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**50 YEARS AFTER COURAGEOUS REVOLT,
THOUSANDS RETURN TO WARSAW GHETTO**
By Jed Sunden

WARSAW, April 19 (JTA) -- Fifty years after a small band of courageous Jews launched a desperate revolt in the Warsaw Ghetto against the Nazis, thousands returned to the site of the uprising to honor the warriors and pay homage to the victims of the Holocaust.

Among those taking part Monday in a somber ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of an uprising that began April 19, 1943, and lasted through mid-May were Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, U.S. Vice President Al Gore and Polish President Lech Walesa.

Walesa praised the Jewish fighters, telling them: "You have not been defeated. The cause that you were fighting for has won."

On a podium framed by two large, flaming torches, Walesa, Rabin and Gore addressed a crowd of 4,000 that packed a city block in the Warsaw neighborhood where the ghetto once stood.

A Polish military band played the music to Israel's national anthem, Hatikvah, as the crowd, eerily silent, held up candles during the evening ceremony.

"We must be vigilant in fighting anti-Semitism wherever it appears, for it was, after all, anti-Semitism in its virulent form which created the tragedy that we remember here tonight," Gore told those assembled.

The vast majority of the ghetto's remaining Jews were deported to the Treblinka concentration camp after the Nazis finally crushed the rebellion ruthlessly and destroyed the ghetto.

Rabin, in his speech, paid tribute to the heroism of those who fought in the uprising and reminded the world never to forget the tragedy of the Holocaust.

The prime minister, who spoke in Hebrew, ended by saying, "I'm now going to close with the words that were on the lips of the Jews before they were killed." He then put on a kippah and recited the Shma Yisrael prayer.

'New Chapter' In Relations With Poland

Earlier in the day, Rabin, who became the first Israeli prime minister to visit Poland, met with his Polish counterpart, Hanna Suchocka.

In his statement after the meeting, the first of several scheduled sessions with members of the Polish government, Rabin said, "We can not forget the past. But at the same time, we must look forward to a better world."

"We have opened a new chapter today in our relations with the Polish people and government," he said.

After the 1967 Six-Day War, the Communist government of Poland severed diplomatic ties with Israel. Relations were only re-established in 1989, after the collapse of Communist rule. After the talks, Rabin extended an official invitation to Suchocka to visit Israel.

Rabin also laid wreaths Sunday at the Monument to the Heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and other sites in the ghetto.

Some 50 or 60 wreaths were laid at the

monument to the ghetto uprising heroes, with 10,000 people taking part, including many non-Jews, Holocaust survivors and their children.

On Monday afternoon, Rabin met with Walesa at the Belvedere Palace and afterward with Gore, before going to the evening ceremonies.

Included in the crowd Monday evening were several survivors of the uprising, including Marek Edelman, the only commander to survive the war.

One surviving fighter, Masha Putermilch, flew from Amsterdam to attend the ceremonies.

Before leaving for Warsaw, Putermilch said in Amsterdam that it was to be her first time returning to Poland, which she called "one big grave, a country whose soil is covered with Jewish blood."

Remembering the uprising, Putermilch said: "The Germans walked in the middle of the street, surprised. I still recall the shouts of one soldier pointing at one of the windows behind which we were firing on them. 'Look Hans, a girl who fights,' he said. It was me he pointed to."

The official ceremony here ended with a special sound and light show that simulated the burning of the ghetto, the sounds of gunshots and the chaotic violent struggle of the revolt.

Earlier Monday, a memorial monument for the Fallen Jewish Fighters whose Place of Burial is Unknown was unveiled in the Jewish cemetery on Okopowa Street here.

And the Jewish Historical Institute opened an exhibition of rare documents saved from the ghetto, entitled "Ringelblum's Archives Saved."

Ceremonies In Other Cities

The 50th anniversary of the uprising was also noted in several other cities around the world.

In Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres spoke at a special commemoration. He pledged the Jewish people would "never become weak again."

"If we had had a state (and) an army," he said, "the Nazis wouldn't have been able to do what they did."

"Anti-Semitism is a non-Jewish malady, but weakness is a Jewish malady, and we have decided to cure ourselves of this malady," said the foreign minister.

In France, Jews gathered in the Paris suburb of Drancy, the location of the transit camp from where rounded-up Jews were sent to Auschwitz.

In contrast to previous years, many Jewish youths attended the ceremony, which in the past attracted a dwindling number of elderly participants.

The French Union of Jewish Students decided to set the record straight and affixed a plaque at the site of the Drancy camp stating that Jews were deported from there by the police forces of the collaborationist Vichy regime. The previous inscription mentioned only the Nazis.

The main ceremonies to mark the uprising and Holocaust Remembrance Day were held in Paris at the Memorial of the Unknown Jewish Martyr, in the presence of Simone Veil, now a senior member of the new French Cabinet who was herself deported to Drancy and Auschwitz. A representative of French President Francois Mitterrand also attended.

Amsterdam was the site of large-scale Holo-

caust and Warsaw Ghetto Uprising commemorations as well.

Ceremonies took place Sunday in the courtyard of the old Hollandsche Schouwburg theater, which, from July 1942 to September 1943, served as a collecting site for Jews prior to their transfer to Westerbork concentration camp.

(Contributing to this report were JTA correspondents Henriette Boas and Ruben Vis in Amsterdam, Michel Di Paz in Paris and Cynthia Mann in Jerusalem.)

STUDY FINDS IGNORANCE ABOUT HOLOCAUST WIDESPREAD AMONG U.S. ADULTS, STUDENTS

WASHINGTON, April 19 (JTA) -- Ignorance of the Holocaust is rampant among a significant portion of American adults and high-school students, according to a survey conducted by the American Jewish Committee.

Sizable minorities of those questioned said they were open to believing the possibility that the Holocaust never happened at all. However, a majority of both adults and youth believe the Holocaust is relevant today and that it is important for all Americans to know about and understand the Holocaust.

The survey, called "What Do Americans Know About the Holocaust?" and released here Monday, was based on questionnaires filled out by 992 adults and 506 high-school students.

The study underscored that a serious knowledge gap exists in both groups with regard to basic knowledge about the Holocaust.

Thus, for each of four questions measuring basic knowledge of the Holocaust, from over one-third to just under two-thirds of American adults and a majority of high-school students failed to answer correctly.

When asked in an open format, "As far as you know, what does the term 'Holocaust' refer to?" 38 percent of adults and 53 percent of high-school students either said they "don't know" or offered completely incorrect answers.

When asked, "From what you know or have heard, what were Auschwitz, Dachau and Treblinka?" 62 percent of adults and 48 percent of high-school students answered "concentration camp"; 38 percent of adults and 51 percent of high-school students either said they "don't know" or answered incorrectly.

Sixty percent of the adults and 53 percent of the students agreed with the statement "The Holocaust makes clear the need for the State of Israel as a place of refuge for Jews in time of persecution."

When asked, "Approximately how many Jews were killed in the Holocaust?" 35 percent of adults and 28 percent of youths answered "6 million"; 65 percent of adults and 71 percent of students either said they "don't know" or answered incorrectly.

David Singer, AJCommittee director of research, commented: "The survey findings underscore the serious lack of knowledge that exists for disturbingly large numbers of both adult and youth in the United States with regard to basic knowledge about the Holocaust.

"At the same time, however, a majority of Americans, both younger and older, do acknowledge the importance of knowing about the Holocaust. Providing such knowledge is clearly an urgent desideratum, since a significant majority of Americans, both adults and youth, are open to the idea that the Holocaust never happened," he said.

U.S. HOPING DELAYED PEACE TALKS CAN BE RESTARTED IN ABOUT A WEEK

By Deborah Kalb
States News Service

WASHINGTON, April 19 (JTA) -- U.S. officials are expressing hope that the delay in reconvening the Arab-Israeli peace talks, which were to resume here Tuesday, will be relatively short.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters Monday that the Arab parties "have not accepted for tomorrow, and there may be a delay of something like a week."

The Palestinians, who had said they were not prepared to return to the negotiations until issues including the fate of some 400 Palestinians deported by Israel in December was resolved, succeeded in convincing other Arab parties to seek a delay in the talks.

Israel had been the only party to accept formally the joint U.S.-Russian invitation to resume the negotiations Tuesday, but Syria, Lebanon and Jordan had apparently been eager to return to the table.

The United States and Israel had previously said Israel would not be pressed to make more concessions to lure the Palestinians back to the negotiations, but Israel had planned to offer new proposals once the talks resumed.

Representatives of the Arab parties in Damascus reportedly spent the weekend and Monday discussing what the next step was to be.

Boucher told reporters that U.S. diplomats, including Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Assistant Secretary Edward Djerejian, were in touch with "a whole mix of people" to discuss the situation.

Christopher spoke over the weekend with the Syrian and Egyptian foreign ministers, Boucher said. He said Christopher remains optimistic that the parties will return to the talks.

"He continues to have confidence that they will return, and that confidence is based on our extensive discussions with the parties," Boucher said.

GADHAFI CHANGES TUNE ON ISRAEL, BUT PERES ISN'T LULLED BY MELODY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 19 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has challenged Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi to join the Middle East peace process and prove his claim that he has changed his approach to Israel.

Peres made the comments in reaction to news reports that Gadhafi had invited former Libyan Jews in Israel to visit their home country and was offering compensation for property the Jews had left behind in Libya.

Peres added that Israel would welcome Libyan pilgrims to Israel's holy places, just as it would welcome any Moslem pilgrims from other parts of the world.

Gadhafi's reported gesture to former Libyan Jews would parallel moves by another north African country, Morocco, which has allowed Israelis of Moroccan origin to visit the country without any visas, under the claim that they were still considered Moroccan citizens.

The comments by Peres and Gadhafi came after other reports in the media that Libya was interested in joining the multilateral working groups in the peace process, but was reluctant to announce it publicly.

MURDER OF ISRAELI LAWYER IN GAZA SHAKES JEWS AND PALESTINIANS ALIKE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 19 (JTA) -- The brutal murder this week of an Israeli lawyer who was working with European officials to improve the lot of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip has shaken both Jews and Arabs in the midst of a sensitive time politically.

Sunday's killing of Ian Feinberg, 30, took place in a Gaza office just as the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks with Israel was deliberating whether or not to return to the negotiating table in Washington.

Israelis were particularly disturbed by the killing, since it broke an unwritten rule that non-partisan Israelis, such as lawyers and journalists, enjoy immunity from terrorist attacks.

The murder of Feinberg, who was doing work for a European Community-financed aid provider called Cooperation for Development, proved there are no limits in the bitter war between Jew and Arab and that virtually any means are being justified to achieve the end.

The Red Eagles, an armed cell affiliated with George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, claimed responsibility for the attack.

It posted notices on Gaza's walls warning "every Zionist who enters the Gaza Strip or the West Bank will become a target for our weapons. We shall have no mercy for the Zionists, just as they do not have any mercy for our women and children."

The killing prompted condemnations not only by Israel, but also by Palestinian figures, including the heads of Cooperation for Development and Zakariya al-Agha, a member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation.

Truckloads Of Food Rejected

Al-Agha told Israel Radio that no act of murder against an innocent person was justified.

Referring to current political developments, al-Agha said that if Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin made further gestures toward the Palestinians, they would respond in kind.

On the other hand, Arab Knesset member Hashem Mahamid of the Hadash Communist Party triggered angry reactions from the political right when he declared that the bloodshed in the territories was a result of Israel's continued "occupation."

Mahamid visited Gaza on Monday with truckloads of food, clothes and medical equipment for the local population. Israeli troops seized the clothes and medicine, saying they would distribute it, but turned back the food.

Sunday's attack occurred as Feinberg, a frequent visitor to the Gaza development agency, sat in the office of its director, Nibris Bseiso, after the two had lunched together.

Suddenly, two masked men entered the room with bayonet rifles and attacked Feinberg. As he was wrestling with his attackers, Bseiso pleaded for his life, but the attackers pushed her aside and would not listen.

Bseiso ran outside and summoned help, but when she returned to the room, she found the lawyer lying dead in a pool of blood. He was brutally beaten by ax blows and stabbed with rifle bayonets.

The slain lawyer was buried Monday at Tel Aviv's Kiryat Shaal cemetery, in a special section for victims of terror attacks.

ARMY ACCUSED BY KNESSET MEMBER OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN GAZA

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, April 19 (JTA) -- Knesset member Dedi Zucker of the left-wing Meretz bloc has sent a report to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin charging Israeli soldiers with human rights abuses in the Gaza Strip.

Zucker presented Rabin, who also serves as defense minister, with a firsthand report of the situation, based on a trip he made to the Gaza Strip last week.

Zucker decided to investigate personally, after hearing rumors of abuses by the Golani Brigade since a general closure of the territories was imposed three weeks ago.

During his visit to Gaza, Zucker gathered testimony from Gaza residents and said he heard stories of violent and excessive behavior by the brigade during searches of Palestinian homes.

The Knesset member said the stories should not be accepted at face value but should be checked, and that he hoped the army would investigate them.

"I'm concerned because it shouldn't have been done, and I'm worried because other units have conducted the same searches without harassment," Zucker said.

"Even though the army is obligated to carry out such ugly tasks, I would like to see a different type of army."

A spokeswoman for the Prime Minister's Office had no comment on Zucker's report, saying she was not sure it had been received.

The Zucker report followed a letter last week also sent to Rabin by the human rights group, B'Tselem, calling for an end to "the arbitrary illegal acts" committed by soldiers in Gaza during the closure.

According to testimony taken by the group's field researchers, residents were "punched, slapped and/or beaten with clubs by soldiers during house-to-house searches without any provocation by those beaten."

B'Tselem called for a thorough investigation of the cases reported to its investigators.

An army spokesman said charges of abuse during the closure were being reviewed.

PLO OFFICIAL SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS FOR ATTEMPTED N.Y. BOMBING IN 1973

By Matthew Fleischer

NEW YORK, April 19 (JTA) -- A self-described official of the Palestine Liberation Organization has been sentenced to the maximum 30 years in prison for planting bombs at three Israeli sites in New York 20 years ago.

In a two-hour statement in federal court in Brooklyn on April 15, Khaled el-Mohammed Jassem contended that he had been framed by the Israeli and United States governments and abandoned by the PLO after his arrest in Italy in 1991.

But U.S. District Judge Jack Weinstein concluded that Jassem deserved the sentence for "dangerous terrorist activities" that "could have killed and maimed hundreds, caused large fires and terrorized thousands."

The judge added that Jassem's sentence should make clear to "prospective terrorists that they are not welcome to bomb and kill in this country."

Jassem will be eligible for parole after 10 years.

EMPLOYMENT PICTURE FOR IMMIGRANTS IN ISRAEL NOT SO BLEAK, SURVEY FINDS

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, April 19 (JTA) -- More than half of the immigrants from the former Soviet Union who have been in Israel more than two years are working in fields they desire, according to new results from a nationwide survey.

The results counter the "unnecessarily pessimistic view of Russian employment" painted by most surveys, said Gila Noam, coordinator of absorption research for the Brookdale Institute, the research arm of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which conducted the survey.

"We see that as time progresses, the olim are more and more satisfied with what they are doing," even if the jobs are not necessarily the same as the ones they had before, Noam said, using the Hebrew word for immigrants.

The survey of 1,200 immigrants, focusing on rates of employment, was done last summer, but new data from the survey, analyzing how the immigrants feel about their jobs, were released for the first time this week.

Since the survey was first publicized last year, "we have taken a closer look at the quality of employment," said Noam. "To say they're employed doesn't address job satisfaction."

The first set of survey results broke new ground because it showed a dramatic difference in employment rates between new immigrants and those who have been in Israel more than two years.

Most Surveys Paint Bleaker Picture

Most surveys, by contrast, lump the immigrants into one group and get an inordinately bleak picture, when in fact there is a "dramatically different situation between veteran olim and more recent olim," said Noam.

The new JDC data show that 39 percent of the immigrants surveyed overall are working in desired fields. But the number climbs to 56 percent among immigrants who have been here more than two years.

The JDC survey "is a more authentic reflection of reality," said Noam.

The earlier survey results found that immigrants here for more than two years showed employment patterns similar to those of veteran Israelis.

The survey's latest results go further, however. They indicate only a tiny minority (15 percent) found their incomes sufficient to meet daily expenses. No parallel figure for veteran Israelis was available.

The latest data also highlight hardest-hit professions and populations.

Only one-third of the immigrant doctors (both new and those here for more than two years) have any employment. Of those who are employed, 40 percent are working as doctors and 16 percent are working as nurses or paramedics.

More engineers are working. Sixty percent of them are employed, 20 percent as engineers and 20 percent in technical fields.

The group with the most employment are the skilled industrial workers. About 70 percent are employed, and more than 50 percent of those employed are working in their fields.

Meanwhile, the survey found single-parent families and those over age 55 the most vulnerable when it comes to finding work in Israel.

SOUTH AFRICAN JEWS PAY RESPECTS TO SLAIN COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER

By Suzanne Belling

JOHANNESBURG, April 19 (JTA) -- Jewish leaders joined 80,000 mourners packed into a Soweto soccer stadium Monday to pay last respects to Chris Hani, the South African Communist Party leader and African National Congress official assassinated April 10.

Among those taking part in the interfaith memorial service was South African Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris, who joined Methodist, Islamic and Hindu spiritual leaders in lauding the popular black activist.

Harris offered a prayer "that the darkness of his blood, shed on the soil of our land, may be transformed by the light of his spirit, which no assassin can ever put out."

Paying tribute to Hani, Harris said: "In the rush of life, we saw his greatness. In the stillness of death, we acknowledge his courage, his passion for equality, his clarity of thought, his confidence in eventual success, his ability to change his methods and the humble human touch that made everyone love him."

Among those attending the service which preceded Hani's burial were the Israeli ambassador, Alon Liel; Seymour Kopelowitz, national director of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies; and Franz Auerbach, acting chairperson of Jews for Social Justice.

Last Friday, an 11-member delegation of the Johannesburg Jewish community paid respects to Hani's widow.

In a show of solidarity, Harris of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues of South Africa and Rabbi Michael Standfield of the Reform (Progressive) movement, traveled together in a convoy of cars to the Boksburg home where Hani was brutally shot dead in broad daylight.

The delegation was led by Marlene Bethlehem, chairman of the Transvaal Council of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

Each member of the delegation used the traditional black solidarity handshake to greet the widow, Dimpho Hani. Harris wished her and her family "long life," explaining this was the customary Jewish greeting to mourners.

Widow Accepts Condolences

The widow accepted the condolences with quiet dignity, seated on a mattress on the floor, with a solitary candle burning in the room.

One of the other mourners, Hani's aunt, Elisabeth Fuduka, responded to the words of the chief rabbi and Bethlehem by saying the Jewish community would be remembered for bringing comfort during this painful time and that the visit had helped to ease the pain.

Not one member of the delegation left the room dry-eyed, but, in traditional Jewish fashion, they left behind 80 cooked chickens and packets of tea, coffee, sugar, milk powder and biscuits to feed 90 minibus-loads of mourners who had arrived from the eastern Cape for Hani's funeral.

The delegation also included other representatives of the Board of Deputies, the Women's Zionist Council, Union of Jewish Women and Jews for Social Justice.

Outside the Hani home, bedecked with ANC flags and a Communist Party banner, the delegation was formally thanked by Mathole Motshekga, vice chairman of the ANC's regional executive committee.