

**RABIN VOWS AGAIN TO PURSUE PEACE  
IN WAKE OF LATEST ATTACK IN HADERA**  
By Dvorah Getzler

JERUSALEM, April 13 (JTA) -- Israeli government leaders vowed to continue the pursuit of peace, despite the terrorist bomb that killed five Israelis and injured 30 on the eve of Israel's 46th Independence Day this week.

The bomb exploded Wednesday morning on a bus in the central Israeli town of Hadera, one hour before sirens went off across the country to mark the annual Memorial Day of mourning for fallen soldiers.

Also killed was the apparent suicide-bomber, a terrorist from the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement. Hamas took responsibility for the attack, as it did a similar bombing which killed seven Israelis in Afula a week earlier.

Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat, widely criticized for failing to condemn last week's attack, said Wednesday that "terror attacks such as these strike only at the cause of peace and harm only the innocent."

Just before a scheduled address to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, the PLO leader said he had learned of the attack that day "against innocent Israelis."

"All the extremist forces, on both sides, Israeli and Palestinian, have launched a sort of escalation which is impossible to stop," Arafat said. He linked the latest attack to the massacre of 29 Palestinian worshipers in Hebron in February and last week's car bombing in Afula.

Arafat added, "It's the delay in implementing the decisions of the autonomy talks that causes these catastrophes, because it gives these extremists the possibility to have good reason to act."

Arafat's remarks drew a lukewarm response from the Clinton administration.

In a letter received by Clinton on Wednesday, apparently dispatched before the attack in Hadera, Arafat said he "regretted and strongly rejected" terrorist actions against Israelis "because they are directed against innocent people and claim to strike against the peace process and destroy it."

At a briefing Wednesday, State Department spokesman Mike McCurry was noncommittal with respect to whether the administration was satisfied with Arafat's reaction to the killings.

**'All Parties Should Condemn Violent Acts'**

"It's clear from his statements that the chairman recognizes these acts for what they are and that he strongly rejects them," McCurry said in response to a question.

"We think that all parties should condemn violent acts against innocent people in the strongest possible terms," he said.

McCurry also said that the tragedy in Israel "reinforces the urgency of coming to closure now" on the Palestinian self-rule accord.

The bomb highlighted the slow pace of last September's accord between Israel and the PLO to deliver peace and security for either side.

Wednesday was the date, under the accord, for Israel to conclude withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. Instead, talks on implementing the accord have dragged on. While withdrawal is seen as only a few weeks away, early euphoria has long vanished and support for groups opposing the accord, such as Hamas, has grown.

Israel's right-wing opposition responded to the Hadera bombing with a unanimous demand to halt peace talks until the terror wave is ended.

But Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, speaking at Memorial Day ceremonies at Jerusalem's military cemetery, said talks will continue.

"Israel will continue, despite every obstacle, to reach out towards peace in order to put an end to mourning," he said.

Heads of Arab municipalities in Israel all outspokenly condemned the latest attack as aimed at the peace process.

**Hamas Vows More Attacks**

Wednesday's attack by Hamas follows a vow by the organization to exact vengeance before Independence Day for the Hebron massacre perpetrated by a Jewish settler.

The group, which promised a total of five attacks, said it would make Independence Day as much a time of mourning as the attacker in Hebron, Dr. Baruch Goldstein, made for Arabs on the Muslim festival of Ramadan.

Police say that the Hadera bomb was almost certainly planted on the bus in a suicide mission by a resident of the West Bank's Samaria district.

The West Bank has been sealed off from Israel proper since last week's terror attack in Afula.

A second bomb, timed to explode one hour after the first explosion, was discovered later on the bus in Hadera. It was removed and safely detonated.

The bus was traveling from Afula to Tel Aviv, and was just pulling out from the Hadera station when the inferno erupted. Of the 30 people injured in the explosion, one received moderate wounds and the rest were only lightly hurt.

Eighteen of the injured were army personnel on their way home for Independence Day. Survivors of the blast spoke of walking over dead children as they escaped.

Immediately after the attack, a spontaneous demonstration erupted at the Hadera bus station, with protesters yelling "Death to the Arabs!" and "Down with the government!"

Rabin, in a radio broadcast to the nation on Independence Day eve, noted that 23 Israelis had been killed in terror attacks since the start of the year and 21 of these had been killed within Israeli proper.

No closure of the territories could put a total stop to terror, said Rabin.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, speaking to bereaved families of fallen soldiers, vowed that "just as we have always overcome the armies of our enemies, so shall we overcome the terrorists' onslaught."

President Ezer Weizman, a pilot during the War of Independence, spoke at the Air Force Memorial, where he called for restraint, greater national unity and a continuation of the peace process.

In Washington, members of Congress reacted sharply to Arafat's statements, calling for a full condemnation of the terrorist acts in a letter sent Wednesday to Arafat.

"As members of the United States Congress, we call on you to unequivocally condemn the bombings at Afula and Hadera that killed 13 Israelis," read the letter, authored by Rep. Peter Deutsch (D-Fla.).

"With this most recent attack in Hadera and a series of five attacks promised, your lack of response approaches complicity," the letter continued.

"It is essential, if the Palestinian leadership is to remain credible in the eyes of the world, that these terrorist attacks be condemned," it said.

According to Deutsch's office, more than 100 members of Congress had signed the letter by late Wednesday.

Rep. Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.) said in a statement Wednesday that the letter was necessary because of Arafat's "oblique" response to the killings.

*(Contributing to this report were JTA correspondents Joseph Kopel in Strasbourg and Steven Weiss in Washington.)*

**ARAFAT DEPLORES HADERA ATTACK, BUT BLAMES ISRAEL FOR VIOLENCE**

By Joseph Kopel

STRASBOURG, France, April 13 (JTA) -- While Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat deplored this week's attack in Hadera, Israel, he nonetheless used the occasion of a speech before the Council of Europe here to criticize Israel for creating impediments to the peace process.

In what was his first-ever speech before the parliamentary assembly of the 32-nation council -- which promotes democracy and human rights -- Arafat focused on attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinians in the territories.

Alluding to the Feb. 25 Hebron massacre, in which a Jewish settler killed at least 29 Palestinians praying at a local mosque, Arafat said on Wednesday that that incident and other attacks on Palestinians were ultimately the fault of the Israeli government.

He also charged -- as he has done on more than one occasion in recent weeks -- that there was a secret conspiracy between members of the Israeli army and the settlers to destroy the peace process.

The Hebron massacre, he told the council, was "a result of deliberate negligence and abominable connivance between certain units of the Israeli army and the extremist, fanatic and racist settlers, whose coming from their original countries was facilitated by the Israeli government."

Israel, he added, has helped the settlers by contributing "to their training, arming and financing, and encouraged them to settle on Palestinian land and in the midst of Palestinian towns so much so that they have become a second army of occupation."

The settlers are "armed gangs that do not

abide by law or rules and are protected by the guns of the soldiers of occupation," Arafat said.

He said that "Israeli settlements have always been, as the international community has come totally to recognize, a major obstacle on the road to peace. Today, and I say it with regret, they have become an alternative to peace."

Arafat, who had been widely criticized for not condemning last week's suicide car bombing of a bus in the northern Israeli town of Afula, commented on this week's attack in Hadera before giving his prepared speech to the council.

"I have learned that today there were attacks committed against innocent Israelis," Arafat said before delivering his formal address.

"These attacks are unfortunately directed only against innocent people. And these innocent people are on both sides, Palestinian and Israeli," he said.

The attacks in Afula and Hadera were carried out by the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement, which is opposed to the peace process.

**ISRAEL'S TOP BANKS FINED AND OFFICIALS SENT TO PRISON FOR 1983 STOCK SCANDAL**  
By Dvorah Getzler

JERUSALEM, April 13 (JTA) -- The nation's leading banks and more than a dozen of their top officials this week were given large fines, and the executives sentenced to prison, on charges relating to what had been Israel's biggest financial scandal ever.

In a Feb. 16 ruling, the Jerusalem District Court rendered guilty verdicts against Bank Leumi, Bank Hapoalim and the Discount and Mizrahi Banks in what was seen as the culmination of the scandal surrounding the bank share collapse of 1983.

The court ruled that the bank officials had artificially inflated the price of bank shares in 1983, risking the banks' capital and their ability to meet their obligations.

This week, the court fined the four banks some \$330,000 apiece.

In addition, the court imposed fines as high as \$200,000, and in some cases, prison terms of as much as eight months, on the executives.

But the court allowed time for appeals before implementation of the sentences.

Although none of those found guilty are active today in the management of banks, some are managers of investment companies, and the court ruling may bar them from these positions.

The sentences may well bode ill for Ernst Japhet, the former head of Bank Leumi, who recently returned to Israel and will be tried separately.

Japhet was regarded as the king of Israeli banking in the period leading up to the 1983 crisis. He is said to have played a leading role in the manipulation of the bank shares.

The manipulation of bank share prices a decade ago had spurred buying of the shares until they dominated 70 percent of the market. When the Israeli stock market crashed in October 1983, many small investors and private businesses were devastated, and billions of shekels were lost.

Only the intervention of the government prevented large-scale bankruptcies and the closings of major banks. The affair cost Israeli taxpayers approximately \$9 billion.

**GERMAN INTERIOR MINISTER CRITICIZED FOR PLAN TO VALIDATE FAR-RIGHT PARTY**

By David Kantor

BONN, April 13 (JTA) -- German Interior Minister Manfred Kanther has been sharply criticized for allegedly planning to remove the far-right Republican Party from the list of political extremist groups in Germany.

Several leading officials of the opposition Social Democratic Party said last week that Kanther was "playing with fire" and "creating an atmosphere which would help to make neo-Nazi groups more acceptable."

Kanther, a member of the ruling Christian Democratic Union, was scheduled this week to present the yearly government report on political extremism in Germany.

A draft of the document had been made available to state governments, and this apparently triggered the criticism of Kanther's plans.

Leading German politicians have meanwhile called on all the country's mainstream parties to join in combatting the right-wing Republicans.

The call came following the firebombing in late March of the synagogue in the northern port town of Lubeck.

In the days after the firebombing, Ignatz Bubis, the leader of the German Jewish community, said that all of Germany's right-wing extremist groups were collectively responsible for the attack.

Franz Schonhuber, leader of the Republican Party, said in turn that the fault for the firebombing lay with Bubis.

Schonhuber, a former member of the Waffen SS, described Bubis, a Holocaust survivor, as one of the country's "worst agitators," adding that the Jewish leader was "responsible for anti-Semitism in Germany."

This week, the vice chairman of the Christian Democrats, Johan Gerster, called for a change in German law so that "the cancer of the Republicans does not threaten our society."

The chairman of the Social Democrats, Rudolph Scharping, adding his voice to the condemnation of Schonhuber and his followers, said that the Republicans are paving the way for more arson attacks in Germany.

**Bubis Says He Won't Sue**

Bubis has meanwhile repeatedly stated that he will not file a lawsuit against Schonhuber.

Such a move was necessary, according to German prosecutors, in order to take Schonhuber to court for his charges against Bubis.

The prosecutors' decision not to indict Schonhuber on their own has been widely criticized in Germany and abroad.

The leader of the German Jewish community in the state of Lower Saxony, Michael Furst, has suggested that Jewish communal organizations file charges against Schonhuber, but Bubis has rejected that idea as well.

Furst has also called for a ban on the radical right German People's Union.

The Social Democratic Party recently announced that it will seek legislation outlawing Holocaust denial, but it is questionable whether most Germans would support such a measure.

According to a new opinion poll conducted throughout Germany, only one German in three

supports legislation that will impose legal measures against right-wing extremists who deny that the Holocaust ever occurred.

The survey indicated that 37 percent of those polled favor such legislation, while 47 percent prefer education and discussion as a means to convince Holocaust deniers that they are wrong. Nine percent think that Holocaust denial should be acceptable.

People from the former East Germany -- 47 percent, according to the survey -- were more inclined than their counterparts from western Germany to criminalize Holocaust denial.

The survey, which was conducted April 6 and 7, was based on interviews with 1,000 Germans.

*(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Igal Avidan in Berlin.)*

**IN ADELAIDE, FIRST IT'S THE SKINHEADS, THEN NEO-NAZIS IN GIANT DEMONSTRATION**

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, April 13 (JTA) -- The South Australian capital of Adelaide, still reeling from a skinhead gang's rampage two weeks ago, was the scene this week of Australia's largest neo-Nazi demonstration in at least 30 years.

Some 80 to 100 skinheads, bikers and other neo-Nazis, many wearing swastika T-shirts, attended a demonstration Sunday that was sponsored by the neo-Nazi Australian National Action group to protest the possible introduction of anti-racist legislation in Australia.

Prior to the address by the group's leader, Michael Brander, a tape of German military marches and Nazi songs was played.

Brander, the son of a Spanish immigrant, spoke out in opposition to immigration. His mother, Maria Perez de Brander, stood near him and gave a series of Nazi salutes.

The racist demonstrators were outnumbered by close to 1,000 peaceful counterdemonstrators who rallied under a banner that said, "Migrants Are Welcome, Racists Are Not."

Members of Adelaide's small Jewish community participated in the anti-racist demonstration wearing T-shirts that read "Australia -- Racist-Free Zone."

Roger Scheuler, president of the South Australian branch of the Australian Union of Jewish Students, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Jewish community's involvement in the counterdemonstration was "very important and highly successful." He said Jewish students were committed to continuing a "front-line role" in fighting racist organizations.

But Dean Brown, premier of the state of South Australia, criticized the counterdemonstration, saying it only drew attention to the neo-Nazis.

His criticism was rebutted by organizers of the counterdemonstration, who noted that South Australia lags behind other states in introducing anti-hate legislation.

Two weeks ago, 15 people were assaulted by a group of skinheads who ran through a mall in central Adelaide shouting Nazi slogans.

Although the National Action group denied any involvement in that incident, Adelaide's Sunday Mail newspaper reported that a witness to the assault claimed to have seen three of the perpetrators at Sunday's rally.

**SURPRISE CACHE OF GHETTO PAPERS FOUND AS BUILDING IN WARSAW IS RENOVATED**

By Ruth E. Gruber

WARSAW, April 13 (JTA) -- An extraordinary cache of documents detailing ordinary Jewish life in the wartime Warsaw Ghetto has been made public after lying hidden under the floorboards of an attic for nearly 50 years.

The collection of 180 items -- letters, notebooks, photographs, ration cards, books, medicine bottles, food packaging, cigarettes, clothing and other material -- was discovered during renovation work on the building currently housing the Warsaw offices of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation and other Jewish organizations.

The Lauder Foundation runs a wide range of Jewish education programs.

The building, next door to Warsaw's one surviving shul, the Nozyk Synagogue, served as a Jewish clinic before the war. During the war it was inside the Jewish ghetto.

Discovery of the documents was made on Feb 28 and following days. Workers doing renovation work found a piece of paper with Hebrew writing on it amid a layer of dirt when they took up the floorboards of the attic.

Rabbi Michael Schudrich, director of the Lauder Foundation in Warsaw, happened to look in to check on the progress of the building work just after the paper came to light and, immediately recognizing its importance, initiated a search for further documents and material.

The documents were hastily examined and catalogued by Lauder Foundation archivist Yale Reisner. Working in collaboration with Warsaw's Jewish Historical Institute, he set up some of them in a temporary exhibition unveiled last week for participants in the March of the Living.

**Ordinary Documents Become Special**

The documents are personal papers and memorabilia of the residents of two apartments that also were in the building, the four-member Melchior family and a 20-year-old bachelor, Moses Dov Bursztyn.

Reisner said the discovery was probably the most important discovery of ghetto documents since those deliberately written as eyewitness accounts and hidden by historian Emmanuel Ringelblum, which were dug up after the war.

Reisner said, "What makes this new discovery special is that all the documents and papers are so absolutely ordinary.

"Elja Melchior and his wife Ruchla were both about 36 years old when the ghetto was sealed in 1940," he said.

"Elja was an administrator of the Jewish clinic, and Ruchla ran a little shop that sold vegetables. They had two teen-age children -- a daughter, Tauba, who was about 15 and went to a private high school, and a son, Shmuel, who was Bar Mitzvah in August 1940," he said.

One of the documents is the first page of Shmuel's Bar Mitzvah speech, which includes, "The Jewish path is not strewn with roses."

The other occupant of the building, Bursztyn, "was a very erudite young man," Reisner said. "He was a member of the Betar Zionist Youth Organization and a graduate of a rabbinical seminary.

"Among the items we found were some of

his books, in three languages, bookplates and a fragment of a book list of his personal library."

One of the papers is a Chanukah speech he wrote in the early days of the war:

"A terrible picture appears before us through the fog of hatred and jealousy directed at us. To one side, there is a homeland awaiting its children, its builders and redeemers, but it is closed tightly before them.

"On the other side stand exiled and tortured Jews with packs on their shoulders standing upon the borders of nations, trying to get out, but there is nowhere for them to go," Bursztyn wrote.

"But the day will surely come when all the evil that surrounds us will fade away like smoke, when Israel's oppressors will be vanquished and a Jewish people, healthy in body and soul, will be a free people in its homeland, the land of Zion and Jerusalem," he wrote.

The exhibit is a very moving evocation of the life of a typical middle-class Jewish family as the Holocaust closed in.

Elja was inside the ghetto when it was sealed, but his wife was out of town. Daughter Tauba seems to have smuggled herself -- and goods -- in and out of the ghetto.

"I could write a lot about our lives, but I don't want to set off my nerves, and my heart and willpower are too weak at this moment to get into it," Elja wrote to his wife in one letter, in which he mixed Yiddish and Polish in an apparent attempt to dodge the censors.

Other items include Tauba's schoolbooks and notebooks, as well as her class autograph book and Shmuel's report card, in Polish and Hebrew.

Yellow ration cards were found, as well as food wrappers. There were also keepsakes, like prewar wedding invitations.

Reisner said it was not known how the documents ended up in the attic, but that probably the Gentiles who moved into the apartments after the war, in 1946-47, simply used whatever they found in the building as insulation.

The latest dated document was a 1946 bill for repairs to the apartments.

**ARTIST PLANS PEACE PROJECT ON DEAD SEA**  
 By Tamar Levy

GENEVA (JTA) -- A Swiss "space artist" is planning an ambitious peace symbol: a floating, wooden arch to be placed upon the Dead Sea.

Artist Pierre-Andre Vuitel of Neuchatel envisions a structure with arches rising more than 50 yards to mark the year 2000 as well as the "50th anniversary of Israel and Palestine."

The mobile monument, according to Vuitel, would have an interior, which could accommodate 2,000 people, to be used for concerts, lectures and other cultural events.

"My work should (restore) the dignity to the peoples of the region. The harmony of the Dead Sea will do the rest," Vuitel said. "It is a project representing life on the Dead Sea."

Well below sea level, the Dead Sea cannot sustain life forms.

Once peace is established, the artist said, the arch can be dismantled and recycled. Lit by solar energy, it would be visible from almost everywhere in Amman, Jerusalem and the West Bank town of Jericho.