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**PALESTINIANS SEEM TO HAVE SUCCEEDED
IN DELAYING RESTART OF NEGOTIATIONS**
By Gil Sedan and David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 18 (JTA) -- The Palestinians have once again demonstrated they cannot be ignored in the Middle East peace process and that the Arab world is loath to negotiate with Israel without the cover of Palestinian approval.

Bowing to Palestinian pressure, Arab foreign ministers in Damascus said Saturday they wanted to delay the resumption of peace negotiations that had been scheduled to resume Tuesday in Washington. But they said a formal decision would not be made until Monday.

Although it seems that the talks will be delayed by one week only, the fact is that the talks are on hold -- because of Palestinian unhappiness that their demands have not been met.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa said Sunday that no Arab delegation would attend the peace talks unless the Palestinians took part.

Israeli officials received the Arab decision with disappointment, replacing the reserved optimism that had characterized last week's summit meeting between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The Israeli negotiators, who had been preparing to depart for Washington, were instructed by Rabin to delay their flights.

Israeli officials appeared to be surprised by the Arab decision to postpone the talks, voicing fear that the delay could extend beyond the few days now envisaged. These officials said the delay could build up a momentum of its own.

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's political department, was quoted Sunday as saying the PLO would propose April 26 as the resumption date.

That would be unacceptable to Israel, since it is the country's Independence Day. Consequently, the talks might be pushed back till April 27.

No Negotiations Over Concessions

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, in an interview on army radio Sunday, said Israel would not enter into any discussions over further concessions to the Palestinians prior to the resumption of the talks.

To do this, Peres said, would mean negotiating about the resumption itself -- rather than negotiating over substantive issues of the peace process.

However, the truth is that the Palestinian delegates have said all along that they would not return to the negotiations unless several conditions were met.

Kaddoumi said Sunday the Palestinians have raised six demands that did not receive satisfactory replies, among them applying the land-for-peace principle contained in U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to Jerusalem as well as the administered territories.

That is a non-starter for Israel, which maintains that Jerusalem is its indivisible capital and is not up for negotiation.

The Palestinians have also demanded the return of some 400 Islamic extremists whom Israel deported to Lebanon in December. But more recently, the Palestinians have indicated that they

would not insist on the return of all the men as a condition for resuming the peace talks.

Last week, Ziad Abu-Ziad, an adviser to the Palestinian negotiating delegation, said the minimum the Palestinians would demand was partial lifting of the closure of the territories, so that residents would not be banned from entering "Arab Jerusalem."

Palestinian leaders such as Faisal Husseini had said as early as two months ago that even if the Palestinian delegation wanted to, it was unable to return to the talks "under the present circumstances" because of popular opinion against the talks, fired up by rejectionist groups such as the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement.

'Undesirable,' But Not A 'Crisis'

In the past week, there were reports that the Palestinian delegates had received threats to their life if they went to Washington.

Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, said over the weekend that by no means would he return to Washington.

Husseini blamed the Israelis for making it difficult for the delegation to convince the people that the negotiations would improve the situation in the territories.

Rabin, at the weekly Cabinet meeting Sunday, blamed the Palestinians for the delay and praised both Egypt and the United States for their constructive role in the process.

Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States and head of the negotiating team with Syria, expressed disappointment Sunday that the talks were not opening in time.

Rabinovich said the delay is an "undesirable development" because the process is "complicated," and determining its timetable requires mutual trust.

But Rabinovich warned of overdramatizing the situation. He refused to describe it a "crisis" and said he did not see a scenario in which the Arabs would break away from the talks entirely.

"There may be an effort by some Arabs to change the rules of the game," he said, "but we are also party to determining the rules of the game."

**BRUTAL STABBING, CAR-BOMBING
END RESPITE FROM ARAB VIOLENCE**
By Gil Sedan and Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, April 18 (JTA) -- Israel's brief respite from Arab terror ended when two Palestinian extremists stormed into an office in Gaza City and axed to death an Israeli lawyer working as a consultant for the European Community.

The attack Sunday was the first terrorist killing of an Israeli in nearly three weeks, and the second since Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin sealed off the Gaza Strip in an effort to end a wave of violence that claimed 15 Jewish lives last month.

Palestinians from both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank continue to be banned from entering Israel proper, although the Cabinet decided Sunday to make exceptions for about 10,000 workers in order to ease the labor shortage crisis caused by the general closure.

Initial reports of Sunday's attack in Gaza

said that workers in the E.C. office, including Palestinians, pleaded with the armed men to spare the lawyer's life, insisting he had done much to improve conditions for local Palestinians.

But the attackers ignored the pleas and hacked to death the lawyer, who was identified as being from a suburb near Tel Aviv. His name was being withheld.

The Gaza killing came two days after an apparent suicide car-bomb attack in the West Bank that largely missed its target.

The car attack, which occurred at a roadside rest stop, killed the bomber and a Palestinian restaurant worker, and lightly wounded eight soldiers and another Palestinian.

The restaurant, near the Jordan Valley settlement of Mehola, is a regular stop for both Israeli soldiers and civilian buses, reports said.

The incident occurred midday Friday, when a white van with Israeli license plates -- later found to have been stolen from central Israel -- pulled in and parked between two Israeli Egged passenger buses.

The van, carrying an explosive charge, metal shrapnel and two cylinders filled with cooking gas, blew up, destroying both passenger vehicles and spewing debris over a wide area.

One of the buses had been carrying soldiers and the other civilian passengers.

Cabinet Extends Closure

"It was a miracle that both buses had discharged their passengers, who were standing at the cafe bar taking refreshments when the explosion occurred," said a senior police officer.

The vehicles were set on fire and the casualties would have been far greater had the buses been filled at the time, security officials said.

Responsibility for the attack was claimed by both the armed wing of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement in the territories, and a group in Beirut calling itself Hezbollah-Palestine.

If the bomb was indeed found to have been set off by a suicide bomber, security sources said it would be the first such case inside the territories and would signal a sharp escalation in the level of terrorist violence.

The eight injured soldiers were treated for relatively minor cuts and bruises at the Ha'emek Hospital in Afula. Five were released by Friday afternoon, with another three held for further observation.

Although the two attacks over the weekend were the most serious since Rabin ordered the West Bank and Gaza Strip closed at the start of the month, it was noted that they both occurred inside the territories and not in Israel proper.

The Cabinet decided Sunday to extend the general closure "until further notice" and review it weekly, while gradually lifting it for specific groups of workers.

Work permits are still restricted to farm laborers, but the government is expected to gradually allow more and more construction workers to return to work in Israel.

The Cabinet decision came in sharp contrast to the Palestinian demand to lift the closure as one precondition for the resumption of the Middle East peace talks.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters that the closure would remain in force as long as there existed no other solution to the wave of attacks by Palestinians against Israeli civilians.

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

PFLP COMMANDER IN SOUTHERN LEBANON REPORTEDLY HIT BY ISRAELI COMMANDOS **By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, April 18 (JTA) -- Israel has declined to comment on reports from Lebanon that a top commander of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine was gunned down by Israeli commandos.

Reports out of Lebanon said Samir Suweidan, a Lebanese citizen and PFLP liaison officer with Hezbollah forces in Lebanon, was killed Friday afternoon by an Israeli force north of the border security zone in southern Lebanon.

According to initial reports, Suweidan was killed, together with his wife, their 11-year-old daughter and another man, when their private car was ambushed in a tobacco field near the family home in Yatar village, just beyond the northern border of the security zone.

Later reports from Beirut said that Suweidan himself had not been killed in the attack, but had been seriously wounded and hospitalized in Sidon.

The daily Ma'ariv newspaper quoted a senior Israeli military source as saying that Suweidan was "the sort of terrorist who has been in our sights for a long time, and he deserves to have been wiped out, whoever did it."

Conflicting reports described the attack near Yatar as an infantry ambush assisted by helicopter, an assault by helicopter-borne commandos or rockets fired at Suweidan's car from helicopters.

Other reports suggested the operation was intended as a kidnapping of Suweidan. According to this version, the attack team, having failed to capture him, called in helicopter gunships to destroy Suweidan's car as he left his village.

PFLP and Hezbollah guerrillas are held responsible for a number of terrorist assaults against Israelis, including a series of Katyusha rocket attacks against the western Galilee last year, in which a 5-year-old girl was killed at Moshav Granot.

DRUSE IN GOLAN RALLY FOR SYRIA IN RIOTS INJURING ISRAELI POLICE **By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, April 18 (JTA) -- A dozen Israeli police officers were lightly injured Saturday in pro-Syria riots staged by Druse residents of the Golan Heights to mark Syrian Independence Day.

Northern District Commander Ya'acov Ganot was among those injured by the rioting stone-throwers in Majdal Shams, the largest Druse town in the Golan Heights.

One of the injured policemen was hospitalized for observation.

Police fired tear-gas cylinders to disperse the rioters, who had apparently stockpiled stones, metal bars and other objects on the roofs of homes and in alleys in advance of the rowdy demonstration.

Four suspected rioters, all residents of Majdal Shams, were arrested.

In recent days, pro-Syrian residents of Majdal Shams have flown Syrian flags in anticipation of the Independence Day celebration.

The Druse population in the Golan is divided among pro-Syrian and pro-Israeli factions, although pro-Syrian sentiment seems to be growing.

Former pro-Israeli Druse are now referring to the Golan Heights as "occupied Syrian land which should and will ultimately be returned to Syria."

THOUSANDS OF JEWS GATHER IN POLAND FOR START OF GHETTO UPRISING EVENTS

By Jed Sunden

WARSAW, April 18 (JTA) -- Solemn commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising against the Nazis began this weekend, with thousands of Jews from around the world attending special ceremonies at the city's sole remaining synagogue and at the government's Palace of Culture.

Jews, Polish dignitaries and Catholic Church officials joined together in a host of other commemorations as well, all of them just a precursor to ceremonies Monday, when the actual anniversary of the April 19 uprising was to be marked with addresses by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

The events Sunday, on Holocaust Remembrance Day, also included the unveiling at the city's Jewish cemetery of a monument dedicated to the child victims of the Holocaust.

At a special interfaith service at Warsaw's Nozky synagogue, the chief rabbi of Poland, Pinchas Menachem Joskowicz, opened the ceremony, which also included an address by Archbishop Henryk Muszynski, who represented the Catholic Church in Poland.

Pawel Wilestein, head of the Jewish Religious Organizations of Poland, also addressed those assembled, speaking about the uprising fighters.

"Though these fighters did not see the final victory of good over evil, they will always remind us that Jews were in the forefront of the struggle for human freedom," he said.

Joskowicz emphasized the religious message of the uprising, saying: "As important as the military resistance was, we must remember the spiritual resistance."

"The Jews of Warsaw, and those in the camps, never stopped praying and never stopped believing. Jews have never put down these weapons," the Hasidic rabbi said.

Archbishop Muszynski relayed the prayers of Pope John Paul II to the victims of the uprising.

And parallel to the ceremonies in Warsaw, the Polish-born pope in Rome paid special homage to Jews as part of his weekly Sunday message to the public, read out at noon after mass from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica.

Pope Recalls 'Unheard Of Crimes'

At the Polish government's Palace of Culture and Science, the governor of Warsaw sponsored an evening rally in honor of Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Representatives of local and international Jewish organizations addressed those gathered, as well as members of the Polish government and uprising survivors.

The Jewish theater of Warsaw also presented a play in both Yiddish and Polish.

Earlier in the day, over 1,000 people attended the unveiling of the monument to the child victims of the Holocaust.

Jack Eisner, an American who survived the war as a child in the ghetto, dedicated the monument and played a recording of him singing in a choir in the Tlomackie Street Synagogue before the war.

The Nazis, upon finally subduing the uprising after nearly a full month of fighting, blew up the Tlomackie Street Synagogue as a symbol of their victory over the Jews.

In Rome, the pope marked the uprising

anniversary by saying that "the days of the Shoah represented a true night in history, registering unheard of crimes against God and man."

Speaking to scores of thousands of people filling St. Peter's Square, including a group of Italian Jews and concentration camp survivors, the Polish-born pontiff asked:

"How can I not feel close to you, beloved Jews, and to remember in prayers and in meditation such a painful anniversary?"

The concentration camp survivors wore symbolic yellow stars on their chests with the slogan "I will not forget" to mark the ghetto uprising anniversary.

"Be certain, you are not alone in bearing the pain of this memory. We are praying and are with you," the pope told those assembled.

'Part Of Our Common History'

Earlier, the pope marked the uprising anniversary with a call for dialogue and cooperation between Christians and Jews in fighting anti-Semitism and other prejudices.

The pope made that call in a letter to the Coordinating Commission of Jewish Organizations in Poland. The letter, dated April 6, was made public Friday.

It is "necessary for us, Christians and Jews, to be first blessing to one another," the pope wrote. "This will effectively occur if we are united in the face of the evils which are still threatening: indifference and prejudice, as well as displays of anti-Semitism."

In Germany, state officials also marked the uprising anniversary.

The German president, Richard von Weizsacker, acknowledged the uprising as a "shattering and living reminder of those people who have given their lives for freedom and dignity."

The mayor of Berlin, Eberhard Diepgen, also recalled the uprising and honored its heroes.

"These were not our crimes, but they are a part of our common history, and we, as well as future generations, are responsible to it," he said.

(Contributing to this report were JTA correspondents Ruth E. Gruber in Rome and Igal Avidan in Berlin.)

EX-HEAD OF ARROW MISSILE PROJECT FOUND GUILTY OF ACCEPTING A BRIBE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 18 (JTA) -- The former head of Israel's Arrow anti-missile missile project was found guilty Sunday of accepting bribes from a Canadian supplier of parts for the Israeli-designed and built missile.

Dov Raviv, who headed the U.S.-funded Arrow project at Israel Aircraft Industries, was found guilty by Tel Aviv District Court Judge Amnon Strashnov of accepting a \$175,000 bribe.

Strashnov, who will sentence Raviv later this week, rejected Raviv's claim that the \$175,000 was a legitimate payment he received for "professional advice" given to the Canadian firm.

Strashnov found Raviv not guilty of charges he had defrauded Israel Aircraft Industries out of some \$500,000, apparently because the prosecution failed to bring to court the main prosecution witness from abroad.

Raviv, 57, is widely regarded as the brain behind some of Israel's most advanced weapons projects. He is not suspected of having endangered state secrets in connection with the bribery scandal.

WITH SIRENS AND MEMORIAL TORCHES, ISRAEL STOPS TO REMEMBER 6 MILLION

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, April 18 (JTA) -- At precisely 10 o'clock on Sunday morning, the mournful wail of a siren brought Israel to a standstill, as it does every year on Yom Hashoah.

The two-minute siren, which could be heard in every street and alleyway in the country, wailed in memory of those who died in the Holocaust.

At the sound of the blast, people froze in midstride. Drivers stopped their cars in the middle of the road and stood at attention. Nothing -- not even the blue-and-white flags that were flown at half-mast -- moved in the hot, breathless air.

This year, Yom Hashoah, or Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day, paid special tribute to those who resisted the Nazis through organized revolts and personal struggles.

Events at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and the Knesset focused on the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, which became the symbol of Jewish resistance throughout Europe during the Holocaust, and on smaller revolts in several ghettos and death camps.

On Saturday night, the eve of Yom Hashoah, all restaurants and places of entertainment such as movie theaters and concert halls were closed, adding to the already solemn atmosphere.

Israel Radio confined its selections to Israeli folk songs and classical music, while Israel Television pre-empted its regular programming with programs about the Holocaust.

At Yad Vashem, Holocaust survivors, their families and dignitaries gathered for the first of three emotion-filled ceremonies.

Six survivors, all of whom now reside in Israel, lit the six memorial torches. Three of the torch-bearers fought in the Warsaw Ghetto resistance, two participated in the uprising at the Bialystok Ghetto and one fought in the prisoners' revolt at Treblinka.

In speech after speech, dignitaries remembered the fallen and called on Israel to prevent another Holocaust.

'Younger Generation Remembers'

On Sunday morning, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told those gathered at Yad Vashem, "We have learned from the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising not to be weak, that we can depend only on ourselves. The State of Israel will ensure that the Holocaust will never happen again."

Referring to the recent upsurge in anti-Semitic and other hate crimes around the world, Aaron Carmi, head of the Organization of Partisans, Fighters and War Disabled, said, "We will not tolerate the emergence of neo-Nazism anywhere in the world.

"We must be careful and vigilant," he said. "We will maintain and protect our strength and security so that we will be able to make peace with our neighbors."

Yitzhak Arad, the chairman of Yad Vashem, sounded the only upbeat note of the day when he scanned the large crowd and observed, "I see many of our third generation here. The young people are very sensitive to the Holocaust, and every year more and more youths attend the ceremonies.

"This is proof that the younger generation remembers, and it must lead the way to protect future generations," he said.

GORE SPEAKS OF THE 'UNSPEAKABLE' AT MEMORIAL CEREMONY IN NEW YORK

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, April 18 (JTA) -- Pomp and pageantry attended the commemoration here Sunday of the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

The presence of Vice President Al Gore, the accompaniment of an army band playing Jewish prayers and Holocaust lullabies and a full military presentation of regimental color guard lent no small measure of respect to the proceedings, which were held at the refurbished Paramount theater at Madison Square Garden.

Standards of the various regiments whose men had liberated the concentration camps were paraded into the theater with full honors, and the Stars and Stripes was brought to stand beside an Israeli flag, both of them borne by American servicemen.

An army soloist, Staff Sgt. Robert Petillo, gave an emotional, faultless presentation of Yiddish songs of the ghetto. Jewish folk singer and actor Theodore Bikel chaired the proceedings in Yiddish and English, which were held on Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

For the event, some 6,000 survivors of Nazi concentration camps, members of resistance groups and those who came out of respect lined up more than two hours early to get into the Garden. They completely filled the cavernous indoor arena, where tens of others who had no tickets found space, even just to stand.

And the vice president was there, from beginning to end, as he had promised.

Gore, wearing a small black yarmulka, sat attentive to the children's songs, the lighting of memorial candles and every person's speech, speaking only at the end of the proceedings.

Sitting on the podium with him were New York's Mayor David Dinkins, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), Israeli Consul General Colette Avital and organizers of the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization, including founders Benjamin and Vladka Meed.

'Must Such Horrors Go On And On?'

Gore's presence here on Sunday and in Warsaw on Monday was absolutely at his own choosing, a Gore aide told a questioning reporter.

The vice president's lengthy speech illustrated his grasp of Holocaust history and its meaning for Jews and the world. He began with a detailed accounting of "the unspeakable."

"How could the human race have allowed such a calamity as the Holocaust to fall upon us?" he asked.

"Numbers, of course, seem so pitifully incapable of conveying the meaning of an episode that stands outside the borders of all customary moral judgment."

"The story of the Warsaw Ghetto is sacred text for our time," the vice president said.

He drew parallels with the Serbian "ethnic cleansing" campaign against Moslems in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

First calling up the image of the little Jewish boy with his hands in the air surrendering, Gore said, "I recently saw the photograph of another child of Europe. He was 10 years old. He lived in Sarajevo. He was killed by shellfire in the Serbian siege of the city."

"Must such horrors go on and on? They must not," he said.