

WOMAN STABBED BY ARABS IN JERUSALEM, IN SECOND INCIDENT IN LESS THAN A WEEK

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- Tension rose in Jerusalem as Arab terrorists staged a second attack within one week, stabbing a 57-year-old Jewish woman in the back and moderately wounding her.

Batsheva Hillel, 57, was stabbed five times by two unidentified assailants Monday in the Jewish neighborhood of Mishkenot Sha'ananim, near Arab sections of eastern Jerusalem.

The attack took place four days after terrorists attacked a crowded city bus near the national police headquarters, also in an area between Jewish and Arab sections of Jerusalem.

Some observers linked the location of the attacks to the fact that the future status of Jerusalem has emerged as the main sticking point between Israelis and Palestinians in the Middle East peace negotiations, with both parties claiming that they would make no concessions regarding control of the city.

As the Palestine Liberation Organization leadership in Tunis was weighing its next steps in the negotiations, Palestinian radicals in the territories appeared to be trying to escalate the tension in Jerusalem.

In this latest attack, the victim was stabbed shortly after getting off a bus, as she walked toward her workplace in Mishkenot Sha'ananim, a picturesque artists neighborhood that often hosts special foreign visitors involved in the arts.

The area is not far from the King David Hotel.

The assailants stabbed the woman five times in the back. As Hillel began screaming, "Terrorists are killing me," the attackers fled the scene, leaving one knife behind.

Doctors said one of her lungs was damaged.

Twenty-four Arabs were detained later in the day for questioning.

Moslem Fundamentalists Blamed

The preceding bus attack, which occurred July 1, during the early morning rush hour, ended with the deaths of two Israelis and two terrorists belonging to the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement.

The terrorists in that incident, having fled the bus they attacked, commandeered the car of a Jerusalem mother of four, with the driver in it, in an attempt to flee toward the West Bank.

Both the passengers and the driver were shot in a hail of bullets from security guards when they failed to stop at a roadblock.

It was not clear if the woman, Jeanette Kadosh Dayan, 39, died of shots fired at her by the terrorists or the Israeli fire.

On the bus, one passenger, Ella Haikman, 42, was mortally shot and died later of her wounds. The bus driver, Dudi Yom-Tov, who had tried to disarm one of the terrorists, was wounded.

One of the dead terrorists was reportedly Maher Srour, wanted for murdering Israeli security agent Haim Rahmani in Jerusalem about eight months ago.

However, the gunmen's identities were not definite, as both their bodies were badly burned

when their car caught fire during the clash with soldiers.

Another wanted Palestinian from Gaza who is a member of Hamas was on board the bus and was among the wounded. It is not yet clear if he was with the group or was aboard by coincidence.

Bullets were found in his pocket, and after being taken to the hospital he kept repeating "Allahu akhbar," or God is great.

Moslem fundamentalists belonging to Izz a-Din al-Kassem, an armed wing of Hamas, claimed responsibility for the bus attack. Experts said it was quite likely that Moslem fundamentalists were also responsible for Monday's stabbing.

AFTER LITTLE PROGRESS IN WASHINGTON, FOCUS OF PEACE TALKS SHIFTS TO REGION

By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, July 5 (JTA) -- As the focus of the Middle East peace process now shifts from Washington to the capitals in the region, the United States is cautioning that breakthroughs may be several months away.

In fact, if there is one point on which the Israelis and their Arab negotiating partners agree, it is that progress was almost nonexistent in the 10th round of bilateral talks that ended here last week.

Before departing, both the Israelis and the Palestinians expressed disappointment with a long-awaited American draft document attempting to bridge large gaps between the two sides on crucial issues, including Jerusalem's status.

And there was general consensus that the Israeli-Syrian negotiating track had also not advanced.

In the face of this public negativity emanating from both the Israeli and Arab sides, the United States is trying to inject both substantive and psychological momentum into the process.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, meanwhile, flew to Cairo for a two-day visit aimed at enlisting the Egyptians' help in persuading the Palestinians to be more flexible.

The State Department is now attempting to define the peace process as what one senior department official termed a "continuum," or a continuing set of discussions encompassing both the rounds of face-to-face talks among the parties in Washington and other ongoing contacts the United States has had with the parties.

The senior official, who is closely following the talks, told reporters last Thursday that the process is now at a point where the parties are dealing with difficult problems and decisions, and that immediate breakthroughs are not likely.

The role of the United States at this point, the official said, is to raise the comfort level of the parties and then determine whether progress is possible.

"What you can do is begin to change the circumstances and begin to condition attitudes in such a way that you can not only narrow gaps, but you can get everybody increasingly comfortable with the need to make certain decisions and then determine whether or not in fact you can make real progress," the official said.

The Clinton administration has stressed that 1993 represents a unique opportunity for the

Israelis, Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians and Lebanese to reach agreements.

In the hope of achieving such an agreement before the end of the year, Dennis Ross, the State Department's peace talks coordinator, is heading an American delegation to the Middle East this week, and there is talk that Secretary of State Warren Christopher may also travel to the region soon.

One idea behind the trips is to involve higher-level Middle East decision-makers, including heads of state, more directly in the process.

The State Department has suggested that one reason the process has been bogged down is that the negotiating teams do not have the authority to move beyond their already-stated positions.

Dispute Over Jerusalem

The two key negotiating tracks, the Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Syrian talks, were stalled this round. On the Israeli-Palestinian track, the major impediment was the issue of Jerusalem.

"I want to characterize this round as the round of Jerusalem," Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi told reporters last week.

The Palestinians, concerned that Israel's closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is creating "facts on the ground" that would separate those territories from eastern Jerusalem, raised the issue of the city's future status.

But the Israelis say that the issue of Jerusalem should not be discussed at this phase of the negotiations.

Instead, they want the Palestinians to focus on an Israeli "early empowerment" offer that would give the Palestinians control of their daily lives in the territories, in such areas as education, health and even police protection.

The Palestinians, however, say that the "early empowerment" idea would fragment Palestinian authority.

While nobody was offering any specifics of what the informal American paper presented to the parties Wednesday contained, both sides were clearly displeased with it.

One sticking point in the U.S. document was the issue of Jerusalem.

Palestinian negotiator Haider Abdel-Shafi told reporters here last Thursday that the paper "does not deal in any reasonable or factual manner with the issue of Jerusalem."

And the Israelis said the document was more problematic than a previous American draft proposal given to the two sides at the end of the ninth round in May.

The paper did get a boost Monday from Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, who told reporters after meeting with his Israeli counterpart that the document is worthy of studying.

But here in Washington, the senior State Department official told reporters that agreement between Israelis and Palestinians on a joint declaration of principles or "framework document" could be "several months down the line."

On the Israeli-Syrian track, the two sides remained mired in definitions of terms, as they have been for months.

The Israelis are waiting for the Syrians to spell out what sort of "full peace" they are contemplating, before announcing their own plans regarding the future of the Golan Heights.

The Jordanian and Lebanese tracks are viewed as not having the potential for movement until progress occurs on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks.

JEWISH AGENCY BODY ORDERS STUDY OF ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CHAIRMAN **By Cynthia Mann and Michele Chabin**

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- The annual Assembly of the Jewish Agency for Israel concluded last week without directly addressing the most prominent issue on everyone's lips: the alleged financial wrongdoings of its chairman, Simcha Dinitz.

But the body's smaller and more influential Board of Governors approved a measure calling for a study of the allegations by a legal expert and the monitoring of the impact of the allegations on the agency's fund-raising and operations.

Three American delegates had placed on the Assembly's agenda a resolution calling for Dinitz to take an immediate leave of absence.

But the delegates were persuaded by the chairman of the Board of Governors, Mendel Kaplan, to withdraw the resolution.

The allegations against Dinitz, which include the improper use of Jewish Agency credit cards to purchase thousands of dollars of personal items, are the subject of a police investigation, requested by Knesset members.

Kaplan has been under pressure by Assembly members to take action on the matter, especially in the wake of a detailed expose on the case that appeared June 25 in *The Jerusalem Post*.

The Board of Governors resolution calls for a senior advisory group assembled by Kaplan to monitor the impact of the allegations on community fund-raising efforts and to provide weekly reports to Kaplan.

Those reports will then be evaluated by a series of specified fund-raising leaders, after consultation with the leadership of the World Zionist Organization.

The Jewish Agency is the primary beneficiary of the money raised for Israel by the United Jewish Appeal and parallel campaigns globally.

Faith In Dinitz 'Has Been Eroded'

Kaplan also asked a Philadelphia delegate, Judge Abraham Gafni, to study all the allegations and report to him on their accuracy by July 31.

The resolution cautions Gafni to "take into account" during his investigation the legal constraints imposed by the police probe and the Israeli legal system. This is a clear effort to avoid a charge of an obstruction of justice.

The advisory group is charged by the resolution to recommend a course of action to Kaplan by the end of August.

Publicly, many delegates here expressed support for Dinitz. But privately, some expressed doubts about whether he could remain a successful fund-raiser in light of the scandal.

"My faith in Simcha has not been eroded," said Hadassah President Deborah Kaplan. "I believe that when the history books are written, his contributions to the country will be recognized. No one else could have brought in half a million immigrants in just three years."

This sentiment was echoed by Martin Kraar, executive vice president of the Council of Jewish Federations. He chastised the media for focusing on the controversy at the expense of the agency's achievements.

UJA President Brian Lurie likewise defended Dinitz's right to remain in office. But he acknowledged that organizational leaders "must also be sensitive to the needs of their members, and to address their concerns."

**ANOTHER AIPAC LEADER RESIGNS,
AFTER INSULTING ISRAELI OFFICIAL**
By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, July 5 (JTA) -- A vice president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee has been forced to resign after calling Israel's deputy foreign minister a "slimeball."

Harvey Friedman, a Florida businessman, was forced to step down from the post last Thursday after his slur against Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin was published in The Washington Jewish Week.

The incident is the latest of a series of embarrassments for the influential pro-Israel lobby.

It comes on the heels of the June 28 resignation of Thomas Dine, AIPAC's widely respected executive director, who agreed to step down after making remarks about Orthodox Jews that were seen as derogatory.

It also highlights what some have seen as a distinct reluctance by some American Jewish communal leaders to accept the present Israeli government's policies on the peace process, specifically its willingness to exchange land for peace.

The controversy surrounding Friedman's remarks began last month, when he accompanied three members of the U.S. Congress on a visit to Israel. During the trip, Friedman accused Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of "chutzpah."

The story, as reported widely in the Israeli press, based on sources close to Beilin, was that Friedman had spoken out against any potential territorial concessions planned by Rabin in the course of the peace talks.

"Where does Rabin get the chutzpah to give up territory?" Friedman was quoted as saying.

The Israeli government lodged a formal protest with AIPAC, which as a rule does not take positions on Israeli government policies. AIPAC responded with a public apology, disassociating itself from Friedman's comment.

But in an interview last week with Washington Jewish Week reporter Larry Cohler, Friedman insisted he had charged Rabin with "chutzpah" not because of his general willingness to make territorial concessions, but because Rabin had broken what he said was an election promise made to settlers on the Golan Heights, that he would not give up one inch of the strategic plateau.

Harmful To U.S.-Israel Relationship

In the same interview, Friedman gave his account of what Beilin had told the congressional delegation at the beginning of the disputed meeting.

He said Beilin had declared that Israel "is prepared to retreat to the pre-1967 borders -- with the exception of Jerusalem -- for a lasting peace."

This was dismissed as a "gross misquote" by an aide to Beilin who was present at the meeting. The aide told The Washington Jewish Week that Israel had offered to negotiate "on the basis of the pre-1967 borders."

When asked by the paper to comment on this account of the meeting, Friedman responded: "This little slimeball can say he didn't say it, but three congressmen will affirm that it's just what he said."

One of the congressmen, reached by the Washington Jewish Week, could not recall Beilin's

exact words; the other two were unavailable for comment.

In any case, upon hearing of Friedman's broadside against Beilin, AIPAC President Steven Grossman demanded, and received, Friedman's resignation.

"There are standards of leadership that must be maintained at the highest level of any institution, both volunteer and professional," Grossman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

He said that Friedman's earlier statements had aroused the "consternation" of the AIPAC officers, and that he had raised the issue with Friedman just last week.

Friedman's departure could cost AIPAC dearly. Sources say he had been responsible for raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for the lobby.

But in Jerusalem, Beilin praised Grossman's move, saying that men such as Friedman should not be representing AIPAC.

Remarks such as Friedman's original outburst against Rabin "harm the U.S.-Israel relationship," the deputy foreign minister said in a radio interview Sunday morning.

"Anyone who is interested in strengthening the relationship, and who believes this is an American interest, must understand that it is important that people like Friedman not stand among the leadership of AIPAC," he added.

Beilin, who comes from the dovish side of Israel's ruling Labor Party, also complained that Israeli leaders "from the prime minister to the most junior deputy minister" are finding themselves "having to justify their desire to make peace with the Arabs" in the face of views such as those expressed by Friedman.

AIPAC officials point out that the lobby has been actively supporting the peace process and that it has organized an effort to educate politicians, the American Jewish leadership and the American public generally about the negotiations.

**AIR CHINA STARTS ISRAEL FLIGHTS,
FULFILLING PACT SIGNED LAST YEAR**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 5 (JTA) -- Air China, the national airline of the People's Republic of China, announced Sunday that it would be inaugurating weekly non-stop flights between Beijing and Tel Aviv later this month.

This puts into effect China's part of an agreement on mutual air service that was signed last year by China and Israel after they established diplomatic relations.

El Al, Israel's national airline, has been flying to China since last September.

By an unfortunate quirk of international scheduling, both El Al and Air China will leave Israel's Ben-Gurion airport on Thursdays -- the Chinese airline at 5:10 p.m. and El Al shortly before midnight.

On the flights from Beijing, Air China will depart on Wednesday mornings. El Al leaves Beijing on Saturday nights.

El Al says its schedule has the advantage of leaving Israel shortly after the arrival here of several flights from Europe, affording passengers easy connections to China and the Far East.

Neither airline flies over Arab territory on its Tel Aviv-Beijing route.

Both fly north to Turkey and from there on a straight line over Central Asia, passing over the ancient Silk Road to Beijing.

**RIGHTEOUS CHRISTIAN RESCUERS
ARE HONORED PUBLICLY IN POLAND****By Jed Sunden**

WARSAW, July 5 (JTA) -- Polish Christians who saved Jews from being killed during the Holocaust are being honored for the first time in Poland in a three-day conference here that is bringing together pairs of Polish rescuers and the Jews that they saved.

The conference, sponsored by an arm of the Anti-Defamation League, is also being attended by world leaders, Polish and foreign scholars and intellectuals and members of the clergy.

The conference, which opened Monday, comes less than three months after this city marked in official ceremonies the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and honored the Jews who fought against the Nazi regime.

By comparison, this First International Conference on Rescuers of Jews During the Holocaust aims to publicly acknowledge the heroic deeds of the Christian rescuers.

Organized by ADL's Jewish Foundation for Christian Rescuers, the sessions feature presentations and discussions on the implications of the Holocaust in the modern world organized under the title "Can Indifference Kill?"

In a statement to the media, Abraham Foxman, ADL national director, outlined his aims and hopes for the conference.

"It is not just because this is sacred and hallowed ground for Jews that it is a necessity to come to Poland to remember, to remind, and to mourn.

"We have also come to say thank you, to embrace and to trumpet the kindness and compassion that saved so many Jewish lives," said Foxman, who himself survived the Holocaust as a young boy in Poland through the help of his Catholic nanny, who hid him from the Germans.

Polish President Lech Walesa sent a representative to the conference and said in a statement: "We cannot be indifferent to the silence of the world. That is what the events of 50 years ago have taught us."

Walesa also announced he had "made a motion to nominate the Righteous Among Nations for the Nobel Peace Prize."

Site Of Largest Jewish Tragedy

Before World War II, some 3.5 million Jews lived in Poland. By the end of the war in 1945, more than 90 percent of Polish Jewry had perished, including hundreds of thousands in death camps such as Auschwitz, Treblinka, Belzec and Chelmo.

The majority of Jews who survived emigrated to the West after the war.

The establishment of the Iron Curtain and the tension of the Cold War closed Poland and the rest of Eastern Europe to the West, and the Communist government submerged the Holocaust into the general struggle against fascism, not mentioning the Jewish aspect of the tragedy.

As a result, many of those Polish Christians who saved Jews during the war have never been publicly acknowledged in Poland, and many were hesitant to come forth with information about their actions because of the unfriendly political and social climate.

Calling on the Polish government and people to honor these rescuers, Foxman said, "Though Poland is the sight of the largest Jewish tragedy, I believe, though I cannot prove it, that Poland is

also the place where the largest number of gentiles saved Jews.

"I hope this conference will help to reverse a trend and honor those righteous gentiles and write a new library telling of those national heroes," Foxman said.

As part of the conference proceedings, the Israeli ambassador to Poland, Miron Gordon, was to issue medals from Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial museum and confer honorary Israeli citizenship on the rescuers.

Describing the academic side of the conference, Roman Kent, conference chairman, said, "We have tried to bring together leading scholars to discuss the Holocaust and the meaning of indifference that made it possible.

"We are asking what that means today in our times with Somalia and Serbia," said Kent.

The Jewish Foundation for Christian Rescuers was founded in the mid-1980s as an effort to honor those gentiles who saved Jews as well as provide them with financial support. Today it provides monthly grants to more than 1,200 people, 900 of them in Poland.

**14th MACCABIAH OPENS IN RAMAT GAN,
WITH MORE ATHLETES THAN EVER BEFORE**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 5 (JTA) -- Cheered on by a crowd of nearly 50,000, President Ezer Weizman officially opened Israel's 14th Maccabiah in a gala ceremony at dusk Monday in the Ramat Gan stadium.

About 5,600 participating athletes, the largest number ever to compete in the "Jewish Olympic games," marched into the stadium as part of the impressive \$1 million opening festivities.

The Maccabiah torch, the fire first kindled at the tomb of the ancient Maccabim at Modi'in, was lit at the stadium by Yael Arad, who became the first Israeli athlete to win an Olympic medal when she captured a silver medal for judo at the Barcelona Olympics last year.

Oren Smadja, who won an Olympic bronze medal in judo at the same games, carried the Israeli delegation's flag into the stadium.

The official opening declaration was followed by a gymnastic performance by thousands of Young Maccabi children, a folklore performance and fireworks.

The 10 days of games will close July 15 with a ceremony at the Sultan's Pool in Jerusalem, in the presence of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

In a Maccabiah event Sunday at Kibbutz Gezer, prior to the official opening, William Brown, the acting U.S. ambassador to Israel, threw out the first ball in a special Fourth of July softball game. The Americans beat the Israelis 10-1.

Several new teams will be attending the games for the first time, largely the result of political developments since the last games were played four years ago.

Zimbabwe, Costa Rica, Cuba and Hong Kong will be making their Maccabiah debuts, while Poland, Bulgaria and a joint Czech Republic-Slovakia delegation are attending for the first time since World War II.

Changing political realities have also led to the formation of delegations from Croatia, the Commonwealth of Independent States and South Africa, the last made possible by the lifting of an international sporting boycott on the white minority government country.