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**TENSION IN TERRITORIES MOUNTS
AFTER KILLING OF JEWISH SETTLER**

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- Tension and violence in the administered territories has escalated in the wake of the murder of a Jewish settler who was kidnapped by gunmen of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement.

The Jewish settler, Chaim Mizrachi, was murdered after being kidnapped last Friday at a Palestinian chicken farm in the West Bank, where he apparently went to buy eggs.

His charred body was found the next day inside the trunk of his car, which had also been burned. Mizrachi was buried Sunday as the search continued for his murderers.

Settlers proclaimed the start of a Jewish rebellion when Mizrachi's body was discovered.

On Saturday night, Israeli settlers blocked roads in the West Bank with burning tires. They set fire to fields, stoned Arab cars and smashed them with clubs.

Several Israelis were arrested and released after posting bail.

On Sunday morning, an Israeli shot and killed a 21-year-old Palestinian at the Erez military checkpoint at the entrance to the Gaza Strip. The shooting occurred after the Palestinian stabbed him during an argument over money.

In another incident, a Palestinian real estate dealer, Ahmed Oudeh, was murdered by Arab terrorists on Saturday outside a shop in the West Bank town of Kalkilya, where he was making arrangements for his daughter's wedding that night.

No one claimed responsibility for the killing, but sources said Oudeh was considered a collaborator with the Israeli government because he sold land on behalf of Arab landowners to Jewish settlements.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said after the Mizrachi killing that the peace talks with the Palestinians would not get in the way of the efforts of the Israeli security forces to combat terrorism.

Rabin Remark Criticized

But Jewish settlers say they are angry and frustrated by what they believe is the failure of the government to protect them.

They also fear the current series of Palestinian prisoner releases is giving the terrorists a "green light" to continue attacks against them.

Last week, Israel released more than 600 prisoners in an effort to build support among Palestinians for the self-rule accord Israel signed with the Palestine Liberation Organization on Sept. 13 in Washington.

One group of settlers got a permit to erect tents where Mizrachi's body had been found, and they devoted themselves to Talmud study in his memory.

Hundreds of others held noisy demonstrations outside the Tel Aviv and Jerusalem homes of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to protest remarks he made over the weekend that appeared to equate Palestinian and Jewish violence.

Rabin had said that Palestinian opponents of the peace process murdered Mizrachi solely be-

cause he was a Jew, while Jewish opponents of the peace process stoned Arab cars simply because they were owned by Arabs.

According to Rabin, both groups were trying to sabotage the agreement with the PLO.

The settlers were not alone in their protest against Rabin's remarks.

His comments sparked outrage all across the political spectrum and also within the Cabinet, which was briefed Sunday by Rabin on Mizrachi's murder.

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein said there is "no comparison" between the Hamas murders and the "acts of demonstration, albeit sometimes violent demonstrations, undertaken by the settlers."

Likud party leader Benjamin Netanyahu termed the comments a scandal and called on Rabin to resign if he cannot protect Jewish lives. But Netanyahu also urged restraint by the settlers.

Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini condemned the murder of Mizrachi.

"Every killing of a Palestinian or Israeli is sad, and we hope this will stop," he was reported to have said.

President Ezer Weizman said he could understand the feelings of the settlers, though he disagreed with their behavior.

"I hope that in time, things will calm," he said.

Weizman made the comment on a visit to Jordan Valley residents to advise them to carry on with their lives, undaunted by the changes that might come as a result of the recently signed accord with the PLO.

The residents told him they felt their status was insecure and that they have been abandoned by the government.

**BOYCOTT COULD HURT PALESTINIANS,
U.S. OFFICIAL WARNS ARAB GATHERING**

By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- The continuing Arab economic boycott of Israel could end up hurting the Palestinians as much or more than it hurts the Israelis, a high-level Clinton administration official has warned an Arab American group.

Dennis Ross, the State Department's coordinator for the Middle East peace process, told the annual convention of the National Association of Arab Americans last Friday that the boycott must end.

"We're at a point where Israelis and Palestinians are now talking about real economic cooperation, not just coordination," said Ross, who recently returned from a shuttle mission to the Middle East.

"At a time when Palestinians and Israelis are working together to mutual economic benefit, it is ironic that the boycott will end up punishing the Palestinians as much if not more than it punishes the Israelis," he said.

The administration has been working to encourage private American investment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as the Israeli-Palestinian accord on autonomy is implemented.

Ross told the assembled members of the

important Arab-American lobbying group that such investment would be hurt by the continuation of the boycott.

"The boycott is against American law, and at a time when we are seeing American businesses and private American initiatives increasingly demonstrated," he said, "the boycott is going to be an impediment to that. We don't need it, and it needs to be removed."

Ross also spoke of the "mutual commitment to trying to find an agreement" that he saw in both Israel and Syria on his recent trip.

Negotiations between Israel and Syria have been stalled over definitions of peace and territorial compromise, and the United States has been pushing the parties to make progress.

50 Senators Write To Clinton

The State Department official also spoke of the importance of building an "environment" conducive to Middle East peace.

He noted some "positive signs in terms of Arab outreach to the Israelis" since the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, including the recent announcement by the foreign minister of Qatar that he had met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Recent Israeli reports that were not denied by the Israeli government said that an Israeli official had been in Qatar for discussions with the Qatari Foreign Ministry.

There were rumors that during the recent United Nations General Assembly session in New York, Peres met with his Qatari counterpart.

Also speaking out against the boycott at the Arab group's convention last Friday was Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations, which appropriates foreign aid money.

Leahy told members of the group that Arab states' refusal to end the boycott would have an "adverse effect on Capitol Hill," where many lawmakers are still wary of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In a related development, 50 senators wrote to President Clinton last week urging the administration to condition further U.S. assistance to the West Bank and Gaza on a lifting of the boycott.

The letter was organized by Sens. Connie Mack (R-Fla.) and Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.).

In addition, the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists wrote to Clinton urging that U.S. aid to the PLO be withheld until it and the Arab League renounce the secondary boycott of companies doing business with Israel.

ONE ISRAELI ADDRESSES ARAB GROUP AND ANOTHER DECIDES NOT TO SHOW By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- The once-extraordinary sight of an Israeli Cabinet minister addressing assembled Arab Americans is becoming almost surrealistically routine these days.

Two weeks ago, it was Israeli Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer addressing a joint group of top Jewish and Arab American organizational officials.

And last week, Health Minister Haim Ramon addressed the annual convention of the National Association of Arab Americans, one of the major Arab American lobbying groups.

But another Israeli official who was scheduled to appear before the group, Ambassador

Itamar Rabinovich, did not show up, and conflicting explanations were given for his decision.

In his speech, Ramon spoke of a "new era" and pointed out that this was the first appearance by an Israeli minister before the NAAA.

Ramon, who spoke last Friday on a panel with Egypt's ambassador to Washington, Ahmed Maher el-Sayed, received applause from the crowd assembled for the lunchtime session.

He urged the Arab Americans to remember that not only Palestinians have a "public opinion" that needs to be placated and satisfied.

"We also have public opinion in Israel," he said, and "without the support of public opinion we cannot make progress in the peace process."

Ramon also urged an end to the Arab economic boycott of Israel, specifically the secondary boycott of companies doing business with Israel.

After discussing various problems along the route to peace, including the continuing stalemate on the Israeli-Syrian negotiating track, the Israeli Cabinet minister spoke of his hopes for the Middle East.

He said the Israeli people were beginning to feel the stirrings of a new era in the region. Since the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy agreement in September, he said, Israelis have been returning to the restaurants they once frequented in heavily Arab eastern Jerusalem but had abandoned in recent years.

ADL 'Delighted' With No-Show

Rabinovich, who is Israel's ambassador to Washington, was to have addressed the group as part of a separate panel last Friday, along with the Jordanian ambassador to Washington, Fayeze Tarawneh. But neither ambassador appeared.

Rumors floating around the convention suggested that Rabinovich had been dissuaded from coming by Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

The ADL is currently the subject of a lawsuit by the NAAA and other groups, who are charging that ADL spied on them.

Foxman said in an interview that while he would not deny having called Rabinovich, he had not told the ambassador what to do nor urged him not to attend the convention.

"Israel is a sovereign state, and they make decisions to whom they speak," Foxman said.

On the other hand, Foxman said he was delighted Rabinovich had not addressed the NAAA.

He said that some in the Arab American community were "speaking from two sides of their mouths," offering friendship with one hand while bringing lawsuits with the other.

One Israeli Embassy official did not deny the rumors about ADL trying to dissuade the ambassador from coming.

But other Israeli officials said it would be both wrong and misleading to link the ambassador's failure to appear with the ADL lawsuit.

These officials explained that Rabinovich had to cancel because Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's upcoming visit to the United States had just been advanced, from around Nov. 20 to around Nov. 12, and the ambassador was busy with meetings to prepare for the visit.

In addition, the officials said, Ramon was present at the convention as a high-level Israeli representative.

The officials added that they were not happy with the NAAA's position in the ADL lawsuit, and that had Rabinovich spoken at the convention, he would have addressed the issue.

ARAB STATES NO LONGER CHALLENGING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO A SEAT AT THE U.N.

By Mitchell Danow

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- For the first time since 1981, Israel's U.N. credentials have been accepted in the General Assembly without a challenge from the Arab group of member nations.

The General Assembly agreed to seat Israel last Friday without a debate or challenge, reflecting an improved political climate in the Middle East since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed their historic accord Sept. 13 in Washington.

From 1982 to 1989, Arab members of the General Assembly regularly challenged the credentials of the Israeli delegation. But procedural steps taken each year by members of the Scandinavian delegations prevented the world body from voting on the Arab challenges.

In 1990, when the United States sided with Kuwait against Iraq, the General Assembly did not vote on any delegation's credentials. And in 1991 and 1992, Arab states avoided the issue to prevent any disruption of the Middle East peace talks.

The director of U.N. affairs for B'nai B'rith International, Harris Schoenberg, described the lack of an Arab challenge this year as an "encouraging development."

In a separate development, Israel last week voted in favor of the Persian Gulf state of Oman's nomination as one of five states named to serve as non-permanent members of the Security Council.

In addition to approving Oman, the General Assembly elected Argentina, the Czech Republic, Nigeria and Rwanda to begin serving a two-year term on the Security Council starting Jan. 1.

The council consists of five permanent members -- the United States, France, England, Russia and China -- as well as five other non-permanent members: New Zealand, Djibouti, Spain, Brazil and Pakistan.

A spokesman for Israel's Mission to the United Nations said that Israel backed Oman's nomination "in recognition of the recent changes in the Middle East."

SURVEY OF BRITISH ETHNIC ATTITUDES SHOWS DEEP RESENTMENT OF MINORITIES

By Julian Kossoff

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- One in 10 Britons still do not want to have a Jew as a neighbor, according to the first-ever comprehensive survey of attitudes toward Jews in the United Kingdom.

But the overall picture of Jews in the popular consciousness is "markedly positive," said David Singer, research director of the American Jewish Committee, which commissioned the poll.

Jews emerged as the least disliked of all ethnic minorities in Britain in the survey, for which 959 respondents were interviewed in 100 areas of the country.

In fact, said Singer, the general level of acceptance of Jews is higher in the United Kingdom than in the United States on certain key indicators.

But the survey showed great antagonism among Britons toward other minorities -- Gypsies, Pakistanis, West Indians, Africans, Arabs and Chinese.

A local Jewish leader observed that no solace can be had from the relatively positive attitude toward Jews when one considers the feelings Britons hold toward minorities in general.

Neville Nagler, chief executive of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, expressed deep pessimism about race relations as reflected in the poll, which was conducted by the Gallup Organization.

Eighty percent of respondents to the survey feel that relations between the races were "only fair" or "poor."

Jews can only thrive and prosper in a tolerant and democratic society and have "a vested interest in worrying about the general state of race relations," said Nagler.

"Jews, to the extent that they face enemies, face the same enemies as other minorities," he added.

The survey presents evidence that the British government is not adequately addressing the problem of race relations. Home Secretary Michael Howard recently said that existing hate legislation in Britain is sufficient.

According to the survey, a large plurality of Britons -- 45 percent -- want to see that law strengthened.

Gypsies Seen As Least Desirable

The Commission for Racial Equality, the Board of Deputies and the Anti-Racist Alliance, a largely black group, have all called upon the government to beef up the laws.

Asked about the perception of different groups' influence on society, 8 percent thought the Jews have "too much."

That, too, was markedly less than the response in the United States, where 22 percent thought Jews have too much influence; and in Austria, where 28 percent of respondents thought Jews are too influential.

Of those questioned in the September poll, 12 percent of Britons said they would "prefer not" to have a Jewish neighbor. Only 5 percent of Americans gave that answer in an AJCommittee poll. The number in Poland was much higher, at 40 percent, despite the fact that few Jews live in that country anymore.

In the British poll, Gypsies were the least desirable ethnic group. Some 65 percent of Britons said they did not want a Gypsy living next door.

Arabs were the next disliked, with 31 percent of respondents saying they did not want an Arab neighbor.

Some 30 percent did not want to live next door to a Pakistani.

In all, approximately one in four Britons objected to living next door to non-whites.

According to the survey, those expressing negative attitudes toward Jews tended to be older, less educated and poorer.

The behavior of Jews was considered agreeable by all but 8 percent of those asked. That acceptance level was bested only by the Chinese. Only 7 percent of respondents said they did not consider Chinese people agreeable.

Gypsies, once again, scored highest for provoking hostility. In the area of intermarriage, Britons were also increasingly willing to accept Jews, said Singer.

A separate survey showed that 82 percent of people accepted the idea of a Jew marrying a non-Jew, while 77 percent accepted mixed racial marriages.

In 1967, the figures for this were 50 percent and 29 percent, respectively.

PARTIES FIGHTING TOUGH BATTLES IN ISRAEL'S MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- The mayoral campaigns in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem have been among the toughest -- some would say the dirtiest -- in recent memory, with the parties flinging mud at each other's candidates with gusto.

In Tel Aviv, former Likud party Cabinet minister Ronni Milo looks set to defeat Knesset member Avigdor Kahalani of the Labor Party.

And in Jerusalem, the long-serving mayor, Teddy Kollek, has been in a hotly contested race with another former Likud minister, Ehud Olmert.

Neither race has been conducted in what might be called a gentlemanly fashion.

Flyers being distributed anonymously in Tel Aviv have cast sexual aspersions on Milo, while in Jerusalem the focus of Olmert's campaign has been on Kollek's advanced age.

The implication is that Kollek, who is 82 and has been mayor since 1965, is too old to serve any longer.

Israelis are going to the polls this week to elect mayors and members of municipal councils across the country.

The elections, though primarily focused on local issues, are seen as something of a test of the Labor government's standing in the wake of the breakthrough self-rule agreement Israel signed with the Palestine Liberation Organization on Sept. 13 in Washington.

Indeed, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other leading government figures have explicitly urged voters to consider the elections as a referendum on the government's peace initiatives.

But that tactic, according to some pundits here, could well backfire.

Of the three major cities here, only in Haifa is a Labor victory virtually guaranteed. Labor's candidate, reserve Maj. Gen. Amram Mitzna, is expected to defeat easily a Likud challenge in this traditional Labor stronghold.

Mayoral Race A Matter Of Personality

In Israel's municipal elections, the voter casts two ballots: one for mayor and one for city council.

This enables people to split their vote, which renders the races for mayors very much a matter of personalities, while the council races are run on party lines.

Milo, for instance, knowing that Tel Aviv includes a strong pro-Labor population, insists that he is not so much a Likud candidate but more of a "supra-party" candidate.

This approach seems to have been effective: An opinion poll over the weekend showed 30 percent of the city's Labor voters giving Milo their support.

Milo's recent defiance of Likud in the Knesset, during which he abstained rather than vote against the self-rule accord signed with the Palestinians, clearly stood him in good stead for the mayor's race.

Interestingly, Tel Aviv's incumbent mayor, Shlomo Lahat, is another Likud maverick who strayed far to the left of his party's ideological orthodoxy.

Lahat advocated talks with the PLO long before this became the Labor Party's official policy.

Lahat is backing Milo -- as is the leftist former Knesset member Meir Pa'il, who argues, in

large advertisements published by the Milo campaign, that the Tel Aviv election should focus on local, not national, issues.

But Rabin, campaigning vigorously for Kahalani last week, told voters that Milo "is Likud" and "personally directed the Likud's vicious campaign against me."

"I know them both," Rabin said in campaign appearances. "Believe me, vote for Kahalani."

Likud Expecting Setbacks

Likud, barely a year after its defeat in the national elections, openly expects to suffer some setbacks in the municipal elections.

Likud leaders say this is a predictable trend for the opposition party.

But if Milo and Olmert win, it would go a long way to counterbalance any Likud losses in less high-profile races.

To win a mayoral race, a candidate needs 40 percent on the first ballot to avoid a runoff election.

In Jerusalem, Olmert has been trying desperately to persuade the fervently religious Agudat Yisrael and Shas parties to withdraw their mayoral candidates, and he has been urging their supporters to vote for him.

Kollek, backed by Rabin and by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, have been working just as assiduously to persuade the two parties to stay in the ring.

SOUTH AFRICANS GOING TO ISRAEL TO OBSERVE ELECTIONS PROCEDURE

By Suzanne Belling

JOHANNESBURG, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- Twenty leaders of eight South African political organizations left here for Israel over the weekend to observe the municipal election process there.

The leaders are making the visit to Israel to apply what they will learn from the Israeli election to South Africa's own elections, scheduled for April 27, 1994.

They will be the country's first non-racial democratic elections.

The invitation to visit Israel was extended by the Israeli Embassy here to leaders of South Africa's major political parties, including the African National Congress and the Azanian People's Organization.

Israeli Ambassador Alon Liel told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the program was devised by experts including members of the Israel-based Afro-Asian Institute and the Israel Democracy Institute.

"Participants will be able to witness a free and democratic election process firsthand," said Liel. He feels the "welcome changes in Israel," particularly the ongoing negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization, have made it easier to prepare such a program for South African political leaders.

At a reception prior to the group's departure for Israel, Jewish ANC leader Ronnie Kasrils, who heads the ANC's campaigns and is a member of South Africa's Election Commission, said all the delegates traveling to Israel are officially involved with the election preparations.

"We can learn a lot from Israel in many spheres of life," Kasrils told JTA.

He added that as a result of Israel's negotiations with the PLO, "everything is now possible in terms of improving relations between Israel and the ANC."