

**CABINET REVIEWS LEBANON POLICY
AFTER 5 IDF FATALITIES IN 2 DAYS**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 11 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force suffered one of its bloodiest weeks in southern Lebanon in a long time, with five soldiers killed and eight wounded in clashes last Thursday and Friday.

Political and military leaders discussed the deteriorating situation at Sunday's weekly Cabinet meeting and at army general headquarters, reviewing what measures could be taken in retaliation and to prevent further loss of Israeli lives.

Israeli leaders blasted Syria for allowing the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militia as well as Palestinian guerrilla groups to transport military equipment through Syrian-controlled areas of Lebanon.

Israel charged that the Syrian regime continues to provide cover and military aid to the Hezbollah and secular terrorist organizations, such as Nayef Hawatmeh's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which has its headquarters in Damascus. Both receive arms and equipment from Iran via the Syrian capital.

The latest series of clashes began last Thursday, when two soldiers of the army's elite Givati Brigade were killed and three wounded in an ambush by gunmen belonging to Ahmed Jabril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

The Israeli soldiers were on patrol in the northeastern sector of the border security zone in southern Lebanon, when a roadside mine exploded.

In response to that attack, Israeli helicopters attacked local Jabril headquarters in Na'ameh village, near Beirut.

Israel Beefing Up Presence

On Friday, three more Israeli soldiers were killed and five others wounded, two of them seriously, when an Israeli post in the zone sustained direct hits during an artillery bombardment from north of the zone.

The bombardment was so heavy that the dead and wounded could not be evacuated by helicopter for some hours.

The soldiers killed Friday were identified as Lt. Avraham Miller, 23, of Ra'anana; Sgt. Shahar Rafaeli, 22, of Kibbutz Beit Hashita; and Cpl. Daniel Ray, 18, of Zichron Ya'acov. They were buried Sunday.

The soldiers killed last Thursday were identified as Sgt. Eyal Levy, 20, of Bat Yam, and Sgt. Lior Kabir, 20, of Givatayim.

Escalating violence in southern Lebanon has claimed the lives of 12 soldiers since the beginning of the year, and 34 others have been wounded. This compares to 13 dead and 46 wounded during all of last year.

Military sources say there has been a 40 percent increase in the number of guerrilla attacks this year, put at 140, including over 30 explosive devices that were detected and neutralized.

Meanwhile, reports from Lebanon said Sunday that the army had beefed up its forces in the security zone by moving forward a number of heavy artillery batteries.

**U.S. ENVOY UNSUCCESSFUL SO FAR
IN REINVIGORATING PEACE TALKS**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 11 (JTA) -- American envoy Dennis Ross' mission to reinvigorate the Middle East peace process has failed so far to bridge the gaps between Israeli and Palestinian positions.

And his attempt to push forward the Israeli-Syrian talks has been sidetracked by the deteriorating security situation in southern Lebanon.

In Jerusalem, Ross found that the gaps between Israel and the Palestinians on the status of Jerusalem and the jurisdiction of a Palestinian autonomy arrangement were too wide to bridge in a joint declaration of principles that the Americans have been trying to hammer out for months.

The top Palestinian negotiators even refused to see Ross for a planned meeting last Friday, in protest against an American draft statement aimed at closing the gaps between the two sides.

Faisal Husseini and Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi did not bother to show up at the meeting, saying there was no point discussing documents as long as there was no agreement on Jerusalem and issues of jurisdiction within the autonomy plan.

The Palestinians demand that Arab residents of eastern Jerusalem be given the right to vote and be elected to the governing institutions of any Palestinian self-rule plan. This demand is unacceptable to the Israelis, who regard eastern Jerusalem an integral part of Israel proper.

Local Israeli papers were generally pessimistic on Ross' mission, given both Palestinian and Israeli insistence on control over Jerusalem.

Rabin Lashes Out At Syria

The American delegation did meet Friday with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and senior officials at the Foreign Ministry.

Peres suggested that following an agreement on a joint declaration of principles, the Palestinians would be allowed to implement self-rule in the Gaza Strip and acquire wide-ranging powers in the West Bank.

Peres told the Americans to advise the Palestinians not to insist on a detailed joint document, adding: "Even the length of the Balfour Declaration was only seven lines."

The Balfour Declaration, issued in 1917 by the British foreign minister, Lord James Balfour, guaranteed the Jews "a national homeland in Palestine."

Ross' trip has been overshadowed by a flare-up of violence in southern Lebanon, where five Israeli soldiers were killed during clashes last Thursday and Friday.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin lashed out at Syria, blaming Damascus for allowing the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militia and Palestinian guerrilla groups to operate out of the Syrian capital and to transport arms through Syrian-controlled areas of Lebanon.

Rabin asked Ross to inform Syrian President Hafez Assad when the two met in Damascus that Israel could not tolerate stepped-up hostilities against its soldiers in Lebanon.

In a statement issued Saturday, Rabin was quoted as telling Ross during their hour-long

session: "We view the incidents (in Lebanon) very gravely. We will do all that is needed to protect Israel's security and its citizens, as if there were no peace talks."

Ahmed Jabril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and the Hezbollah movement are "coordinating their actions and are using weaponry that comes from Iran to Damascus," Rabin was quoted as saying.

Reports said the prime minister was awaiting a reply from Ross outlining Assad's reaction to the Israeli warning before Israel would decide on how to respond to the attacks in Lebanon.

In his discussions with Syrian officials Sunday, Ross reportedly was forced to discuss the recent developments in southern Lebanon, rather than devote the talks to the peace process.

WEST BANK MURDER OF EX-REFUSENIK BOOSTS FEARS OF NEW ARAB VIOLENCE By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 11 (JTA) -- The murder of a one-time Soviet Jewish refusenik in the West Bank late last week has enraged Jewish settlers and heightened fears that Palestinians are again stepping up terrorist attacks on Israeli civilians.

The murder last Thursday night triggered protests by settlers, who sought permission by the government to establish a new settlement at the site of the killing but were allowed only to hold memorial services there.

Mordechai Lipkin, 39, was ambushed by terrorists near Bethlehem as he was returning home to the settlement of Tekoa after dropping off his father-in-law, Binyamin, at the nearby settlement of Alon Shvut.

Lipkin was struck dead by bullets before he could even manage to pull his pistol out of the glove compartment of his car.

Lipkin, a father of four, immigrated to Israel from Moscow four years ago, after years of being a Zionist activist in the former Soviet Union. After four years of agitating as a refusenik, the Soviets finally gave him an exit visa.

In Israel, he was a successful painter and worked at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

His wife, Ilana, was summoned Sunday from Russia, where she had traveled last week as an emissary on behalf of immigration to Israel.

Lipkin's parents, who still live in Moscow, reportedly heard about their son's death last Friday on Israel Radio's Russian-language newscast.

The murder infuriated the settlers, who have enjoyed relative quiet for the past few months, largely due to the army's move in late March to seal off the administered territories from Israel proper.

After being denied permission to establish a new settlement on the site of the murder, settlers were allowed to set up a "memorial guard" for the seven days of mourning, or shiva.

With the army stepping up its pursuit of terrorist squads in most parts of the administered territories, the attack seemed to signal a strategy of the gunmen to avoid the major areas of confrontation and stage ambushes in more remote areas.

On Sunday, security forces were searching for three terrorists who reportedly tried to kidnap an Israeli, Yisraeli Suleimani of Moshav Ahituv, on the Sharon Plain.

Suleimani told police that three Arabs took over his car and, threatening him with pistols and

knives, forced him to drive to the West Bank Arab town of Tulkarm. Suleimani told police his car turned over near the village of A-Til, and he managed to escape.

But police said they were not sure Suleimani's story was reliable.

ISRAELI SUPREME COURT REJECTS ROBERT MANNING'S LATEST APPEAL By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 11 (JTA) -- Israel's Supreme Court has rejected the latest in a series of appeals by Robert Manning, thereby clearing the way for his extradition to the United States, where he is wanted on charges connected to a 1980 mail-bombing murder in California.

On Sunday, the court rejected Manning's argument that he should be tried in Israel and not America. The court has also rejected Manning's argument that as a prisoner in the United States he would be unable to fulfill his religious commitments properly as an observant Jew.

Manning, 39, and his wife Rochelle, 51, who are American immigrants, are both wanted in the United States in connection with the murder of secretary Patricia Wilkinson by a parcel-bomb addressed to her employer.

The couple's fingerprints allegedly were found on the wrapping paper of the parcel.

The couple moved to Israel and settled in the West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba several years ago.

Rochelle Manning has appealed her extradition order on the grounds that she has already been tried in the United States for the murder charge, in a trial that resulted in a hung jury.

To extradite her to the United States for a second trial would violate the legal principle against double jeopardy, Rochelle Manning claims. That appeal is still before the court.

A STRIKE BY ISRAELI CIVIL SERVANTS HITS AT COMMERCE, THREATENS MORE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 11 (JTA) -- A strike by over 60,000 Israeli government employees widened Sunday, disrupting railroad services and commerce.

The strikers threatened to include telephone, postal, radio and television workers within a few days if their demands for wage increases were not met.

No serious negotiations have been held since the strike began last Thursday with workers' demands for a 35 percent wage increase, to be implemented in stages over the next three years.

The Finance Ministry announced it would not negotiate with strikers and would only consider increases of a maximum 3 percent per year for three years.

Chaim Haberfeld, the secretary-general of the Histadrut trade union federation, warned the government that if it could not order its financial negotiators "to budge from their illogical positions, they could expect a strike likely to last for weeks or even months."

The extension of the work stoppage to the railroads, in addition to the strike by customs officials in the ports, has had an immediate effect on the economic life of the country.

Many merchants and industrialists said they would not be able to continue their businesses for much longer, as they were running out of raw materials or goods to stock their shelves.

**U.S. FILES TO REVOKE CITIZENSHIP
OF AN ADMITTED NAZI WAR CRIMINAL**
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, July 11 (JTA) -- The U.S. Justice Department filed a motion in federal court here last week to revoke the U.S. citizenship of a New York state man without the customary legal proceedings, because he had admitted taking part in a massacre of Jews in Poland during World War II.

Jakob (Jack) Reimer, an ethnic German native of Ukraine, told Justice Department attorneys that as a sergeant in the Nazi SS, he had shot a man dead during a mass shooting of Jews in Poland.

The shooting took place in either 1941 or 1942 near his extermination unit's headquarters, the death camp training facility at Trawniki.

The motion to summarily revoke Reimer's citizenship, filed July 8 in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, is based on the grounds that Reimer's taped confession is so incriminating that there is no need for a formal trial.

Reimer, 74, has maintained his innocence of war crimes.

His lawyer, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, told the court his client is innocent and was himself a victim of the war.

The Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations first filed its complaint against Reimer in June 1992, a month after OSI attorneys interviewed him.

The complaint charged that Reimer "illegally procured his citizenship because he advocated or assisted in the persecution" of persons "because of race, religion or national origin, which rendered his entry to the United States unlawful" under the Displaced Persons Act.

A retired restaurant and food delivery manager who lives in Carmel, N.Y., Reimer was given a U.S. visa in 1952 and became a citizen in 1959. He was previously a German citizen, having become so in 1944.

Captured as a Soviet army officer in 1941, Reimer was held as a prisoner of war by the German army and transferred to the Trawniki training camp for SS guards in or around September 1941.

According to court documents, Reimer "admitted that, to his knowledge, the exclusive purpose of Trawniki was to train men to murder Jews."

'You Finished Him Off'

Among the court documents is a service oath he signed in 1941 in which he pledged "to obligate myself in the guard forces of the deputy of the Reichsfuhrer SS and chief of the German police -- chief of the Order Police -- for the establishment of SS and police bases in the new eastern area for the duration of the war."

He was also assigned to the municipal police detachment in Czestochowa, Poland, on Sept. 19, 1942, during the forced deportations of the Jews there, and returned to Trawniki on Nov. 6, 1942, according to the court documents.

During his May 1, 1992 interrogation, Reimer told Eli Rosenbaum, principal deputy director of OSI, that he took part in a mass shooting of Jews at the labor camp attached to Trawniki.

Although Reimer at first claimed to have overslept during the extermination, he soon admitted that another man was sent to bring him to the ravine where the Jews were shot.

Reimer described seeing one victim of the mass shooting who had not been killed and was pointing to his head in a bid to be relieved of his misery.

Rosenbaum asked, "There's something about the man who pointed to his head and that you haven't told me?"

"Yes," Reimer replied.

"You finished him off," said Rosenbaum.

"I'm afraid so," Reimer replied. "I don't know if I hit his head. I don't know that," he added.

Shortly afterward, Rosenbaum said, "It's clear now you participated in this execution of Jews, correct, as you just described, correct?"

"It seems that way," Reimer said.

**CHILDREN OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS
HOLD FIRST CONCLAVE IN AUSTRALIA**
By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, July 11 (JTA) -- The first Australian gathering of children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors opened here this week, with more than 100 participants from Australia and New Zealand.

The conference came as a result of informal discussions at the first National Gathering of Holocaust Survivors in 1985 and out of a growing awareness that there are many common problems and concerns among children of survivors that have been virtually ignored.

There are an estimated 20,000 descendants of Holocaust survivors in Australia's 100,000-strong Jewish community.

Dr. George Foster, a Sydney psychiatrist who convened the conference, said that many descendants had been left with considerable emotional baggage and have been inhibited from forming stable relationships.

In many of their actions, these descendants of survivors have "a basic fear of inflicting more trauma on their parents."

Opening the conference, a former government minister, Professor Peter Baume, told the gathering that "descendants of Holocaust survivors have a special duty to ensure the memory of the Holocaust is never erased."

Clinical psychologist Amanda Gordon, who is a fifth-generation Australian Jew and a member of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, agreed that the memory of the Holocaust is significant to all humanity but observed that "some children of survivors have been imbued so powerfully with that responsibility that they are not able to get on with their lives."

"They remain children of survivors instead of children of the '90s," she said.

The gathering was mostly devoted to discussing ways in which descendants of Holocaust survivors approach personal relationships, particularly with their parents. The conference also included discussions of the history of the settlement of survivors and their descendants in Australia.

The gathering coincidentally opened at the same time as the government announced that the trial will resume next month of an Australian resident charged with crimes against humanity in connection with the murder of Jews during the Nazi occupation of the Ukraine.

Heinrich Wagner, 69, has had his petition for a permanent stay of his trial rejected. Lawyers in the case will travel to Ukraine to take evidence from witnesses unable to travel to Australia.

CALIF. LAWMAKER CAUSES A STIR WITH REMARK OFFENSIVE TO JEWS

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, July 11 (JTA) -- A California legislator has learned, somewhat to her surprise, that the expression "jew down" is not acceptable language on the floor of the State Assembly.

Assemblywoman Kathleen Honeycutt, a first-term Republican from San Bernardino County outside Los Angeles, used the offensive phrase while commenting on the practice of some general contractors in the construction industry to squeeze their subcontractors financially.

The practice, Honeycutt said, "gives the contractor great leverage to kind of jew down the subcontractor," the Los Angeles Times reported.

After she finished her remarks, a fellow legislator told her in measured tones that he found the term offensive. Honeycutt apologized, but the matter did not rest there.

The following day, the debate was rebroadcast to 2.6 million cable television subscribers, eliciting protests from some viewers and from other legislators in a state still nervous about past and potential ethnic tensions.

Two Jewish legislators and 11 others issued a sharply worded letter urging Honeycutt to "reflect upon her comment and attitude."

Honeycutt, who won election last November after running on a Christian fundamentalist, anti-abortion platform, apologized again in an interview, but initially managed to dig her hole a little deeper.

"I had used the term in the past and never thought of the offense it would cause someone who is Jewish," she said. "It just had not occurred to me." She added, however, that "I needed correcting on it, and I stand corrected."

Honeycutt also assured the news media that she had "some very dear (Jewish) family friends," among them a man who gave her her first job, the doctor who delivered her children and a dentist for whom her mother worked.

"They are all wonderful Jewish people," she concluded.

DUTCH SENTENCE 8 NEO-NAZIS

AMSTERDAM, July 11 (JTA) -- Eight Dutch neo-Nazis have been fined about \$225 and sentenced to between 50 and 110 hours of community service for taking part in a demonstration in which they wore Nazi garb and shouted Nazi slogans.

The youths, from different parts of the country and ranging in age from 20 to 36, also received three weeks of probation from the District Court in Leeuwarden, the site of their April 29 demonstration against the trial of another neo-Nazi.

The youths wore collars with swastikas, carried iron chains and knives, shouted Nazi slogans and threatened another group protesting racism and fascism.

Three of the eight had been arrested the night before their own trial in Leeuwarden for putting up neo-Nazi posters with swastikas and the slogan "Freedom of expression also for neo-Nazis."

The neo-Nazi whose April trial was the occasion for the eight men's first demonstration was tried for seriously wounding another man and sentenced to five years in prison. He has appealed that sentence.

BELGIAN LEADER STIRS UP STORM BY GIVING A NOD TO RACIST PARTY

By Joseph Kopel

BRUSSELS, July 11 (JTA) -- The Belgian defense minister has caused a political storm here by stating he would not rule out a government coalition with the far-right Vlaams Blok, or Flemish Nationalist Party.

Leo Delcroix, a Flemish Christian Democrat, said in an interview with the Belgian daily *Le Soir* that the party, seen as racist and anti-immigrant, is a "party like the others."

"I am not among those who think that the Vlaams Blok must be avoided at any price," he said.

These statements by a member of the Cabinet and an important figure of the Flemish Christian Democratic party of Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene led to reactions of indignation and furor within the coalition government.

"This is contrary to the party's official position, set recently during a congress, that the Flemish Christian Democrats would not conclude any accord with parties whose ideas and program are opposed to human rights and fundamental liberties," said Johan van Hecke, leader of the Christian Democratic parliamentary group.

The French-speaking Socialist Party, a member of the coalition government, firmly condemned Delcroix's declarations.

Some Socialist representatives expressed their concern about the statements of a Cabinet minister "who envisions without any emotion political alliances with the fascist extreme right."

Delcroix himself tried to calm the stir he caused by declaring: "I would not consider any coalition with the Vlaams Blok as long as this party will not fundamentally change its program and particularly its points concerning immigration."

"It's not possible to form a coalition with a party that violates human rights," he said.

Some political commentators explained Delcroix's statements as an attempt to shore up support for the Flemish Christian Democratic party, which has ruled the country in coalition governments since the end of World War II.

The current coalition federal government in Belgium is made up of Christian Democrats and Socialists from both the Flemish and the French-language part of the country.

According to recent opinion polls, the Flemish Christian Democratic party is losing ground to the new Flemish Liberal party led by Guy Verhofstadt, already seen as a future prime minister.

Meanwhile, the extremist anti-immigrant Vlaams Blok won about 7 percent of the votes during the parliamentary elections in November 1991 and has four members in Parliament.

A recent opinion poll gave the Vlaams Blok 13 percent of the votes in Flanders, against 27.2 percent for the Liberals and 21.7 for the Christian Democrats.

FIRST SABRA WOMAN TO BE ORDAINED

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The first native Israeli woman to be ordained in Israel will receive smicha this week from the Reform movement.

Maya Leibowitz, 46, a second-generation Israeli, will be ordained as a rabbi Wednesday during a festive ceremony along with two other graduates of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem.