



## NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ **Palestinian negotiators in Eilat rejected an Israeli compromise proposal for security arrangements in the West Bank town of Hebron.** The proposal in part called for the Israel Defense Force to withdraw from a number of neighborhoods, but remain responsible for security in most areas of Hebron. [Page 1]

■ **President Clinton, in a letter to the World Jewish Restitution Organization, expressed support for efforts to resolve "the question of Jewish properties confiscated during and after World War II."** Jewish leaders will be in Brussels and Geneva this week and will discuss initiatives to regain Jewish funds deposited in Swiss banks during World War II.

■ **Unidentified men wearing Israeli army uniforms killed a Palestinian from the West Bank town of Halhoul.** Two Israeli extremist groups claimed responsibility for the attack. [Page 1]

■ **Jewish and Arab residents of Hebron clashed when settlers tried to remove a Palestinian flag from outside a girls' school in the town.** Several Palestinians were injured by Jewish settlers from the nearby Beit Hadassah complex. [Page 1]

■ **Israel handed over to the Palestinian Authority seven spheres of civil responsibility in the West Bank: local government, statistics, fuel, labor, agriculture, trade and insurance.** An eighth sphere, postal responsibility, was not transferred because of differences between the two sides over how it should be implemented.

■ **Israel allowed a senior Palestinian official who opposes the self-rule accord to enter the Jericho self-rule enclave from Jordan.** Israeli sources said the entry was approved after a request from the Palestinian Authority. [Page 4]

■ **Syria reportedly suggested that Israel fly balloon-borne sensors over the Golan Heights to detect sudden Syrian troop movements.** Israel is calling for ground-based early-warning systems on the Golan as part of any eventual Israeli-Syrian peace treaty, but Damascus rejected the idea as an infringement on its sovereignty.

## Failure to agree on Hebron delays expansion of self-rule

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Security arrangements in the West Bank town of Hebron have emerged as the leading obstacle to completing an agreement on expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

"There is a crisis in the talks," said Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, a participant in the negotiations with the Palestinians. "The crisis is mainly over the Hebron issue."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat, after a series of meetings last week at the Red Sea resort of Taba, were unable to resolve the issue of who would have control in Hebron.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators returned to the bargaining table in Eilat on Sunday to try to bridge the gap over Hebron.

The next phase of Palestinian self-rule calls for an Israeli army redeployment from major Palestinian population centers in the West Bank.

But Hebron, the only West Bank city with a Jewish settler population — some 400 Israelis live in the center of the town — presents some thorny security questions.

Last week, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin proposed for the first time a partial Israel Defense Force troop withdrawal in Hebron.

Rabin is insisting that Israeli troops remain in control of areas deemed necessary for the protection of settlers in Hebron and in the nearby settlement of Kiryat Arba.

Arafat is pressing for an Israeli declaration that Hebron is a Palestinian town. Although agreeing on a phased withdrawal of Israeli troops, Arafat is demanding that it ultimately be a complete withdrawal.

In Eilat over the weekend, the Palestinians rejected a compromise proposal for security in Hebron that Peres had submitted to Arafat.

Under the proposal, which was drawn up by the head of the IDF's Planning Branch, Maj. Gen. Uzi Dayan, the Palestinians would have all civil and municipal responsibility in Hebron. The IDF would withdraw from a number of neighborhoods, but remain responsible for security in most areas.

### Arafat renews jihad call

In exchange, Israel would take additional steps toward normalizing life in the town for its 120,000 Palestinian residents, including the reopening of Hebron's central market as well as some of its main thoroughfares.

Arafat, while pressing his demands at the bargaining table, has apparently been issuing renewed calls for a jihad, or armed struggle, if the negotiations fail.

Likud Knesset member Ze'ev Begin and Labor Knesset member Emanuel Zismann presented at a Sept. 7 news conference a videotape of excerpts from recent appearances by Arafat on Palestinian television.

The videotape was made by a Tel Aviv-based group, the Institute for Peace Education, which has been monitoring and recording Arafat's recent speeches.

The clips included an excerpt from an Aug. 6 speech at Al-Azhar University in the Gaza Strip, in which Arafat said, "If the Israelis think that we have no alternatives [to negotiations], by Allah, they are wrong.

"The Palestinian people are prepared to sacrifice their last boy and their last girl in order to wave the Palestinian flag."

Begin said the statements were a clear warning against Israel's continuing negotiations with the PLO.

Meanwhile, flaring tempers have led to violent confrontations between Jewish settlers and Palestinians in Hebron.

On Sunday, Jewish and Arab residents of Hebron clashed when Jewish settlers tried to remove a Palestinian flag from outside a girls' school in the town.

After the settlers' attempt, Palestinian students held a protest march outside the school.

Several Palestinians were injured by Jewish settlers from the nearby Beit Hadassah complex in Hebron.

A scuffle was also reported between the school's headmistress and a

Jewish woman. Palestinian witnesses maintained that the settler had attacked the headmistress. Jewish settlers said the headmistress beat the woman when she tried to videotape the incident.

Last Friday, unidentified men wearing Israeli army uniforms killed a Palestinian from Halhoul, located near Hebron.

Rabin said at Sunday's weekly Cabinet meeting that if Jews were responsible for the slaying of 23-year-old Salman Azamareh, the Palestinians would likely use the incident to demand a greater presence of Palestinian police in the Hebron area.

An Israeli police crime unit took over the investigation into the Halhoul killing.

Israeli security sources said they had determined that Jews, not Arabs, were responsible for the killing of Azamareh shortly after midnight last Friday.

Most of the investigation has focused on intelligence gathering.

No ballistic tests were performed, because the victim's family buried Azamareh before any could be done.

According to reports, five armed men entered a number of homes in Halhoul late Thursday night, claiming to be soldiers. They beat some of the residents and demanded to see identity cards.

Azamareh was shot dead when he arrived home after midnight and encountered the gunmen, who had already tied up his father.

Two separate Israeli extremist groups have claimed responsibility for the attack.

#### **Jewish extremists head underground**

One of the groups, Ayal, Hebrew for "ram," is reportedly a youth group associated with the militant anti-Arab Kach movement, which is outlawed in Israel.

The other group calls itself the Sword of David.

A spokesman for Ayal said members of the group had gone underground, anticipating a police roundup of activists.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said police were still investigating all possible angles, but that the harshest measures would be taken if it turned out that Jewish extremists had carried out the attack.

"Without a doubt, this incident has lit a warning light illuminating the possibility that people may carry out such detestable deeds," Shahal told Army Radio.

In recent weeks, government ministers have expressed concern that the increasing, and often violent, anti-government protests could lead to extremist violence, directed not only at Palestinians but at Israeli civil servants, police and military.

Shahal presented the Cabinet on Sunday with documents distributed by Zo Artzeinu, a grass-roots settlers group, which he said encouraged violence at upcoming protests.

Israeli police recently were ordered by Israel's attorney general to launch an investigation of Zo Artzeinu regarding protest activities it organized.

Rabin said that even though opposition demonstrations must be allowed in any democratic society, violent ones must be stamped out.

In response to Shahal's claim, Moshe Feiglin of Zo Artzeinu called on supporters to attend a protest — with their hands tied above their heads — scheduled for later this week opposite the prime minister's residence.

Feiglin said this would illustrate the group's belief in nonviolent protest.

Palestinian officials said they did not believe that the killing of the Halhoul man would have a negative impact on the peace process if Israel took appropriate measures to capture and punish the perpetrators. □

#### **Israel acquiescent to presence of 'Palestine' at movie festival**

*By Bram D. Eisenthal*

MONTREAL (JTA) — One of the world's leading international film festivals, held here recently, featured movies produced by "Palestine" as well as a cooperative Israeli-Palestinian effort.

But unlike last year's Montreal World Film Festival, when a controversy ensued after a film was shown under the "Palestine" banner, there was no protest by Israeli government representatives during the 1995 festival.

The change is but one indication that the accord signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization two years ago appears to be making an impact on major international cultural events.

The 1995 Montreal World Film Festival, the 19th edition of the event, was held this year from Aug. 24 through Sept. 4.

This year, three films were shown under the Palestinian banner. One of them was an Israeli-Palestinian co-production.

The joint effort, "Peace Chronicles," takes an intimate look at the lives of three Israelis and three Palestinians in the six months after the signing of the accord. The amateur film was shot with video cameras.

Since its humble beginnings in the late 1970s, the festival has become the largest publicly attended film festival in the Western world. Over a 10-day period, more than 300,000 film aficionados sat through the screenings of some 250 films from 65 countries.

Each year, one country is chosen as the highlight of the festival. For the first time, Israel was selected.

Festival spokesman David Novek said it was time Israel was chosen. "Israel has a vibrant and growing film industry, and it was felt it was opportune to present the work of Israeli filmmakers to a wider public," he said.

#### **12 Israeli films screened**

"The festival tries to recognize filmmaking around the world and to present to our audiences the filmmaking tendencies of all countries," he said. "We think it is important that our fans be exposed to films that are generally not available commercially."

Twelve Israeli-produced films were screened at this year's festival. Israeli director Shemi Zarhin won the festival's award for best screenplay for "Leilasede," or "Passover Fever."

Zarhin, a Tiberias-born graduate of Tel Aviv University's film and television school who teaches at the Jerusalem Film and Television School, wrote and directed the film about a large Israeli family that comes together at Passover to share the holiday and re-examine their relationships.

Many who attended the film's debut considered it one of the more polished commercial films Israel has ever produced, despite that it was made on a shoestring \$600,000 budget. Starring homegrown stars Gila Almagor and Yossef Shiloah, it will open in Israel on Nov. 17.

Israeli Consul General Daniel Gal said he is "very proud that Israel is playing a major part in this year's festival."

Gal predicted that Israel would soon co-produce films with Syria, Egypt and Jordan.

Other international festivals, such as those in Toronto and Cannes, France, include films under the banner of "Palestine." Producers submit their entries on printed forms, on which they mark a country of origin.

The co-producer of "Leilasede," Amitan Manelzon, said the Israeli government has encouraged international co-productions, setting up a \$50 million fund. □

**AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD**

**Prague's non-Orthodox to fill once-derelict shul with prayer**

By Ruth E. Gruber

PRAGUE (JTA) — Prague's long-derelict Spanish Synagogue will resound with Jewish prayer this month when a new, non-Orthodox Jewish congregation in the Czech capital holds High Holiday services there.

"Bejt Praha," which organizers describe as an open Jewish congregation, plans to hold Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services in the Spanish Synagogue.

"We are expecting 300 people at services, but I'm probably underestimating," Bejt Praha founder Lisa Frankenberg said in an interview.

Frankenberg, 27, came to Prague in 1990. She is the president and publisher of Prague's weekly English-language newspaper, *The Prague Post*.

Frankenberg and some of her friends founded Bejt Praha last year as an alternative to Prague's official Orthodox community.

This year, the group formally became a member of the Federation of Czech Jewish Communities.

Bejt Praha, which has a mailing list of about 300, mainly targets the hundreds of American and other Jews who form part of the large foreign community in Prague.

Czech Jews also participate in services and events organized by the group.

"We don't label ourselves Orthodox, Reform, Conservative or American," Frankenberg said. "We are a Jewish organization — we are the open Prague Jewish community."

Outreach is a main concern and focus of the group, she said.

"We want to help Jews in Prague express their own identity."

Frankenberg was involved in organizing non-Orthodox High Holiday services last year, which were held in the historic High Synagogue.

"We had 80 chairs, but about 250 people came," she said. "It was a wonderful, overwhelming surprise for us."

Based on that response, "we formed Bejt Praha," Frankenberg said.

The services this year will be led by Rabbi Arnold Turetsky of White Plains, N.Y. His trip to Prague is sponsored in part by the Midrasha Yerushalayim, the Israeli-based education arm of the Masorti, or Conservative, movement.

**Czechs get dancing lessons**

Over the past year, Bejt Praha organized Purim celebrations, including services led by Turetsky and a Purim party, and festivities marking Israel's independence day.

A barbecue this month was the kickoff for the group's activities this year.

After the holidays, the group will initiate Israeli dance sessions, Frankenberg said.

She said the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which gives some financial support to Bejt Praha activities, such as contributing to the organization of the High Holiday services, helped two young Czechs get to London to learn Israeli dance.

Prague's Spanish Synagogue was built just outside the former medieval Jewish ghetto in the late 19th century, in the ornate Moorish style.

Empty for decades, it has been used as a storage space for the textile collection of the Jewish Museum. Restoration work on the building is scheduled to begin just after the holidays. □

**ADL protest leads to removal of video of Hitler from catalog**

NEW YORK (JTA) — A video of Hitler will be removed from a catalog that described the tape as being part of a collection of "some of the greatest speeches delivered."

Sound Exchange, a division of Time Warner & Sony, agreed to remove the video after protest from the Anti-Defamation League.

The league challenged the grouping of the Nazi dictator with major figures — including President Abraham Lincoln, President John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. — in the Summer 1995 Sound Exchange catalog.

In a letter to the ADL, the director of customer service for Sound Exchange, Susan Hayes, said the Hitler video and any associated items would be pulled from future catalogs. "It is not our intention to antagonize or offend our customers," Hayes said.

In addition, the ADL questioned advertising copy that used "the term 'nostalgia' as one reason for purchasing videos of speeches given by the man responsible for millions of deaths in World War II."

The ADL said Time Warner should "reconsider the appropriateness of this promotional approach" in the future.

The company said it would revise its catalog proofing process. □

**Officer of WWII killing unit nabbed at Canadian airport**

By Gil Kezwer

TORONTO (JTA) — A suspected war criminal was intercepted at Pearson International Airport here when he tried to slip back into Canada.

Konrad Kalejs, 81, was a key officer in the notorious Arajs Kommando unit of the World War II Latvian Security Police.

He had been scheduled for an Aug. 4 deportation hearing in Toronto. But he voluntarily left the country June 21 for Australia — hours before his visitor's visa expired.

After he left Canada, his name was put on a watch list of persons not permitted entry into Canada. Canada's Immigration Department planned to examine his case within days of his interception at the airport. "Our goal is to seek a deportation order or immediately remove him from Canada," department spokesman Kevin Sack said.

Kalejs, who is an Australian citizen, was deported from the United States in 1993 after a U.S. appeals court identified him as a high-ranking officer in the mobile killing unit, which murdered tens of thousands of Latvian Jews, Gypsies and Communists during the war. □

**Slovak Jews say West offers model for WWII compensation**

NEW YORK (JTA) — A Slovak Jewish group reportedly has said compensation for victims of Nazism in Slovakia should be comparable to efforts in the West.

The Slovak Central Union of Jewish Religious Communities "holds the unequivocal view that compensation for the victims of Nazism should be based on individual cases and be comparable to German compensation for Jews living in Western countries," a Slovak radio station reported.

"The Slovak Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust would at the same time welcome the adoption of a law by the National Council (Parliament) in a humanitarian gesture symbolically compensating all the victims of the Nazi persecution," it was also reported. □

## Hamas calls for dialogue with Palestinian Authority

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — In what some observers are viewing as yet another attempt at reconciliation, the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement has called for a dialogue with the Palestinian Authority.

“We must immediately start in a comprehensive, serious national dialogue that will be binding to all influential groups in the Palestinian arena,” Hamas said in a statement last week.

The militant organization also called for the release of all Hamas activists from Palestinian prisons, according to the statement.

In the wake of Hamas’ repeated suicide attacks against Israelis, Palestinian police have cracked down with increasing severity on the movement, arresting many of its military and political leaders.

After the Aug. 21 suicide bombing of a Jerusalem bus by a member of Hamas, Palestinian police arrested some 30 Hamas activists in the Gaza Strip.

Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat has made a series of attempts in the past to reach agreements with Hamas, which vehemently opposes the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

In a series of unofficial agreements reached with the Palestinian Authority in recent months, Hamas promised not to launch suicide attacks from areas under Palestinian control.

And, indeed, those responsible for the Aug. 21 suicide attack came from the West Bank, not Gaza.

New speculation of a pending agreement emerged following reports that the Jewish state had allowed two Hamas leaders from the Gaza Strip to meet with the group’s jailed spiritual leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin.

The reports said the meeting had been arranged through the intervention of senior Israeli and Palestinian officials.

During the visit, Yassin reportedly called for an end to terrorist attacks against Israelis.

Israeli security sources reportedly expressed doubt that an agreement between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority would be effective, saying that it would also have to be binding on Izz a-Din al-Kassam, the military faction of Hamas. □

## Fatah opponent of Arafat permitted to enter Jericho

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel has allowed a senior Palestinian official who opposes the self-rule accord to enter the Jericho self-rule enclave from the nation of Jordan.

Ahmed Zaki, a member of Fatah, crossed the Allenby Bridge last week into the West Bank accompanied by five of his supporters and their families.

Israeli sources said the entry was approved after a request from the Palestinian Authority.

Zaki is considered a leading critic of Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat. He has been a vocal opponent of the Israel-PLO accord signed two years ago.

Zaki, 46, left his native Hebron before 1967, and has not been back since.

He was involved in terror attacks before the self-rule agreement was signed.

Israeli opposition figures lashed out at the Rabin government for approving Zaki’s entry.

Critics focused on the fact that Israeli security

forces only recently described Zaki as a leading voice of opposition to the peace process.

The National Religious Party called the government’s decision shocking.

Moshe Peled of Tsomet called on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to explain the reasoning for the decision to a parliamentary committee.

Palestinian sources said the Israeli move could have been an effort to give Arafat an opportunity to bridge the rift in Fatah.

In addition, Palestinian sources said Israel had also approved entry of seven other Fatah officials who are due to serve in senior positions after an Israel Defense Force redeployment in the West Bank, the terms of which are still being negotiated. □

## Peres casts off Syrian claim, says Israel committed to talks

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has rejected Syria’s claim that Jerusalem is responsible for the current impasse in the Israeli-Syrian peace negotiations.

Peres said last week that he was disappointed with Syrian President Hafez Assad’s “pessimistic tone” regarding the negotiations and with Assad’s refusal to enter into high-level military talks with Israel.

Assad, speaking in Cairo, said he doubted that any progress would be made in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations in the near future.

Assad recently called off the negotiations, saying that any resumption of the military talks, last held between the two countries’ military chiefs of staff in late June in Washington, would have to be preceded by Israel’s dropping its demand to establish ground-based early warning stations on the Golan Heights.

Peres responded to Assad’s comments during a session last week of the Knesset’s Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, after which a parliamentary official quoted Peres as saying that Syria was responsible for the stalemate in the negotiations because of its failure to keep to its agreement to hold talks between senior military officers from the two sides.

While criticizing Assad, Peres reiterated Israel’s commitment to the talks.

“Israel will continue to pursue the policy of peace and security, without any interruption,” he told reporters after the closed session. □

## Photo exhibit supports peace effort

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The peace between Israel and Jordan has been given visual expression in an exhibit that opened recently in Tel Aviv, featuring the work of Jordanian and Israeli photographers.

The exhibit at the Eretz Yisrael Museum, “Camera With No Boundaries,” displayed the work of five photographers.

The photographers, two Jordanian and three Israeli, captured on film their impressions of each other’s countries.

One of the Jordanian photographers told Israel Radio that he had focused on the agricultural settlements along the Jordan River, “because I have always wanted to see the region from the other side of the border.”

Jordanian Mihiran Kizirian focused on the Mediterranean coast.

“I wanted to come take pictures of people in Tel Aviv,” Kizirian said. □