

SETTLERS VOW TO PROTECT AREAS FROM NEW ATTACKS BY PALESTINIANS

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- Jewish settlers continued their violent protests against attacks by Palestinian terrorists and issued promises that they will continue to employ violence as a means for getting the government to take their demands for security seriously.

On Monday, two Palestinians were shot and lightly injured by Jewish settlers who were protesting the killing the day before of 30-year-old Ephraim Ayubi.

A caller to Israel Radio said the Committee for Security on the Roads of Judea and Samaria claimed responsibility for the attack on a Palestinian father and son, who were on their way to the West Bank town of Nablus.

The settlers say that these attacks will teach Arabs that terrorist acts will not go unanswered, and that they may escalate their violent response in days to come.

One resident of the West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba told Israel Radio that Jewish settlers would not change their violent tactics.

"Our world will be secure, and if our government doesn't know how to take care of that, but on the contrary, it stimulates terror, we will take care of that," the settler said.

"There won't be any Arabs on this road," he said, referring to his group's blockade of roads leading to Arab villages in the West Bank.

On Sunday, four Palestinians were reportedly shot by Jews in retaliation for Ayubi's murder. The same day, hundreds of settlers held a violent demonstration in Jerusalem's city center.

The demonstrators, issuing calls for the resignation of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, clashed with police attempting to disperse the crowds who gathered here Sunday evening.

The demonstrations occurred after terrorists attacked the car of Rabbi Chaim Druckman near the West Bank town of Hebron earlier Sunday.

Druckman is a founding member of the Gush Emunim settlers movement and a former Knesset member from the National Religious Party.

Husseini Urges International Force

Ayubi, the settlement leader's driver, was killed in the attack. Druckman suffered bullet wounds in the arm and shoulder.

The Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a group opposed to the peace process, claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack.

Druckman was released from the hospital Sunday to attend Ayubi's funeral, which drew thousands of mourners.

The deteriorating security situation prompted four no-confidence motions Monday in the Knesset by the opposition. All were defeated.

Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini, who has played a key role in the peace negotiations with Israel, said Monday that the Israel Defense Force is responsible for preventing settlers' attacks against Arabs.

Husseini called for an international force to maintain order in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

He said that if the violence against Arabs

did not stop, Palestinian negotiators would insist on discussing the future status of Jewish settlements during the current round of autonomy talks with Israel.

The talks -- broken off last week in the Sinai border town of Taba after Palestinian negotiators balked at Israeli plans to redeploy rather than withdraw troops in the Gaza Strip and Jericho -- were resumed at a secret location in Cairo on Monday.

Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur responded to settlers' security concerns by saying Monday that the government "would do our utmost to put an end to this terrorism."

He said he expected many Palestinians to wake up to the promise of the peace agreement and abandon terrorism.

Gur acknowledged that there are Palestinian extremists bent on destroying the self-rule accord signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization on Sept. 13 in Washington.

But Gur added that he was confident the rejectionists would be overcome.

HEIGHTENED TENSIONS ON SECURITY PROMPT MUDSLINGING IN THE KNESSET

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- Verbal violence wracked the Knesset on Monday as some members used epithets and analogies from the Nazi period to express their views on the peace process and the ongoing violence in the administered territories.

The government eventually weathered four no-confidence motions submitted by the opposition Likud, Tsomet, National Religious and Moledet parties. The votes were 57-46.

The Knesset melee erupted when Moledet's Rehavam Ze'evi compared the Rabin government to that of Vichy France, and then refused to withdraw his remark.

Labor representatives angrily pointed out that the Vichy regime supported the Nazis.

Ze'evi, a former general in the Israel Defense Force, said he had no other way of describing a government that makes common cause with the enemies of its country.

This led Yoram Lass of Labor to call Ze'evi a "Nazi," apparently a reference to a plank in Moledet's platform that calls for "transfer" of the Palestinians out of Israel.

Pandemonium erupted in the Knesset.

The acting speaker, Rafi Edri, was unable to restore order for several minutes, and the incident was later referred to a Knesset committee for possible disciplinary action.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, speaking from a prepared text, called on settlers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to do "what we have been doing here for a hundred years: burying our dead, biting our lips -- and carrying on."

He urged the settlers to restrain those among them who sought revenge or to cause violence in the territories, warning that such action would boomerang against Israel.

He said the army had "strict instructions" not to permit further acts of lawlessness -- by Jews as well as Arabs.

An attack near Hebron on Sunday killed 30-

year-old Ephraim Ayubi dead and injured Rabbi Chaim Druckman. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, based in Damascus, claimed responsibility for that incident.

Rabin said the Palestine Liberation Organization had committed no acts of terror since the signing of the mutual-recognition pact Sept. 13.

But Likud's chairman, Benjamin Netanyahu, said the PLO mainstream was working "hand in hand" with Hamas, the fundamentalist Islamic group.

For the NRP, Zevulun Hammer accused the government of failing to discharge its basic security obligations toward the settlers.

Tsomet's Rafael Eitan said the PLO was not living up to the commitments that the government -- but not the opposition -- expected of it.

Both Shas and the United Torah Judaism bloc stayed away from the Knesset during the commotion.

Political sources said their behavior was linked to behind-the-scenes negotiations about proposed legislation that would prevent the import of non-kosher meat.

Labor has had intensive, discreet contacts with Shas designed to woo the fervently Orthodox Sephardic party back into the coalition fold.

IN NOVEL MOVE, U.S. REVIEWS EFFECTS OF BOYCOTT ON AMERICAN BUSINESSES By Steven Weiss

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- In a move hailed by the Jewish community, the Clinton administration has ordered the first government study on what effect the Arab economic boycott against Israel is having on U.S. companies.

The U.S. trade representative, Mickey Kantor, last week asked the U.S. International Trade Commission to conduct a "carefully researched assessment of the impact of the boycott on U.S. firms."

The United States historically has concerned itself with the boycott's negative impact on Israel. This action focuses attention on how the boycott affects U.S. trade.

The so-called primary boycott affects trade with Israel directly, barring economic dealings between Israel and Arab states, other than Egypt.

The secondary and tertiary boycotts affect U.S. companies doing business with Israel by blacklisting companies with economic ties to Israel as well as commerce with companies that do business with blacklisted companies.

Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), chairman of a congressional task force on the boycott, said in a statement that the report "could very possibly lead to U.S. trade retaliation against countries enforcing the boycott."

Kantor's letter asks the trade commission to analyze how the boycott affects U.S. businesses in three ways: lost sales and business opportunities in Arab League countries, increased transportation costs resulting from the boycott, and investment diverted from U.S. businesses because of their association with Israel.

The letter requests the trade commission's report to be completed within a year.

In New York, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations hailed the announcement of the study, calling it a "major, positive step" that will "promote further progress in resolving the Israel-Arab conflict while expanding trade and investment opportunities for American businesses abroad."

ISRAEL ENTERTAINS REIGNING KING WITH VISIT OF SPAIN'S JUAN CARLOS

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- In a development hailed as a "breakthrough" by top diplomatic officials here, King Juan Carlos of Spain is making his first visit to Israel this week.

The trip heralds a warming in relations between the two countries.

Israeli and Spanish officials are expected to sign six agreements for economic cooperation during the king's three-day stay in Israel.

But his arrival in Israel is also viewed as having considerable symbolic importance attached to it.

The state visit, the first ever by a ruling European monarch, is expected to ease the strains that have marred relations between the two countries in the past.

The visit is also expected to strengthen ties between Israel and countries influenced by Spain, such as those of Latin America.

The king, accompanied by his wife, Queen Sofia, and by an entourage of ministers and dozens of business leaders, was welcomed here Monday with an elaborate official state ceremony.

Senior Foreign Ministry officials said the visit would elevate Israel's relations with Spain to the level of those with Britain and France.

Until 1986, when Israel and Spain established diplomatic ties, Spain was largely cool and distant toward Israel while maintaining close relations with the Arabs.

Spain hosted the October 1991 Madrid conference on the Middle East peace process. The framework for negotiations established there has served ever since as the basis for the peace talks involving Israel, the Palestinians and its Arab neighbors.

Trade Has Grown Dramatically

The royal visit follows an invitation to the king by former President Chaim Herzog, who visited Spain last year.

At that time, Juan Carlos called for reconciliation between the two countries during a ceremony in a Madrid synagogue commemorating the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of the Jews from Spain.

During the past 10 years, Israeli-Spanish trade has grown from about \$30 million to \$440 million.

The agreements due to be signed this week are expected to give a further economic boost to both countries.

Danny Gillerman, president of Israel's Chamber of Commerce, said the dozens of Spanish business leaders who accompanied the king were an important and hopeful sign.

"Spain is a member of the E.C. (European Community), a leader in the Mediterranean region," he told Israel Radio, "and I believe that in today's world, in the context of the peace process, it could play a major role in the development of the region."

As a sign of the weightiness accorded the visit, Juan Carlos was scheduled to address the Knesset on Tuesday.

He was also expected to meet with Israeli leaders as well as with a Palestinian delegation.

His schedule also includes a tour of the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial and of Christian holy sites, and he is expected to receive an honorary degree from Hebrew University.

**MITTERRAND WILL NO LONGER HONOR
MAN WHO HEADED VICHY GOVERNMENT**

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- Responding to a large outcry from Holocaust survivors and World War II veterans, French President Francois Mitterrand has officially announced that he will no longer lay a wreath at the tomb of Marshal Henri-Philippe Petain.

The ongoing plans to annually honor Petain, a hero of World War I but a villain in the collaborationist Vichy government of World War II, had stoked increased anger throughout France.

Ceremonies were to have been held Thursday for the annual observance of the armistice of World War I.

Opposition to Mitterrand's announced plans came from veterans of World War II and organizations of former deportees and their relatives.

The Sons and Daughters of Jews Deported from France, an organization founded by Paris lawyer Serge Klarsfeld, had strongly protested the president's plans since the late 1980s, when it became publicized that the French president had been paying annual tribute to the memory of a man who led the infamous Vichy regime during World War II.

Mitterrand's annual homage to Petain was also severely criticized by several leaders of his own Socialist party.

Petaín was awarded the title of marshal of France following his 1918 victory at Verdun as leader of the French forces. He later became minister of war and then ambassador to Spain.

In 1940, Petaín was given complete authority over Vichy France by the French Assembly. Almost immediately, he signed decrees stripping the Jews of their civil rights. In May 1941, he pledged cooperation with Nazi Germany.

Mitterrand Paid Annual Tribute To Petaín

In many ways, Vichy France outdid itself as a persecutor, going above and beyond German requests to arrest and deport Jews. It was the only country to arrest Jews and deport them from areas that were not occupied by the Nazis.

After France's liberation by the Americans, Petaín was condemned to death for his deeds. But his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment on the island of Yeu, off France's Atlantic coast. He died there in 1951.

While French Jewish leaders expressed satisfaction over Mitterrand's decision to stop honoring Petaín, Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the extreme right-wing National Front, said the president had bowed to pressures from "the lobbies."

An adviser to Mitterrand told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the French president had been badly treated over the issue. "Mitterrand's predecessors also laid wreaths on Petaín's tomb, and nobody ever said anything against it," the adviser claimed.

But while it is true that former presidents Charles de Gaulle, Georges Pompidou and Valery Giscard d'Estaing did send wreaths to decorate Petaín's grave, they did so only once each.

De Gaulle sent flowers on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the armistice, in 1968.

Pompidou sent a wreath in 1973 after Petaín was reinterred, following desecration of his tomb.

Giscard did so for the 60th commemoration of the armistice, in 1978.

In contrast, Mitterrand made the tribute annually.

**RABBI AGAIN SUES POLISH CARDINAL
FOR SLANDER IN CONVENT INCIDENT**

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- Cardinal Jozef Glemp, head of Poland's Catholic Church, is again being sued for defamation by Avi Weiss, a New York activist rabbi.

Glemp, on his first trip back to the United States since 1991, was visiting Polish communities in the Seattle area on Oct. 29 when he was served with legal papers related to Weiss' lawsuit.

Weiss contends that Glemp slandered him in a 1989 homily.

In that sermon, the Polish prelate said that the Bronx rabbi had been trying to kill a group of Carmelite nuns living in a convent at the perimeter of the Auschwitz death camp when Weiss and six followers demonstrated there in July 1989.

The convent's presence at Auschwitz, where an estimated 1.6 million Jews were slaughtered during the Holocaust, was long the source of tension in international Catholic-Jewish relations.

After years of delicate negotiations, a new convent was built nearby, off the death camp grounds, and the nuns moved out last summer.

The Auschwitz convent imbroglio still awaits its final conclusion, however. The Carmelite convent's mother superior subleased the vacated building to a third party, apparently contravening instructions from the Polish Catholic Church.

The matter is working its way through Polish courts.

Weiss first sued Glemp for libel in 1989, but the suit was dismissed in March 1992, by a U.S. District Court judge who ruled that the legal documents had been improperly served to the Polish primate.

A separate slander suit Weiss brought against Glemp, this one in Poland in November 1989, was dismissed.

Weiss said in an interview that he is "still living with (Glemp's) slander wherever I go. In the non-Jewish community I hear about it" all the time.

"All I'm asking for is an apology," he said. Weiss, a longtime activist on behalf of Soviet Jewry and other issues, is national president of a direct-action group called the Coalition for Jewish Concerns-Amcha.

He plans to return to Poland next spring, to protest what he says is the presence of a church on the grounds of the Birkenau death camp.

But "because of Glemp I am viewed as a tyrant, as a violent man in Poland. The record has to be made straight," Weiss said.

According to Steven Hemmat, Weiss' attorney, Glemp has 20 days from the date he was served to respond to the lawsuit.

So far, said Hemmat, there has been no response.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HONORS DONORS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum held a program last week to honor donors who contributed personal keepsakes from Jews who were held in concentration camps or spent the war in hiding.

"We could not have told this difficult and complex story without these precious objects," said Jacek Nowakowski, the museum's director of collections.

More than 300 donors attended the program.

JEWIS IN CROATIA ARE FEARING RESURRECTION OF FASCIST PAST

NEW YORK, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- Fearing a resurrection of the country's fascist past, the Jewish community in Croatia has sent a letter to the country's president urging him to affirm Croatia's democratic traditions.

In the two years since Croatia broke away from Yugoslavia and became an independent republic, President Franjo Tudjman has initiated steps designed to bolster his support among the country's nationalists.

But according to Tudjman's critics, his attempts to instill patriotic pride within his country have gone too far, resulting in a program that is officially rehabilitating the fascist Ustashe regime that governed the country during World War II.

Ognjen Kraus, the president of the Jewish community in the Croatian capital of Zagreb, sent a letter on behalf of the country's Jews to Tudjman on Oct. 29, asking him to take steps to reverse what many in the country consider a frightening trend.

The period of Ustashe rule occurred when Yugoslavia was occupied and partitioned by the Axis powers from 1941 to 1945. Croatia at the time was nominally an independent state, but it was actually a Nazi puppet regime.

An estimated 20,000 Jews and 750,000 Serbs were killed in Croatia during the period of Ustashe rule, chiefly at a bestial death camp called Jasenovac.

After the war, Croatia became a republic in the newly formed state of Yugoslavia. It declared its independence from Yugoslavia in June 1991, and fighting subsequently broke out between the country's Croats and ethnic Serbians.

Tudjman's defenders claim that the president is not glorifying the Ustashe period -- the word merely means "rebels," they insist -- but is only harking back to the only period of independence in the country's modern history.

But many, including members of the Croatian Jewish community, fear that the resurgence of a nationalist spirit in the country could also lead to a revival of other aspects of the Nazi era.

Tudjman's critics point to a decision by the Croatian Parliament to accept a recommendation from Tudjman to introduce a new currency called the kuna -- the same name used during the country's Ustashe era.

Tudjman Would Honor Killers

The critics were further outraged when Tudjman proposed in October that Croats who died in the fighting with the Communists after the war and those who died in the recent fighting with Serbs be commemorated at Jasenovac.

Jasenovac was the World War II concentration camp where Croatian fascists killed tens of thousands of Jews, Serbs and Gypsies in the most brutal ways.

Many of these very Croats whom Tudjman wants to commemorate, the critics point out, were responsible for the deaths of the thousands already buried at the camp.

The Croatian government has also been criticized for taking other controversial steps.

These included the renaming of some streets in Zagreb after figures from the Ustashe period; a decision to incorporate into the country's flag the checkered coat of arms that appeared on the flag of the Ustashe state; and a directive issued when

Tudjman became president in 1990 to rename a square in Zagreb that had been dedicated "to the victims of fascism" with a new name, "The Square of Croatian Geniuses."

Kraus' letter to Tudjman, released here by the World Jewish Congress, tackled these decisions one by one and appealed to the president to reverse the trend.

"The decision to introduce the kuna as Croatian currency had a negative impact on the sentiments in our community and it has awakened uncomfortable memories," Kraus wrote.

Regarding the decision to commemorate Croats at Jasenovac, Kraus wrote, "It offends our most sorrowful memories, which we want to leave to history and to the tranquility that history brings.

"We warn you that there is still a school in the middle of Zagreb bearing the name of the Ustashe leader and war criminal Mile Budak," the letter continued.

"At the same time, streets bearing the names of Jewish anti-fascist fighters have been renamed, and the monument above the pit in the former concentration camp at Jadovno where more than 1,500 Jews and many others were executed has been demolished.

"By sending this letter on behalf of the Jewish community in Croatia, we want to repeatedly emphasize our solidarity as citizens of the Republic of Croatia with its independent and democratic identity and development," Kraus wrote.

ITALY'S JEWISH MARRIAGE BUREAU CELEBRATES 1ST YEAR OF OPERATION By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) -- Italy's first all-Jewish marriage bureau is celebrating its first year of operation this month with a gala weekend in Florence that organizers hope will draw Jewish singles from all over Europe.

"It's our first experience in staging a big party like this, and we hope it will be a success," said Davide dello Strolago, founder and director of the Milan-based Armonia agency.

Dello Strolago founded Armonia -- "harmony" in Italian -- in September 1992.

He said he wanted to create a serious matchmaking bureau for Jewish singles, widows, widowers and divorced people, and said "making people happy" rather than making money is his goal.

He said he consulted psychologists, as well as software companies in Israel and in the United States, before creating his own matchmaking software.

The program's compatibility test is composed of 35 questions.

Candidates for Armonia's services fill out an 18-page questionnaire and also have a personal interview.

Each candidate also must provide a rabbinical certificate or other written proof of being Jewish.

Results from the questionnaire and interviews are coded and loaded into a computer, which selects potential partners according to estimated compatibility.

Only people whose compatibility is estimated at more than 65 percent are introduced, and fees are taken only if there is a successful match.

Only one match has been made since the agency was started.