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**FATAH LINK TO SETTLER'S MURDER
ERODES ISRAELI CONFIDENCE IN PLO**

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- The revelation that the Oct. 29 kidnapping and killing of Jewish settler Chaim Mizrahi was carried out by members of Al Fatah, the Palestine Liberation Organization faction under the command of Yasser Arafat, has sparked outrage as well as a sense of betrayal here.

The government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has repeatedly insisted that Fatah was not involved in any of the terrorist attacks that have occurred since the signing of the Israel-PLO self-rule accord on Sept. 13.

But now, there is growing doubt that Arafat can be counted upon to prevent further acts of terrorism and implement his side of the autonomy agreement.

Mizrahi's murder had originally been attributed to the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement, which opposes the Israeli-Palestinian accord.

But on Friday, the day Rabin met with President Clinton in Washington, the Israel Defense Force announced that the five Palestinians captured in the Mizrahi killing were members of the PLO's Fatah wing.

Following their meeting, Clinton and Rabin held a joint news conference at which the issue surfaced as to whether the PLO was doing enough to condemn terrorist attacks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In remarks clearly directed at Arafat, Clinton said, "Leaders who seek peace must speak out in a loud and clear voice against those who would destroy those aspirations for peace."

Later, in response to a question, the president said Arafat was "duty-bound at a minimum to condemn" terrorist attacks as a violation of the Israeli-PLO agreement.

On Saturday, Arafat issued a statement condemning the killing and said the killers acted on their own, without the knowledge of Fatah's leadership.

Time For Arafat To Speak Explicitly

But Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur made it clear at the weekly Cabinet meeting Sunday that while the PLO condemnation was a positive step, it did not go far enough.

"It's time for him (Arafat) as a leader to speak clearly and loudly and explicitly," Gur said, "to tell all his people to stop any terrorist activity."

Similar sentiments were expressed by other Cabinet ministers.

"I hope the future will indicate one thing," said Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, "that he (Arafat) can control" his people. "Otherwise we have to ask ourselves very difficult questions" about the peace process, he said.

Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet said he believed the PLO had not done enough to oppose acts of terrorism, but that the condemnation by Arafat was sufficient to resume the talks on implementing the autonomy agreement, which were to enter their sixth round this week in Cairo.

Members of the opposition, upon hearing the

announcement that the Mizrahi murderers belonged to Fatah, charged the Rabin government with a "whitewash."

"The whitewash is beginning to peel off and crumble from the shaky agreement which the Rabin government has signed," National Religious Party Chairman Zevulun Hammer told the Jerusalem Post. "The government spoke to sheep, only to discover that it was dancing with wolves."

But Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who chaired Sunday's Cabinet meeting in Rabin's absence, said the importance of the PLO's condemnation of the Mizrahi murder should not be underestimated.

Peres called the condemnation a marked change in PLO policy. But he also said Israel would insist that the PLO be made to honor its commitments.

Among those commitments was a letter Arafat sent to Rabin on Sept. 9 in which he renounced violence and vowed to discipline any PLO members who resorted to it.

The letter, written four days before the historic signing of the Palestinian self-rule accord in Washington, represented a crucial step in achieving the accord.

Two More Stabbed

During Sunday's meeting, Israeli security officials told the Cabinet that the PLO instructions to refrain from terrorist acts were generally being obeyed by its members.

They said that the murderers of Mizrahi reported their attack to a Fatah official in the territories.

But the organization apparently did nothing to aid their escape and the Fatah official did not report the information to Arafat.

Peres stated during the Cabinet meeting that there would be no concessions on Israeli security during what he said would be a difficult period until Palestinian autonomy was established.

The Cabinet also decided unanimously to hold a special session when Rabin returns from the United States to discuss the upsurge of violence by Israeli settlers in the territories that had been triggered by the Mizrahi murder.

Jewish residents of the territories were especially inflamed by news of the Fatah link. They maintained that Rabin and his ministers had known about the terrorists' identity and had deceived them.

Further heightening tensions, two Israelis were stabbed last Friday in separate terrorist incidents.

One Israeli was attacked near an army checkpoint in the Gaza Strip. The other, a 19-year-old soldier, was stabbed in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City on his way home for the Sabbath.

The assault in Jerusalem prompted a protest Saturday night by hundreds of residents of the Jewish Quarter.

In a separate incident during the weekend near the West Bank town of Ramallah, settlers climbed a wall and set fire to a Palestinian-owned chicken coop located near the site where Mizrahi was abducted.

(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Deborah Kalb in Washington.)

CLINTON TRIES BEST TO REASSURE ISRAELIS ABOUT SECURITY CONCERNS

By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- When President Clinton received Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at the White House last Friday, one of his main goals was to assuage Israeli security concerns that have arisen in the wake of the historic autonomy accord with the Palestinians.

It was a task complicated by the revelation that Yasir Arafat's Al Fatah faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization had just been linked to the Oct. 29 killing of West Bank Jewish settler Chaim Mizrahi.

The president called on Arafat to condemn the killing, but there was little more he could do to reassure the Israeli people that such terrorist incidents will cease in this difficult phase of the Middle East peace process.

All Clinton could do, in fact, was affirm that the United States is ready to assist Israel as the Israeli-Palestinian agreement is implemented.

And that is what he did at a White House news conference following his meeting with the visiting prime minister.

"During our talks, we discussed what the United States can do to enhance Israel's security as it comes to grips with the very real risks it is taking to achieve this peace," the president said as the two leaders stood side by side in the East Room.

He added that the United States would work with Congress to keep Israel's foreign aid at its current level, and would try to help Israel with loan guarantees and other assistance, including defense assistance.

Rabin thanked Clinton for pledging in the course of their meeting that he would strengthen Israel's security in a number of areas.

"Your decision to continue the level of security assistance to maintain our qualitative edge through the supply of advanced aircraft, the lifting of technological barriers, especially in the field of computers, and your decision to beef up our capacity to defend ourselves against missiles is most significant," the prime minister said.

Rabin planned to hold meetings at the Pentagon on Monday to discuss further details of these military issues.

Pollard Case Discussed

Clinton would not comment specifically on whether the U.S. was planning to sell Israel the advanced F-15E fighter jet, the subject of recent reports by the news media.

But he did say that "there will be a number of planes being made available to Israel as part of this ongoing effort between us."

In response to a question, Clinton said that he was not unduly concerned by the slow pace with which the Palestinians are moving to implement the accord with Israel.

The president said the slow pace appeared not to be a delaying tactic on the part of the Palestinians, but rather a function of Palestinian inexperience in such areas as food distribution and housing construction.

Clinton and Rabin also discussed the other negotiating tracks in the Middle East peace process, with Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

A breakthrough with Jordan seems imminent, but progress on the Syrian track has been slow.

Clinton said that during the meeting, Rabin reaffirmed that peace in the region "would re-

quire progress on all the tracks, including the tracks with Syria and Lebanon."

Another issue the two leaders discussed was the controversial case of Jonathan Pollard, the former U.S. civilian naval intelligence analyst who is now serving a life sentence for passing hundreds of classified documents to Israel.

Pollard's case has been taken up by many in the Jewish community, who have petitioned Clinton to commute Pollard's sentence.

Rabin recently sent Clinton a letter urging that Pollard's sentence be commuted.

At the news conference Friday, Clinton said the issue had come up in the meeting, but that he could not make a decision on the Pollard case until the Justice Department had finished considering the clemency petition and forwarded a recommendation to the White House.

Sources have said the Justice Department is expected to send the recommendation to the White House in about a month.

RABIN CALLS ON AMERICAN JEWS TO CAMPAIGN ON BEHALF OF MIAs

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has called on American Jewish leaders to continue agitating for the return of Israeli soldiers missing in action.

Rabin addressed the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations on Sunday in New York.

Rabin's plea for the missing Israeli soldiers followed an emotional appeal from Joseph Katz, whose son, Yehuda, was one of three Israeli soldiers captured in a 1982 Lebanon tank battle.

The prime minister repeated Israel's demand that the Palestine Liberation Organization provide information on the missing soldiers, even though he said the PLO "has no influence on what's going on in Syria," where the soldiers may be held.

Israeli officials have played down information recently presented by the PLO, according to which Katz and his two tank mates are dead, and a fourth missing soldier, aviator Ron Arad, is being held by Syria.

"It is our responsibility to bring them home," said Rabin of the missing, and not to "let world public opinion, American public opinion, ignore this problem."

Rabin also called on the Jewish leaders to raise public opinion against the Arab economic boycott of Israel.

In this, the prime minister took a different tack than did Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who on his visit to New York last month played down the importance of the boycott.

Addressing the issue of economic development, Rabin called on members of the Jewish community to "take care of ourselves. Increase your efforts to support Israel."

"Don't lead in supporting the Palestinians. We are for joint ventures, but let the world, the Arab countries, the rich Arab countries, take care of them," he said. "Let them find funds to cope with the Palestinian problem."

Lester Pollack, chairman of the Conference of Presidents, told the meeting that the conference's National Committee for Israeli MIAs and POWs will increase its efforts.

In a novel effort along those lines, pictures of the missing soldiers will be appearing this month on milk cartons produced by a dairy in the New York City borough of Queens.

TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS ISRAEL AS A CLEAR SIGN OF IMPROVING RELATIONS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- Turkey's foreign minister, Hikmet Cetin, flew to Israel this past weekend for a visit that many here believe reflects continually improving relations between the two countries.

Cetin's arrival here Saturday night marked the first official visit by a Turkish foreign minister to Israel.

During their meeting, Cetin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres signed a series of bilateral agreements on economic and cultural cooperation.

Israeli-Turkish relations have been on a steadily upward trend since the opening of the Madrid conference on Middle East peace in October 1991.

Turkey has been an active participant in the multilateral peace talks that grew out of that conference.

Israel looks to Turkey, a secular Islamic state, as a possible source for additional water supplies for Israel, Jordan and the West Bank.

Under the Ottoman sultan, it was the Turks who offered the Jews sanctuary after the expulsion from Spain in 1492.

During a meeting here Sunday with Peres, Cetin extolled the "success and prosperity" of Turkey's Jewish community.

Cetin said his country's Jewish community had never suffered discrimination or persecution at the hands of the country's Muslims, who comprise the vast majority of Turkey's population.

To reinforce this, Peres observed that Israel's founding father, David Ben-Gurion, and Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, the state's second president, began their adult lives as law students in Istanbul.

"Had history gone differently," Peres said, "they could have wound up as ministers in Turkey's government."

EXHIBIT ON SYRIA IS UNDER FIRE FOR ELIMINATING ISRAEL FROM MAP

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- Many visitors to a recently opened exhibition here about the history of ancient Syria were shocked to find that the official catalogue of the exhibit, which contained a current map of the Middle East, completely left out any mention of Israel.

The exhibit is currently appearing at the Paris Institute of the Arab World, a museum and library located near Notre Dame Cathedral that is largely subsidized by the French state.

While specialists on the subject of ancient Middle Eastern history agreed that the exhibition is a success, many visitors noticed that neither Israel, Jerusalem nor Tel Aviv were indicated in the catalogue's map.

The names of other countries in the region, as well as their capitals, were clearly marked on the map.

Shimon Samuels, European director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, wrote to the French minister of culture, Jacques Toubon, to protest.

"Since a large part of the Institute of the Arab World comes from your ministry, we ask you to intervene so that the necessary corrections are made on this map of a revisionist character," he wrote.

"This map contradicts France's foreign policy of support of the Middle East peace process. It is very disturbing that a sovereign nation, a friend of France, has been nullified in the map.

"We expect the catalogue to be corrected and the sale of the current offending edition to be stopped," Samuels wrote.

The Paris daily Le Monde published a similar letter of protest on its op-ed page.

There has been no reaction from the directors of the institute, which is chaired by Edgard Pisani, a former French minister whose anti-Israel attitudes are well-known.

According to Samuels, the exhibition was organized under the auspices of French President Francois Mitterrand, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Toubon.

BERLIN JEWISH CULTURE FESTIVAL DRAWS CALIFORNIA-DREAMING CROWDS

By Miriam Widman

BERLIN, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- A festival here highlighting the Jewish pleasures of California drew crowds for the opening of a two-week spurge of the Joys of Jewishing.

The seventh annual Jewish Culture Days kicked off two weeks of packed programming here Sunday with artists and speakers from the golden state, this year's featured area.

A wide variety of events, including lectures and discussions, plays, concerts, movies and exhibits, fill this year's program.

Allen Ginsberg, the Beatnik poet whose works, many of them penned in San Francisco, include "Kaddish" and "Howl," gave a reading of his work.

The Klezmatics, a Jewish folk band that has done much to make klezmer music popular in the United States, performed at the Jewish Community Center.

Discussion topics have a wide span, including sexuality and Jews, feminist rabbis, the Holocaust and Jewish identity.

Guests include Tikkun magazine publisher Michael Lerner (formerly of Oakland, Calif., now living and publishing in New York); Rabbi Laura Geller of Los Angeles; and Professor David Biale of the University of California at Berkeley.

Program organizer Andreas Nachama said California was chosen because of the size and strength of the Jewish community there and also because of the desire to have an upbeat theme this year.

Last year's Jewish Culture Days focused on Eastern Europe.

"Last year we showed a decimated community," he said. "We wanted to contrast that against the American Jewish community." The themes for the coming years are Paris, Jerusalem and southeastern Europe.

"California has one of the most active, lively Jewish communities in the United States," said Zafirir Cohen, a co-organizer of Jewish Culture Days.

Jerzy Kanak, head of Berlin's Jewish community, numbering some 10,000, noted that because they are so few in number, the city's Jews need to link up with other communities. "We can only assert ourselves when we participate in these larger Jewish communities," he said.

The Culture Days are also important in bringing Jewish culture to non-Jews in Berlin. "Only through contact can we reduce prejudices," Kanak said.

CARMELITES' CROSS AT AUSCHWITZ BEGINNING TO ATTRACT WORSHIPERS

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- The Carmelite convent is gone. But the cross is still at Auschwitz, and it is attracting the faithful.

Small groups of Catholic worshipers have been gathering three times a day in front of a large cross that had been erected by the Carmelite nuns at the death camp in Poland, sources say.

The prayers at the cross, which is as tall as a two-story building, come as Polish authorities are attempting to nullify a lease by which the nuns handed over control of the convent at the camp to two organizations.

The issue of who is in control of the Auschwitz grounds, long a source of concern to the Jewish community, was a principal topic of discussion when the Auschwitz International Committee held a meeting here over the weekend.

In July, the nuns left the Carmelite convent on the grounds of the Auschwitz death camp, each moving either across the road to new quarters built for them or to another convent altogether.

Their departure marked the end of a nine-year controversy that severely strained relations between world Jewry and the Roman Catholic Church, which had agreed in February 1987 that the convent should be relocated.

But the imbroglio still awaits its final conclusion, because when the mother superior of the Auschwitz Carmelite nuns finally agreed to leave the premises, she handed over her lease to two associations.

The subplot apparently contravened instructions from the Polish Catholic Church, and the matter is working its way through Polish courts.

Baron Maurice Goldstein of Brussels, chairman of the Auschwitz International Committee, addressed the issue of the ongoing occupation of the convent at Auschwitz at a meeting here Sunday.

The committee is composed of 15 national organizations representing Jewish and non-Jewish deportees to Auschwitz.

At its meeting, the committee also discussed ways to preserve the Auschwitz camp site, which attracts some 500,000 visitors each year, half of them from outside of Poland.

One of the two groups that received a subplot from the Carmelite nuns is the Association of Polish Victims of Persecution. The persecution referred to is reportedly that suffered by the Polish people under Communist rule.

The association is led by two brothers from Bielska, Poland, one of whom has reportedly been jailed briefly on suspicion of arms and gold trafficking.

The other association is called SOS Children's Village, a Polish Catholic organization aimed at fighting abortion.

The Auschwitz International Committee is demanding that the main building be returned, empty of tenants, to the Auschwitz Museum.

Polish local authorities are trying all legal venues to nullify the subleases, but in the meantime, the large cross erected by the Carmelite nuns outside the main building is garnering attention.

Visitors recently returned from Auschwitz have told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that small groups of Catholics gather three times a

day, every day, for prayers at a fence near the cross.

Each time they pray, they unfurl a large banner that reads, "Shame to the Polish Church who bowed to the Jews."

CHICAGO MAN DEPARTS U.S., ADMITS HE WAS WAR CRIMINAL

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- A Chicago man who admitted serving in a Lithuanian mobile killing unit during World War II has voluntarily left the United States, the U.S. Justice Department reported.

Joseph (Juozas) Grabauskas, 74, a retired chemist, departed last week after signing an agreement with the Office of Special Investigations, the department's Nazi-prosecuting unit.

The department had brought a denaturalization case against Grabauskas in January.

In the agreement, Grabauskas admitted that his wartime membership in the 2nd Lithuanian Schutzmannschaft (Protective Detachment) Battalion made him ineligible for the immigrant visa he used to enter the United States in 1949, under the Displaced Persons Act. He was therefore ineligible for American citizenship, which he obtained in 1955.

Grabauskas joined the battalion in July 1941 and in this position was a participant in Nazi-sponsored persecution.

From 1941 to 1942, the 2nd Battalion participated in the mass murder of thousands of unarmed Jews and others in Byelorussia (now Belarus).

The killings were conducted under the name Operation Barbarossa, a campaign launched June 21, 1941, with the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union.

The Nazis had recruited local collaborators for mobile killings squads that eradicated towns and villages.

EXTENSIVE DAMAGE CAUSED BY ARSON TO SYDNEY SHUL ON KRISTALLNACHT

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- Sydney's second-oldest synagogue was badly damaged by arson last week as Jews and Christians around the world were commemorating Kristallnacht.

The damage to the historic Newtown Synagogue in Sydney's western suburbs was extensive, with one observer saying the synagogue had been "almost completely gutted."

Although the heat of the fire was so great that a lamp on the bimah, or pulpit, was melted, the ark itself was not burnt and the six Torah scrolls escaped damage by a matter of inches.

Robert Klarnet, public affairs director for the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies, said that it was "either a cruel coincidence or deliberate action" that the fire occurred 55 years to the day after Kristallnacht, the Nazi "Night of Broken Glass" that took place in Germany on Nov. 9-10, 1938.

The fire is the most serious incident recorded by the Executive Council of Australian Jewry this year and the worst since early 1991, when five Sydney synagogues were damaged by arson attacks. Those perpetrators have not been apprehended.

The Newtown synagogue was refurbished and restored to its original state only four years ago.