

**IDF CLAMPS CURFEWS ON WEST BANK TOWNS  
AFTER PALESTINIANS RIOT IN THE STREETS****By Dvorah Getzler**

JERUSALEM, June 5 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force clamped curfews on the West Bank towns of Hebron and Ramallah on Sunday, following two days of rioting.

In the wake of the violence that began in Hebron on Friday, members of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron say they are considering an early end to their mission, since they believe they are not accomplishing anything, Israel Television reported.

The unarmed 114-member international observer force arrived in Hebron on May 8 as part of an agreement reached by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in the wake of the Feb. 25 Hebron massacre.

Hebron has been the site of nearly daily unrest since that incident, in which at least 29 Palestinians were killed by an Israeli settler at a local mosque.

On Saturday, the town experienced one of its worst days since the massacre, with more than 30 Palestinians wounded, six of them from soldiers' bullets. Others were victims of tear gas and rubber bullets.

During the course of the day, Palestinian youths erected stone barricades in the streets and hurled rocks at IDF patrols. Rejectionist Arab are believed to be actively encouraging the youths into the streets.

The members of the international observer team witnessed some of what went on in Hebron and recorded their findings, but they are reportedly frustrated that they can do little more than stand on the sidelines and watch.

On Sunday, meanwhile, the IDF prevented Israeli settlers from driving through the autonomous district of Jericho with Israeli flags flying from their cars.

In response, settlers harassed Palestinians to the north of Jericho who were flying their flags and exhibiting pictures of Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat.

For two hours, the settlers blocked the road, stopping and searching vehicles and tearing whatever flags they found. The settlers repeatedly clashed with Israeli security forces who tried in vain to move them on.

"If we can't drive through Jericho with our flag, they won't drive with theirs," said one of the settlers.

**DESPITE ONGOING TENSIONS IN LEBANON,  
FEARED ATTACKS ON NORTH ARE AVERTED****By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, June 5 (JTA) -- In the wake of threats by the Islamic fundamentalist Hezbollah movement to launch rocket attacks on northern Israel, the residents of towns and villages along Israel's northern border with Lebanon spent the weekend preparing for the assault.

But the threatened attacks never materialized.

Hezbollah issued the threat last Friday, in the wake of a devastating June 2 air strike on a base in eastern Lebanon that was used by the Iran-backed movement for training new recruits.

According to various reports, as many as 50 Hezbollah members were killed in the air strike and up to 200 were left wounded.

Within hours of the air strike, and in the early hours of Friday as well, Hezbollah launched Katyusha rocket attacks on northern Israel.

By Friday, Israel began massing tanks along the border with Lebanon, and government officials promised to launch a large-scale strike at Hezbollah bases in Lebanon if the rocket attacks continued. But over the weekend, Hezbollah backed down from its threats, with both Iran and Syria reportedly telling the movement's leaders not to escalate the fighting with Israel.

Although rockets ceased falling on northern Israel, there were reports of skirmishes in southern Lebanon throughout the weekend.

On Friday, Hezbollah units fired on members of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, killing one soldier from Fiji and wounding three others. One Hezbollah member was killed in the firefight.

On Saturday, Hezbollah gunmen attacked an armored patrol of the South Lebanon Army, Israel's ally in the region, in the eastern sector of the security zone. The SLA patrol returned the fire, killing three members of Hezbollah in the ensuing exchange.

Both Israel's June 2 air strike in eastern Lebanon, as well as the May 21 abduction of Shi'ite Muslim guerrilla leader Mustafa Dirani, have been the subject of high praise in the Israeli media, which focused on the efficiency of the intelligence information on which the two operations were based.

Commentators here agreed that Israel's pinpoint bombing and strafing of the training camp last week must have had a powerful effect not only on the Hezbollah command but also on the senior echelons of the Syrian and Iranian leadership.

**CABINET GRANTS ADDITIONAL WORK PERMITS  
TO PALESTINIANS FROM THE TERRITORIES****By Dvorah Getzler**

JERUSALEM, June 5 (JTA) -- The Israeli Cabinet decided Sunday to scale back its closure of the territories because of labor shortages in agriculture, housing and other sectors of the Israeli economy.

The closure orders -- enacted last month in response to recent terrorist attacks on civilian and army targets -- were modified during the weekly Cabinet meeting, when Israeli ministers authorized the daily entry into Israel of an additional 8,000 Palestinians from the territories and the autonomous districts of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

The new authorizations bring to some 35,000 the total number of labor permits granted to Palestinians working within Israel.

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, who

has been buffeted by Israel's worsening housing shortages, said he will press for a doubling of the 20,000 Palestinian workers from the territories that the government has so far authorized to work in the housing industry in Israel.

The gradual easing of the closure is also a response to the deteriorating economic situation in the territories and the autonomous areas.

As the situation currently stands, there is little work outside of Israel available to the Palestinians, particularly in Gaza, which has an unemployment rate of 50 percent. Cabinet ministers say they fear the dire employment situation may endanger the peace process.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir went on record during Sunday's Cabinet session saying she preferred to permit the entry of Palestinian workers rather than those from Asia or Eastern Europe -- provided that the Palestinians were not previously involved in acts of terrorism.

In the wake of the start of self rule in Gaza and Jericho, determining which Palestinians have a terrorist background is now at least partially the responsibility of the Palestinian police.

During Sunday's Cabinet session, ministers expressed satisfaction with the functioning of the newly formed Palestinian police force.

But some also expressed concern that the serious shortage of funds confronting the autonomous districts, particularly where the needs of the police are concerned, might lead radical elements to take additional action against Israelis.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the Cabinet that the United States was ready to provide some \$5 million to help fill the Palestinian coffers.

But the PLO was insisting that the funds be transferred to the PLO's Tunis headquarters -- an unacceptable condition to many of the donor countries, which want strict accounting procedures for all funds donated to help cover costs in the self-rule zones.

As a result, the financial pressures facing the Palestinian police continue unresolved.

## **UJA CLOSES OPERATION EXODUS CAMPAIGN; EXPECTS JUST SHORT OF \$1 BILLION GOAL**

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, June 5 (JTA) -- After more than four years, 500,000 new immigrants and nearly \$900 million dollars, the United Jewish Appeal's Operation Exodus is coming to a close.

Last month, at its national campaign conference, UJA formally ended its fund-raising campaign to help Jews immigrate to Israel from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia. But the campaign will continue in many cities, as local federations solicit for Operation Exodus through the end of the year.

When completed, UJA expects to have raised \$910 million for the project, slightly short of its \$1 billion goal. The financial targets of Operation Exodus, however, have been in almost constant flux, matching the fluctuations in the numerical estimates for immigration from the former Soviet Union.

When launched in 1990, Operation Exodus was conceived of as a three-year campaign to raise \$420 million for the 200,000 immigrants expected during that period. But as 185,000 immi-

grants arrived that year, predictions for immigration soared and the Operation Exodus goal was doubled.

Since then, with Russian Jewish leaders such as Natan Sharansky repeatedly charging failure by successive Israeli governments to devote enough energy to creating jobs for the new immigrants, the immigration rate has tumbled to the present 60,000 a year.

"Our hope is that the aliyah picks up, and that everyone who wants to leave will leave now," said Richard Wexler, chairman of Operation Exodus and of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

"The reality seems to suggest that there will be a steady flow. While the places Jews are coming from (in the various former Soviet republics) will change, the flow will probably remain the same -- unless, God forbid, there is a crisis there," he said.

### **Operation Exodus To Be Part Of Campaign**

Money for Operation Exodus will continue to arrive at UJA, as donors pay off their three-year pledges. And the Jews from the former Soviet Union will remain a central focus of the UJA, as it folds the Operation Exodus theme of rescue into the regular campaign.

"Our challenge is to convince these (new Operation Exodus) donors to maintain these gifts by moving them into the regular campaign," said Richard Pearlstone, UJA's new national chairman.

"We will strive to increase the dollars into our annual campaign, because this is the foundation of our support," he said.

In part, this will entail continuing one of the central challenges of the Operation Exodus campaign -- maintaining the excitement even when the aliyah numbers slowed and donors had already pledged once for the campaign.

Maynard Wishner, president of the Council of Jewish Federations, told the UJA conference last month that the current rate of immigration still constitutes a "miracle" of "biblical proportions."

Still, the UJA is not relying solely on the excitement of immigration to revive its annual campaign. This campaign has "atrophied" over the past five years, going from \$760 million to \$720 million, according to Rabbi Brian Lurie, the organization's executive vice president.

Several new programs are being launched to "animate the donors to get excited, participate and give more money to the annual campaign," said Lurie.

These include Partnership 2000, which will twin American communities with Israeli communities in the Negev and Galilee. The program is designed to build direct relationships between the Americans and Israelis who will jointly decide how the money will be spent.

For perhaps the first time, UJA is highlighting the portion of its campaign which helps promote youth trips to Israel.

And yielding to the trend of designated giving, in which donors choose the projects to which their gifts will be directed, UJA is introducing a program it calls Supplemental Earmarked Giving Opportunities. This will enable individuals or communities to designate specific projects as beneficiaries by increasing their present level of giving.

**HUNGARIAN JEWS RELIEVED BY DEFEAT OF RIGHT WING IN RECENT ELECTIONS**

By Agnes Bohm

BUDAPEST, June 5 (JTA) -- Hungary's Jewish community breathed a collective sigh of relief at the decisive defeat of the country's ruling right-wing coalition in last week's elections.

Voting with their pocketbooks, the Hungarian electorate gave a stunning victory to the Socialists in the May 29 elections, which followed a first round of voting on May 8.

The Socialist Party, which was created by the reform wing of the former Communist Party, won 209 seats in the single-chamber, 386-seat Parliament.

On Saturday, Gyula Horn, the leader of the Socialists, was chosen by his party to be the new prime minister. Horn, who is expected to win easy confirmation by Parliament, was foreign minister when the Communists lost power four years ago to the right-of-center Hungarian Democratic Forum.

While the Socialists have enough seats in Parliament to govern alone, Horn said Saturday that he will seek a coalition partner to broaden support for the difficult economic reforms that lie ahead.

Hungarians, who in recent years have faced high inflation and double-digit unemployment, favored the Socialist platform of reforms as their best hope for a brighter economic future.

Horn's most likely coalition partner will be the liberal Alliance of Free Democrats, which is often nicknamed here "the Jewish party," because of its numerous Jewish supporters.

The Alliance placed second in the elections, winning 70 Parliament seats.

"Of course, this is satisfying for Hungary's Jews, who are happy about the outcome of the second free elections" in post-Communist Hungary, Gusztav Zoltai, the managing director of the Association of Hungarian Jewish Communities, said in a telephone interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

**Csurka Failed To Get Re-elected**

Zoltai noted that the Hungarian Jewish community, which numbers approximately 100,000, was pleased that Istvan Csurka, a former member of the conservative Democratic Forum, had failed to get re-elected to Parliament.

Csurka has publicly made a number of anti-Semitic speeches in the past, including one on the floor of the Hungarian Parliament.

He often stated that Jews were running the country and that they, along with world Jewry as a whole, were seeking to dominate Hungary.

Csurka got only 1 percent of the votes in the first round of voting.

Although emphasizing his intention to stay out of everyday politics, Zoltai expressed the hope that the new government would act against anti-Semitism with greater effort than the previous right-of-center government had.

Zoltai also said it is necessary to pass legislation in Hungary making it a crime to deny that the Holocaust ever took place.

Zoltai criticized the previous government for not doing enough to return Jewish property that had been confiscated during World War II.

The election results show that the majority of Hungarians, far from hankering for a return to Communist rule, disliked the centuries-old nationalistic ideas of the ruling rightist coalition and blamed them for the country's economic troubles.

The voting was mostly decided by the middle class, many of whom became unemployed during an economic downturn they blamed on four years of rule by the Democratic Forum.

Former Communists recently returned to power in Poland, Lithuania and Slovakia. They were never removed from power in Romania, and they are still important in Bulgaria.

Hungary's Socialists, former Reform-Communists, were able to make a peaceful transition to their new party structure in the post-Communist era.

The election gave a comfortable majority to the country's social and liberal forces, said Zoltai, who added that there is no danger of a strong rightist opposition in Parliament.

**GERMAN TROOPS TO MARCH DOWN PARIS BOULEVARD TO HONOR WAR VETS**

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, June 5 (JTA) -- For the first time since World War II, German troops will soon march down the Champs-Elysees.

During a summit meeting last week with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, French President Francois Mitterrand invited the Eurocorps, a European army created by France and Germany, to march in France's annual Bastille Day military parade.

As a result, troops from Belgium, Luxembourg, Spain and Germany will participate in France's July 14 Independence Day celebrations.

Observers explained that Mitterrand extended the invitation after it was decided that Germany could not participate in this week's commemorations marking the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

During their meeting last week, Kohl also told Mitterrand that Germany was returning 28 paintings taken from France during World War II.

The paintings had been displayed in an East German museum since the war.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the disintegration of East Germany, French authorities requested that Germany return all of the paintings.

The works had been stolen from France by a Nazi officer who charged one of his soldiers to transport the masterpieces back to Germany. The officer failed to collect them after the war.

Years later, the former German soldier recounted the story to a priest, who advised him to turn the stolen paintings over to a museum.

Most of the paintings are believed to have belonged to Jewish families. They include works by Cezanne, Corot, Courbet, Delacroix, Gauguin, Manet, Monet and Pissarro.

Only seven of the paintings will be returned to their original owners or their heirs. The owners of the other paintings could not be found and the works will be turned over to French museums.

Kohl symbolically presented one of the paintings -- a Monet -- to Mitterrand and asked him to return it to its rightful owners, an unidentified French Jewish family.

The works had survived a "fairy tale journey" and belonged back in France, said Kohl.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:  
YEMENITE SECT LEADER BRINGS NEW FOCUS  
TO ISSUE OF MISSING YEMENITE CHILDREN**  
By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, June 5 (JTA) -- For 45 years, Israel's tight-knit Yemenite community has maintained that thousands of Yemenite children who supposedly died in early childhood were actually kidnapped from their parents in the 1940s and 1950s, and given up for adoption.

Leaders in the community charged that the government deliberately separated children from their parents in order to give them to childless Holocaust survivors or to sell them on the black market.

Since the earliest years of the state, Israeli officials have categorically denied charges of a government conspiracy. Some have conceded, however, that a few of the 4,500 children in question could have become "displaced" through human error.

Now, more than four decades since the first children vanished without a trace, the issue is back in the headlines. Rabbi Uzi Meshulam, a 42-year-old Yemenite leader who is now in prison on charges of weapons possession and incitement, has embraced the issue as his cause.

Meshulam, a former intelligence officer, claims to have documents proving that government officials in the late '40s and early '50s stole Yemenite children and then sold them to overseas brokers as a means of earning cash for the fledgling state.

He claims that most of the children are alive, and that the present government is withholding this information from parents.

In March, Meshulam and a group of his followers made the news by holing up in the rabbi's house and demanding an investigation into the whereabouts of the missing Yemenite children.

The standoff was seen as similar to that of the Branch Davidian sect in Waco, Texas, last year.

But the Israeli authorities, perhaps with the fiery end of that situation in mind, retreated to avoid a confrontation and possible loss of life.

On May 10, however, the police ended the six-week-old siege with a dawn raid on Meshulam's home. One of his followers was killed.

Upon entering the house, the police found a stockpile of weapons, including automatic weapons and grenades.

**Meshulam Seen As Hero By Yemenite Community**

Last week, Meshulam and 11 of his hard-core followers were arraigned in Tel Aviv District Court on charges of illegally erecting barriers to protect the house, attacking police officers and calling on sect members "to kill and be killed."

But while government officials and the media depict Meshulam as a cult leader with violent tendencies, the Yemenite community has deemed him a hero.

Recently, dozens of Yemenite women attended a protest rally to demand the release of "Rav Uzi" and an investigation into the status of the missing children.

One of the older women, recalling how her infant daughter had disappeared 40 years ago, let out a heart-rending scream that silenced the crowd and a dozen-or-so onlookers.

Sitting on the ground, Sara Zacharani recited her story for anyone who would listen.

Nine months pregnant when she immigrated to Israel from Yemen in the early 1950s, Zacharani gave birth to a healthy baby girl in an immigrant tent camp.

Now 60, Zacharani recalled her daughter's birth clearly. "I gave birth in the tent," she said, "and a nurse named Sarah came to check me and the baby. The next day the nurse brought two other women -- they weren't Yemenite -- who took a special interest in the baby.

"A month after I gave birth, Sarah urged me to put the baby, a beautiful girl with black hair and blue eyes, into the children's house, and to come and nurse her every four hours."

**Officials Wouldn't Say Where Baby's Grave Was**

Zacharani did as she was told. She recalled that, "the first day after taking her to the children's house, I nursed at 6 a.m. and everything was fine. When I arrived back at 10 o'clock, I was told the baby had died."

When Zacharani and her husband asked to see the baby's body, "the authorities told us that she had already been buried. We asked where the grave was, but they wouldn't tell us. They didn't even give us a death certificate."

Unable to speak Hebrew and unfamiliar with Israeli bureaucracy, the couple did not pursue the issue any further.

About 20 years later, when the Zacharanis' son wanted to change his name, he discovered something odd. An Interior Ministry listing of the Zacharani family listed his dead sister as alive.

Several other women described how, a few months before their supposedly dead children or siblings would have turned 18, the government sent out draft notices.

"If my brother died 35 years ago, something I never believed, why did the government want to draft him?" asked Tzipora Naga, aged 40.

According to Dov Levitan, a Bar-Ilan University researcher who looked into the disappearance of 650 Yemenite children, these families should not hold out much hope of finding their children alive.

"Of the cases I studied, about 90 percent died. I believe that between 45 and 65 of the children are probably still alive," he said.

Levitan dismisses Meshulam as a "charlatan" and believes that the rabbi has no proof to implicate the government or anyone else.

Still, Levitan believes that the government must come clean about the 10 percent who may still be alive, in order to lay the matter to rest.

In 1988, the government created the Shalgi Commission to investigate the matter, but the commission has not yet come to any conclusions.

Levitan attributed the government's foot-dragging to the fear that any inquiry into how Jews from Muslim countries were absorbed "could have political consequences when it comes to re-election."

Asked why the government has not done more to get to the truth, the Prime Minister's Office told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "Some time ago, the government of Israel appointed a commission of inquiry headed by Judge Shalgi, to investigate the matter of the Yemenite children. We are waiting to receive the commission's conclusions and recommendations."