

**BRITISH JEWS REACT WITH OUTRAGE
TO BOMBING OF ISRAELI EMBASSY**
London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, July 26 (JTA) -- British Jewry's leadership has reacted with outrage to Tuesday's bombing of the Israeli Embassy here, the latest attack against Jewish targets around the world.

The explosion, which left at least 13 people injured, came eight days after a bomb tore through the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, killing close to 100 people, and six days after a bomb killed 21 people, including 12 Jews, on board a Panamanian plane.

One leading British Jewish organization said this week that it had warned the police and the government that Muslim fundamentalists opposed to the Middle East peace process were likely to use London as a target.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews said in a statement, "We warned the police and the Home Office that this could happen. But they did nothing to crack down on the extremists, and this is the result."

After the explosion in Buenos Aires last week, the Board of Deputies requested that London police set up extra security measures at Jewish communal buildings in London, particularly those housing the board and the country's chief rabbi.

As part of their request, they sought police restrictions on parking near Jewish communal buildings. The police did not immediately act upon the request, but after Tuesday's bombing they indicated that parking would be blocked off near Jewish communal sites.

In both the Buenos Aires and this incident, the explosion was caused by car bombs parked near the targeted buildings.

In this week's explosion, a well-dressed middle-aged woman carrying a shopping bag from Harrod's department store and described by police as being of Middle Eastern appearance, was seen leaving a car shortly before the bomb exploded at around noon.

'Parts Of The Building Just Collapsed'

She had apparently aroused the suspicion of security officials. An Israeli security guard and a policeman were reportedly checking her car when the bomb went off.

The explosion ripped through the consular offices attached to the embassy, which front a different, less secured street than the heavily guarded one ~~fronting~~ the main building.

More than 44 pounds of explosives were used in the attack, which caused most of the consular building to collapse.

The blast was said to be so powerful that witnesses half-a-mile away reported seeing debris shoot up hundreds of feet in the air. Windows in nearby buildings were shattered, including those in nearby Kensington Palace, home of Princess Diana.

"It was such a huge, huge explosion. Parts of the building just collapsed," said Rachel Gordon, who works in the embassy's press office.

It was perhaps just a matter of luck that there were no fatalities in Tuesday's bombing, which occurred when many embassy staffers were out of the building for lunch. It was not immediately clear how many people were in the building at the time of the explosion.

Of those injured, only one -- a worker who fell off scaffolding at a nearby building -- was seriously hurt. One of those injured was a police officer guarding the building.

The attack came a day after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein signed a historic non-belligerency treaty in Washington.

Rabin, speaking in Washington on Tuesday, pointed blame for the attack at Islamic extremists bent on undermining Israel's peacemaking efforts with its Arab neighbors.

"There is no doubt in my mind we face a wave of extreme Islamic radical terrorist movements," he told NBC News. "They have infrastructure all over the world, in the United States, in Europe, in Latin America."

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

The bombing also drew sharp condemnations from British government officials. Douglas Hogg, a Foreign Office official, said the attack was a "most shocking offense" and stressed there would be an increase in security.

'A Shocking Absence Of Civilized Values'

Greville Janner, a Jewish member of Parliament and former president of the Board of Deputies, called for an inquiry into the attack.

British Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks described the attack as an act committed by people bereft of all respect for human life.

"The Jewish community regard the attack outside the Israeli Embassy as a moral outrage," he said in a statement. "This act, perpetrated by enemies of peace, targeted innocent men and women, displaying a shocking absence of civilized values."

Israel's London embassy is located in Palace Green, an exclusive street of embassies and millionaires' homes in the Kensington area.

Because of this concentration of royals, diplomats and wealth, there is always a strong security presence in the area. The long street on which the embassy is located has barriers at either end, where visitors are asked to state their business.

In addition, Israeli Embassy officials have their own security mechanism which prevents anyone from entering the building without proper clearance. The consular section at the rear of the embassy, which was targeted by the explosion, was not as secure.

The last attack targeting an Israeli in London occurred in June 1982, when then-Israeli ambassador to London, Shlomo Argov, was gunned down outside the city's Dorchester Hotel. He suffered severe injuries, from which he has never recovered. He lives in seclusion under medical care in Jerusalem. The attack was blamed on Arab terrorists, but no one was ever tried for it.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**TERRORIST ATTACKS ARE 'NO SURPRISE' TO STUDENTS OF ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM**
By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, July 26 (JTA) -- The terrorist attacks on Jewish targets in London this week and in Buenos Aires last week came as little surprise to students of Islamic terror.

"This kind of terrorism increases in lock step with the peace process," said Adam Garfinkle, director of the Middle East Council of the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia.

"There has been a pattern over the years that when Israel and the Arabs make progress diplomatically there is a greater incidence of terrorism," agreed Daniel Pipes, director of the Middle East Forum, another think tank in Philadelphia.

"The key question is, who is behind it?" Pipes wondered. "Is it the Iranians, or is it the Syrians?"

In Lebanon, a group reportedly linked to the Shi'ite fundamentalist Hezbollah movement claimed credit for the attack in Argentina, which destroyed the Jewish community's central headquarters and killed close to 100 people.

In London on Tuesday, a car bomb exploded outside the consular services section of the Israeli Embassy, injuring at least 13 people.

Hezbollah is backed by Iran, but its operations in Lebanon take place under the noses, and with the implicit approval, of Syria.

Pipes speculated that responsibility for the bombings is more likely Iranian than Syrian, "given the non-strategic nature of these targets and given the fact that it in no way enhances the bargaining positions of the anti-Israel forces."

At a news conference wrapping up the historic Israeli-Jordanian summit in Washington on Tuesday, King Hussein joined Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in condemning the terrorist attacks.

Placing the blame squarely on Hezbollah, Rabin called on Syria to halt such attacks.

"If you ask me if Syria can put a limit on these attacks, the answer is yes," Rabin said. "Syrian has at least preventative capability."

Retaliation By Hezbollah

Hussein attributed the actions to "enemies of peace, enemies of life."

And President Clinton called on all parties "not to let the enemies of peace prevail."

Some analysts, however, downplayed the importance of the peace talks as a motivating factor. Steven Emerson, a journalist and expert on Middle East terrorism, said "the tentative conclusion" is that the attack in Argentina "was an Iranian Hezbollah retaliation."

In May, Israel kidnapped Hezbollah leader Mustafa Dirani from Lebanon. Attacks between Hezbollah and Israel in southern Lebanon have been heavy in recent months. In June, Israel raided an Hezbollah training base killing some 50 terrorists.

"Hezbollah has a worldwide infrastructure from Lebanon to Germany to France to the U.S.," Emerson said.

"The issue isn't infrastructure, but whether it is mobilized to carry out attacks," he said. "The question is at what point they've prevailed upon to use it."

Emerson compared the current situation to that of the 1970s, when "there were international attacks, primarily Palestinian in origin, directed against Western and Israeli and Jewish institutions.

"What is happening now is simply a re-ignition of the terrorist war with new perpetrators and no geographical limits," he said.

Instead of Palestinian groups waging the war, he said, "now we're entering the period of the radical Islamic fundamentalists' war against the West."

The most spectacular American manifestation of the war against the West was the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York last year.

There were reports linking one of the escaped masterminds of that attack to an aborted plot to blow up the Israeli Embassy in Bangkok in March. That plot reportedly was foiled by accident when the driver of a truck carrying the explosives collided with a motorcycle, and the would-be suicide bomber fled.

Those explosives were reportedly of the same type used to demolish the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires in 1992. Last week's blast is also reported to have used similar explosions.

Pipes agrees that the terrorists pose a threat in the United States.

"If one of the leaders decide to make things jump in this country, it would happen," he said. "These are well established networks. We only see the tip of them."

DEADLY HEZBOLLAH ATTACKS IN LEBANON COINCIDE WITH WASHINGTON PACT SIGNING
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 26 (JTA) -- An Israeli officer was killed and 14 other officers and soldiers injured Monday during a daylong series of attacks by Hezbollah gunmen in the southern Lebanon security zone.

The attacks, by artillery, mortars and both Sagger and Katyusha rockets, were apparently timed to coincide with the accord signing in Washington by Jordanian King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The attacks also took place on the first anniversary of the start of Operation Accountability, Israel's weeklong shelling of terrorist bases in southern Lebanon in retaliation for rocket attacks on northern Israel.

Monday's shelling, directed at 16 positions occupied by Israeli troops or their allied South Lebanon Army, began gradually after noon and peaked at 5 p.m. local time, when Hussein, Rabin and President Clinton were signing the document on the White House lawn.

At that moment, the pro-Iranian terrorists fired a series of missiles at an IDF convoy, killing Capt. Shai Goldstein of Hadera and wounding most of the other casualties.

Other soldiers were wounded by shots fired at their field positions.

In response to the attacks, the Israeli air force went into action, bombing a number of Hezbollah positions north of the security zone.

Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, commander of the northern region, said he had no reason to believe that the Syrians had encouraged the attacks. But he said Syria was undoubtedly capable of stopping them if it so wished.

USHERING IN A 'NEW ERA OF PEACE,' RABIN AND HUSSEIN LOOK TO THE FUTURE

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON, July 26 (JTA) -- Moments after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein signed a declaration ending the 46-year state of war between their two countries, the leaders stepped off the stage on the South Lawn of the White House to greet a handful of guests at the ceremony.

Indicative of the new era of peace, Rabin pulled Steve Grossman, president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, close to his side and introduced Hussein to the Jewish lobby's leader.

"In my wildest imagination I never imagined I, as president of AIPAC, would be introduced to the king of Jordan by the prime minister of Israel with the president of the United States watching," Grossman said later, still beaming from the encounter.

Although Monday's White House ceremonies lacked the drama of the signing of the declaration of principles between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization 10 months ago, the public meeting was deemed a significant breakthrough by most Jewish leaders.

"This is a different kind of enthusiasm," Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said after the White House ceremonies, echoing the sentiment expressed by many Jewish leaders in town for the ceremonies surrounding the summit.

"People were very moved, but this coming together is less dramatic and more substantive," Hoenlein said.

Rabin and Hussein signed what they termed the "Washington Declaration," pledging to settle all disputes peacefully.

Although what they signed was shy of a full peace treaty, both leaders said full normalized relations are only months away.

The White House ceremonies under a sweltering Washington sun-splashed summer day also lacked the careful choreography of the Rabin meeting with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat at the same site last September.

This Summit Was Easy To Prepare

Senior White House officials had reportedly rehearsed the Rabin-Arafat handshake, carefully planning where the participants would stand, and giving the media the best possible vantage point for the historic moment.

In sharp contrast this week, a White House aide scurried to lay name cards on the podium only minutes before President Clinton, Hussein and Rabin took the stage in a Rose Garden introduction ceremony.

The two leaders shook hands the moment they took to the stage in the Rose Garden. And Rabin, in his introductory remarks, said he anxiously awaits the day when greeting Hussein becomes so routine that "no one will want to take pictures of us shaking hands."

The only minor glitch in the production came when Jordanian officials protested the plan to fly the Jordanian flag behind the Israeli flag, hoisted in alphabetical order, according to an official involved in planning the ceremony this

week. Members of the Jordanian delegation reportedly reminded administration officials of the country's official name, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The order was reversed and a Marine band played the Jordanian national anthem before Israel's Hatikvah.

The signed document strikes at the heart of what has proven to be one of the thorniest issues in the Arab-Israeli conflict: the question of Jerusalem.

The agreement affords Jordan "high priority" and pledges respect in maintaining Jordan's "historic role" in administering Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem.

The declaration also guarantees Hussein a role in final-status negotiations for Israel's capital scheduled to begin within two years from now.

Officials here have confirmed that Israeli negotiators insisted on adding the language concerning Jerusalem late last week following emotionally charged remarks by Arafat.

Arafat, with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at his side at a news conference in Gaza, lambasted the Israeli government for inviting Hussein to pray in Jerusalem.

"They have no right to issue any invitations," Arafat said. "It is my duty and my responsibility to invite my brothers and friends to come visit the holy Muslim and Christian sites, which are under Palestinian jurisdiction."

'There's Another Player'

Jordan has administered control of the Al Aksa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock through its Religious Affairs Ministry since Israel captured Jerusalem during the 1967 Six-Day War.

The agreement "puts the PLO on notice that there is another significant, serious player which didn't exist before," Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said during an interview at a reception sponsored by the Israeli Embassy after the signing ceremony.

Echoing the view of many Jews, Morton Klein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, said he supports Jordanian administration over Muslim holy sites "as long as it is crystal clear that Israel maintains sovereignty over an undivided Jerusalem."

Indeed, Rabin emphasized that Jerusalem will remain the undivided capital of Israel in his speech to a joint session of Congress with Hussein on Tuesday.

The session marked the first time any two foreign leaders have addressed Congress together.

During an emotional yet upbeat speech, Rabin repeated 10 times that he had come to Washington from Jerusalem, the capital of Israel.

In an impassioned expression of thanks, Rabin turned to Hussein at one point and said: "Your Majesty, we have both seen a lot in our lifetime. We have both seen too much suffering. What will you leave to your children? What I will leave to my grandchildren?"

"I've only dreams to build a better world, a world of understanding and harmony, a world in which it is a joy to live. This is not asking for too much," the prime minister said.

In his own emotional address launching what he termed a "new phase of peace," Hussein also spoke of the great opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**ISRAELIS WAX HOPEFUL, NOT EUPHORIC,
OVER SIGNING OF ISRAEL-JORDAN ACCORD**
By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, July 26 (JTA) -- Pleased as they are by the prospects of peace with Jordan, Israelis didn't miss a beat on Monday as Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein signed a declaration of non-belligerency.

At 5 p.m. Israel time, when the proceedings in Washington were broadcast live, most people appeared to be immersed in routine activities.

The usual crowds packed the cafes around town, and most shops and supermarkets were full of shoppers. Judging from the gridlock on the roads, few drivers had rushed home to catch the television news.

Asked why she wasn't at home watching the ceremony on television, one woman replied, "I think the meeting is great, but it's not as if Rabin and Hussein have signed a peace treaty.

"It's no secret that Israel and Jordan have been negotiating for years, and most of us assumed that Jordan would eventually want to make peace. I'll stay home when a real peace treaty is signed," she said.

While most Israelis contented themselves with watching a replay on the evening news, people here are far from indifferent to ties with Jordan.

Uncertain that Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat can deliver the peace he has promised, Israelis are particularly eager to strike a deal with Hussein -- someone they feel they can trust.

In the days preceding the historic meeting, Israel's dailies devoted a great deal of coverage to the king and his relations with Israel over the years. Both right- and left-wing papers set an optimistic tone, endorsing continued negotiations with Jordan.

Vast Majority Of Israelis Optimistic

According to the latest opinion polls, the vast majority of Israelis are equally optimistic. Last Friday, the weekly paper Shishi reported that 73 percent of Israelis are "happy" with recent peace developments with Jordan. Of those polled by the Shelach public opinion research firm, 22 said they were unhappy with the talks, and 5 percent did not answer.

Optimism was also apparent in a Gallup poll published by the Hebrew daily Ma'ariv last week. Twenty-two percent said that there is a "very high chance" that Israel and Jordan will sign a peace treaty by the end of 1994. Another 32 percent said there was a "high chance," while 25 percent said there "was some chance."

Random interviews with Jerusalemites reflected this upbeat tone. Sophie Rein, 18, said, "Jordan has no interest in being in a state of war with Israel. It knows that it has a lot to lose in a war, especially water from the Jordan River."

Six months away from her induction into the army, Rein added, "Peace will give Israel security, something we really need."

Then, turning her attention to the ancient Nabatean city located in southern Jordan that many young Israelis have risked their lives to visit over the years, she added, "And if there is

a peace treaty, I'll be able to visit Petra."

Dani Kreiner, 25, also said he would like to visit Petra, but stressed that his desire for peace was rooted in more serious concerns.

The owner of a kiosk near the city center, Kreiner said, "We need peace. All this time, we have been fighting, fighting for 100 years. It's enough."

He asserted that "the time is right to make peace with Jordan. The world is changing. First we saw the end of apartheid in South Africa, and then we signed an agreement with the Palestinians. Peace with Jordan is an extension of the overall peace process."

Asked whether it is also time to forge ahead with Syria, Kreiner replied, "I believe more in Jordan than in Syria. Syria is more dangerous. It has a strong army, and (President Hafez) Assad as its leader. It may be too soon to attempt peace with Syria."

Victor Hoffman, an American-born rabbi who has lived in Israel for many years, theorized that peace with Jordan would not be possible without consent from Syria.

"Assad seems not to be opposing the fact that Jordan is moving beyond Syria (in the peace process). That gives the negotiations with Jordan all the more chance of succeeding."

'Probably Wanted To Make Peace A Long Time'

Assuming that the negotiations with Jordan continue at the same pace, Hoffman said, "I wouldn't be at all surprised if Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty by the end of the year. Hussein has walked a tightrope for many years. He has probably wanted to make peace for a long time."

As hopeful as she is about peace with Jordan, Ilanit Weizman, 23, foresees a long, tough road ahead. "It will be hard, but there will be peace," she said. "The problem is, not everyone wants peace. When it comes time to give back territory to Jordan, some Israelis won't want to."

Weizman does not expect a treaty to be signed anytime soon. "A treaty by December? No way! I consider myself left-wing, but I can't say I support everything the government does. There are too many problems.

"Look at the bombing in Argentina," she said. "I can't support Rabin with a full heart when we are still at war, both in Israel and outside. If this were a peace treaty only on paper, it would be easy."

Many Arabs in Israel and the territories also have qualms about an Israeli treaty with Jordan.

When asked their opinions on the new peace track, a group of Arab fruit vendors admitted some ambivalence. All said they wanted peace, but most said peace between Israel and Jordan could hurt their chance for a state.

"A treaty is good for Israel and Jordan, but it may not be good for the Palestinians," said one man who, like others, would not give his name.

"If Jordan and Israel make peace, Hussein will insist that the Palestinians join forces with Jordan. Where does that leave Arafat and our right to an independent state?" he asked.

"Hussein is afraid of the Palestinians," said a Palestinian worker. "We make up 75 percent of Jordan, and Hussein is worried that a strong Palestine could overtake Jordan. That's nonsense. All we're looking for is peace in our homeland."