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**JEWISH GROUPS HAVE MIXED REACTION
TO G-7 STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST**

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA) -- A statement calling for an end of the Arab boycott of Israel, issued Thursday in Tokyo by the Group of Seven leading industrial countries, is being publicly hailed by Jewish groups.

Privately, however, officials with Jewish organizations complain that the United States was not able to live up to assurances about the scope and specificity of the declaration.

Eliminating the Arab boycott of Israel, and of companies that do business with the Jewish state, has become an increasing priority of Jewish organizations in recent months. The policy statement from this week's summit of the G-7 nations had been the target of particular attention.

The summit's political declaration, titled "Striving for a More Secure and Humane World," addresses issues ranging from human rights and terrorism to the ethnic conflict in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Regarding the Middle East, the statement says the G-7 nations "fully support the efforts to achieve a comprehensive, lasting peace settlement in the Middle East and call on Israel and the Arab states to take further steps for confidence-building."

The statement continues: "We reiterate that the Arab boycott should end. We call on Israel to respect its obligations with regard to the occupied territories. We support the effort of reconstruction in Lebanon."

'An Important And Positive Step'

Regarding the call to end the Arab boycott, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations issued a statement praising it as "an important and positive step that, when implemented, will contribute to international free trade and foster Middle East peace."

But officials with Jewish organizations expressed dismay over two elements of the statement: the juxtaposition of the boycott issue with a reference to Israel's behavior in the territories, and the denunciation of the boycott in general, rather than specifically the secondary boycott.

It is the secondary boycott, which affects foreign companies that do business with Israel, that is seen as most damaging to Israel's prospects for foreign investment, and as illegal. By contrast, the primary boycott of Israel by Arab states is seen under international law as a political issue, akin to the boycott of Cuban goods by the United States.

"By giving us too much, they gave us too little," said an official with one Jewish organization. "The call for the end of the boycott is not a practical objective. The secondary boycott is something they can do something about."

Jewish groups also expressed displeasure with the fact that the statement mentions Israeli conduct in the territories without any reference to Palestinian acts of violence.

"We believe this one-sided declaration, with its implied criticism of Israeli behavior, is counterproductive," the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council said in a statement.

**TWO IDF SOLDIERS KILLED IN LEBANON,
JEWISH SETTLER REPORTEDLY SHOT DEAD**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA) -- Two Israeli soldiers were killed and three others wounded, one of them seriously, in a clash Thursday with Palestinian guerrillas in southern Lebanon.

There were also unconfirmed reports late Thursday night that an Israeli settler had been shot to death in his car near the West Bank settlement of Tekoa. No further details were immediately available.

Ahmed Jabril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command announced in Damascus that its men had carried out the assault in Lebanon, and evidence uncovered by Israeli soldiers at the site of the ambush confirmed the group's involvement.

The incident occurred in the eastern sector of the southern Lebanon security zone when a patrol of Givati Brigade soldiers was struck by a roadside bomb and automatic weapons fire near Al-Shiyeh.

The Israeli patrol returned the fire, killing at least one guerrilla.

Israeli and allied South Lebanon Army gunners shelled guerrilla bases suspected of launching the attack.

The wounded soldiers were brought by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa where, despite a strike by government employees, special teams were on duty to deal with emergencies.

Reports from Lebanon said that later in the day several Katyusha rockets were fired from north of the security zone toward the scene of the clash, and heavy exchanges of fire between Israeli and SLA forces and guerrilla gunmen continued into the afternoon.

Thursday's engagement was the latest in an escalating series of clashes in and near the south Lebanon security zone.

Roughly half the attacks against Israeli or SLA targets have been carried out by the Iranian-supported Hezbollah organization, with the rest by a variety of other groups, including Palestinian terrorist groups such as the PFLP-GC.

Rafael Eitan, a former Israel Defense Force chief of staff and now head of the right-wing Tsomet party, was touring the northern border region at the time of the clash and demanded that the government halt peace negotiations with Syria because the Jabril organization is based in Damascus.

He implied that Jabril's activities could be halted if the Syrians wished to do so.

**U.S. 'PEACE TEAM' ARRIVES IN ISRAEL
AMID FLURRY OF DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- An American team of diplomats arrived here Thursday to launch a wide-ranging, intensive effort to save the Middle East peace process.

The team, headed by Dennis Ross, the State Department's new coordinator for the peace talks, met for two hours with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

"We had good discussions," Ross said after-

ward, adding: "This is the beginning of several days of discussions, and I look forward to continuing to work on what we're doing now."

The U.S. team planned to hold sessions Friday with Palestinian leaders before proceeding on to Egypt, Syria and Jordan. They will wind up back in Jerusalem, to report to Israeli officials on their round of talks.

The American trip was preceded by a flurry of diplomatic activity also connected to the peace process.

A day before the Americans arrived in Israel, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak made a surprise visit to Latakia, Syria, where he met with President Hafez Assad.

Mubarak's visit came shortly after he concluded talks in Alexandria, Egypt, with Foreign Minister Peres.

At a news conference in Latakia, the two Arab leaders said they were committed to continuing the peace process.

"We should continue the negotiations, because pulling out" would "harm our cause, and we would be the losers," Mubarak said.

Conflicting Palestinian Statements

In Amman, Jordan's King Hussein met with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat.

There were conflicting reports about whether the Palestinians might reconsider their refusal to accept a draft American document aimed at bridging differences with the Israelis over a joint declaration of principles for continuing the peace negotiations.

In Moscow, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin held what were described as "constructive" talks with a Palestinian delegation, which reportedly did not reject the American draft altogether.

But Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi was again quoted Thursday as saying that the Palestinians rejected the American draft paper and were demanding a discussion of jurisdiction in the territories and the future of Jerusalem "with-in the basic terms of reference."

The American paper states that negotiations on the permanent status of Jerusalem should be postponed until the final stage of the negotiations, which are due to begin in the third year after an autonomy plan is implemented in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

ISRAEL CALLS DAMNING AMNESTY REPORT DISTURBING, FAILING TO ADMONISH ARABS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA) -- The Israeli army has labeled an Amnesty International report that accuses Israel of human rights violations as "disturbing," saying the report fails to give a fair account of Palestinian attacks against Jews and fellow Arabs.

The Israel section of Amnesty International's 1993 annual worldwide report, covering events in 1992, includes allegations of executions of Palestinians without trial, torture and mistreatment of prisoners and detainees.

The report, released Thursday, also criticizes the Palestinian phenomenon of "eliminating" those accused of cooperating with the authorities.

Israel is, of course, not the only country to be criticized by Amnesty in the report, which cites human rights violations in all major regions of the world.

The report details abuses in 161 countries. Among them is Syria, where the report says "several thousand political prisoners, including at least 195 prisoners of conscience, remained held, most without charge or trial, from previous years."

Human rights violations in the former republics of Yugoslavia are also highlighted, including the Serbian "ethnic cleansing" campaign in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"In Bosnia, rapes continue to be carried out on a large scale," Curt Goering, acting executive director of Amnesty International USA, said at a news conference Thursday in Washington.

Jewish groups have been deeply concerned about the atrocities in Bosnia, some of which are reminiscent of crimes against humanity committed by the Nazis during World War II.

Reacting to the report on Israel, the Israel Defense Force spokesman said: "This report doesn't differentiate between the effort the IDF must make to maintain security and public order in the territories in a legal framework, and the uninhibited acts of murder by terrorist organizations and gangs that don't see themselves subject to any moral or legal restraints at all."

But Amnesty claims that Israeli actions in many cases were illegal.

Amnesty claims that at least 120 Palestinians were shot in 1992 by security forces under circumstances that could be described as either execution without trial or otherwise unjustified killings.

In some cases, medical treatment was either not offered or was delayed by the security forces, the report charges.

Allegations Of Torture

The report also claims that four Palestinians died last year during interrogation and that many interrogations were accompanied by torture and mistreatment.

Deviations from the regulations governing interrogations are not properly investigated or punished, the report complains.

It says several hundred people have been subject to administrative detention and have spent weeks or months in jail without being tried or even indicted.

In most cases, neither these prisoners nor their lawyers were ever given definitive reasons for detention, according to Amnesty.

A total of 25,000 Palestinians were arrested by Israeli forces in 1992, the report adds.

In its defense, the Israeli army released a statement including statistics showing an escalation in Palestinian violence, against both Jews and fellow Arabs accused of collaboration with Israel, between 1991 and 1992.

For example, there were nearly 50 more Palestinians killed as collaborators last year than in the previous year, and over 200 more shootings by Palestinian gunmen.

A new book published by the Defense Ministry this week defends Israeli rule in the territories, claiming Israel is more sensitive to law than any other occupier in history.

The book, "Israel, the Intifada and the Rule of Law," deals with the oft-repeated charges of torture, death squads and collective punishment, arguing that Israel meets and often surpasses Western human rights standards.

It cites documents such as the Fourth Geneva Convention and U.S. and British army military manuals to support its claims.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
RECENT TERRORIST PLOTS IN U.S.
NOT CAUSING JEWS ANY ANXIETY
By Debra Nussbaum Cohen**

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Moslem fundamentalists are apprehended in connection with the February bombing of New York's World Trade Center.

A few months later, eight more Islamic fundamentalists are arrested, charged with plotting to blow up the United Nations, two major thoroughfares connecting New York to New Jersey and Manhattan's largely Jewish diamond district. The men also allegedly planned to kill a pro-Israel U.S. senator and an Orthodox Jewish state assemblyman.

The story, still unfolding, has attracted international attention.

Yet it has not been a Jewish story.

There has been almost no focus in the media on Israel or on the Jewish community in connection with the story.

And there has been a thundering absence of concern within the Jewish community about the possibility of an anti-Semitic backlash within the United States.

This may be one of the few times in recent memory that a major American crisis -- especially one rooted in the Middle East -- has not been matched by an upsurge of anxiety within the Jewish community.

This is "very different than what happened in previous times," said Jerome Chanes, co-director for domestic concerns at the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council.

Fear of backlash ran high among Jews during the 1970s oil crisis, as it did after Wall Street financier and Jewish philanthropist Ivan Boesky's illegal financial manipulations were uncovered and after former U.S. Navy analyst Jonathan Pollard was revealed to be a spy for Israel.

During the oil shortage, a major topic of conversation among Jews was a bumper sticker which reportedly read "Burn Jews, Not Oil."

Terrorism Is A Universal Problem

But in the end it was panic born of rumor -- no one could say he or she had actually seen the bumper sticker.

Even during events which had no tie to Israel or Jews, like the farm crisis of the 1980s, worry mounted among Jews fearful of a backlash as a result of the dramatic economic and social dislocation in America's heartland, and because extremist groups promised to become more active.

If there was so much anxiety about anti-Semitism during those crises, why not now?

"Maybe we're finally getting the message that in American society, different from Europe, conflict situations simply haven't resulted in an increase in anti-Semitism," said NJCRAC's Chanes.

David Gordis, director of the Wilestein Institute of Jewish Policy Studies, said that "in certain ways this is a coming of age.

"While we Jews generally prefer our clouds without silver linings, perhaps we're beginning to understand that we're very much part of this country and a problem like terrorism is a universal problem," said Gordis.

"We share everyone's problems but don't need to do so with overly exquisite sensitivity which makes everyone panic."

Sociologist Steven M. Cohen, a professor at the Melton Center for Jewish Education at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, agreed.

There is "a pattern of American Jews thinking that the rest of the world is staying up day and night relating news to Jews and Israel, and to our regret, most Americans and the world have other things to think about," said Cohen.

Other analysts, however, trace the lack of focus on Jews to the fact that Jewish individuals and areas are but a secondary target for the ring of Moslem militants, who seemed to be focusing their rage primarily at symbols of U.S. power.

Included on the hit list of the men arrested last month were two Egyptians -- President Hosni Mubarak and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali -- making it clear that Jews were not their only enemy.

In connection with the case, Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, spiritual leader of the suspects and of those charged with the World Trade Center bombing, has been arrested in New York on immigration charges.

'Security Is Always An Issue'

Egypt is seeking to extradite the cleric. If deported, his followers in Egypt and in the Gaza Strip have threatened to "set off a wave of violence" against American interests worldwide, according to one of the sheik's lawyers in Cairo.

Fundamentalist Islam "has proven itself to be a hater of all that we associate with democracy and Western culture," said Deborah Lipstadt, professor of religious studies at Emory University in Atlanta.

"You'd have to be seeing it in a small way to think it's just going to impact on the Jews," she said.

New York State Assemblyman Dov Hikind, who was targeted by the terrorists, noted that while the fundamentalists are "not softening up on Israel, which remains the ultimate enemy, it's not just Israel anymore. It goes broader than that.

"America would be a target even without (being a supporter of) Israel," he said. "America's support for Egypt is just as much an issue for these fundamentalists as the support for Israel" is, he said.

Hikind said he did not believe he was targeted solely because he is Jewish, but because he had been outspoken about calling for the arrest of Sheik Rahman.

Some Jewish leaders expressed relief that the Jewish community is not the focus of attention in this latest crisis.

"It is healthier for our cause that it's not always focused on us," said Hikind.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League described the role of Israel and Jews as compared to that of the United States as "little Satan compared to big Satan."

But despite the lack of focus on the Jewish community, Foxman cautioned that Jewish groups should never feel too secure during a crisis.

"We are always anxious and concerned. Security is always an issue that's with us."

ISRAEL PAYS U.N. PEACEKEEPING FEES

UNITED NATIONS, July 8 (JTA) -- Israel has sent the United Nations Secretariat \$350,000 for its share of peacekeeping operations in Yugoslavia, Cambodia and the Golan Heights.

Israel also sent \$300,000 of its \$3 million annual dues. The Israeli Mission noted that "the United States and the former Soviet Union have amassed the largest debts" to the world body.

JEW, RESCUERS MEET IN POLAND, RELIEVE THE PAIN, FEAR, BRAVERY By Jeld Sunden

WARSAW, July 7 (JTA) -- Renata Skotnicka-Zajdman and Lechoslaw Czerniakowski first met in the summer of 1939 in Warsaw, and the two teen-agers quickly became good friends.

After the German invasion of Poland that September, the friendship established a connection that helped save Renata's life.

This week, the two friends met again in Warsaw to participate in the first International Conference on Rescuers of Jews During the Holocaust.

Nearly 50 years after the war ended, the conference marks the first time that the Polish rescuers of Jews are being publicly recognized in Poland.

Renata's story was one of many retold this week.

The Czerniakowski family first sent food and medication to Renata's family in the ghetto. When the Nazis began the mass deportations from the ghetto, the Czerniakowskis secured false documents for Renata and her sister and brought them to the "Aryan" side of Warsaw.

Renata lived with the Czerniakowskis before she was caught by the Nazis and sent to a forced labor camp in Germany. Even there, the Czerniakowskis helped her, sending letters and thus allowing her to continue to pose as a Pole.

"The Czerniakowskis' rescue of me began from the day the war started. Only with their help was I able to escape," Renata said this week, giving thanks to the family.

After the war, she settled in Montreal and started a new life. Part of the Czerniakowski family was arrested by the Communists in Poland, and the link between the two friends was severed.

For years, Renata tried to find her childhood friend to thank her and her family for their heroic act.

Despite repeated attempts, she said, "I could not find out anything about them until two years ago."

On a trip to Warsaw, Renata returned to the building where she hid as a child. Recognizing a neighbor from her memory, she received a first bit of information.

The old neighbor "gave the name of somebody in Gdansk, who told me that Lechoslaw was living in Zadan, near the German border, and her name was now Ostrowsky," Renata said.

After a telephone call to the village, the two friends were reunited.

Children Cared For Jewish Boy

Another tale told this week was that of Gerald Kaiser.

When his parents brought him to live with a Polish school principal in the tiny village of Wengleszyn in 1942, Gerald was just a 2-year-old.

Though it was only meant to be a temporary arrangement, the baby stayed with the Wlodek family for more than a year.

After Mr. Wlodek fled to the forest to escape from the Germans and Mrs. Wlodek was deported to Auschwitz, the only people left to take care of the baby were the couple's two sons -- Janusz, then 10 years old, and Krystyn, age 8.

"To survive they worked in neighbor's fields to get food to eat. They even knew that I could not play with any of the other children because I was circumcised," Gerald explained.

He was eventually sent to live with the Wlodeks' cousins until the end of the war. In 1945, his mother came for him and they later moved to America.

Though an aunt of Gerald's stayed in contact with the Wlodek family, Gerald lost touch with them while he was growing up. Later, as he got older, he became interested in how he and his family survived the war.

"At a family reunion, the discussion turned to the Holocaust, and I asked a question that I have always struggled with: whether I would do such a thing to save a stranger's life," Gerald said.

After that, he actively tried to find the Wlodek family.

He was able to locate them in Slupsk, in northern Poland, and began writing to them. He later went to visit them and has remained in close contact with the family.

Many of the Poles who saved Jews never sought any public recognition for their heroic acts for fear of societal or political consequences in Communist Poland.

But today, many Jews, especially those who were children during the war, are trying to locate those rescuers and publicly honor them for the first time.

"It was quite dangerous to admit under the Communists that you saved Jews. Polish communism was basically anti-Semitic, and they might possibly endanger themselves," said Yehuda Bauer, a professor of Holocaust studies at Jerusalem's Hebrew University.

After finding their rescuers, both Renata Skotnicka-Zajdman and Gerald Kaiser filed testimonies to honor the Poles who had saved them as Righteous Gentiles at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial museum in Israel.

The Wlodeks now receive a monthly stipend from the Jewish Foundation for Christian Rescuers, a branch of the Anti-Defamation League.

The foundation provides medical and financial assistance for more than 1,200 rescuers, 900 of whom live in Poland.

TOUVIER TO CHECK IN WITH POLICE, BUT WON'T BE JAILED BEFORE TRIAL

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, July 8 (JTA) -- Paul Touvier, the 78-year-old former French Nazi collaborator charged with crimes against humanity, will not be jailed prior to his trial, but will be required to report every two weeks to the police station close to his Paris apartment, a French court ruled this week.

Touvier, head of the intelligence branch of the pro-Nazi Vichy regime's Lyon militia, will have to surrender his identification papers to the authorities and is forbidden to leave the Paris area, the court said Wednesday.

No date has been set yet for Touvier's trial. He is likely to become the first French citizen to be judged for crimes against humanity.

Right after the assassination last month in Paris of Rene Bousquet, Vichy's minister of police, rumors had it that Touvier had left France for Canada.

The rumors were proven wrong when Touvier appeared in court in Versailles last week.

According to Jacques Tremollet de Villers, Touvier's lawyer, the rumors were circulated by people associated with victims of the Rillieux-la-Pape executions in order to influence the court to jail Touvier.