

**PROTESTING AGAINST GOVERNMENT,
SETTLERS RIOT, TARGET PALESTINIANS**
By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Jewish settlers in the administered territories have launched a series of violent attacks against Palestinian homes and property to protest what they see as an Israeli government that is insensitive to their security needs.

The attacks represent an escalation of the peaceful demonstrations of recent weeks, when settlers groups registered their dissatisfaction with the self-rule accord signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization on Sept. 13 in Washington.

On Monday, a group of Jewish settlers rioted through a Palestinian refugee camp in the West Bank, breaking the windows of a school and setting fire to a classroom.

The group was from the West Bank settlement of Beit El, the home of Chaim Mizrahi, 30, a relative newcomer to the settlement who was kidnapped and murdered last Friday by Hamas gunmen.

Settlers proclaimed the start of a Jewish rebellion when Mizrahi'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.

Along with the violent incidents, the murder has triggered widespread and increasingly organized protests by Jewish settlers, who say they are frustrated and angry about the government's failure to protect them.

Hundreds of settlers, coordinated by the Council of Judea, Samaria and Gaza, continued to block roads in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Monday morning.

The settlers built roadblocks and set fire to tires, preventing Palestinians from going to work within Israel.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin acknowledged on Sunday that the settlers live in "difficult circumstances." But he urged them to comply with the efforts of the Israel Defense Force to defend them and not to go looking to "buy cheap eggs."

Rabin was referring to Mizrahi, who was abducted from a Palestinian chicken farm where he had gone to purchase eggs.

'A Cry For Help' From Government

Rabin has been roundly criticized for recent comments he made that appeared to equate Palestinian terrorism with Jewish protests that have turned violent.

But on Sunday he tried to clarify the remarks by drawing a distinction.

"It is clear," he said, "that the (Hamas) killings are not like the (settlers') rioting, but it is clear that the will of Hamas is to attain the same result as those Israelis who are exploiting a despicable murder to oppose peace."

Aharon Domb, spokesman for the Jewish settlers' council, said the roads were blocked to protest the government's failure to protect the settlers.

He also said the settlers were protesting Israel's release of "murderous terrorists," which

he said has already "increased the level of the terrorists' daring."

Last week, Israel released more than 600 Palestinians in an effort to shore up Palestinian support for the self-rule accord.

The settlers' protests were also described as "a cry for help to the government, which seems to want to abandon us," another settler told Israel Radio.

The situation is not a political one, the settler said, but one of "frustration and fear for the very lives of our wives and children."

The community was outraged, he said, that "one of its own was murdered brutally and the prime minister of Israel speaks disparagingly, both of the community and the dead victim himself on the day of his own burial."

The settler was referring to Rabin's criticism of Mizrahi for risking his safety in a search for cheap eggs.

Meanwhile, a 24-year-old Jewish resident of the coastal town of Or Akiva north of Hadera was arrested for allegedly producing bumper stickers calling for the death of Rabin.

At the same time, a campaign is apparently being launched calling on settlers and soldiers to disobey orders to evacuate settlements in the event such orders are ever issued.

Labor Knesset member Hagai Meirum has implied that the sponsors of the disobedience campaign, whose appeals appeared in newspapers this week, are inciting rebellion. He called on the attorney general to look into the case.

**ISRAEL HAS NO PLANS TO RELEASE
ADDITIONAL PALESTINIAN PRISONERS**
By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Israel, which freed more than 600 Palestinians from prison last week, has no intention of meeting Palestinian demands for additional prisoner releases in the near future, say military and security sources.

In addition, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Cabinet this week that he has ruled out any pardons or reductions in prison sentences for Palestinians involved in terrorist attacks occurring after Sept. 13, when Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed the self-rule accord in Washington.

But PLO officials reportedly are expected to demand that Israel agree to a phased release of all Palestinian prisoners by April.

The demand is expected to be made during negotiations at the Sinai border town of Taba, where Israeli and Palestinian officials convened the fourth round of discussions on Monday.

Those discussions are seeking ways to implement the self-rule accord, which went into effect Oct. 13, when the talks began.

The PLO is also expected to demand that Israel allow all 1,600 Palestinians deported from the territories after 1967 to return by April, when Israel is scheduled to complete its withdrawal of troops from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Most of the spotlight in the Taba talks has fallen on the issue of the release of Palestinian prisoners, but this week the focus is on Israel's military withdrawal from Gaza, on security ar-

rangements in the wake of the troop withdrawals, and on the transfer of civil authority to the Palestinians.

On Monday, Israeli delegates presented their plans for the withdrawal and redeployment of Israel Defense Force troops from Gaza.

Their plans reportedly met with the dissatisfaction of the Palestinians, who thought that even after the planned withdrawal the IDF presence near Gaza would be too high.

Israeli spokesman Ami Gluska told reporters that he could not divulge details of the planned withdrawal.

But he conceded that the Palestinians had expressed reservations about the plan and added that the Israeli delegation had made it clear the plan was negotiable.

A Qualified Condemnation

There is no agreement yet on the size of the autonomous area to be established around Jericho.

With the Palestinians seeking a wide swath of land around the town that will give them access to the Jordan River and the Dead Sea, and with Israel attempting to limit the boundaries to the town itself, the issue promises to be one of the most contentious to arise at Taba.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian delegates in Taba denounced the recent spate of violence in the territories. But they reportedly steered clear of condemning specific acts of terrorism committed by the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement.

Tension and violence escalated in the administered territories over the weekend in the wake of the murder of a Jewish settler who was kidnapped by Hamas gunmen.

The settler, Chaim Mizrahi, 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. Mizrahi was buried Sunday as the search for his murderers continued.

According to news reports here, most of the ministers speaking at Sunday's weekly meeting of the Cabinet said the PLO must speak out more forcefully against the recent murders of Jews in the territories.

CARGILL AGREES TO PAY BOYCOTT FINE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- A large grain exporter has agreed to pay \$85,500 in civil penalties to the Commerce Department amid allegations that it complied with the Arab boycott of Israel.

Cargill, Inc., a Minneapolis-based exporter of grain and other agricultural commodities, and two of its subsidiaries in Antigua and Brazil were charged with 52 alleged violations of the anti-boycott provisions of the Export Administration Act.

Cargill agreed to pay the fine but neither admitted nor denied the charges.

The charges included failing to report two requests, and failing to report in a timely manner 21 requests to engage in restrictive trade practices or boycotts against Israel. The requests were made by Bahrain, Iraq and Kuwait.

The Export Administration Act prohibits U.S. companies and individuals from agreeing to observe foreign boycotts, and from furnishing information to boycotted countries about their business relationships in boycotted countries.

JAMES ZOGBY, ARAB AMERICAN LEADER, ELECTED TO DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE POST By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- In an example of the effect that the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organization's accord has on domestic politics, a major Arab American leader has won election to a key position on the Democratic National Committee.

James Zogby, the president of the Arab American Institute and a longtime Democratic party activist, was elected last month to be one of 65 at-large members of the DNC.

At a joint Jewish and Arab American reception at the DNC's fall meeting last month, Zogby spoke of his desire for the DNC post, which he said he had been "afraid" to seek in past years because it was politically "too hot."

"I don't think it is this year" in the wake of the Israeli-Palestinian accord, he said at the reception.

In recent years, Jewish and Arab American Democrats have waged fierce battles over Middle East policy planks at Democratic conventions.

But at last month's reception, representatives of the two groups spoke of a new era of cooperation in which Jewish and Arab-American Democrats could work together on domestic and foreign policy issues.

Zogby was one of 33 new at-large DNC members elected last month. The at-large DNC members were nominated by Chairman David Wilhelm and elected by DNC members at a full committee meeting.

GREENPEACE GETS ISRAELI VOW TO CUT PESTICIDE PRODUCTION By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Environment Minister Yossi Sarid has assured Greenpeace that Israel will reduce its production of a pesticide that the environmental group warns has been harming the ozone layer.

Israeli production of methyl bromide, a chemical used for crop-dusting and pest control, will be reduced by 1995 to 1991 production levels, Sarid said.

Sarid made the comments during a meeting with members of Greenpeace aboard the group's flagship, the Rainbow Warrior, which arrived in Haifa on Friday for a four-day visit to Israel.

To promote Greenpeace's project to preserve the Mediterranean's goals, the flagship has embarked on a four-month cruise of Mediterranean countries.

"We have not come here to cause disturbances," said Mike Damato, the head of Greenpeace's project.

"We just want to study Israel's environmental problems," he said. "Only our Israeli members and friends can decide if we need to organize protest demonstrations."

Greenpeace has reportedly cited Israel's methyl bromide production, at a plant near the Dead Sea, as playing a major role in the destruction of the world's ozone layer.

Sarid told the Greenpeace members that he doubted Israel was a major cause of the destruction of the ozone layer.

However, he said, "We are as concerned for the world as anyone else. When the world decides to stop using methyl bromide, Israel won't be the last to cooperate."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**KOHL'S CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENCY HAS OFFENDED JEWS AND MANY OTHERS**

By Larry Yudelson and Miriam Widman

BERLIN (JTA) -- Jews here are upset that Germany could soon have a president who believes the time has come for his country to move beyond the Holocaust and assume what he calls a "normal" role in Europe.

But they draw some comfort from the fact that the Christian Democratic presidential candidate, Steffen Heitmann, has managed to offend most Germans.

Heitmann's remarks about the Holocaust, as well as his comments regarding women and foreigners, have led to serious doubts as to whether he will still be the candidate of the ruling party when members of national and state parliaments elect the president in May.

The Jewish uproar over Heitmann began in mid-September, when he told the *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* newspaper that it was time to put the Holocaust in its "proper place" in history.

"The German special role in the postwar period was, to a certain extent, a continuation of the Nazi times," he was quoted as saying. "That is over."

Those comments were sharply criticized by the World Jewish Congress and by Jewish organizational leaders here. Ignatz Bubis, chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, accused the candidate of saying what he thought people wanted to hear, rather than setting a moral example.

At the same time, Bubis said it would be inappropriate to compare Heitmann to Kurt Waldheim, who was elected president of Austria in 1986 despite revelations by the WJC that he had served in a German army unit linked to World War II atrocities.

"You cannot say he's anti-Semitic," Bubis said of the German presidential candidate, adding: "He's a very conservative man, and that's it."

Nevertheless, Bubis has both publicly and privately opposed Heitmann's candidacy. He met privately with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, at the chancellor's request, to discuss the issue.

'I Don't Need Any Lectures' From WJC

It was Kohl who picked Heitmann, the obscure justice minister of the eastern German state of Saxony, as the Christian Democratic candidate for the largely ceremonial office of the presidency.

It was also Kohl who angrily warned the WJC earlier this month to stay out of the controversy.

"This is a question for the Germans to decide, and I don't need any lectures from the World Jewish Congress," the chancellor was quoted as saying.

In fact, there is a feeling among observers that a noisy campaign by the WJC -- with a resulting sympathetic backlash for Heitmann, as happened with Waldheim -- may be the only thing that could save Heitmann's candidacy.

Recent polls show no more than 11 percent of the German electorate favoring Heitmann, with 77 percent opposing his candidacy.

But in New York, the WJC rejected the notion that it should remain on the sidelines.

The WJC "has never agreed with the point that one must remain silent in the face of evil," said Executive Director Elan Steinberg. "Anti-

Semites cause anti-Semitism, and not Jews," Steinberg said.

There has been speculation that Kohl's coalition partners may field a candidate of their own, or even that Kohl will stand for the post.

But meanwhile, the debate over Heitmann has reopened wounds for some Jews here.

Rina Menda-Otterbach, an Israeli here eight years, said the debate infuriated her. "Whether he's chosen or not, it doesn't matter to me. The debate was disgusting," she said.

She added that Heitmann had separately offended her as a woman, a foreigner and a Jew.

Heitmann believes women should not work outside the home, and his views on foreigners are considered similarly backward by liberals here.

Last week, a visiting delegation of United Jewish Appeal leaders, on their first trip to Germany, did their best to stay out of the controversy. They met with outgoing President Richard von Weizsacker and were full of praise for him but carefully avoided mentioning Heitmann.

'Majority Of Germans' Condemn Attitude

The meeting with Weizsacker was the highlight of a historic visit by the 312-member UJA delegation, which came to Berlin for a 36-hour whirlwind tour of the city and for meetings with local and national leaders.

"We were most impressed with this elegant man," said Roberta Holland, national vice chairwoman of the UJA.

Weizsacker has often served as a moral light for Germany, whereas Chancellor Kohl has repeatedly refused to visit major sites of anti-foreigner violence.

A distinguished, aristocratic-looking man, Weizsacker is an eloquent speaker who has often broached topics other politicians have ignored.

At times, one has the impression that Weizsacker is Germany's chief political firefighter. After racial riots or attacks on foreigners' homes, the government trots him out to calm nerves.

"We expressed our hope that the presidency, which has been a tremendous moral force under his leadership, will continue to be so," UJA Executive Vice President Brian Lurie said.

Berlin Mayor Christine Bergmann gave a sample of the German opposition to Heitmann when she addressed the UJA delegation at a luncheon held last week in Berlin's City Hall.

"I am angry," she said, "about the newly revived discussion about Germany finding its way back to normality." This idea "must be rejected. The majority of Germans condemn this attitude."

U.S. SPORTS TEAM ATTACKED BY SKINHEADS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- The U.S. government expressed concern to German authorities this week after a member of a U.S. sports team was attacked by German neo-Nazis in what appeared to be a racially motivated incident.

A State Department spokesman said U.S. officials "took the incident seriously and had spoken with German authorities" about it.

The U.S. luge team was practicing in the eastern German town of Oberhof, where the attack took place Friday. Skinheads apparently targeted the group, which included at least one African American.

Duncan Kennedy, a member of the team, was reportedly punched and kicked by the skinheads after attempting to intercede on behalf of teammate Robert Pipkins, who is black.

FOCUS ON ISSUES:**REFORM MOVEMENT IS WRACKED
BY DEBATE OVER NON-JEWS' ROLE**

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) -- Even as religious practice gets new attention from the Reform movement and its leader proposes that the denomination reach out to un-churched non-Jews, debate rages over the role that non-Jews sitting in the pews should play in synagogue life.

At the recent biennial convention of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, it was one of the major topics discussed, during speeches and in the halls between sessions.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, UAHC's president, in his keynote address called for non-Jews to be given a greater role in Jewish rituals.

He advocated that non-Jews be permitted to handle the Torah scroll and to be buried in Jewish cemeteries.

"There seems to exist a very strong taboo against non-Jews touching a Torah. Yet this zealousness has no traditional or halachic (legal) underpinning whatsoever," he said during his Shabbat sermon.

"After all, this Torah scroll they are not allowed to touch -- is it not, in the case of Christians, part of their religious heritage?" said Schindler.

"That cemetery plot denied to them -- is it not on the very hallowed ground where they go to pay respect to their in-laws, their Jewish friends and neighbors, in some cases to their own spouses and children?"

While scattered applause greeted Schindler's proposals, his views were debated by delegates to the convention, which was held here Oct. 21-25.

"There's a certain hypocrisy involved in having someone lead rituals which are limited to membership in the Jewish people, like an aliyah" to read the Torah, said Rabbi Joseph Glaser, executive vice president of the movement's rabbinic organization, the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

"I am concerned that we are giving a message when we involve a non-Jew in the sacred rituals of Judaism that 'what's the point of converting or marrying a Jew, for that matter,'" Glaser said in an interview.

'A Temple Is Not A Social Club'

According to delegate Shulamith Zimmerman of Temple Sinai in Toronto, allowing non-Jews too much of a role in the synagogue poses a serious problem for the Reform movement.

"We need boundaries," she said. "A temple is not a social club."

Her husband, Harvey Zimmerman, said: "I find this issue more threatening than anything else in Reform to what my idea of Judaism is about.

"If you give non-Jews everything," he said, "what's the point of being Jewish?"

The issue has been percolating in Reform temples for several years, since large numbers of non-Jewish participants became evident in the pews.

It exploded into full-fledged debate among the movement's leaders last February, at an executive committee meeting of UAHC, when Schindler first put forth some of the ideas he later proposed in San Francisco. As a result of the uproar, the slated agenda was put aside.

At the February meeting, Rabbi Walter

Jacob, president of the Reform rabbinic organization, said: "There should be a very clear distinction between a Jew and a non-Jew in our religious services. It is wrong to have a non-Jew leading us in prayer.

"If we take prayer and these words seriously, then we cannot have a gentile mouth what they clearly do not believe.

"The non-Jew knows that it would be absurd to have a Jew assist a mass or take communion in a Catholic church," Jacob said.

"In fact it has been my experience that non-Jews questioned their role even at a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. If they understand the difference, shouldn't we?" Jacob asked.

His point, Schindler said in an interview, is to ensure that non-Jews, and the children of intermarriages, not be hurt by being excluded.

He suggested that temples be most open to the participation of non-Jews in rituals and least open to their participation in governance matters.

For example, he suggested that when a child becomes a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, the non-Jewish parent place the tallit (prayer shawl) over the child's head.

"That's not profane," said Schindler. He denied there is any contradiction or mixed message in having young people publicly proclaim for the first time that they are making an adult commitment to a Jewish life, while their non-Jewish parent participates in the ritual without having made that commitment.

Most Grant Non-Jews Membership

On the contrary, he said, it is "mutually reinforcing" for the Bar Mitzvah child to see the non-Jewish parent participating.

"After all, practice is the antecedent of belief in Judaism," he said. "It may be the first step of the parent's conversionary process."

As part of the movement's emphasis on autonomy, each congregation defines its own rules for the participation of non-Jews.

Non-Jews are a presence in just about every Reform temple, and in some places comprise a significant minority.

In most cases, the non-Jews are married to Jews and have agreed to raise their children Jewishly. They come with their families to pray and bring the kids to Hebrew school.

They are permitted membership in the overwhelming majority of Reform temples -- 88 percent -- although the degree of participation allowed in ritual and governance varies from place to place.

And while a minority of congregations currently have the roles permitted to non-Jews written into their bylaws, a large number are in the midst of defining the issue, according to Dru Greenwood, director of the movement's Commission on Reform Jewish Outreach.

Sixty-two percent of congregations allow non-Jews to vote on congregational issues, according to an outreach census conducted by the UAHC in 1991.

In terms of ritual, more than 90 percent of Reform congregations allow non-Jews to participate from the pulpit in life cycle ceremonies, including baby namings and Bar and Bat Mitzvahs.

Four out of 10 Reform temples allow non-Jews to light Shabbat candles in front of the assembled congregation.

And more than one-fifth of temples -- 22 percent -- allow non-Jews to have an aliyah at the reading of the Torah.