

**VIOLENCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON SUBSIDES FOLLOWING A WEEKEND OF HEAVY FIGHTING**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 7 (JTA) -- Violence between Israel and Hezbollah fighters in southern Lebanon has subsided following a tense weekend marked by Hezbollah rocket attacks on northern Israel and fighting in the security zone that left two Israeli soldiers dead.

The weekend of violence, which came in the wake of a deadly Aug. 4 Israeli air attack on a Lebanese village, occurred as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in the region in an attempt to breathe life into the long-stalled Israeli-Syrian peace negotiations.

Heavy fighting erupted in the southern Lebanon security zone Saturday when an Israeli patrol suddenly encountered a heavily armed unit of Hezbollah, the Islamic fundamentalist movement. The unit was apparently on its way to carry out a surprise attack on the Israel Defense Force in the zone.

Both groups were caught by surprise in the chance encounter, but Hezbollah gunmen managed to fire the first shots, killing two Israeli soldiers, before other members of the IDF unit managed to return fire.

The two Israelis killed were identified as Capt. Avshalom Oren, 24, of Tiberias, and Cpl. Evgeny Vratzlavsky, 22, of Jerusalem.

At about the same time Saturday, Hezbollah launched a series of Katyusha rocket attacks on units of the IDF and its allied South Lebanon Army within the security zone and on civilian targets in the Galilee area of Israel.

One rocket landed early Saturday morning on a house in a western Galilee township, leaving three Israeli children slightly injured by splintering glass and shrapnel.

Most of the remaining Katyushas and mortar bombs landed in fields, causing extensive property damage.

As a result of the rocket attacks, Israeli police closed some five miles of beaches south of the border with Lebanon, but they did not order civilians into bomb shelters.

Bathers on northern beaches between Nahariya and the Lebanon border were ordered out of the water and away from the open beaches, and many tourists at vacation spots in the Galilee began to leave the area.

**A Highly Unusual Apology**

Hezbollah officials said the rocket attacks on northern Israel were in retaliation for the Aug. 4 Israeli air strike on the Lebanese village of Deir Zahrani. The attack reportedly left seven civilians dead and 17 others wounded.

Israel issued a highly unusual apology for that attack, saying that missiles mistakenly struck the Lebanese village during a series of separate strikes on terrorist positions in southern Lebanon.

However, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri refused to accept the Israeli apology. Attending the funeral last Friday of those killed, he said the attack "was a premeditated crime by

the Israeli leadership. It was clearly a terrorist act designed to terrorize civilians."

Hariri called for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Israel also conveyed its apologies for the attack to the Syrian government, the leading power broker in Lebanon.

The Israeli air force has, meanwhile, launched an inquiry into the causes of the mishap in an effort to establish whether it was caused by human error, a technical malfunction of the plane's targeting computer or a problem in the construction and operation of the missiles.

**AS POLLARD TURNS 40 YEARS OLD, SUPPORTERS REVIVE FREEDOM EFFORTS**

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Aug. 7 (JTA) -- As Jonathan Pollard turned 40 on Sunday, supporters of the American Jew who spied for Israel were gearing up for several more rounds in the struggle to release him from his life sentence.

To mark his birthday, the more than 350 chapters of Citizens for Justice for Jonathan Pollard held rallies and letter-writing campaigns across the country. They are seeking clemency for the former Navy intelligence analyst who was arrested in 1985 and sentenced in 1987.

The campaign has recently garnered support from Hollywood celebrities, as well as from the leadership of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

On the legal front, meanwhile, Pollard's supporters are considering a new appeal. And they have just received what they are taking as a sign that President Clinton may be open to reconsidering clemency for Pollard.

Clinton turned down a clemency request in March, saying his decision reflected "the grave nature" of Pollard's offense and "the considerable damage that his actions caused our nation."

But Carol Pollard, who has been leading the fight for her brother's freedom as the head of Citizens for Justice, says a supporter recently received a letter from the White House that gave a glimmer of hope.

According to Carol Pollard, White House Counsel Lloyd Cutler wrote that Clinton's denial of clemency was based on "the best information at that time."

In a telephone interview from her home in Connecticut, Carol Pollard described the tone of the letter as much more positive than that found in previous letters from the White House.

She said she interpreted the letter as an indication that Clinton is open to reconsidering his decision. She said the Cutler letter indicated that in order to review the decision, Pollard must submit a renewed clemency request.

Carol Pollard said that she and her brother's lawyers plan to do so immediately.

She attributed the change of heart in the Clinton administration to the fact that rather than going away, the Pollard campaign has only gathered strength.

Among the latest to sign on to a request for

commuting Pollard's sentence to time served are Jon Voight, Jack Lemmon, Whoopi Goldberg, Gregory Peck, Barbara Hershey, Merv Adelson and Roddy McDowell.

Also in Los Angeles, Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, has been active on Pollard's behalf.

Cooper recently wrote to Clinton, suggesting that the Washington Declaration of non-belligerency between Jordan and Israel signaled an occasion for "the leadership of the Jewish community" to reiterate its call "to re-evaluate the case of Jonathan Pollard."

Voight, the actor, recently wrote a letter to Pollard, describing how he had been in close touch with Cooper. He also said he had met Pollard's family.

Urging Pollard to maintain his "will to live," Voight wrote: "My dream is that your energy will be interwoven into the energy of men like Moses, and it would be like a ray of sunshine. When the sun shines, this energy will shine upon the new children of the universe."

Meanwhile, Lester Pollack and Malcolm Hoenlein, chairman and executive vice chairman, respectively, of the Conference of Presidents, last month visited Pollard at his Buttner, N.C., prison. It was the first visit by the Conference of Presidents.

#### **New Legal Strategy Planned**

Carol Pollard, who speaks often with her brother on the telephone, said he thought the visit went well.

"He thanked them for any help they can give him, and also thanked any (member) organizations that have been supportive," she said. "It was just a get-together. They wanted to come on a humanitarian visit."

Meanwhile, Pollard's lawyers are planning a new legal strategy, according to his sister.

While she would not disclose details, Carol Pollard said that "new material" that could provide grounds to reopen the case has surfaced in the past nine months.

Pollard last suffered legal defeat in March 1992, when an appellate court found there were not sufficient grounds to overturn his sentence, a decision based in large measure on procedural issues.

"I'm very excited about all that has come to light," said Carol Pollard. "It will shed a light on why Jonathan did what he did; it will shed a lot of light on the workings of the government."

One of the central points raised by Jonathan Pollard's supporters has been that the classified information passed to Israel by the then-Navy analyst had, in fact, been promised to Israel, but was improperly held back.

This argument received new credence in the wake of the abortive nomination of former CIA chief Bobby Ray Inman to be Clinton's defense secretary earlier this year.

Inman soon withdrew his name from consideration, citing media conspiracies against him.

In discussing his refusal to accept the post, he admitted to having cut back on American intelligence satellite sharing with Israel when he was at the CIA.

New York Times columnist William Safire, who Inman cited as a reason for his withdrawal, charged that "Inman's animus also later con-

tributed to the excessive sentencing of Jonathan Pollard."

Carol Pollard indicated that the information revealed by Inman constitutes one of the pieces of new evidence she hopes will convince a court to re-hear the case.

The one topic Carol refuses to discuss is her new sister-in-law, Elaine Zeitz Pollard, who married Jonathan Pollard in prison earlier this year.

Carol Pollard is clearly not happy about the situation, but she will not say why.

Pollard's new wife is considered to be a member of the more extreme pro-Pollard camp.

In response to Clinton's denial for clemency, Zeitz, who heads a Canadian group working for Pollard, compared the U.S. president to Pharaoh and accused him of abdicating his "constitutional responsibility" in the decision.

Carol Pollard, for her part, seems intent on healing the fissures which surfaced last year, just as Clinton was considering the commutation decision, between those who thought Jonathan Pollard acted properly and was wrongly imprisoned, and those who thought that while what he did was wrong, he had served enough time.

"Most people are now agreeing that enough is enough, and the president should let him go," she said.

Whether people think commutation is "a humanitarian gesture, or that the sentence was disproportionate, or that he shouldn't have been in jail anyway they are all legitimate ways to express how you feel about Jonathan Pollard," Carol Pollard said. "But they all come down to the same thing that he ought to be out of jail."

#### **NEW POLL SHOWS GREAT GAINS FOR ITALIAN NEO-FASCIST LEADER**

**By Ruth E. Gruber**

ROME, Aug. 7 (JTA) -- A new public opinion poll shows a tremendous leap in popularity for neo-fascist leader Gianfranco Fini and places him within one percentage point of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi as the person Italians would want to lead their country.

The survey published this week was conducted by the SWG Institute for Famiglia Cristiana (Christian Family) magazine, a popular weekly, and asked 1,000 Italians whom they would vote for if they could vote directly for prime minister.

Only 21.4 percent said they would vote for Berlusconi, a sharp drop from the 33.4 percent he garnered in a similar survey in February.

But 20.3 percent said they would vote for Fini, leader of the neo-fascist-led National Alliance. This was a huge surge from the 8.7 percent who said they would vote for him in February.

The National Alliance, which grew out of the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement, forms part of the coalition government along with Berlusconi's Forza Italia party and the separatist Northern League.

Support for Northern League leader Umberto Bossi remained constant at 5.1 percent.

The poll results indicate deep public disillusionment with Berlusconi, whose leadership image has been shaken by several recent crises that have also threatened to break up his fractious coalition.

**GERMAN JEWISH LEADER CALLS FOR SPECIAL POLICE FORCE TO DEAL WITH NEO-NAZISM**

By Gil Sedan

BONN, Aug. 7 (JTA) -- A prominent Jewish leader in Germany has called for the establishment of a special European police force to deal with the growing phenomenon of neo-Nazi activity. Michael Friedman, deputy chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said in a newspaper interview that the purpose of such a force would be to observe neo-Nazi activities, collect data and prevent violence.

Friedman's proposal came early last week, following a weekend when police were busy dealing with at least four separate incidents of neo-Nazi activity, all of which took place in parts of the former East Germany.

In one incident, police arrested 10 youths belonging to the so-called Viking paramilitary neo-Nazi group who were found taking part in combat exercises in a forest near Weimar. In another, police arrested four suspects after some 20 extreme rightists vandalized a pub in the eastern German city of Merseburg.

And this past weekend, police reportedly arrested hundreds of neo-Nazi skinheads in separate incidents in the northern city of Hanover, in the northwestern city of Bremen and in Gotha, located in the eastern German state of Thuringia.

The ongoing neo-Nazi violence has prompted a key member of Germany's main opposition Social Democratic Party to warn that violence by right-wing extremists amounts to "a direct danger to the internal peace" of Germany.

Gunter Verheugen, chairman of the Social Democratic caucus in the Bundestag, the lower house of the German legislature, said that ill-conceived governmental policies were setting the stage for the growth of neo-Nazi movements.

He blamed the government's housing policy and the lack of employment opportunities as the leading causes for the spread of the radical right.

In an effort to demonstrate popular opposition to neo-Nazi activities, Verheugen declared Sept. 17 as a day of "resistance against the right."

This coming weekend may provide a test of how the German authorities deal with the growing number of neo-Nazi adherents.

German radicals in Bremen have asked the authorities there for a permit to hold a mass rally on Aug. 13 to commemorate Rudolf Hess, Adolf Hitler's deputy, who died in Berlin's Spandau prison seven years ago.

Some 1,000-2,000 neo-Nazis are expected to participate in the rally, which has become an annual tradition.

Local authorities are reportedly checking whether they have any legal grounds to reject the request.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**

**AMERICAN OLAH HELPS FELLOW IMMIGRANTS TO DEVELOP NEW CAREERS AND BUSINESSES**

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, Aug. 7 (JTA) -- When Elana Rozenman made aliyah three years ago, she hoped to continue her career as a clinical social worker in private practice.

But once she arrived in Israel, she realized

that she was overqualified for entry-level positions and that she also had the handicap of not being fluent in Hebrew.

As a result, she determined that a career change was in order.

Frustrated, but determined to make a living, Rozenman launched a business called SuccessWorks, an innovative goal-setting program based on techniques created by Californian Barbara Sher, author of the best-selling book "Wishcraft."

Today, Rozenman, 52, is running a thriving business, and is helping others do the same.

Of the more than 1,000 people who have attended her workshops and seminars in the past two years, hundreds have expanded their businesses and met other personal challenges.

Held in a variety of locations in the capital, the workshops, which are in English, attract a large number of new and veteran olim from English-speaking countries. A large percentage are women in their 40s, 50s and 60s.

Although she offers her services to Israelis as well as "Anglo-Saxons," Rozenman believes that her workshops fill a special need in the immigrant community.

"Israelis have automatic networks from school, from their families, from the army," she said. "Immigrants lack this protektzia (personal contacts), and it makes it harder for olim to do business here. That's why it's crucial for them to have their own support system and to set up their own protektzia."

**Women Have A Tougher Time**

Women, she believes, have an even tougher time.

"In Israel, women's lives tend to be much more difficult," she said.

"Household tasks take longer, and this makes it harder for women to find time for other things," she said.

"Add to this the fact that people in Israel tend to have larger families, and you see why many women here choose to start microbusinesses -- businesses conducted from the home," she said.

Most of the women who attended a recent session of Rozenman's Professional Women's Network are doing just that.

At the workshop, which was held at a popular kosher restaurant in the heart of town, Rozenman asked each of the 60 women present to stand up for a minute and describe her goals.

Used to hustling for a sympathetic word or some useful advice, the women were gratified to present their individual stories to an audience ready to listen.

While many of the participants discussed their fledgling enterprises in everything from jewelry design and dressmaking to holistic health and psychology, one young woman displayed the reflective running attire she manufactures in England.

Another woman, who had not expected to market herself, said she runs a support group for the parents of autistic children.

Several of the participants, like Ruth Cornfeld, have also taken Rozenman's eight-week Success Team seminar.

The workshop, which accepts both men and women, is geared toward having the group's members set goals and achieve them.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**
**AGING JEWISH RADICALS BAN TOGETHER AS THEY PROUDLY 'STILL MAKE TROUBLE'**

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) -- Here's what's been happening during the last few months at Sunset Hall, a retirement home for 31 men and women, average age in their early 80s:

A forum on human rights in Burma; a petition drive demanding an end to the economic blockade of Cuba; a session for lobbying legislators to support a single payer health care plan; a hootenanny featuring the songs of Paul Robeson; and, of course, the annual social highlight, the May Day garden party, this year featuring Carl Reiner as special guest.

In the parking lot outside, bumper stickers bloom, proclaiming "Human Need, Not Corporate Greed" and "Support KPFK," a left-leaning FM radio station.

Sunset Hall bills itself as a "residence for free-thinking elders" who honor "humanistic values and liberal religion."

It is believed to be the only place of its kind in the United States, if not the world.

The two-story building is in Spanish/California-style, surrounding a sunny inner courtyard with a goldfish pond, blooming jacaranda trees, and a rose bush planted in honor of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.

Once the house on Francis Avenue, on the western edge of downtown Los Angeles, was part of a fashionable neighborhood.

Now the street is populated mainly by immigrants from Central America, with a growing number of Koreans and pockets of black and white residents.

Three-quarters of Sunset Hall's residents are Jewish, but don't look for nice little old ladies kvelling over their great-grandchildren, playing bingo, expressing gratitude for the kindness of benefactors, and scrounging pennies to plant trees in Israel.

If the campus war protesters and free speech militants of the 1960s have mellowed into corporate lawyers and vaguely liberal suburban barbecuers, the residents of Sunset Hall are of a different breed and time.

**Filled FBI Dossiers, Un-American Committees**

They are the activists of the 1920s and '30s, many born in Eastern Europe, who organized the garment and office workers in New York, marched for Negro rights and against Franco in Spain, got their heads bloodied on picket lines, joined the young Communists and Socialists, and filled the dossiers of the FBI and the Un-American Activities committees.

Now ranging in age from 68 to 97, white-haired, some using walkers and canes, the very picture of bubbes and zaydes, these folks bear their scars with the pride of old soldiers.

They regret nothing, they know what's going on in the world, and they look at events through the ideological prism shaped in their younger years.

The genesis of Sunset Hall goes back to 1923, when the Women's Alliance of the First Unitarian Church decided to establish a home for "aging liberals."

One of the residents, Ethel Himelstein, 94,

recalls that her father deserted the Czar's army to escape a death sentence for passing out revolutionary propaganda.

"I was born in a forest near Minsk, that's why I'm so wild," she affirms proudly.

In 1906, the family came to America and settled in a New York Lower East Side tenement, "where the toilet was in the hallway, that sort of thing."

During the McCarthy era, her Kiev-born husband was threatened with deportation, after "a paid stool pigeon denounced him," she declares with some heat.

In 1967, she visited the Soviet Union, and "was never so thrilled in my life."

As some old-timers will finger their faded high school graduation photo, Philip Kaufman, 89, produces a clipping from The Daily Worker of May 8, 1930. Under the headline "Assaulted at Stamford (Conn.) May Day Demonstration, Then Beaten In Jail," a photo shows two rows of solemn men, most with head bandages.

The rather dashing looking young man standing second from right, also bandaged, is identified as Phil Kaufman.

Elaine Holtz is 80, a native New Yorker, whose parents were supporters of Socialist leader Eugene Debs.

"All my life I have been progressive and radical," she says, and a companion interjects, "When she was born, her mother said 'March.'"

**Offspring 'Not As Radical As We Were'**

The talk turns to children and grandchildren. While more conventional elders boast of the academic or financial successes of their progeny, the residents here take pride that their offspring are secular Jews and committed liberals, "though not as radical as we were," they say.

After lifetimes of strife and struggle, the people of Sunset Hall show no inclination to go gentle into that good night, in body or spirit.

For the body, there are daily exercise and intermittent Tai Chi sessions. The bus of the Baptist Church stops by regularly to take residents swimming at the YMCA. A three-block walk to the public library stretches aging legs.

But it is through the need to pass on some of their legacy and knowledge, to be yet of some use to those who struggle, that the Sunset Hall residents break through the isolation that walls off many other retirement communities.

There are frequent visits by students, from grade schools to universities. One doctoral candidate at the University of Iowa is researching the history of Sunset Hall. Another is writing a dissertation on the views of progressive elders on death and dying.

And if the residents can no longer change society and the world, they can still have an impact on their own neighborhood.

Five houses down is an elementary school, and the Hispanic and Korean kids -- and their parents -- drop in for lessons in conversational English. Other times, the youngsters come over to listen to concerts and musical performances.

Admittedly, the neighbors can be very noisy at times, but Kaufman bristles at the suggestion that he may be living in a rundown neighborhood.

"There are no good neighborhoods," he declares emphatically. "Look at O.J. Simpson and Brentwood."