but one set in India, and the scripts for 12 theatrical and three television films.

Composer Alan Menken was a double winner, garnering his first Oscar for the score for "Aladdin" and the second for the song "A Whole New World" from the same animated film.

Martin Brest, producer-director of "Scent of a Woman" could not buck Clint Eastwood's two Oscars for best film and best director, but at least had the satisfaction of seeing his star, Al Pacino, chosen as best actor for his role in his film.

Hollywood's most famous convert to Judaism, Elizabeth Taylor, was honored with the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award for her tireless efforts to further AIDS awareness and research.