

**RABIN DEMANDS DISARMING OF MILITANTS
IN WAKE OF THE SUICIDE BOMBING IN GAZA**

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- In the wake of last Friday's suicide bombing that claimed the lives of three Israeli army reserve officers, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has demanded that Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat disarm Islamic militants operating in the Gaza Strip.

The bombing, which occurred near the isolated Netzarim settlement in Gaza, underscored the problem for Israeli security forces in combatting fundamentalist terror.

It also highlighted the difficulties in providing security for Israeli settlers who live alongside hostile Palestinian neighbors.

The suicide attack, which also wounded six Israelis and five Palestinians, came at a time when Israel and Palestinian negotiators are attempting to tackle the issue of an Israeli army withdrawal from Arab population centers in the West, a move timed to coincide with upcoming Palestinian elections.

Speaking at Sunday's weekly Cabinet meeting, Rabin said that Arafat was not doing enough to crack down on Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, two fundamentalist groups responsible for recent terrorist attacks against Israelis. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for last Friday's bombing.

In the wake of the Gaza attack, Palestinian police rounded up some 150 suspected Islamic Jihad activists, including the brother of the movement's leader in Gaza. But many of the movement's top officials evaded detention by going into hiding.

Arafat ordered similar roundups following recent terror assaults on Israelis, only to have the suspects released in a matter of days.

Rabin Warns Against Rushing Withdrawal

At a meeting with Arafat last week, Rabin had demanded that the PLO leader take more aggressive measures against fundamentalist terror groups.

At the Cabinet meeting, Rabin warned against rushing forward with a redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank. He said that ensuring the safety of Israeli settlers living in the West Bank was even more complex than in Gaza and that negotiations could take a long time.

As the Cabinet discussed the bombing, the three Israeli army reserve officers killed in the attack were laid to rest Sunday.

They were Capt. Dror Elad, 24, of Kibbutz Nahshon; Lt. Yotam Rahat, 31, of Tel Aviv; and Capt. Yehezkel Sapir, 36, of Kfar Saba.

The attack occurred around 1:45 p.m., when a Palestinian carrying about 22 pounds of explosives strapped to his body rode his bicycle past an army checkpoint some 200 yards from the entrance to the Netzarim settlement and blew himself up.

The three reserve officers, who were at the checkpoint to brief soldiers on how to deal with

Palestinian demonstrations, were killed immediately.

Four Israeli soldiers and two police officers were wounded, two of them seriously.

Four Palestinians in a nearby car were also wounded in the explosion, as was a Palestinian police colonel.

The suicide bomber was identified as 21-year-old Hisham Hamad, from Gaza City's Sheik Rejwan neighborhood. Hamad had been jailed in 1991 because of his activities with the Islamic Jihad. When the attack occurred, the fundamentalist group was holding a rally in Gaza City attended by some 3,000 Palestinians.

An Islamic Jihad spokesman said at the rally that Friday's bombing was in revenge for the death of one of its leaders, Hani Abed, who died after a bomb demolished his car on Nov. 2.

Palestinians have blamed Israel for the bombing, saying it came in revenge for recent terror attacks on Israelis.

Commenting on the difficulties involved in combatting fundamentalist terror, Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak, the Israel Defense Force chief of staff, said at the bombing site last Friday, "Such an act, when someone is intent on carrying out an attack and killing himself in the process, is very difficult to prevent."

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said the attack near Netzarim proved that Arafat's leadership was totally ineffective.

While the self-rule accord specifies that no existing Jewish settlements would be moved or dismantled during the five-year interim period of Palestinian autonomy, several Cabinet ministers have implied that moving the settlements might be a good idea.

Agriculture Minister Yakov Tsur called for a total separation between Palestinians and Israeli settlers, even if that meant relocating Netzarim.

Opposition members reacted to the attack with a call for an immediate halt in negotiations with the PLO.

Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, referring to the next stage of negotiations for extending Palestinian self-rule to the West Bank, said Rabin must stop setting up other regions like Gaza in which terrorists could operate freely.

**JORDANIAN GIRL SET FOR TRANSPLANT
IN ISRAEL DIES BEFORE SURGERY BEGINS**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- A 12-year-old Jordanian girl who arrived in Israel last week to undergo a bone-marrow transplant has died before the operation could be carried out.

Heba Shaban died late Friday night of massive bleeding in her lungs, according to her doctor, Shimon Slavin, the head of the bone-marrow transplant center at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

Slavin said the young girl's disease had been misdiagnosed in Jordan, adding that if Israeli doctors had been able to examine her two months ago her chances of a cure would have been high.

The girl's father, Rushdi Shaban, had written

an appeal for help to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin a day after the historic signing of the Israel-Jordan peace treaty on Oct. 26.

Rabin promptly approved the request, and on Nov. 7, the girl and her parents arrived in Israel along with the girl's 10-month-old brother, who was scheduled to provide the marrow for the transplant.

The Prime Minister's Office subsequently helped collect \$40,000 in donations from local businesses to cover the costs of the procedure, which had been scheduled for Monday.

The child's body, escorted by her family, was returned to Jordan on Saturday.

EXCITED ISRAELI TOURISTS CROSS DECADES OF WAR TO VISIT JORDAN
By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- Three days after Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordanian King Hussein exchanged ratified copies of their historic peace treaty, the first group of Israeli tourists entered Jordan using their Israeli passports.

The group of 35 people passed through the southern border crossing at Eilat on Sunday for a two-day visit to the Jordanian cities of Aqaba and Petra.

"We feel very excited. I think we have the luck to be able to participate in a kind of small personal history," Moshe Hananel, the manager of Galilee Tours, which organized the trip, told Israel Radio. "This is the real meaning of peace for us."

A second group of Israeli tourists was due to cross into Jordan this week using the Sheik Hussein Bridge, the northern border crossing that was officially opened last week.

The July 25 Washington Declaration, which officially brought to an end the 46-year state of war between the two countries, called for the opening of the two border crossings, but allowed only third-country nationals to travel between Israel and Jordan.

The Oct. 26 Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty, which paved the way for full diplomatic, economic and cultural ties, enabled Israelis and Jordanians to visit each other's countries.

As a result of the peace treaty, an Israeli delegation from the Foreign Ministry, headed by Director-General Uri Savir, was scheduled to travel to the Jordanian capital of Amman this week to choose a site for the Israeli Embassy.

Meanwhile, the daily newspaper Yediot Achronot has reported that senior Jordanian diplomat Ziad Al-Majali will this week assume the top post in the Israel department of the Jordanian Foreign Ministry.

HIGH COURT CONSIDERS APPEALS AGAINST IDF POLICY TO SEAL HOMES
By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- The High Court of Justice has issued a temporary restraining order against the Israel Defense Force, preventing it from sealing the homes of the parents of the terrorists who kidnapped and murdered Israeli soldier Nachshon Waxman.

Justice Yitzhak Zamir issued the order after the parents of Abdel Kareem Bader and Taisir

Natshe appealed to the High Court following the receipt of notice from the IDF that it intended to seal their homes.

Bader and Natshe were two of the three Hamas terrorists who were killed when IDF commandos attempted to rescue Waxman on Oct. 14. The terrorists killed Waxman before they were killed during the commando raid.

Israel has adopted the policy of sealing or demolishing the homes of terrorists in an attempt to prevent them from launching suicide attacks on Israelis.

In the petitions, which were submitted separately, the parents said that sealing the homes of terrorists in these cases would be "an inhuman punishment against people who are innocent of crime."

The parents said they had no knowledge of their sons' activities.

In a separate case, a five-justice panel is currently considering a similar appeal brought by the family of Salah Assawi, the terrorist who carried out the Oct. 19 bombing of a bus in Tel Aviv that resulted in the deaths of 23 people and left more than 40 others wounded.

The Association of Civil Rights in Israel, which filed the petition on behalf of Assawi's family, said the demolition of the home would have no punitive effect, since the bomber was already dead.

They also argued that it was unlawful to punish the family, which was innocent of the crime.

The state argued that the demolitions are an effective deterrent against future terrorist attacks. The state also argued that the family had been in contact with Assawi and that one of his brothers knew in advance of his plans to carry out the murderous attack.

In light of the gravity of the bombing, security considerations come above the rights of individuals, the state said.

AUSTRIAN LEADER SEEKS TO REBUILD TIES
By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- In the first visit by an Austrian head of state, President Thomas Klestil arrived here Sunday for a three-day tour aimed at improving relations with Jerusalem.

Accompanied by business leaders from Austria's 17 leading companies, Klestil said at a welcoming ceremony that he hoped his visit would mark the start of warmer ties between the two countries.

"I have embarked on this visit with the intention of opening a new chapter in our relations," Klestil said. "With a full awareness of what has happened in the past, we may be able to build a future partnership of close cooperation and friendship."

Israel's relations with Austria deteriorated in recent years in the wake of accusations that Kurt Waldheim, the former Austrian president and secretary-general of the United Nations, had participated in war crimes under the Nazi regime during World War II.

Waldheim was a Nazi intelligence officer stationed in the Balkans during the war. He has been implicated in the deportations of Jews and reprisal killings of anti-Nazi partisans in the region.

TINY ARAB NATION ESTABLISHES TIES BECOMING NO. 3 TO BREAK THE BARRIER

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- The Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, an Indian Ocean nation, has established full diplomatic relations with Israel, making it the third member of the Arab League to take the step.

Egypt and Jordan have also established relations with Israel.

The league's smallest member state, Comoros comprises an archipelago in the Indian Ocean off the coast of southeastern Africa and has a population of some 420,000, most of whom are Muslims.

The agreement to establish diplomatic relations was signed in Paris on Nov. 10 by Israel's ambassador to France, Yehuda Lancry, and the president of Comoros, Said Mohammad Johar. Johar was in France attending a three-day French-African conference.

Israel will soon send a commission to Comoros to assess the Islamic republic's needs in the agricultural field. A former French protectorate, Comoros' leading products are vanilla, copra and various vegetable oils.

Lancry said in an interview that while there were some economic benefits to be derived from the mutual recognition pact, most important was the fact that Comoros was a member of the Arab League with full voting rights.

The Arab League has said it will vote on whether to continue its long-standing boycott of Israel at a meeting early next year.

JAPANESE PAPER APOLOGIZES TO JEWS FOR ADVERTISING ANTI-SEMITIC BOOKS

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- A prominent Japanese daily newspaper has formally apologized to Jewish groups for advertising books that claim the world is secretly controlled by Jews.

The apology by Yomiuri Shimbun, said to be the world's largest-circulation newspaper, was issued last week to the American Jewish Committee and Anti-Defamation League in response to protests by these groups and by the Israeli Embassy in Tokyo.

The offensive advertisement by the Tokuma Shoten Publishing Co., which ran two weeks ago in the 10-million circulation newspaper, promoted a number of books that "explain" modern history as a series of Jewish plots to dominate the world.

In an identical letter sent to Neil Sandberg, director of the AJCommittee's Pacific Rim Institute, and ADL National Director Abraham Foxman, the heads of Yomiuri Shimbun's advertising and public relations departments wrote, "We sincerely regret the publishing of an advertisement which, as you point out, can be said to promote racism.

"We accept your criticism on this matter and disassociate ourselves from the contents of the advertisement in question," they wrote, adding:

"Please be assured that henceforth, taking your point into consideration, we shall redouble our efforts to avoid the printing of advertisements without checking their credibility, and to deal with world affairs without bias or bigotry."

According to reports from Tokyo, Jewish conspiracy books are a cottage industry in Japan. Generally in the form of mystery-thrillers, the books' plots might link the pope, the queen of England and U.S. presidents as Zionist conspirators bent on destroying Japanese industry.

Despite the popularity of such books, with sales over 1 million, Rabbi James Lebeau of Temple Beth David in Tokyo said he had never heard of any attacks or violence against Jews in Japan. An estimated 2,000 Jews, mostly Americans, live in Japan.

The issue of the anti-Semitic books is years old and has been on the agenda of numerous meetings between Jewish groups and Japanese officials. Symposiums have been held on the subject and Japanese scholars have spoken out vociferously against the books while explaining the myriad reasons for their existence.

The AJCommittee and Simon Wiesenthal Center held meetings in past years with the Japanese Publishers and Editors Association, advertising executives and government officials.

Asked why the problem continues, Sandberg of AJCommittee ventured that "the Japanese culture moves very slowly. When decisions are made, even major ones, by government or other key institutional entities, it takes time for the messages to be conveyed and appropriate corrective action to take place."

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said he attended four meetings on this matter in October 1993 in Japan. He met with executives of the newspapers Yomiuri Shimbun and Nisei Shimbun, "both of which had run the same kind of ads last year."

He also met with executives of Asahi Shimbun and with the publishers and editors group.

Given the recurrence of this type of advertisement, he said, "It is quite appropriate that they would issue an apology."

(JTA staff writer Susan Birnbaum in New York contributed to this report.)

ANTI-SEMITISM WORRIES ANTWERP'S JEWS

By Joseph Kopel

ANTWERP, Belgium, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- The Jewish community here has taken special security measures to protect itself after the Jewish owners of a clothing shop found stickers with anti-Semitic slogans on the store's windows.

The stickers bore Nazi swastikas and slogans such as "We are back" and "Don't buy from Jews."

The stickers were apparently the work of "NDSAP-AO," an international neo-Nazi organization headquartered in Lincoln, Nebraska. The organization was established in 1973 by an American neo-Nazi, Garry Lauck. In Belgium and Holland, the neo-Nazi group is known as the Action Group-National Socialist.

The 20,000-member community reacted with outrage to the incident, and attributed the incident to the recent political success of the right-wing Flemish Bloc, which scored important gains last month in Antwerp's municipal elections. One out of three people voted for the party.

"The extreme right feels stronger after the recent municipal elections. It appears to have decided to act," said Sydney Berneman, spokesman for Antwerp's Forum of Jewish Organizations.

ONE MILWAUKEE WOMAN FINDS WAY TO HELP SINGLES IN HER COMMUNITY

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- Dianne Spector is tired of meeting friends in the supermarket and lamenting the fact that their children are not meeting other young Jewish singles.

Her 23-year-old daughter, like many of her friends' children, moved back to Milwaukee after graduating from college.

Milwaukee's Jewish community has few events to offer its singles. And because the city of 1 million souls has a Jewish population of only about 25,000, there is little chance that Jewish singles will meet other unmarried Jews at work or at bars, said Spector.

Then Spector saw in her local newspaper a federation "wish list" of programs it was trying to fund, including \$30,000 for interfaith programming and just one-third as much devoted to singles.

She also saw a Jewish community center program with activities scheduled for every conceivable population, including intermarrieds, but none for young single adults.

So she decided to do something about it.

Spector, 50, is not a power player in Milwaukee's Jewish establishment. She is not a federation bigwig, nor does she have the financial resources to underwrite an effort on her own.

But she did have an idea -- to organize activities where Jewish singles could meet and to create a system to let them know what was available to them in Milwaukee.

With only her idea in hand, Spector asked everyone she knew for ideas, found out about what some other mid-size Jewish communities are doing for singles, and then approached her Jewish federation for some help.

She was shunted from staffer to staffer, and finally rebuffed and told "just because you have an idea, what makes you think you could make it happen?" she said.

Undaunted, she moved forward on her own.

More Enthusiastic Response Than Imagined

With a handful of friends, she arranged a Yom Kippur break-the-fast for singles. Their only publicity was announcements from four synagogue pulpits on the High Holy Days and a one-time ad in the local Jewish paper.

The response was more enthusiastic than Spector had imagined it could be.

One hundred and fifty men and women in their late 20s and 30s came to the pot-luck buffet. The woman who hosted the event in her apartment building's party room even met someone promising.

Since then, under the auspices of the Milwaukee Jewish Link, as it is now called, Spector has arranged two book clubs -- one for singles under 40, one for singles over 40 -- which meet in a local bookstore/cafe.

Weekly volleyball games will soon begin at the Jewish Community Center.

Spector, a native of the city, describes herself as a "street-corner psychologist" and, from listening to what her daughter's friends say, has come to some conclusions about Jewish singles.

They don't want to hear directly from a

federation, she said. "There's the perception that if their names get into the hands of federation they'll be hit on for money."

She has also found that there is little continuity when singles coordinate their own programming, and even when a Jewish community center or federation hires a part-time worker to coordinate efforts.

There is a lot of turnover among the part-time coordinators, who are most often young single women who get married and leave the position. When singles coordinate their own programming, Spector said, they lose interest when they marry.

Even while unmarried, they have unique stresses in their lives as they get settled in careers and as some deal with being single parents. As a result, they have little time to organize singles activities, she said.

Instead, Spector's vision is to have Jewish singles telling coordinators what kind of activities they will come to and to have settled people organizing things.

"If we can get non-single, rooted people working with rooted agencies and synagogues, getting direction from singles, I know we can be a major help to them," she said.

Spector said that her goal is to get young people to want to stay in Milwaukee because they feel they have a future there, not necessarily to make marriages.

"If that happens, wonderful, but the way I'm trying to market this is that the future of the Milwaukee Jewish community depends on our creating opportunities for people to meet," she said.

"Who will join our synagogues and organizations and support our charities if they don't? We're talking about financial implications for the community. It's a real Jewish continuity issue," she said.

The Milwaukee Jewish Federation, after much lobbying on Spector's part, has contributed only \$5,000 to her efforts so far.

"Federations generally cannot turn on a dime and respond to requests," said Rick Meyer, executive vice president of the federation. "There are a lot of constituencies out there, and each one has a justifiable and legitimate point of view about what the priorities should be.

"We're still not sure where singles fit in with (our priorities vis a vis) intermarrieds, the elderly, etc. That will be determined through planning task forces," he said.

According to Spector, though, seed money for her singles project is not enough.

"All federations have money," she said. "We have to get them to recognize singles as a top priority in every single community. When are they going to wake up?"

GERMAN POLICE UNION BANS RIGHTISTS

BONN, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- Members of the Deutsche Volks Union, a neo-Nazi political organization, will be expelled from the German National Police Union, the union decided last week at its convention in Dresden.

DVU membership is incompatible with membership in the police union, the resolution said.

However, the decision does not apply to actual service on the police force.