

Date and Time: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:12:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223358390

Documents (100)

1. HEARING FROM THE ARAB STREET

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

2. NEWS SUMMARY

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

3. STRAW EATS HUMBLE PIE IN EFFORT TO PLACATE ISRAELIS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

4. <u>WAR ON TERROR: BLAIR STEPS IN TO PLACATE IRATE ISRAEL</u>; <u>SHAKE ON IT: STRAW'S SLIP IN</u> DIPLOMACY NEARLY COST HIM A MEETING WITH SHARON

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

5. The dead deserve our unflinching resolve

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

6. ARAB SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 3 AT TRAIN STATION

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

7. Enemy greater than one terrorist group

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

8. 3 Palestinians Killed in Gaza As Diplomats Press for Peace

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

9. World datelines

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

10. <u>DIGGING CONTINUES IN ISRAEL</u>; <u>TWENTY-THREE PEOPLE STILL MISSING AFTER FATAL</u> WEDDING HALL COLLAPSE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

11. Palestinians turn on Jordan 's 'handbag queen'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

12. Israelis pull out of Gaza; One-day occupation of Palestinian land ends after U.S. reprimand

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

13._'YOUR TRIBE IS YOU; YOU ARE YOUR TRIBE'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

14. Israelis, Palestinians bury dead amid surge in violence

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

15. GUNFIRE KILLS PALESTINIAN BOY

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

16. 'SORRY' SEEMS TO BE THE HARDEST WORD FOR MOST POLITICIANS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

17. Israeli forces shell targets in Gaza City

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

18. 8 MOWED DOWN IN ISRAEL Troops and civilian killed by Palestinian

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

19. Isolated settlers under siege from Palestinian gunmen

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

20. Week in Review; A look back at the top stories from the last week

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

21. 'It is not a popular intefadeh'; Retaliation now focused on West Bank, Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

22. Conversations/The Long View 50 Years of Covering War, Looking for Peace and Honoring Law

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

23. Admirers flock to imprisoned terrorist

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

24. Bunging spies

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

25. HEZBOLLAH LEADER WARNS ISRAEL, URGES PALESTINIANS TO REVOLT

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

26. TRAVELS IN A LAND WITHOUT HOPE; IN HIS 25 YEARS AS A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT, ROBERT FISK HAS REPORTED FROM MANY OF THE WORLD'S WORST TROUBLE -SPOTS. FEW HAVE FILLED HIM WITH SUCH FOREBODING AS GAZA, WHERE HE RECENTLY SPENT SEVERAL WEEKS. THESE ARE HIS IMPRESSIONS OF A REGION CONVULSED BY HATRED

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

27. Families Press for Release of Palestinian Prisoners

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

28. NEWS: OTHER

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

29. NO HEADLINE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

30. The Devil's Advocate; Devil's Advocate - (advocatus diaboli), one who advocates opposing, unpopular view, usually for sake of argument

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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31. WAR ON TERRORISM: JUBILANT ALLIANCE CLAIMS NEW GAINS; CRACK SAS TROOPS HELP THE BIG PUSH FIRE POWER: A Northern Alliance soldier covers his ears near a firing mortar close to the village of Quruq, in Takhar province, Northern; Afghanistan. The alliance says it has captured the city of Taloqan, the provincial capital of Takhar which served as its capital until the Taliban drove it out on September last year.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

32. NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

33. MAN OF THE PEOPLE: WHY BLAIR IS PLAYING WITH FIRE AT HOME

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

34. ISRAEL PUTS OFF PEACE TALKS Palestinians shoot at settlers as Mideast ceasefire fades

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

35. On the brink of war: Intifada: Death toll nears 700 on anniversary: A year on, Palestinian anger is undimmed

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

36. LETTER: JEWS PAID FOR ISRAEL WITH MONEY AND BLOOD

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

37. After Funeral for a Slain Palestinian Paramilitary Leader, More Death for Both Sides

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

38. Sharon: Israel won't be sacrificed: Prime minister warns West not to betray his country to 'appease' Arabs, build coalition

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

39. Peace plan must address Palestinian grievance

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

40. NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

41. Israeli Labour party elects leader today: Members have a choice between the enforcer and a leading dove

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

42. SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 17

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

43. SUICIDE BOMB RIPS THROUGH CROWD OF YOUNG ISRAELIS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

44. Arafat plea as Palestinians march: Five killed as thousands gather for day of protest to mark 53 years of

<u>catastrophe</u>

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

45. ISRAELI KILLED IN SUICIDE ATTACK ON CROWDED BUS STOP

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001



46. ISRAELI DIES IN SUICIDE ATTACK ON CROWDED BUS STOP

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

47. Suicide bomber kills three Israelis

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

48. Palestinian rage builds as curfew cuts deep; Hebron's Jewish settlers unrestricted

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

49. BOMBS SHATTER HOPES OF PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

50. Mistaken bombing puts Israeli military's reputation on line

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

51. BILL SENT RIGHT MESSAGE WITH THOSE MISSILES . . .



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

52. TELEVISION REVIEW; Ticktock, Ticktock, Habits of the Wily Croc

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

53. SPEAK UP

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

54. PALESTINIANS KILL FOUR ISRAELIS IN GUN ATTACKS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

55. Barak, Sharon move to join forces MIDDLE EAST

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

56. Barak, Sharon move to join forces MIDDLE EAST

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

57. Anti- U.S. fervor heats up across Muslim world; A demonstration in Tehran drew more than 20,000. Islamic clerics throughout the region condemned the U.S. retaliation.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

58. Bin Laden's TV choice

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

59. The Israeli voice Palestinians respect

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

60. Israel confronts risk within; Deadly attacks jeopardize hope for talks

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

61. Israel confronts risk within; Deadly attacks jeopardize hope for talks

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

62. In Mideast, both sides braced and defiant

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

63. Learning How To Be King

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

64. PALESTINIANS TURN FIRE ON ARAFAT AIDE AFTER ARRESTS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

65. SEASIDE CARNAGE ROCKS TEL AVIV

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

66. ISRAEL STEPS UP BOMB RETALIATION BY SEIZING HEADQUARTERS OF PLO

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

67. WORLD IN BRIEF

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

68. Israeli 'indiscriminate' use of weapons questioned

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

69. The News in Brief

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

70. Israel pulls out of captured territory: U.S. criticizes occupation as excessive response to Palestinian attack

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

71. LETTER FROM: FAMILIES PUT ARAFAT IN A SPIN OVER DEATH PENALTY

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001



72. ISRAEL HITS PALESTINIAN OFFICES AFTER 2 TEENS SLAIN

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

73. Bus turns into deadly weapon: Palestinian driver kills 8 Israelis in terrorist act

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

74. Israel Acknowledges Hunting Down Arab Militants

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

75. THREAT TO PEACE DEAL AFTER ISRAELI SHOT DEAD

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

76. Arafat agrees to peace talks with Clinton meanwhile, car bomb explodes inside Israeli city, injuring dozens

dozens

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

77. MY WEEK WASHING BLOOD WITH BLOOD



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

78. CHILDREN OF THE INTIFADA READY FOR MARTYRDOM

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

79. Moral blackmail and a PR pledge; As anger grows over the declaration many politicians and media figures have declined to sign, Islamic group's links to hardliners are revealed

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

80. A showdown is brewing in Iran

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

81. A PERSONAL VIEW OF TURMOIL IN MIDEAST

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

82. Army onslaught looms as Israeli dies in gunbattle

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

83. Britain backs Algerian arms deal despite ethical policy

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

84. PRISONERS WEIGH ON PALESTINIANS' CONSCIENCE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

85. Pope carries cross to observe Good Friday friday friday

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

86. MOURNERS CALL FOR REVENGE IN 3 PALESTINIANS' SLAYING / THE DEATHS SPARKED WEST BANK CLASHES. FEARS WERE RAISED THAT THE OLD PATTERN OF CONFRONTATION WAS BACK.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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87. Revealed: another bungle by Mossad * SWISS FURY

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

88. WORLD IN BRIEF; Police say Fiat is not linked to Diana case

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

89. Sharon's War Cannot Be Won

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

90. Got in a terrible jam up yonder in Afghanistan

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

91. America may have forgotten the 9/10 world, but we can't

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

92. Peres, Arafat vow to enforce truce

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

93. A racist conference, full of lies

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

94. Long haul ahead for terrorist war

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

95. Tale of Two Uprisings: This Time, the Palestinians Have Territory, and Guns

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

96. Priest of Nazareth tries to build bridges

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 2001

97. Bloody payback would backfire

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

98. Killers make funeral of wedding: Settler cell suspected of ambushing Palestinians

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

99. World Briefing

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001

100. Where fear rules; The grinding West Bank conflict has left people feeling utterly trapped in a terrifying nightmare of bombings and blood.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1998 to

Dec 31, 2001



HEARING FROM THE ARAB STREET

Daily News (New York)
October 28, 2001, Sunday
SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2001 Daily News, L.P.

Section: EDITORIAL;; COLUMN, OPINION

Length: 596 words

Byline: BY ZEV CHAFETS

Body

State Department wisdom holds that America's "fragile coalition" against terror can only be maintained by pacifying the Arab street.

Which raises the question: What is the Arab street?

You don't need a spy or a retired ambassador to figure this out. You can see the Arab street for yourself on TV. It looks a lot like the crowd at a World Wrestling Federation bout - an incited rabble, screaming for blood. And like the WWF, its brightest stars are villains. Iraq's Saddam Hussein and Libya's Moammar Khadafy are heroes to the Arab street. The Taliban are idols. Osama Bin Laden is Elvis.

The street respects only power. Brutal tyrants like Khadafy and Saddam, the Assad family of Syria and the royal family of Saudi Arabia have ruled it for generations with little opposition. Compromisers, like Egypt's President Anwar Sadat, die. From North Africa to Pakistan, the street can smell weakness.

In the code of the Arab street, Sept. 11 required a fearsome and immediate response. A serious superpower would have already gone after the men (and the men behind the men) who turned downtown New York into a mass grave. Instead, the United States has praised Islam and dropped more food on Afghanistan than bombs. Far from evoking admiration, this restraint has given rise to derision from one end of the Arab street to the other. Often it takes the form of mocking questions.

If the U.S. is so powerful, why does is it insist that the Afghan Northern Alliance - a collection of brigands on horseback, nothing more - do America's fighting for it?

Why would a genuine superpower, with the world's greatest economy and arsenal, need the permission and help of a so-called coalition to act against its enemies? Who, besides a coward, fears to go to war alone?

What is all this talk about proof and smoking guns? If a snake bites my son, do I search for the snake with the bloody mouth? Or do I go outside and start killing snakes?

Can it really be true that the Americans don't know their enemy? That they are unaware that Osama's money comes from the Saudis, his anthrax from Iraq and his support from the mosques and palaces and marketplaces of the entire Middle East?

HEARING FROM THE ARAB STREET

Why does President Bush keep saying that Islam means peace? Why does Secretary of State Powell claim he doesn't know if *Hamas* and Hezbollah are terrorists? We spit in the Americans' faces, and they pretend it is raining. No one could be so stupid.

Bin Laden and Saddam and the mullahs are right - the United States is soft and too cowardly to fight. We've seen it coming. Remember how the Americans ran from the Vietnamese, how their famous Special Forces failed to rescue the hostages in Tehran, how the Marines fled Beirut? Remember how Bush's father and the great Powell himself left Saddam in Baghdad with his bombs and his poisons? And how the mighty Rangers they brag about on CNN were dragged through the streets of Somalia and then fled the country like <u>women</u>?

Surely, nothing will make the infidels defend themselves. Their cities burn, their buildings collapse, their leaders flee from the seat of government, their children quake in fear - and still they have a million excuses. Ramadan is coming. Then it will be winter. There will be too many casualties. The war is taking place in secret. There must be a stable government in Kabul.

They even say they are afraid of the Arab street - fearful of arousing our hatred. What lies these Crusaders tell themselves! What could they possibly do to make us hate them more than we already do? Of course we hate them. We just no longer fear them.

E-mail: <u>zchafets@aol.com</u>

Load-Date: October 29, 2001

End of Document



The New York Times

April 2, 1998, Thursday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1998 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Metropolitan Desk

Section: Section A;; Section A; Page 2; Column 3; Metropolitan Desk; Column 3;; Summary

Length: 1218 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A3-11

China Agrees to Release Campaigner for Democracy

China has agreed to release a noted dissident, Wang Dan, for medical reasons and send him into exile, senior American officials said. The release is part of an agreement by the United States last month to drop sponsorship of a United Nations resolution condemning China's human rights policies. Mr. Wang was a student leader of the Tiananmen Square democracy movement. A1

Ex-Vichy Official Found Guilty

In a historic judgment on the role that French administrators in German-occupied territory played in the Holocaust in World War II, Maurice Papon, a former French career civil servant, was found guilty of charges stemming from the deportations of Jews in World War II and sentenced to 10 years in prison. He was convicted by three judges and 12 jurors who wrestled for 19 hours over their verdict after a six-month trial. The charges stemmed from the deportations of 1,540 Jews from southwest France to their deaths in Auschwitz in 1942-43. A8

U.N. May Reduce Afghan Aid

The United Nations told Afghanistan's radical Islamic movement, the Taliban, that unless harassment of international officials stops and more attention is paid to <u>women</u>'s rights, the organization could sharply reduce its assistance, the only substantial aid flowing into Afghanistan, one of the world's poorest and least developed countries. The message was delivered by Carol Bellamy, executive director of Unicef and one of the highest ranking Americans in the United Nations system. A6

Concession, With Conditions

Israel formally accepted a United Nations Security Council resolution calling on it to withdraw from Lebanese territory. But the Israelis said any pullback would be made only on the condition that Lebanon assume control over the region and prevent its use for attacks on Israel. Lebanon and its patron, Syria, have publicly rejected any negotiations over the resolution and any conditions, arguing that the United Nations resolution calls for an unconditional withdrawal. A10

Bomb Maker Identified

A man found dead near a car that exploded in the West Bank on Sunday was identified as Muhyiaddin al-Sharif, a suspected bomb maker for the Islamic group <u>Hamas</u>. A <u>Hamas</u> leader, accusing Israel of the killing, vowed to take revenge for his death. Israeli officials held Mr. Sharif responsible for a series of suicide attacks in Israel that have killed scores of people since early 1996. A10

New Panel to Trace Nazi Loot

The Clinton Administration and Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato said that they would set up a commission to determine whether any of the assets looted by Nazi Germany were still located in American banks. The investigation will be carried out by a Presidential advisory commission, which Congress is expected to authorize next month. A8

NATIONAL A12-22

Federal Judge Rejects Case Against Clinton

A Federal judge threw out Paula Corbin Jones's sexual misconduct case against President Clinton, which had flooded the nation with months of sensational disclosures and denials while triggering a separate criminal inquiry into Mr. Clinton's conduct. A1

Panel Supports Tobacco Bill

The Senate Commerce Committee gave a strong bipartisan vote of approval to legislation that would raise the price of cigarettes and stiffen regulations on tobacco. If the sponsors are right, it could reduce the number of teen-agers who smoke by as much as 40 percent and prevent millions of early deaths. But the ease with which the bill cleared the committee belied the height of the hurdles that lie ahead. A1

Transport Measure Approved

The House overwhelmingly approved the largest public works bill in the nation's history -- a transportation bill that calls for spending \$217 billion over six years -- despite objections that it threatens the fiscal discipline of last year's balanced budget agreement. A1

Fewer Cite Ethnic Background

In the first year that the University of California has selected a freshman class without considering race in admissions, the number of applicants who did not report their ethnic background on the forms increased by more than 150 percent. A12

Insurance for More Children

The Clinton Administration approved child health insurance programs devised by New York and Illinois, providing hundreds of millions of dollars to finance medical care for children in those states under a 1997 law. Eight states have now received Federal approval for such plans. A15

F.D.A. Approves Sweetener

The Food and Drug Administration approved a new no-calorie brand of artificial sweetener that tastes like sugar but is 600 times as sweet. A12

Anything but Sweet

Howard Stern, who made a notorious name and a considerable fortune by being the lewdest and crudest voice in radio, will go up against "Saturday Night Live" with a syndicated television show. A12

NEW YORK/REGION B1-10

Mayor Moves to Curb Business Districts' Power

After years of questioning the powers of New York City's private business improvement districts, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani is about to propose some stringent measures that would give his administration significant control over the semiautonomous agencies. The rules would require the city's 39 districts to clear virtually every major undertaking with the Department of Business Services. B1

A's for Anxiety

Few New York City spectacles radiate as much nervousness as the annual surge of eighth graders outside Stuyvesant High School, the educational Valhalla on the Hudson, for a one-shot, grueling entrance exam that many believe will determine the rest of their lives. The most recent test one icy winter day was, as usual, full of held-back tears, stomachaches and dreams. A1

Raised Voices in Court

The lawyer for the Rev. Al Sharpton traded shouts, shrugs and challenges with Steven A. Pagones, left, on the second day of cross-examination in the defamation suit that Mr. Pagones is pursuing against Mr. Sharpton and two others in the Tawana Brawley case. B4

SPORTS C1-8

FASHION B11

CIRCUITS G1-12

Questioning Their Devotion

Even some lovers of the Apple Macintosh are thinking what was once unthinkable: the Mac, which Apple once called "the computer for the rest of us," has become the Sony Betamax of the computer industry, a superior technology that won people's hearts but lost in the marketplace. G1

HOUSE & HOME F1-16

BUSINESS DAY D1-22

Chrysler Sales Decline

Chrysler said its sales fell by 1.8 percent in March, though strong sales of the latest brawny sport utility vehicle to hit the market, the Dodge Durango, nearly offset a sharp decline in car sales. D1

Job Fears at Merging Banks

Emotions are running high among employees of Union Bank of Switzerland and the Swiss Bank Corporation, which intend to merge. D1

Business Digest D1

ARTS E1-10

Crowds at the Getty Center

Despite 13 years of meticulous planning, the Getty Center in Los Angeles has been all but overwhelmed by the number of visitors. E1

OBITUARIES D23

David Hicks

The interior designer, whose relentlessly organized, color-clashing home interiors were the acme of jet-set chic in the 1960's, was 69. D23

EDITORIAL A24-25

Editorials: Judge Wright's ruling; surviving Crown Heights; Washington flunks an audit; Dudley Clendinen on addiction.

Columns: William Safire.

Bridge E8

Public Lives B2

Crossword E7

Weather C6

Graphic

Photos

Load-Date: April 2, 1998

End of Document



STRAW EATS HUMBLE PIE IN EFFORT TO PLACATE ISRAELIS

Western Mail

September 26, 2001, Wednesday

Copyright 2001 Western Mail and Echo Ltd

Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 634 words **Byline:** John Deane

Body

TONY BLAIR acted yesterday to smooth over a diplomatic row with Israel which threatened to undermine Foreign Secretary Jack Straw's mission to win Middle Eastern support for the international antiterror coalition.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had pulled out of a planned meeting with Mr Straw.

He was apparently angered by the Foreign Secretary's earlier visit to Israel's bitter enemy, Iran, and comments about the Palestinians deemed insensitive by Israeli politicians and media.

But the meeting was reinstated after a placatory 15-minute phone call from Mr Blair to Mr Sharon.

And last night Mr Straw arrived in Tel Aviv, Israel, for a series of meetings with French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and finally with Mr Sharon.

In a positive sign for the Middle East peace process, it emerged that Mr Peres will hold a much-delayed meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat today.

Mr Straw had provoked considerable criticism in Israel by writing an article for the Iranian media, published yesterday, in which he appeared to suggest that the Israelis have fuelled terrorism by their treatment of the Palestinians.

Mr Straw wrote, "I understand that one of the factors which helps breed terrorism is the anger which many people in this region feel at events over the years in Palestine."

The friction was an embarrassment for Mr Straw as he sought to encourage Arab states to back the developing anti-terror coalition by giving a push to the Middle East peace process.

Shortly after arriving at the British Ambassador's residence in Tel Aviv last night Mr Straw emphasised his sympathy with the Israeli people for their suffering at the hands of terrorists.

Mr Straw said, "I come in the knowledge of the appalling cruelties that men, <u>women</u> and children in Israel have suffered from terrorism, and the death and destruction that has followed from that, and the anxieties and much worse that form a daily part of the lives of people here in Israel and in Jewish communities across the world." Asked by reporters if he wanted to apologise to the Israeli people, Mr Straw said, "I am not going to get involved in any textual analysis.

STRAW EATS HUMBLE PIE IN EFFORT TO PLACATE ISRAELIS

"I stand very firmly against the terrorism which the Israeli people have suffered.

"I have never ever dreamt of calling the Israeli people terrorists, and I stand fully behind them."

Mr Straw pointed out that in his previous job as Home Secretary he had introduced tough anti-terrorist legislation and proscribed 21 terrorist organisations, including the military wings of the Islamic fundamentalist groups <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah.

Mr Straw said said, "My record in fighting terrorism . . . is I believe one that speaks for itself."

Asked if he knew which Foreign Office staff member recently referred to Mr Sharon as "a cancer", Mr Straw said that he did not, but promised that if the individual responsible was identified they would be disciplined.

Mr Straw added that he "totally and utterly" rejected that description of Mr Sharon.

Mr Straw defended his trip to Iran, describing the decision to go there as "sensible".

"I am glad that I went to Iran, " said Mr Straw.

Issue of racism raises hackles EVEN before completing his groundbreaking visit to Teheran - he was the first British Foreign Secretary to go there since the 1979 Islamic revolution - Mr Straw appeared keen to placate the Israelis.

During a joint press conference with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Kamal Kharrazi, Mr Straw was quick to dissociate himself from Dr Kharrazi's description of Israel as a "racist, Zionist regime" - emphasising that that was not an assessment Britain accepted.

In deference to sensitivities on all sides, Mr Straw's RAF jet made a refuelling stop in Incirlik, Turkey, so the flight did not arrive in Tel Aviv direct from Teheran.

Graphic

TOUGH MISSION: Jack Straw faces some tough questioning

Load-Date: September 26, 2001

End of Document



WAR ON TERROR: BLAIR STEPS IN TO PLACATE IRATE ISRAEL; SHAKE ON IT: STRAW'S SLIP IN DIPLOMACY NEARLY COST HIM A MEETING WITH SHARON

Birmingham Post

September 26, 2001, Wednesday

Copyright 2001 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

Section: Pg. 4

Length: 607 words

Byline: John Deane Iranian President Mohammad Khatami greets British Foreign Secretary; Jack Straw

Body

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WAR ON TERROR: BLAIR STEPS IN TO PLACATE IRATE ISRAEL; SHAKE ON IT: STRAW'S SLIP IN DIPLOMACY NEARLY COST HIM A MEETING WITH SHARON

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Mr Straw defended his trip to Iran, describing the decision to go there as 'sensible'.

'I am glad that I went to Iran,' said Mr Straw.

Mr Blair confirmed he had been telephoned by Mr Sharon, after the Israeli Premier had earlier pulled out of the planned meeting with Mr Straw.

During his conversation with Mr Blair, Mr Sharon said that he would go ahead with his meeting with Mr Straw.

The Prime Minister denied any suggestion that he had apologised to the Israelis in order for the talks to go ahead.

'There was never any issue on an apology being asked for at all,' he said. 'The most important thing is that we discuss how we get the peace process moving forward again.

Load-Date: September 26, 2001

End of Document



The dead deserve our unflinching resolve

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)
September 13, 2001 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: THE DAY AFTER; Pg. B02; The Day After Column

Length: 574 words

Byline: Andrew Dreschel

Body

They don't seem to understand that their protests of innocence count for nothing.

It doesn't matter that the Taliban denies that Osama bin Laden, the terrorist mastermind that the Afghan regime is protecting, was the brains behind this massive crime against humanity.

And it doesn't matter that the militant Islamic group <u>Hamas</u> says it wasn't us, or that Islamic Jihad and Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein say the same thing.

The Hamilton Spectator

It doesn't matter because each of them are condemned by their own words.

The denials themselves are admissions that they are the kind of people who do commit these kinds of atrocities.

And from now on, in the eyes of the United States government and the American people, a terrorist is a terrorist no matter where they lay their plots, plant their bombs, or go to ground.

Radical and militant groups don't seem to realize that the ground has shifted under their feet. That the attack on continental America has virtually given Israel a blank cheque in its own war against terrorism. Or that it's not for nothing that the symbol of the United States is the sharp-eyed and furious eagle.

The first to pay will be those who are identified as planning the massacre and any government that may have aided and abetted them.

In the ominous words of President George W. Bush: "We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harboured them."

But the reckoning won't stop there. It can't.

The images and eyewitness accounts from the New York and Washington infernos demand a stronger and deeper commitment to countering terrorist forces no matter where they rear their inhuman heads.

The terrified people who jumped to their deaths to escape the torturing flames inside the World Trade Center towers deserve no less.

The man and woman who leapt into thin air holding hands require it.

The dead deserve our unflinching resolve

The helpless hijacked airline passengers who became human missiles against their fellow Americans justify it.

As the death and injury tolls mount and human faces start to replace blank numbers, as police and firefighters gather for the funerals of their comrades, as the American people see and hear the intimate details of the pain inflicted on them, they are going to understand as never before that the enemy is not one terrorist group, it's all terrorists groups -- no matter their nationality, religion or political beliefs.

The enemy is a mindset, a fanatical one that honours no rules of engagement, recognizes no borders, draws no distinction between military and civilian targets, good and evil, right or wrong.

The terrorists who took part in the horrendous attacks on the United States have repeatedly been called cowardly.

That's a half-truth at best.

There's no doubt the act of killing countless unarmed and unsuspecting men, <u>women</u> and children is a craven deed.

But there's no point in underestimating your enemy. Obviously it takes some kind of courage to throw away your life on a suicide mission.

And that leads us to what may be the single most perplexing question in the coming war on terrorism.

How do you stop people who don't care about dying?

There's really only one answer.

You stop them with people who care more about living and protecting their loved ones than they do about death.

Andrew Dreschel's commentary usually appears in The Hamilton Spectator Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

You can contact him by e-mail at adreschel@hamiltonspectator.com or by telephone at 905-526-3495.

Load-Date: November 5, 2001

End of Document



<u>ARAB SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 3 AT TRAIN STATION</u>

Daily News (New York)
September 10, 2001, Monday
SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2001 Daily News, L.P.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 579 words

Byline: By DANIELLE HAAS in Jerusalem and CORKY SIEMASZKO in New York DAILY NEWS WRITERS

Body

Three Jews were killed and dozens more injured yesterday by a suicide bomber who had something in common with his victims - he was an Israeli citizen.

The revelation that an Israeli Arab was behind the bloodbath in a crowded train station set off alarms in Jerusalem that Israel may have a security problem within its borders - in addition to the threat from Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

"This is a cause for concern, but we should not conclude the majority of Arabs are willing to conduct suicide missions," Israeli government spokesman Raanan Gissin told the Daily News.

Still, this was the first time an Israeli Arab was blamed for a suicide bombing and - unlike Palestinians - Israeli Arabs can travel freely around the country.

Tel Aviv University Arab expert Elie Rekhess warned that "there have been growing attempts by Islamic militants to recruit Arabs in Israel."

"Much will depend on how Israelis react to this and what the response will be of Arab leadership," Rekhess said of the suicide bombing.

The latest violence came on a day when two other Israelis were killed by Palestinian gunmen, further imperiling truce talks aimed at ending more than 11 months of violence.

It also cast doubt on a possible meeting between President Bush and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who blamed - and was blamed by - Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for yesterday's clashes.

The suspected bomber, Mohammed Shaker Ihbeishi, 48, was from the Druze village of Abu Snan in western Galilee. While many Druze consider themselves loyal Israelis and serve in the Israeli Army, Ihbeishi was an Islamic militant with ties to *Hamas* terrorists.

Witnesses said the bearded bomber was carrying a gift-wrapped package concealing the device and detonated it when the train from Tel Aviv pulled into the Nahariya station.

The bomb sent nails - and body parts - flying, injuring 92 bystanders, including Israeli soldier Elroey Abuhatzira.

ARAB SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 3 AT TRAIN STATION

"I saw pieces of meat flying by me and I am sure this man is part of the soot and was pulverized in the explosion," Abuhatzira, 22, said from his hospital bed.

Israel's 1.5 million Arabs - about a fifth of its population - are generally sympathetic to the Palestinians and have long complained that they are discriminated against by the Jewish majority. But nobody was calling Ihbeishi a martyr in his home village.

"It's a shame for all of the village," said villager Gadban Masoud. "It's a shame to bury such a man who went to hurt innocent civilians."

"Abu Snan lost eight soldiers and a rotten guy like this comes and ruins our name and reputation," said another villager, who declined to give his name. "He has no place here and they should demolish his house."

The day's carnage began when Palestinian gunmen strafed a minivan shuttling teachers through the Jordan Valley. The driver and a <u>female</u> Israeli teacher were killed in the gunfire. The militant Islamic Jihad group claimed responsibility for the attack.

Three hours later two car bombs exploded at the Beit Lid junction near Netanya, killing another suicide bomber and incinerating a car and empty bus. In 1996 a Palestinian suicide bomber at the same junction killed 21 people.

The Israelis retaliated yesterday by firing missiles at the empty offices of Arafat's Fatah faction in Ramallah, a government building in Jericho and a Palestinian police headquarters near Jenin in the West Bank.

Israeli tank shells also struck a security post in Nablus in the West Bank without causing injuries.

Graphic

REUTERS VIOLENT BLAST Explosion set off by suicide bomber incinerates bus near Netanya yesterday. REUTERS CIVILIANS DIE Israeli cop checks bullet-riddled van used to shuttle Israeli teachers. Palestinian attack killed two yesterday.

Load-Date: September 10, 2001

End of Document



Enemy greater than one terrorist group

Guelph Mercury (Ontario, Canada) September 16, 2001 Sunday

Copyright 2001 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: THE EDITORIAL PAGE; Pg. A5

Length: 541 words

Byline: Dreschel, Andrew

Body

They don't seem to understand that their protests of innocence count for nothing.

It doesn't matter that the Taliban denies that Osama bin Laden, the terrorist mastermind that the Afghan regime is protecting, was the brains behind this massive crime against humanity.

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Torstar News Service

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Graphic

AP; Strength in Unity - Participants joins hands to observe a moment of silence Friday, in Chapel Hill, N.C., as part of a day of prayer and remembrance to honour the victims of Tuesday's terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

Load-Date: December 2, 2002

End of Document



3 Palestinians Killed in Gaza As Diplomats Press for Peace

The New York Times
June 10, 2001 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2001 The New York Times Company

Section: Section 1; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 18

Length: 641 words

Byline: AP

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Sunday, June 10

Body

Israeli tank shells killed three Palestinian <u>women</u> in the Gaza Strip on Saturday, as Israelis and Palestinians prepared their responses to an American proposal seeking an end to eight months of violence.

All three died from shrapnel wounds, Palestinian hospital officials said. The <u>women</u>, all from the same family, were Bedouin and lived in a camp near the isolated Jewish settlement of Netzarim.

The dead were identified as Nessra Malaha, 65, Salimia Malaha, 65, and her niece Hikmet Malaha, 25. They were the first deaths in violent attacks since the Palestinian leader, Yasir Arafat, declared a cease-fire on June 2.

Three others suffered moderate wounds, doctors said.

The Israeli Army said the tank fire was prompted by Palestinian shooting on an army post near the settlement.

In a bid to calm tensions, the Americans have presented a document that reportedly calls on Palestinians to rein in militants and Israel to pull back its forces in hopes of ending more than eight months of fighting.

The Americans would not say what the director of intelligence, George J. Tenet, said at Friday's meeting with Israeli and Palestinian security officials, but Israel Radio said it had obtained details of a security document that Mr. Tenet had reportedly presented.

It said that among the document's main points was a call for the Palestinians to make sweeping arrests of Islamic militants and to crack down on anti-Israeli attacks. The document also reportedly calls on Israel to halt attacks on Palestinian targets and to withdraw forces from positions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that it had returned to since new violence erupted in September.

Officials from both sides refused to comment on the report. But a Palestinian cabinet minister, Nabil Shaath, confirmed that the proposal included security measures detailed in a report issued last month by a commission led by former Senator George J. Mitchell.

That coincides with some of what the radio report said was in the document, such as withdrawing forces and arresting militants. Mr. Arafat has had militants arrested before, but Israel maintains that the Palestinian Authority quickly releases them.

3 Palestinians Killed in Gaza As Diplomats Press for Peace

Hassan Yusef, a spokesman for <u>Hamas</u>, the Islamic militant group, said Palestinians are united in their uprising and reject "arrests without a legal reason." The Americans, he said, are working only in Israel's interest.

Mr. Tenet, who was in Egypt on Saturday briefing President Hosni Mubarak, told the two sides he wants their responses by today, Palestinian officials said.

Palestinian negotiators who met on Saturday with American envoy William Burns on a schedule for implementing the recommendations of the Mitchell commission urged that an international panel be established to monitor cooperation.

Mr. Burns met later with the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer.

The increased American mediation comes as a wave of international representatives converge on the region.

European Union officials are here, and the United Nations' secretary general, Kofi Annan, is scheduled to arrive next week.

The Palestinians said they would continue to meet with Mr. Burns despite growing frustration with continued Israeli travel restrictions and curfews placed on towns in the West Bank and Gaza in response to a June 1 bombing outside a Tel Aviv disco that killed 21 people, including the bomber.

Israel has eased the restrictions somewhat in the past week, allowing some food, fuel and raw goods into the West Bank and Gaza, but most Palestinians remain confined to their villages.

A cease-fire has diminished the overall level of violence, though daily clashes continue.

Palestinian mortar fire struck a building and agricultural areas of two settlements on Saturday in the southern Gaza Strip, according to the Israeli Army.

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: June 10, 2001



World datelines

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

June 18, 2001, Monday

Copyright 2001 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 658 words

Byline: Compiled from Deseret News wire services

Body

Afghanistan

KABUL -- Afghanistan's ruling Taliban movement said on Monday it captured a strategic gorge in the northeastern province of Takhar after several days of fierce fighting with opposition forces.

Australia

BRISBANE -- A Melbourne man has been charged with murdering twin babies who were born prematurely and subsequently died after he allegedly attacked his pregnant ex-girlfriend.

Bangladesh

NARAYANGANJ -- Police said Monday they have detained three suspects, including opposition party members, for questioning after a bombing killed 22 people at a political rally Saturday.

Bosnia

BANJA LUKA -- Bosnian Serb police clashed with nationalist rioters on Monday, using tear gas and water cannons to beat back mobs trying again to disrupt a ceremony to mark the rebuilding of a medieval mosque.

China

BEIJING -- A newspaper editor in central China was fired after publishing articles that exposed corruption among health officials and business regulators.

Croatia

ZAGREB -- Croatia lost more than 20,000 citizens, including ethnic Serbs, during its 1991-95 war for independence from former Yugoslavia, independent research published Monday showed.

Egypt

CAIRO -- Crowds protested outside a monastery in southern Egypt on Monday, angry at revelations that an excommunicated monk allegedly ran a sex-and-blackmail ring at the site, revered as a stopping place of Jesus and the Virgin Mary during their flight to Egypt.

World datelines

Guatemala

GUATEMALA CITY -- Dozens of inmates at a Guatemalan prison took advantage of Father's Day visiting hours to smuggle assault rifles into the facility, then shot their way out in a blaze of gunfire that left three prisoners and two guards dead, and allowed 75 to escape.

India

GAUHATI -- Protesters opposed to a truce between the federal government and a separatist group burned down the legislature in northeastern Manipur state on Monday, police and witnesses said. Police shot and killed 12 protesters.

Indonesia

JAKARTA -- Indonesian police fired warning shots and tear gas at more than 700 students protesting over national fuel price hikes in Jakarta on Monday as bus drivers went on strike in eight cities.

Japan

TOKYO -- The Japanese government has blocked the publication of a European Commission report that says madcow disease could theoretically break out in Japan, a spokesman for the Commission's Tokyo office said Monday.

TOKYO -- A Japanese construction worker was injured Monday when a bomb, believed to have been dropped by U.S. forces during World War II, exploded at a building site on the island of Okinawa.

Jordan

AMMAN -- A leader of the militant Palestinian group <u>Hamas</u> remained stranded at Amman airport for a fifth day on Monday as Jordan refused to let him enter the country.

Nepal

KATMANDU -- Nepal's new King Gyanendra has ordered a review of palace security after most of the royal family was massacred by the crown prince at a family gathering earlier this month, a top official said on Monday.

Netherlands

AMSTERDAM -- Greenpeace insisted on Monday that it had legitimately targeted an oil rig in a weekend protest against President Bush's rejection of the Kyoto accord. The environmental group on Saturday boarded a North Sea oil platform it said belonged to Conoco.

Pakistan

MULTAN -- A passenger train derailed in Pakistan's southern Punjab province, killing five people, injuring 40 and trapping passengers in the wreckage during the dark of night, officials said Monday.

Slovenia

LJUBLJANA -- Voters in Slovenia overturned a 2-month-old law that had allowed single <u>women</u> access to in-vitro fertilization, final results showed Monday.

South Korea

SEOUL -- Four Korean Air pilots were arrested and the head of a powerful umbrella labor group was sought Monday on suspicion of organizing last week's illegal airline strikes.

Yemen

World datelines

SANAA -- Two Yemenis on trial for a grenade attack last year on the British embassy in Sanaa told a court on Monday they had intended to show solidarity with Palestinians battling Israel.

Load-Date: June 18, 2001



<u>DIGGING CONTINUES IN ISRAEL;</u> TWENTY-THREE PEOPLE STILL MISSING AFTER FATAL WEDDING HALL COLLAPSE

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

May 26, 2001 Saturday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2001 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD, Length: 565 words

Byline: TRACY WILKINSON, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The guests are dancing to a very popular, bouncy Mizrahi tune, pretty <u>women</u> in sleek dresses, a baby on her father's shoulders, young thin men. They smile, sing along to the words; a woman in blue adjusts her straps.

Suddenly, seemingly in unison, they plunge, sinking, disappearing into a dark pit of death that fills with dust and screams. There is no warning, no time for the vanishing faces to grasp that they are being swallowed.

An amateur photographer was videotaping the festive wedding of Keren and Assaf Dror on Thursday night when the top floor of a four-story Jerusalem banquet hall collapsed, crushing hundreds and killing at least 24, ranging in age from 3 to 76. As many as 23 people were still missing late yesterday, police said, as rescuers grimly worked through the Jewish Sabbath excavating the wreckage.

A horrified Israel was grappling with tragedy on multiple fronts yesterday: Another spasm of political terror with two suicide bombings that injured dozens; and the wedding hall disaster, blamed on shoddy construction and possibly criminal negligence.

Two Palestinians loaded explosives into their car and plowed into a crowded bus yesterday afternoon in the coastal town of Hadera. They managed to blow themselves up and injure as many as 63 Israelis, most of them bus passengers. None of the Israelis was seriously hurt, but it was the latest in a vicious spate of terror bombings since Israeli-Palestinian clashes erupted eight months ago.

Earlier yesterday, another suicide bomber belonging to the radical Islamic <u>Hamas</u> movement tried to drive a truck full of explosives into a fortified Israeli army post in the Gaza Strip. Israeli soldiers opened fire, and the truck exploded, killing the driver. In what is becoming a familiar ritual, the man had left behind a videotape in which he announces his intention to kill Israelis.

Despite the violence, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon -- who responded to earlier bombings with airstrikes against Palestinian targets -- reiterated his call this week for a cease-fire and urged Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to join. Sharon spoke after visiting the site of the collapsed wedding hall, which authorities say was Israel's worst civil disaster in its 53-year history.

DIGGING CONTINUES IN ISRAEL ; TWENTY-THREE PEOPLE STILL MISSING AFTER FATAL WEDDING HALL COLLAPSE

Police officials launched a criminal investigation into the disaster and arrested at least four people: several builders and the inventor of the material used for flooring. Police hinted they also would be questioning officials in City Hall, where the building permits were issued.

This country is tragically inured to death and destruction, but the wedding hall disaster hit an especially raw nerve.

Israeli television dedicated nearly round-the-clock coverage to the slow recovery operation at the Versailles banquet hall in Jerusalem's industrial Talpiot neighborhood.

Israelis also were demanding answers to what happened. They like to think of this as the most modernized country in the region, but questionable building codes and slipshod construction practices abound, experts and officials said.

The top floor, where members of the Dror wedding party were dancing, gave way and caved onto the floors below. Two walls on opposite sides then fell in on top of the crater and the struggling, gasping people.

Yesterday afternoon, the recovery teams continued their precarious work through rubble with little hope of finding additional survivors.

Graphic

PHOTO: CH2 via APTN/Associated Press: IMAGES OF A TRAGEDY/A picture taken from a wedding photographer's videotape shows panicked wedding guests reacting to the collapse of a dance floor during a reception Thursday evening at a hotel in Jerusalem. In the video, hundreds of people can be seen dancing before suddenly disappearing in a cloud of dust and sparks as the floor beneath them collapsed. (Photo, Page A-1)

PHOTO: Reuters: Israeli workers evacuate the wounded from debris at the Versailles banquet hall.

Load-Date: June 7, 2001



Palestinians turn on Jordan's 'handbag queen'

Sunday Times (London) May 20, 2001, Sunday

Copyright 2001 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 585 words **Byline:** Uzi Mahnaimi

Body

WHEN Israeli war planes bombed her family's home town of Tulkarm on the West Bank last week, Queen Rania al-Abdullah of Jordan was thousands of miles away, writes Uzi Mahnaimi.

The glamorous queen, regarded as one of the world's best-dressed <u>women</u>, had flown to Britain to lay the foundations of a sports pavilion to be built at Sandhurst in honour of her late father-in-law, King Hussein.

Rania, 30, and her husband, King Abdullah, 39, who also trained at Sandhurst, like to spend several weeks a year away from the troubled Middle East. But the royal couple's absences from their desert kingdom at a time of high tension are infuriating the Palestinians who constitute a majority of Jordan's population.

As the region's violence intensifies, the king is caught between Jordan's peace treaty commitments to the Israelis and Palestinian anger. Striking the correct balance is proving even more difficult for Rania, who was born of Palestinian parents in Kuwait, but has lived in Jordan since the 1991 Gulf war.

The inhabitants of Amman, the capital, had grown used to seeing their "Handbag Queen" -named for her predeliction for designer goods -driving through the dusty streets in her BMW, continuing a practice of mingling with the people established by Hussein. She used to be a frequent visitor to Wahdat, a camp that is home to 50,000 Palestinians. Not any more.

"Wahdat is dangerous, and the gueen is not welcome here," said Nimer Atallah, a Palestinian who lives there.

It was very different two years ago when Abdullah succeeded his father. Jordan's Palestinians hoped Rania, whom he married in 1993, would use her influence to end the discrimination they say they suffer at the hands of the indigenous minority that dominates Jordan from the Hashemite monarchy downwards.

"The queen is a nice lady, educated and brainy," said one Palestinian businessman. "But she has failed to bring about a better integration."

Other Palestinians, however, praise her for chipping away at traditional taboos. In particular, she has come out against the custom of "honour killing" -the murder of <u>women</u> who have lost their virginity before marriage, and of unfaithful wives.

But members of the indigenous minority are growing hostile, as was demonstrated at a football match between Wahdat -a largely Palestinian team -and Faissali, which is mostly Jordanian. Faissali supporters started shouting: "Divorce her, Abu Hussein (King Abdullah), and we'll give you two Jordanian girls instead."

Palestinians turn on Jordan 's 'handbag queen'

Prince Ali, the king's brother and head of the Jordanian football association, is said to have rung the king on his mobile phone so that he could hear the chanting. The king later told football managers he would not tolerate such behaviour.

Abdullah's problems extend far beyond football crowds. Militant Palestinians see the turmoil in the West Bank as a chance to destabilise his country, with the aim of unifying the two banks of the River Jordan into one Palestinian state.

Jordanian sources said the flag of Hezbollah, the Islamic fundamentalist group, had flown in the Wahdat camp in recent days. It appeared a clear act of provocation against Abdullah, who expelled <u>Hamas</u> leaders such as Khaled Mashaal, who has moved to Damascus, the Syrian capital.

This week, Rania will return to Amman, but she is likely to steer well clear of the camps.

"It needs only one word from (Yasser) Arafat, only one word, and thousands of Palestinians will march towards the palace," said Yussef Dowek, a Palestinian merchant in the capital.

Load-Date: May 21, 2001



Israelis pull out of Gaza; One-day occupation of Palestinian land ends after U.S. reprimand

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

April 18, 2001 Wednesday Final Edition

Copyright 2001 Metroland Media Group Ltd **Section:** FRONT; Pg. A10; News

Length: 561 words

Dateline: MIDDLE EAST

Body

Israel began pulling its forces out of Palestinian territory in the Gaza Strip yesterday, after holding it for less than a day, following harsh U.S. criticism of the Israeli move.

Israel had seized about 2.5 square kilometres of the Gaza Strip early yesterday, retaking Palestinian-controlled territory for the first time since 1994, in retaliation for a mortar attack on a small Israeli desert town.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat denounced the seizure as an "unforgivable crime" and said his people will "not kneel before gangs."

Associated Press

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell called the action in Gaza "excessive and disproportionate" and said Israel should respect its commitment to the Palestinians.

"The situation is threatening to escalate further, posing the risk of a broader conflict," Powell said.

Israel initially said it could hold the territory -- an area of orange groves and farmland -- for months until Palestinian mortar fire stopped. But Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's aides were quick to say their forces would withdraw when the danger of mortar attacks was gone.

Palestinian security officials, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said U.S. officials told them the Israelis would withdraw from the area.

A military statement said the pullout began after the mission was accomplished.

The Israeli assault came in response to mortar fire Monday night on Sderot, a working-class town of 24,000 about four kilometres east of Gaza.

The town is a stronghold of support for Sharon and his sheep ranch is eight kilometres away. The Islamic-militant group *Hamas* claimed responsibility for the mortars but Israel blamed Palestinian security forces.

Flares lit up the sky Monday night as Israeli forces shelled and fired rockets at Palestinian police stations across the Gaza Strip, killing a policeman and injuring 36 other people.

Israelis pull out of Gaza; One-day occupation of Palestinian land ends after U.S. reprimand

Soon after, troops crossed into the corner of Gaza closest to Sderot, seizing and tearing down abandoned Palestinian security posts.

Under Israeli tank fire, army bulldozers razed orange groves outside the Palestinian town Beit Hanoun and Israeli troops built fortified positions.

During the barrage, hundreds of Palestinians, including crying children, ran into the streets in Gaza City's Rimal neighbourhood, where rockets punched holes in the facade of a police headquarters.

Rimal resident Ghada Skaik, whose bedroom window was shattered, said she spent a sleepless night.

"If you go to bed and you can't feel safe, then where can you go and feel safe?" she said.

By daybreak, after Israeli troops settled into their new positions, tanks periodically fired toward Palestinians trying to approach the area. Palestinian medics carrying the body of a Palestinian policeman away from the rubble of a Beit Hanoun police compound were sent running by Israeli fire, at one point dropping to the ground to take cover.

Two Palestinian boys were killed by Israeli gunfire late yesterday.

In Gaza's Rafat refugee camp, Bara el-Shael, 10, was shot by soldiers, relatives and doctors said.

In el-Khader, near Bethlehem on the West Bank of the Jordan River, Rami Musa, 16, was killed when an Israeli tank shelled his home, Palestinians said. The Israeli military said there was an exchange of fire at el-Khader.

Since the violence erupted Sept. 28, 475 people have been killed, including 391 Palestinians, 64 Israeli Jews and 19 others.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Associated Press; Taman (centre), widow of Palestinian policeman Mohammed Al Masri, is comforted by unidentified <u>women</u> prior to the funeral procession for her husband in the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Hanoun yesterday.

Load-Date: October 10, 2002



The Toronto Star

January 3, 1999, Sunday, Edition 1

Copyright 1999 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: CONTEXT Length: 1948 words

Byline: Martin Regg Cohn

Body

The Middle East is a world away from Canada, but Canadians cannot continue to distance themselves from its problems and prejudices by pretending they are from a different planet

MARTIN REGG COHN/TORONTO STAR FILE PHOTOS

FILE PHOTOS BY KAREN MAZURKEWICH FOR THE STAR

Bias forges grim shackles

Bias

After four years as The Star's Middle East correspondent, Martin Regg Cohn tomorrow starts as head of the paper's Asia Bureau, based in Hong Kong. Here, he sums up his experience in a difficult post.

JERUSALEM

NO ONE had ever pointed a gun at me before.

I watched nervously as the Jewish settler fingered his weapon menacingly. Armed with an M-16 automatic rifle and a kippa skullcap, 21-year-old Noam Shapiro confronted us in the Samarian hills, blocking our way.

He looked at my press card and after satisfying himself that I had an obviously Jewish surname, concluded I was not a threat. Instead, he took aim at my Palestinian translator and the two

Arab villagers who were inspecting the damage to their olive trees from Jewish arsonists.

Motioning with his weapon, Shapiro sent the Palestinians packing, but waved me through. I refused the offer and left together with the Palestinians that day in mid-1995, a witness to the Middle East's rhythm of religious and racial conflict.

When I first arrived here nearly four years ago, I had braced myself for the inevitable suicide bomb attacks, part of the terrorism that comes with the territory. Now, after a dozen bombings, a couple of short-lived military conflicts, two civil wars and several close encounters with armed settlers, I feel a different sort of dread:

Not of terrorism, but tribalism.

In this part of the world, your identity flows from your faith, colour and clan. Even as a journalist, you are judged. Your tribe is you. And you are your tribe.

In Toronto, it's possible to ride the subway or walk the streets without giving a second thought to the colour or culture of people nearby. In the Middle East, I had to leave behind those comfortable assumptions about multiculturalism.

I savoured the pleasantries and protocol in people's homes, the mandatory mint tea and sweet coffee in the bazaars. Yet I suffered through endless diatribes against the neighbouring tribe, rival nation, amorphous threat or imagined conspiracy. I had a special insight on tribal labels, because my widely recognized surname can be traced to the ancient priestly caste of the Cohanim. I watched people's reactions when they realized who I was - or thought they did.

Religious Jews accorded me an exaggerated respect. Fathers asked me if I was available to meet their unwed daughters; Jewish settlers took me into their confidence.

It was an unsolicited, undeserved tribal honour, like a hereditary chief being automatically venerated by virtue of his bloodlines.

The flip side was a seething resentment whenever I asked questions or wrote stories that Jews deemed unflattering.

The same surname that served me well with Jews could cause me problems with Muslims, whose warm welcomes would sometimes evaporate when they suspected I was Jewish. At times like that, I felt like the Palestinians being targeted by the Jewish settler. The most unnerving incident took place when I walked into the offices of Hezbollah (Party of God), deep in the southern suburbs of Beirut.

Before being admitted to see Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the Islamic Resistance, a loyal aide asked me a few routine questions:

"Tell me about The Toronto Star," he began.

"Ah, The Star is the largest daily in Canada," I began naively, thinking only of our circulation numbers.

"No, no, how many Jews work there?" he interrupted.

"Uh, I'm sure it's about average for any newspaper," I deadpanned.

"Tell me, how many of them are pro-Zionist?" he snapped.

"Well, I don't know that we survey these things in Canada," I countered diplomatically.

Obviously frustrated, he led me to a vehicle draped in black, driven by two guards with machineguns and mobile phones. We drove through the back alleys of Beirut to a camouflaged residence where I was ushered in to see the sheik.

The interview over, his aide noticed for the first time that my Lebanese press identification card showed "COHN" clearly visible in capital letters.

Until that point, he had assumed my middle and surname were combined, which sounded to his ears like Regg-Khan.

"Cohan?" he asked incredulously, using the Arabic and Hebrew pronunciation. "That is your name?"

I nodded.

"But that is a Jewish name," he hissed. "You are Jewish?"

There was a pregnant pause, as he wondered who was in bigger trouble: me for being Jewish or him for having just admitted a Jew into the inner sanctum. I surveyed the guards in the room and reflected on Hezbollah's penchant for taking foreign hostages in

the 1980s.

"No problem," he said after what seemed like an eternity. "We are not fanatics here."

In fact, the fanatics are everywhere in the Middle East, where hospitality can soon switch to hostility. An ideology of intolerance and righteousness cloaked in lofty spirituality contaminates much of the region.

Too often, the tribal imperative that binds people to each other blinds them to all others. The impulse to bond with one's fellow man in search of a shared identity goes awry when it turns against the next tribe, the rival religion, the unfamiliar race. The Middle East is burdened by a unique brand of tribalism, fostered by unforgiving geography, harsh colonial rule and officially sanctioned sectarianism. In Lebanon and Israel, for example, interfaith marriages are forbidden by law and the absence of civil weddings compels people to identify themselves by their religion.

The mystical beauty of the desert, which gave birth to the three great monotheistic religions, also served as the crucible for tribal wars over water rights, slighted honour, territorial claims or religious rivalry.

I heard it from the tribal chieftains of Yemen, who ransom hostages from rival clans or foreign countries to fulfil their demands.

I witnessed it in the civil war of Sudan, where an Islamist government wages a jihad (religious war or struggle) against the Christian and animist black Africans in the south - resulting in famine and the resurgence of slavery.

I covered the terrorist attacks of Egypt's Gamma Islamiya (Islamic Group), which slaughtered foreign tourists near Luxor a year ago and continues to target Christian Copts for assassination in rural Egypt.

Even as I tried to cover these stories, I found myself caught in minor tribal tangles of my own at every turn. For in the Middle East, you are forever branded - not only by Islamic guerrillas, but junior bureaucrats who scrutinize your origins at every turn.

Filling out an Israeli visa form four years ago, I was asked to state my religion - a question Canadians are simply not accustomed to. Objecting in principle to the implicit prejudice - visiting Jews are given preferential treatment in Israel, just as they are discriminated against in Arab countries - I left the space blank.

The clerk behind the counter persisted. Looking at my surname, she promptly filled out the form on my behalf, lest the bureaucracy be left guessing.

Whenever I passed through Israel's international airport, the security staff grilled me about my origins, using code language and leading questions: Did I speak Hebrew? Which holidays did I celebrate? Did I have family in Israel?

It was their roundabout way of verifying my religion, without asking directly. My answers would determine whether I fit their profile for a security threat; Jews are usually waved through, Christians are closely questioned and Muslims interrogated or strip-searched.

To their great credit, the Jordanians seem more advanced than other Arab countries and Israel when it comes to religious discrimination. At their Cairo embassy, the "religion" question on visa forms has been covered up with white correction fluid. Taking my cue from the Jordanians, I resolved to beat the bureaucrats at their own game. On the line asking my religion, I would write "PROTEST" - and let them guess whether I was Protestant or protesting.

Yet the Iraqis remained suspicious. They initially refused my visa request in 1995, because the security services were troubled by my last name. Unbeknownst to me, a go-between told them I could not possibly be Jewish, because she had seen me eating bacon.

The visa later came through.

When I finally got to Baghdad last year, an Iraqi diplomat made polite conversation at the dinner table by discussing a diplomatic dispatch he'd just received from his embassy in Ottawa. Over the lamb kebab, he passed on the shocking news, for

him, about the aftermath of the recent Canadian election: a Jew had become deputy prime minister. It slowly dawned on me that he must mean Herb Gray. As a Canadian, I had never given it a second thought; in Baghdad, Gray's religion was a talking point.

To this day, I am troubled by the obsession with tribal and religious labels. Yet these terms of reference are deeply rooted in the Middle East, and many Canadian readers found this difficult to accept. Letter writers often accused me of stigmatizing Canadian Muslims or Jews when I referred to the religion of people in the Middle East, however relevant. Jewish and Muslim readers were sometimes in a state of denial about the world outside Canada's borders, insisting that religious beliefs - however distorted - can always be isolated from fanatical or controversial acts.

A leader of B'nai Brith Canada once publicly berated me for using

A leader of B'nai Brith Canada once publicly berated me for using the term"Jewish settlers," asking why I didn't simply call them Israeli residents. In fact, Jewish settlers call themselves precisely that and the term could be found in government news releases at the time.

It would be disingenuous to omit the religious beliefs of people who insist they have precedence over Palestinians because the West Bank is the biblical birthright of Jews.

Similarly, some Canadian Muslims bristle at any reference to religion in newspaper reports about acts of violence, even when they specifically target Jews or Christians. Yet it would be journalistically dishonest to sanitize coverage of the Middle East, when Algeria's Armed Islamic Group, Egypt's Gamma Islamiya, the *Hamas* Islamic Resistance Movement, Islamic Jihad and other self-styled Islamic movements, as well as countries - such as Sudan and Iran - proudly invoke the name of their religion.

While rushing to denounce the journalistic messengers, letter writers seem far less passionate about condemning the sacrilege being carried out in the name of Islam. Instead, they insist these killers could not possibly be real Muslims.

Well, they are. And until peace-loving Muslims in Canada and

around the world use their influence to repudiate such violent

acts - rather than claiming that these killers are religious

imposters - the terrorism will continue.

The Middle East is a world away from Canada, but Canadians cannot continue to distance themselves from its problems and prejudices by pretending they are from a different planet.

Or tribe.

On my last trip to the Gaza Strip, I met Ismail Abu Shanab, a senior <u>Hamas</u> leader, to discuss why his group killed innocent civilians in its suicide bombings. I pointed out that many Muslims overseas considered <u>Hamas</u> to be a misguided group that is misinterpreting Islam.

"We make our policy according to Islam," he answered resolutely.

"We tell all Muslims all over the world, 'If you find us mistaken on this path, we will correct our path. Just tell us.'

Perhaps one day Canadian organizations will tell militants here to follow their examples of peace and pluralism.

Graphic

FORMAL MOMENT:

Middle East correspondent Martin Regg Cohn visits a tribal chieftain and his entourage in Yemen last April. The brutal clan rivalry among the Yemeni is typical of the region's constant conflicts. COMBAT READY:

In 1997, <u>women</u> volunteers for the Sudanese Popular Defence Forces militia train with AK-47 assault rifles. Most wear the traditional hijab, but some veil their faces as well.

Load-Date: January 3, 1999



Israelis, Palestinians bury dead amid surge in violence

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

May 2, 2001 Wednesday

FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS, Length: 602 words

Dateline: RAMALLAH, West Bank

Body

A Jewish settler, like his father before him, was slain yesterday in an ambush on the same road, and Palestinians suffered two more deaths even as they buried five people, including a young brother and sister.

The violence came as Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres held talks in the United States about an Arab plan to stop the fighting, now in its eighth month.

The Egyptian-Jordanian proposal calls for a month-long truce, to be followed by a resumption of peace negotiations. However, Israel wants a ceasefire to last two or three months before restarting negotiations. AP

Peres said yesterday he will ask Secretary of State Colin Powell for help. He said his talks with Powell, scheduled for today, would focus on "how to achieve an effective ceasefire. Without American involvement, it cannot work."

Jewish settler Assaf Hershkovitz, 31, was killed when his van was hit by 27 bullets and overturned on a stretch of West Bank road that Palestinian gunmen have repeatedly targeted outside Ramallah.

Hershkovitz's father Arieh was killed in an almost identical shooting in January, just 5 kilometres from where his son died.

The Islamic militant group <u>Hamas</u> claimed responsibility for yesterday's killing, saying it was revenge for the Palestinians killed in two bomb blasts Monday.

Assaf Hershkovitz was wearing a bulletproof vest but was hit in the neck, his wife Hila said. She told her children, age 3 and 5, that their father "was not coming home again. My (5-year-old) son asked if he was killed. He knew straightaway."

In further violence, two Palestinians were killed - a policeman shot in a firefight with Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip refugee camp of Rafah and a suspected informer for Israel ambushed by a masked assailant in the West Bank town of Qalqilya.

In Ramallah, several thousand chanting Palestinians marched through the streets to mourn the deaths of a Palestinian activist and two children killed when a two-storey apartment building was leveled Monday night. The blast was several hundred metres from the West Bank headquarters of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Israelis, Palestinians bury dead amid surge in violence

Four-year-old Malak Barakat and her 7-year-old brother Shahid died along with Hassan al Qady, a leading member in Arafat's Fatah movement.

Abeer Barakat, 25, the children's mother, was wounded along with her 5-year-old daughter Wahed. Barakat said she was doing the laundry when her home collapsed.

"I called out to my children but only heard Wahed's voice," she said from her hospital bed. "I was trapped on the ground and heard her crying."

At yesterday's funeral procession, children carried posters of the dead. <u>Women</u> wept. Men shouted, "Revenge for the martyrs," while members of the Palestinian security forces fired their automatic rifles into the air.

Shortly after the funeral, Palestinian militants and the Israeli army waged a heavy gun battle at the edge of Ramallah, and Israeli troops fired tank shells to disperse Palestinian gunmen. No injuries were reported.

Palestinians said Monday's bomb blast, which reduced the hillside apartment building to broken concrete slabs, was part of an Israeli campaign that has targeted militants. More than a dozen have been killed in recent months.

Israel named Al Qady as a leading suspect in the killing of an Israeli earlier this year.

However, Israel said the explosions were set off accidentally by Palestinian militants preparing bombs intended for Israel. "They (the Palestinians) are blaming us. There is no limit to their audacity. It's them, them, them, said Israeli Defence Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer.

Graphic

Photo: FAYEZ NURELDINE, AFP; A Palestinian woman leaves her, home with children in tow after Israeli shelling yesterday on the, town of Rafah in the Gaza Strip.

Load-Date: May 2, 2001



GUNFIRE KILLS PALESTINIAN BOY

The Philadelphia Inquirer

APRIL 24, 2001 Tuesday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A10

Length: 585 words

Byline: Greg Myre ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A 12-year-old Palestinian boy was killed by a gunshot to the head during a funeral in the Gaza Strip, and Israel endured its third bomb attack in two days as violence yesterday eclipsed diplomatic efforts to end the Mideast bloodshed.

Several separate political initiatives were under way in a bid to halt, or at least limit, the seven months of fighting, with no results in sight. However, a meeting was set for late yesterday between Israeli and Palestinian security officials, both sides said.

In the southern Gaza Strip, more than 1,000 Palestinians, some wearing green police fatigues, joined the funeral procession of a Palestinian police officer who died of injuries sustained during an Israeli rocket attack last week.

As the body was being lowered into the ground at the Khan Yunis cemetery, next to a Jewish settlement, several dozen Palestinian gunmen fired 21 shots into the air as a sign of respect, said Eyad Saadoni, a math teacher. The Israeli military said the shots were directed at the settlement.

Bursts of gunfire came from the direction of the nearby Jewish settlement, which is protected by an Israeli army post about 500 yards away, said Saadoni and other witnesses.

Palestinian mourners scattered in panic, with <u>women</u> and children running barefoot through the sandy streets, many seeking shelter in abandoned buildings.

"Some were trying to take cover," Saadoni said. "Some of them were kneeling next to the grave. Others covered their heads with their hands. Then I saw the wounded child collapse."

The Palestinian boy, Muhanad Muhareb, 12, was shot just above the left eye and died, and 11 Palestinians were wounded, including one who was in critical condition, according to doctors at Khan Yunis Hospital.

Meanwhile, Israel suffered its third bomb blast in two days when a car bomb exploded yesterday, lightly injuring four people in the working-class town of Or Yehuda, east of Tel Aviv.

GUNFIRE KILLS PALESTINIAN BOY

In phone call to the Associated Press, a man claimed responsibility on behalf of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a radical Palestinian faction.

A day earlier, a Palestinian militant detonated a bomb near a bus in the town of Kefar Sava, near Tel Aviv, killing himself and an Israeli doctor and wounding 50.

The Islamic militant group *Hamas* claimed responsibility and identified the bomber as Imad Zubadi, 18.

At his home in the West Bank town of Nablus, Zubadi's mother said that her son was scheduled to take his high school final exams in a few days but that she was proud he had become a "martyr."

Israeli and Palestinian security officials scheduled a meeting at the home of U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk yesterday, Palestinian officials said, continuing contacts aimed at resuming cooperation. Asked about the spate of bombing attacks, Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat said he opposed "any and every operation targeting civilians, whether they are Palestinians or Israelis." In recent months Arafat has rarely explicitly condemned such attacks.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has repeatedly blamed the Palestinian leadership for failing to rein in Palestinian militants.

Sharon's advisers said Israel had serious reservations about an Egyptian-Jordanian proposal for restarting peace talks but has not dismissed it outright.

Under the plan, Israel and the Palestinians would implement a cease-fire that was brokered in October by then-U.S. President Bill Clinton but never took effect.

The Arab initiative would require Israel to announce a complete freeze of construction in Jewish settlements.

Graphic

ELIZABETH DALZIEL, Associated Press After learning of the death of Muhanad Muhareb, a relative weeps. Eleven others were injured at the Gaza Strip funeral for a Palestinian policeman. Also yesterday, a car bomb struck Israel, injuring four.

Load-Date: October 31, 2001



'SORRY' SEEMS TO BE THE HARDEST WORD FOR MOST POLITICIANS

The Toronto Star

August 19, 1998, Wednesday, Edition 1

Copyright 1998 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS

Length: 532 words **Byline:** Alan Barnes

Body

STAFF REPORTER

With apologies to author Erich Segal, being a major politician means seldom having to say you're sorry.

President Bill Clinton did say on television Monday night that he deeply regretted misleading wife Hillary and millions of others about his affair with Monica Lewinsky.

But he never apologized in the traditional sense by saying he was sorry for his "critical lapse in judgment and a personal failure on my part."

Clinton, therefore, was following in the footsteps of many on the world stage, or in the wings.

The late U.S. president Richard Nixon did offer an apology of sorts for the Watergate scandal that cost him his country's top job in 1974.

But many elected officials seem to follow the advice given by actor John Wayne to cavalry soldiers in one of his movies:

"Never explain and never apologize."

Vice-President Al Gore appears to be the only Washington leader who has apologized for some time. And that was for mistakenly claiming that he was the model for the leading male character in Segal's novel Love Story.

Nixon said in his Aug. 8, 1974, resignation speech: "I regret deeply any injuries that may have been done in the course of events that have led to this decision."

'SORRY' SEEMS TO BE THE HARDEST WORD FOR MOST POLITICIANS

But he added that while some of his judgments were wrong, "they were made in what I believed at the time to be in the best interest of the nation."

And how about Gary Hart, whose U.S. Democratic presidential campaign collapsed in 1987 because of a tryst with model Donna Rice?

"I am . . . deeply sorry for causing the events that led to my withdrawal from the race . . . I should not have been with Miss Rice."

But he added the caveat that no troops were sent into combat, no laws were broken, no one lied to Congress - and "every one of those things happened under this (Republican) administration."

And former American Republican senator Bob Packwood of Oregon put a twist on his apology after being accused of sexually harassing at least a dozen *women* in 1994.

He said: "I'm apologizing for the conduct that it was alleged that I did."

One of the most famous apologies in Britain came in 1963 from John Profumo, secretary of state for war.

LIED TO THE COMMONS

He resigned from cabinet after apologizing for lying to the House of Commons about his sexual relationship with party girl Christine Keeler. She was also the mistress of a Soviet naval attache.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu apologized in April for the use of forged Canadian passports by a hit squad that bungled an assassination attempt on <u>Hamas</u> political chief Khaled Meshal in Jordan last year.

There have been few apologies from Canadian politicians for perceived major indis- cretions.

One of the more famous incidents - that didn't result in an apology - involved prime minister Pierre Trudeau.

He was being rattled by opposition members in Parliament on Feb.

16, 1971, and was said to have uttered a swear word at an opposition MP.

The late Hansard editor Douglas Baker said Trudeau had formed his

'SORRY' SEEMS TO BE THE HARDEST WORD FOR MOST POLITICIANS

lips to say "F--- you" but, in fact, he never actually mouthed

the expletive.

Trudeau later told reporters he had only muttered

"fuddle-duddle."

The euphemism was picked up across the country.

Graphic

CAUGHT IN THE ACT:

Richard Nixon, left, offered his regrets, presidential hopeful Gary Hart apologized and British minister John Profumo called it quits.

Load-Date: August 19, 1998



Israeli forces shell targets in Gaza City

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

March 29, 2001 Thursday Final Edition

Copyright 2001 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A13; News

Length: 564 words

Body

Israeli helicopters rocketed the headquarters of Force 17, Yasser Arafat's elite guard, in Gaza and the West Bank town of Ramallah yesterday, retaliating for a wave of bombings, including a suicide attack that killed two Israeli teenagers.

Red flares lit up the night sky over Ramallah, where two people were killed in the assault, and flames leaped from burning buildings and cars as firemen attempted to extinguish multiple blazes.

Doctors in Ramallah said the dead included a member of Force 17 and a <u>female</u> civilian, and that several people were injured. In Gaza City, at least nine Palestinians were wounded, two of them critically, doctors said. Associated Press

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has repeatedly accused Force 17 of involvement in attacks against Israeli civilians.

"The purpose is to strike directly at those responsible for terrorism," the Israeli military said in a statement. The military said it hit the Force 17 headquarters in Ramallah, and four Force 17 targets in Gaza -- including a training camp and an arms depot.

The buildings under attack -- all in areas governed by Arafat's Palestinian Authority under peace agreements -- had been evacuated after the Israeli military warned the Palestinians to leave.

The nighttime assault came hours after a suicide bomber detonated nail-filled explosives strapped to his body near a group of Jewish seminary students waiting at the roadside near the West Bank, killing two. The previous day, militants carried out back-to-back attacks, including a suicide attack that injured two dozen people.

The Palestinian militant group <u>Hamas</u> claimed responsibility for both suicide bombings and said more bombers were ready to strike.

Sharon, who had been under mounting pressure to respond to the string of attacks, called his security cabinet into session minutes before the Israeli offensive began.

"We are witnessing grave terrorist activities -- terrorist activities that the chairman of the Palestinian Authority (Arafat) has not been willing until now to control," Sharon said.

Israeli forces shell targets in Gaza City

Israel says Arafat has released hundreds of Islamic militants from prison in recent months, and that gunmen of the Tanzim militia affiliated with Arafat's Fatah movement have killed a number of Israelis in shooting attacks during the past six months of violence.

Since late September, 440 people have been killed, including 359 Palestinians, 62 Israeli Jews and 19 others.

Palestinian cabinet minister Nabil Amr denied the Palestinian Authority had any ties to the bombings in recent days.

The Israeli assault came soon after an Arab summit ended in Amman, Jordan, yesterday. Israel had apparently wanted to avoid retaliation during the gathering of Arab heads of state to prevent any escalation.

The latest suicide bomber targeted a group of teenagers who had been dropped off at a gas station yesterday morning near the communal farm of Sdeh Hemed, about 25 kilometres northeast of Tel Aviv near the boundary of the West Bank.

The teens were waiting to catch a ride in an armoured bus to their seminary in Kedumim, a Jewish settlement in the West Bank.

The assailant, described as a man in his late 20s with black hair and a moustache, approached the youngsters.

"He looked at them. Then the explosion went off," said one of the students, Rafael Somer, 15, suppressing tears. "I was hurled backward. When I got up, I saw one of my friends without hands."

Graphic

Associated Press; An Israeli border police officer and his sniffer dog inspect a garbage bin in Jerusalem yesterday. Israeli security forces are on high alert after a Palestinian suicide bomber detonated explosives yesterday.

Load-Date: October 10, 2002



8 MOWED DOWN IN ISRAEL Troops and civilian killed by Palestinian

Daily News (New York)
February 15, 2001, Thursday
SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2001 Daily News, L.P.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 539 words

Byline: By ALISA ODENHEIMER in Jerusalem and DAVE GOLDINER in New York DAILY NEWS WRITERS With

Tom Gross in Tel Aviv

Body

Israel was shaken to its core yesterday after a Palestinian bus driver killed seven soldiers and a civilian when his bus jumped a curb and rammed into the victims at a bus stop near Tel Aviv, authorities said.

The driver, who was reportedly upset over months of Mideast violence, sped away from the scene of what authorities said was a deliberate attack, the deadliest on Israelis in four years. Khalil Abu Olbeh, 35, was shot and captured 22 miles away after a wild chase.

"I saw dead people with arms, heads and legs cut open. It was terrible," said Ayelet Cohen-Natan, who witnessed the carnage.

Several Palestinian groups claimed responsibility for the attack, which also injured 17 people and comes at a time of political transition.

Israeli military officials said they were investigating reports that the radical Islamic group <u>Hamas</u> was behind the incident, although the driver's relatives denied it.

Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon vowed to take all necessary steps to restore security once he takes office, and Prime Minister Ehud Barak - the man Sharon trounced in recent elections because of escalating violence - sealed the West Bank and Gaza Strip by air, land and sea and confined Palestinians to their communities.

The hit-and-run horror increased fears that violence is spiraling out of control.

As hard-liner Sharon prepares to take office, he and Barak said they have accelerated efforts to form a unity government to put an end to the violence.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat angered Israelis by refusing to condemn the incident publicly.

"The Israeli escalation is what brought about the attack," he said early in the day in Jordan.

He further infuriated the Jewish state when, on a stop in Turkey, he called the carnage a "road accident."

President Bush called Barak and condemned the "terrible act of violence" and urged "all parties to do their utmost to end the violence."

8 MOWED DOWN IN ISRAEL Troops and civilian killed by Palestinian

The terrifying incident unfolded about 8 a.m. during the morning rush hour as a crowd, mostly consisting of soldiers, waited for buses in the Tel Aviv suburb of Azur.

The impact crushed some victims, tossed others in the air and hurled some people against trees and traffic poles.

Abu Olbeh sped away after the impact, leading cops on a high-speed chase that ended when one officer wounded him with a shot to the chest.

Among the dead were seven young soldiers, including Ofir Magidish, 20, and David Elouz, 21, boyhood friends from Kiryat Malachi, a town south of Tel Aviv. The two had missed the regular bus to their army base and were waiting for another.

Four of the soldiers were <u>women</u>. Sgt. Rachel Levy's father said he dropped her off at the central bus station at 6:30 a.m. He watched in his mirror as she crossed the street, until she disappeared from his view.

Another victim, Cpl. Alexander Menevitch, 18, was the only child of Russian immigrants, who said he hoped to study computers.

"I can't believe what has happened," said his mother, Sofa. Also killed was 21-year-old Julie Veiner, who left Israel for France at age 10 and returned just 18 months ago to serve in the army.

"Julie was a charming girl, full of joie de vivre," said Rinat Yeffet, a former co-worker. "She was the type who always knew how to bring out the best in people."

Graphic

REUTERS CASUALTIES Bodies of slain Israelis lie covered on street in Azur, south of Tel Aviv, yesterday after victims were slammed by bus. Below, suspect Khalil Abu Olbeh sits in bus near Ashdod, Israel, after he was wounded and vehicle crashed. AP

Load-Date: February 15, 2001



Isolated settlers under siege from Palestinian gunmen

The Times (London)

November 22, 2000, Wednesday

Copyright 2000 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 572 words

Byline: Sam Kiley in Nomi, West Bank

Body

Israeli troops in Gaza killed five Palestinians yesterday, including one laying a roadside explosive a few hundred yards from where two adults were killed and several children injured in a bus bomb the day before.

Hours later in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian gunmen fatally wounded an Israeli motorist in a roadside ambush. Ehud Barak, the Israeli Prime Minister, was less than a mile away at the time.

Consistent with warnings from Yassir Arafat's Fatah organisation, as well as the more radical groups <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad, settlements in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank are now the main "pressure points" as Palestinians bid for an independent state.

Jews who have settled on land seized by Israel in 1967 - in violation of international law - have set up heavily guarded colonies. But on the other side of the Green Line, which separated Israeli forces from Jordanian soldiers in 1967, other Israelis have begun to question whether it is worth paying the cost of maintaining 200,000 settlers in their camps and new towns.

Members of the Armed Forces have said privately that they find it harder to justify the costs of guarding settlements such as Netzarim and Kfar Darom in the Gaza Strip, where there is a ratio of two settlers to one trooper.

Israeli generals and military analysts have said that while it is possible to protect town-sized settlements - which are likely to be annexed to Israel as part of a future peace deal - those out on a limb will have to be evacuated.

One senior officer said: "There is absolutely no point in trying to guard a settlement out in the desert against Palestinians which Israel's own negotiators don't believe will be there in the long run. If the Palestinians step up their attack, this would take thousands of troops which we don't have - and the only alternative would be all-out war, which would be crazy."

The Left has argued for years that the settlements, which range from the neighbourhood of Gilo on the outskirts of Jerusalem to hamlets housing religious zealots on the edge of the Negev, are the biggest hindrance to peace and are rapidly becoming the focus of war. The Palestinians call them "the thorns in our throats" and are prepared to bleed to get them out.

As a result, the front line of "al-Aqsa intifada" has shifted steadily from the barricades, where rioters paid a heavy price for throwing stones and petrol bombs, to the borders of the settlements, which are guarded by Israeli conscripts.

Isolated settlers under siege from Palestinian gunmen

Gilo and Psagot to the north of Jerusalem, are attacked almost every day by Palestinian gunmen. The 20,000 settlers in Ariel, in the north of the West Bank, and others from nearby colonies have been accused by Israeli human rights activists of trying to drive Arabs out of their villages with shooting attacks and by destroying their olive groves. Settlers in Nablus are locked in tit-for-tat attacks with local Palestinians in which a dozen people have died in the past seven weeks.

After the bus bombing on Monday in Kfar Darom, Israeli commentators have questioned the strategic and moral motivation for continuing to support the settlements.

Amit Leshem, an organiser with the "<u>Women</u> and Mothers First" campaign, which demands an end to the settlements under the slogan "We have no children for unnecessary wars", said: "Had the parents of the wounded children at Kfar Darom been acting responsibly, they would not have let them live there during such a sensitive period."

Load-Date: November 22, 2000



Week in Review; A look back at the top stories from the last week

Spokesman Review (Spokane, WA)
October 22, 2000, Sunday,
SPOKANE EDITION

Copyright 2000 Spokane Spokesman-Review

Section: MAIN NEWS,; COLUMN

Length: 567 words

Byline: The Week in Review is compiled by News Editor Kevin Graman.

Body

REGION

Yates pleads guilty

Robert L. Yates Jr. pleaded guilty Thursday to 13 murders including the killings of a young man and woman in Walla Walla County in 1975; and the murder of a woman in Skagit County in 1988.

The 48-year-old father of five also pleaded guilty to one count of attempted murder as part of a deal to escape the death penalty. He is to be sentenced Thursday to 447 years in prison.

Yates was arrested in April and charged with the deaths of eight <u>women</u> and the attempted murder of another in the Spokane area in 1996-98. He also was charged with the murders of two <u>women</u> in Pierce County that occurred in the same period.

Yates takes his place among the nation's most prolific killers.

WORLD

Fragile truce

Israelis and Palestinians took their first, halting steps toward ending nearly three weeks of violence. Despite persistent clashes, both sides moved to carry out a U.S.-brokered agreement reached last week at an emergency summit conference in Egypt.

Though scattered street confrontations and exchanges of gunfire flared in several West Bank towns, Palestinian leaders affirmed that they will work for calm and refrain from instigating violence. A leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement, or <u>Hamas</u>, said Palestinian police also rearrested two dozen activists who left prison during the worst of the clashes, responding to a key Israeli demand at the summit.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak's government, for its part, ordered Israeli troops to do their utmost to avoid casualties. More concretely, Israeli authorities reopened the airport in Gaza and international border crossings, and lifted the

Week in Review; A look back at the top stories from the last week

blockade on travel among the West Bank's seven major cities, which had halted much commerce for the area's nearly 2 million Palestinians.

NATION

Candidates wrap up debates

With the clock ticking against him, Al Gore tried to regain the initiative in the presidential race Tuesday night by offering a more aggressive defense of the Clinton administration's record and a more pointed critique of George W. Bush's agenda.

In the most spirited, and yet most relaxed, of the three debates between the two men, Gore and Bush presented not only contrasting agendas but contrasting styles. Gore was relentlessly programmatic, emphasizing his differences with Bush. The Republican, by contrast, calmly emphasized the broad themes - particularly his promises to limit the role of government and to bring bipartisan cooperation to Washington - that he believes are his strongest arguments.

Governor dies in plane crash

Missouri was left shocked and mourning by the death of Gov. Mel Carnahan, his son and an aide in a plane crash Monday night.

Carnahan, 66, was on his way to a campaign event in rural Missouri through a storm when his 6-seat Cessna 335 went down. The untimely death of Carnahan, who was locked in a tight race with incumbent Republican Sen. John Ashcroft, may have diminished Democratic hopes of taking control of the U.S. Senate in this year's elections and cast doubts on Al Gore's ability to capture this important swing state.

BUSINESS

Market takes a dive

Stocks dropped sharply in volatile trading Wednesday, shaving more than 400 points off the Dow Jones industrials before bargain hunters moved in and helped the market recover most of its losses.

Investor despair over a generally bleak earnings outlook and a huge decline in IBM sent the Dow below 10,000 for the first time since March 14.

Load-Date: October 24, 2000



'It is not a popular intefadeh'; Retaliation now focused on West Bank, Gaza

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

November 14, 2000 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 2000 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. B08; News

Length: 609 words **Byline:** Phil Reeves

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The Middle East conflict slid deeper toward prolonged guerrilla war yesterday after three Israelis were killed in a drive-by ambush on the West Bank and a fourth was shot dead in Gaza.

They amount to the bloodiest single attack committed by the Palestinians in the last seven weeks and seem certain to produce a fierce response from Israel's armed forces.

The first shooting happened near dusk, as reports were coming in from the Gaza Strip that another two Palestinian teenagers had been shot dead by Israeli troops and a third died from early wounds -- a typical daily death toll in the occupied territories at present.

The Israeli media said gunmen opened fire from a vehicle as they overtook a private car and then an Israeli military bus, riddling it with at least 50 bullets before speeding off. It happened on a section of road controlled by the Israeli military running north from Jerusalem to Nablus through the West Bank.

The Independent, London

Two soldiers and a woman -- a settler who was a passenger in the car -- were killed; seven people were injured. A few hours later an Israeli citizen was shot dead in a car in Gaza.

The killings provide further evidence that the intefadeh is being fought on two fronts: at the barricades in daylight by a dwindling number of Arab youths throwing rocks and molotov cocktails under fire from the Israeli army, and in the field by Tanzim gunmen using guerrilla tactics to attack Jewish settlements and army positions.

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) were yesterday quick to emphasize that they view the latter as significant.

The IDF's spokesman, Maj Yarden Vatikay, said: "This is turning into a guerrilla war against our army, and a terror war against our civilians ... It is not a popular intefadeh."

Five days ago, in a shift of tactics, the Israeli armed forces killed a Palestinian guerrilla leader, Hussein Abayat, by blowing up his car with a TOW rocket fired from an Apache helicopter in a suburb of Bethlehem. Two middle-aged **women** passers-by were also killed.

The Israeli army refused to apologize.

'It is not a popular intefadeh'; Retaliation now focused on West Bank, Gaza

Palestinian Fatah leaders vowed vengeance, which quickly came: two Israeli soldiers were killed on the weekend, bringing to 12 the total of IDF fatalities.

Yesterday's events may have been another episode in the same cycle of retaliation, but they are also part of a broader Palestinian strategy of targeting the Israeli army and the 200,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza in the hope of forcing them out. Twenty four Israelis have died in the conflict, of a total of about 215.

The killings yesterday will surely intensify the ongoing, low-level war on the West Bank between Palestinians and armed militant Jewish settlers.

Last night Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak interrupted a trip to the United States to consult with the IDF's chief-of-staff, Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, on how to respond. After previous attacks -- such as the lynching of two of its soldiers -- Israel has used tanks and helicopters to shell usually empty Fatah headquarters and Palestinian Authority headquarters in the West Bank and Gaza.

The strategy assumes that Arafat is orchestrating the violence, despite evidence that he is far from in full control.

News of the ambushes was yet another blow for Israelis. The last 48 hours alone has seen Barak meet fruitlessly with Bill Clinton in the White House; the death of Yitzhak Rabin's widow, Leah; and an announcement from Arafat that the intefadeh will continue.

To the annoyance of Israel, Arafat was at the Organization of the Islamic Conference summit in Qatar yesterday where he met with a senior official from Israel's staunchest enemies -- the Islamic militant group *Hamas*.

Load-Date: November 5, 2001



Conversations/The Long View; 50 Years of Covering War, Looking for Peace and Honoring Law

The New York Times

December 16, 2001 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2001 The New York Times Company

Section: Section 4; Column 1; Week in Review Desk; Pg. 9

Length: 1369 words

Body

AT the age of 74, after 50 years at The New York Times, Anthony Lewis has retired. His last Op-Ed column appeared yesterday. Ethan Bronner, an editor at The Times, asked Mr. Lewis, the newspaper's most consistently liberal voice in recent years, to reflect on his career.

BRONNER What have been the large themes of your columns?

LEWIS I've dealt with concrete things, usually quite obsessively, because particular issues seem to be dominant in my mind: Vietnam, while that was going on, South African apartheid, and then the Middle East.

Q. Have you drawn any big conclusion?

A. Maybe it's a twin conclusion. One is that certainty is the enemy of decency and humanity in people who are sure they are right, like Osama bin Laden and John Ashcroft. And secondly that for this country at least, given the kind of obstreperous, populous, diverse country we are, law is the absolute essential. And when governments short-cut the law, it's extremely dangerous.

Q. Have you changed your views on anything significant?

A. The most disappointing fact of life in the 20th century was that, contrary to my expectations, after the Holocaust, the century continued to be riddled with the extraordinary ability of human beings to hate others because they look a little different. Or in fact they may not look very different, they just live next door, like the two groups of Rwandans or the Bosnians, all of whom speak the same language and come from the same roots and just happen to have ended up with different religions. And the result has been cruelty and misery on an enormous scale.

Q. Are you saying that the world has not moved or changed as you had hoped it would?

A. I have lost my faith in the idea of progress. I mean that in the sense that it was used at the beginning of the 20th century, that mankind is getting wiser and better and all -- now, how can you think that after Rwanda and Bosnia and a dozen other places where these horrors have occurred? I thought the Holocaust was a sufficient warning to human beings all over the world that we wouldn't do it again. And we've gone right on doing it. Right on doing it. And worse, those with the power to stop it haven't stopped it. That's the most awful thing.

Q. Have you changed your view on socialism?

A. I can remember when the Labor government was elected in 1945 in Britain. It was one of those defining events. I was coming out of a lecture hall at Harvard. There were still a lot of troops abroad and all that. The election was announced and it was a Labor landslide, which was an extraordinary surprise. And here was a headline on a newspaper that somebody was hawking outside this lecture hall. And I thought, Well, this is great. Socialism is really going to have a chance. Democratic socialism is going to have a chance. Well it just turned out to be more difficult and the resources weren't there. You know, the health service doesn't work. I'm still for it. But it doesn't work.

Q. What are the lessons of Sept. 11?

A. It's not safe for us to allow evil to fester somewhere else. I think the events of recent weeks have shown us that we can't ignore horrors elsewhere in a world in which people can travel and communicate and be anywhere in a matter of days.

It's not just a matter of human concern and that we should be nice guys and worry about poor Afghans being treated cruelly and <u>women</u> being beaten up for letting their ankle show or whatever. It's because, just in its simplest terms, it's our own safety that turns out to be involved.

Q. Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar of Spain has been quoted as saying Sept. 11 was even more important than the fall of the Berlin Wall. Do you agree?

A. Yes, I'd say it's more important than the fall of the Berlin Wall if you push me to it because it makes all of us in the world vulnerable or makes us appreciate our vulnerability. And the fact that a small band of people -- not a state, but a really small number of people, can effectively make us all insecure is a shocking reality. I'm sure it's transformed the world.

Q. After Sept. 11, you warned against a knee-jerk American military reaction. How do you feel the war has been handled?

A. It would have been very bad just to take off and drop bombs on something in Afghanistan without any prelude or any care. I think the war has been handled very well. And I said that before we were winning. I said in a column that we were doing the war right and the law wrong. I think Bush has shown really wise restraint on the war. It didn't start at once and by waiting three weeks, he gave people abroad much more confidence that we weren't just going for revenge and destruction, that we really had a plan. And I think that was crucial.

Q. And surprising about him or not?

A. Yes. Surprising about him. I think that Colin Powell was essential in that because he's a person who engenders respect from Americans and people abroad. He happened to be secretary of state but with a military background that gave his views on those subjects added weight.

Q. How are you feeling about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at this especially depressing moment?

A. I'm an optimist by nature in general, and in particular in the Middle East because I've always thought that Palestinians and Israelis were not so different and that they could get along. But of course human beings don't get along. That's very disappointing.

The Palestinians are the most professionally educated group of Arabs. Unfortunately, for many years, Palestinians and other Arabs were completely obdurate in refusing to deal with Israel and relate to it and compromise with it and negotiate with it.

Then, when the Palestinians finally got around, at Oslo and said, yes, O.K., we recognize that Israel is here to stay and we're going to negotiate with it and we're going to compromise with it, that was the great chance. And that chance was thrown away.

Thrown away, I think, in part by the failure of Arafat as a statesman. If Yasir Arafat had had a Palestinian Authority to which Israelis and the rest of the world could look as a democratic model and a law-abiding model and one in which there was an attempt to create institutions that would serve a Palestinian state well when it was finally created, that would have made a great difference. To the contrary, it is a corrupt, lawless, authoritarian system that doesn't give anybody much hope.

And then on the other side, Israel simply ignored or trampled what was the unspoken premise of Oslo, that the process that was to follow would produce a viable Palestinian state. I think that Arafat and company were extremely poor negotiators for their failure to insist on some explicit undertaking by Israel to stop the settlement process and to point toward a viable, territorially integrated Palestinian state.

But even so, even without the explicit statement, everybody understood that that was the game. And Israel simply destroyed it.

It's frustrating because we know what the end must be. You've got to divide the territory. And we all know what the division is going to be. It's not a secret. So it's frustrating to see these crazy people acting in a way that prevents that goal from being reached.

The irony is that <u>Hamas</u>, with its dreadful terrorist attacks, plays right into the hands of Ariel Sharon. He has never believed in a two-state solution but wants to keep the Palestinians without a viable state and under effective Israeli control. Now Sharon has, in a sense, reoccupied the Palestinian areas. The danger of that is that it could bring on a general war -- which is what <u>Hamas</u> probably wants.

Q. How did you decide, week to week, what to write about?

A. I'm not a philosopher. Abstractions don't move me. I need to know what is happening to some human being. And when I found out, then I wrote about it.

As a columnist, you have this illusion that you're writing to change the world. But it is only an illusion. You may call people's attention to something. You may save some individuals. You hope to give people some insights into things.

I'm not willing to give up on rationality. I really believe it. Look, why have I been writing columns rather than jumping off the George Washington Bridge? I believe it's worth appealing to reason.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo: Anthony Lewis, retiring as a columnist. (The New York Times)

Load-Date: December 16, 2001



Admirers flock to imprisoned terrorist

USA TODAY
September 19, 2000, Tuesday,
FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS;

Length: 570 words

Byline: Matthew Kalman

Dateline: NABLUS, West Bank

Body

NABLUS, West Bank -- From here to Gaza, hundreds of Muslim <u>women</u> have only one dream: to marry Mahmoud Abu Hunud.

The bearded bachelor appears to be an unlikely object of mass adoration. He is the imprisoned commander of the Kassem Brigades,

the terrorist wing of the fundamentalist Islamic <u>Hamas</u> movement, which is battling Israeli control over Palestinian territory. Abu Hunud, 33, is responsible for suicide bombings in Israel that claimed 21 lives and injured 300 in 1997. He is serving a 12-year sentence in the Palestinian Authority's Jneid Prison near Nablus.

After four years on the run, he turned himself in to Palestinian security forces last month.

"Mahmoud is a hero, a young, brave man who has fought for the rights of his people," says Jihan Anabtawi, 21, a student at

Al-Najah University in Nablus. Like many of the <u>women</u> who have offered to wed Hunud, she says it would be an honor to marry someone who risked his life for the Palestinian cause. "I sent his family a message saying I am very interested in becoming his wife. I would be very proud if Mahmoud agrees. He is the dream of most of my friends at the university."

An Israeli commando unit caught up with Abu Hunud in his home village of Assirah al Shamilia in the hills above Nablus last

month. He managed to escape the ensuing gun battle, which left three Israeli soldiers dead from "friendly fire."

Wounded, Abu Hunud surrendered to Palestinian police. A week later, he was handed a 12-year prison sentence for endangering the security of Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

Overnight, Abu Hunud went from being Palestine's most-wanted criminal to its most-eligible bachelor. "I know many Palestinian girls who have expressed their interest in marrying Mahmoud," says Intisar el-Khalil, 23, another student at Al-Najah. "Mahmoud is a symbol of the Palestinian cause. Because he is a bachelor,

many <u>women</u> would like to marry him. I would also agree to marry him. This would be a big honor for me."

Anabtawi and Khalil might have to get to the back of a long line. Abu Hunud's family has been inundated with such requests.

"My brother has become a legend in our village and all over Palestine," says Abu Hunud's brother Mustapha. He says with a grin that marriage offers are pouring in. "Many of the admirers are from the (Palestinian) homeland, especially from Al-Najah University," Mustapha says. He says one woman called from Jordan to tell him she was prepared to wait until Abu Hunud had served his sentence.

Prison guards also are fielding calls from <u>women</u> eager to win the bomber's hand. Mustapha says one woman called the commander of Palestinian Military Intelligence in Nablus. Known by his nom de guerre, "Col. Castro," he is Abu Hunud's guard.

The call came in on the colonel's personal mobile phone, which has a number known to only a few people. Mustapha says the embarrassed guard handed the phone to Abu Hunud and said, "It's for you."

The excitement over Abu Hunud recalls a similar yearning felt among some Israeli girls for Yigal Amir, the religious Jewish student who murdered Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1995.

During the summer Festival of Love, an Israeli version of Valentine's Day, Jewish girls gather outside Beersheba prison, where Amir is in solitary confinement.

"There's something about him," Russian-born Tatiana, 23, said as she stood outside the Beersheba prison on the most recent holiday. "I want him to feel good and feel that today is the day of love."

Graphic

PHOTO, b/w, AFP; Abu Hunud: Responsible for suicide bombings that took 21 lives.

Load-Date: September 19, 2000



The Sunday Times (London)

March 1, 1998, Sunday

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Section: Features

Length: 1970 words

Byline: Uzi Mahnaimi and Andy Goldberg

Body

Another debacle by Mossad agents has put the future of the once-feared intelligence service under threat and forced its chief to resign. Uzi Mahnaimi and Andy Goldberg report.

Night was falling when Danny Yatom, head of Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency, left his mansion in a posh development near the Israeli-Jordanian border. He was travelling to headquarters. With few cars on the road, the drive took only half an hour.

It was Monday, February 16. Waiting for him at Hmidrasha (the academy), as Mossad central office is called, was the head of the operational unit in charge of breaking into embassies and other premises to install listening devices.

As his chauffer-driven Peugeot drew up to the headquarters, set on a small hill above the motorway entering northern Tel Aviv, Yatom pondered the final briefing he would give to a team of agents due to travel to Zurich the next morning.

Befitting his reputation as "the Prussian", Yatom walked into the second-floor briefing room punctually at 9pm. It was the same room he had used to brief agents departing six months previously for another mission - a disastrously bungled attempt to assassinate an Islamic fundamentalist leader in Jordan.

This time, however, he had few anxieties. The task was relatively mundane: planting a listening device in the home of a suspected Islamic militant abroad.

The head of the Keshet (arrow) unit was present, having just returned from reconnoitring the target in Switzerland. Also in attendance were two other men and two **women**, who were to pose as couples.

Studying the athletic men and blonde <u>women</u>, all casually dressed, Yatom was sat isfied the agents would not be conspicuous among Swiss citizens. He knew them all: they were an experienced team that had worked together on far more difficult assignments in Arab capitals.

The briefing was informal, according to a senior Mossad insider, with Yatom wanting to be clear on the technical aspects of the listening device, what its life span was and how clear the reception would be. As a young officer in an elite unit, he had been on similar missions himself.

At one point, said a source close to Yatom, the Mossad chief jokingly warned: "You know, the Swiss are idiots, but remember the Swiss neighbour." The team had been briefed to be wary of residents, especially in Switzerland's German-speaking cantons, because they have a tendency to call the police if they see any "improper" behaviour.

The following morning El Al flight 347 to Zurich left Ben Gurion airport at 9:30am. Most passengers were businessmen or Israelis living in Switzerland. There was little to set them apart from the two couples in business class, happily drinking and talking of their forthcoming skiing holiday.

At Kloten airport in Zurich, the agents, though they had foreign identities in reserve, showed Israeli passports and passed through immigration without incident. They were met by a colleague from Brussels, where Mossad's European headquarters is sited. He was the "technician" and carried state-of-the-art electronic eavesdropping equipment.

On February 19, Abdullah Zein was at home with his young Italian wife at his apartment in Liebefeld, a few kilometres south of Switzerland's capital, Berne.

A Shi'ite Muslim, Zein comes from the town of Ruman in southern Lebanon, where war between the Hezbollah guerrillas and the occupying Israeli troops continues. Last Thursday three Israelis died when Hezbollah rocketed their position with mortars; on Friday two Hezbollah fighters died in a clash with Israeli troops. Zein had escaped the violence and unemployment of southern Lebanon when family friends helped him get documents and a job in Switzerland. Israeli intelligence, however, believed Zein had never cut his ties with home.

According to an intelligence report, Zein was suspected of being one of the European fronts for Hezbollah, but Mossad had no hard evidence. To obtain it, the team was charged with planting a listening device on Zein's telephone.

The agents spent the day waiting in a safe house, making final checks and watching television. Some time after midnight, they set off in two cars with Swiss registration plates for Zein's six-storey apartment block in Wabersackerstrasse in Liebefeld. As ever, Switzerland after dark was quiet. The task ahead appeared straightforward.

THERE was a time when no hiding place was beyond the reach of Mossad. The agency made its reputation for daring efficiency by kidnapping Adolf Eichmann, the Nazi leader, who was smuggled out of Argentina to stand trial in Jerusalem in 1960. Later Mossad agents hunted down and eliminated the terrorists who killed Israeli wrestlers at the Munich Olympics in 1972.

Operating in Switzerland had never posed a problem. In 1993 Mossad executed a brilliant operation against a small bio-engineering firm near Zurich supplying materials to Iran. The Israelis learnt the firm was poised to export large metal vats used in the manufacture of bacteria. Days before the shipment, the factory was broken into and the metal containers blown up. "There is only one body in the world who could do something like that," the factory owner said. "The Israeli Mossad."

But confidence among the Mossad ranks has been badly undermined in recent months. Last September agents tried to assassinate Khaled Meshal, a leader of the Islamic fundamentalist <u>Hamas</u> movement, as he walked to his office in Amman. After a bizarre attempt to spray a spe cial poison into Meshal's ear, two Israel agents drove off arguing so fiercely that they failed to notice they had been followed. They ended up in a Jordanian jail, sparking a diplomatic crisis.

In the ensuing recriminations, other embarrassing details leaked. It emerged that for 20 years Yehuda Gil, a top Mossad handler, had invented false reports of Syrian intentions to attack Israel. His reports almost sparked two wars; it turned out he had made much of it up.

As he waited for news of the mission in Berne, Yatom knew his job was already under threat. He could not afford another debacle.

Outside Zein's apartment block, two of the agents remained in one car, posing as a couple after a late night out. The second couple and the technician entered the building, covering the glass door with paper so no activity could be seen from the street.

Zein's flat was on the third floor. Two of the agents remained in the hallway, the technician made for the basement, where he attempted to install a listening device ca pable of picking up Zein's telephone conversations.

Whether a resident was woken by some noise, or whether one simply happened to be awake and look out of the window is not clear. But at about 2am, one of Zein's neighbours noticed the lookout couple sitting in the car and called the police. Within minutes, a BMW arrived from the local police station.

The scouts had little time to warn their colleagues. All five were questioned. The couples, carrying nothing incriminating, somehow persuaded the police to let them go.

The technician's presence was less easily explained. Unsure what his electronic equipment was, the police refused to release him. The agent, according to Mossad sources, faked a heart attack and fell to the pavement - perhaps in the hope of being taken to hospital, from which he might disappear more easily than a police station - but he was still taken into custody. His four comrades got in one car and drove to France, crossing the border that night.

EARLY in the morning, Yatom was called at home. The voice on the other end of the telephone was that of the Keshet commander. "Our guys were caught," was all he said. Yatom immediately went to Mossad headquarters.

He alerted the foreign ministry, where diplomatic fixers contacted their Swiss counterparts. Berne was ready to cooperate in a cover-up, preferring not to draw public attention to the issue.

An understanding was reached: the Israelis apologised and made a deal to close the affair discreetly. But the infighting within Mossad has become almost as bitter as the enmity for more traditional foes. Though the Swiss debacle was yet another embarrassment, disaffected factions soon saw it as a weapon to use against Yatom.

His opponents within Mossad and in the office of Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister, leaked the story to the Israeli press, which pounced on it "like frenzied piranha", one Yatom loyalist said last week.

As sketchy details emerged in Israel, pressure mounted on the Swiss to make a statement. By early last week Yatom had little option but to call Netanyahu, his former friend, and tender his resignation. "Bibi, I have decided to go home," he said. When he gave an emotional farewell speech to Mossad agents at headquarters, some staff, taken by surprise by the man they considered cold and unemotional, gave him an ovation.

Netanyahu will this week decide on Yatom's replacement. He has told aides he wants a strong authority figure who will be able to impose his will on the disgraced organisation and rebuild some of its former glory.

Amiram Levine, a gutsy general who heads the Israeli army's northern command overseeing operations in Lebanon, has emerged as a top contender. Though he has the advantage of being Netanyahu's commander from the days when the Israeli premier was a young com mando, he might run into opposition from disgruntled Mossad operatives who are angry that once again nobody from their ranks is considered up to the task.

Another candidate, Meir Dagan, a flamboyant general favoured by Netanyahu, will run into the same obstacles. The job may yet fall to Shabtai Shavit, Yatom's predecessor and one of his main critics, or Ephraim Halevy, a former deputy Mossad chief with excellent ties throughout the Arab world.

Whoever Netanyahu chooses, salvaging Mossad from its present shambles will require radical change. "The foulups are not the problem but the symptom," said one insider, who describes the organisation as so bedevilled by cronyism, self-doubt and amateurism that it is barely able to provide the intelligence on which Israel's security relies.

Others say the modern Mossad may never regain its legendary status. Like the army, it now has difficulty recruiting top-notch candidates.

Both services, once the preserve of Israel's elite, have declining attractions in a nation that has become less idealistic. The young generation wants to make money.

"Smart kids do their national service and go into business," one military analyst said. "We get the guys who can't quite cut it."

In an effort to plug its brain drain, Mossad was granted extra money last week to fund better pay. "To succeed we need to attract Israel's finest, and that costs big money these days," a Mossad source said. "We've got no choice: we need the best for the survival of the country."

MOSSAD'S MISTAKES

July 1973

Mossad agents gunned down Ahmed Bouchiki, a Moroccan waiter, in Lillehammer as he walked home with his pregnant Norwegian wife. They mistakenly believed he was one of the Palestinian terrorists who massacred 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympic games

July 1987

Naji Ali, a Palestinian cartoonist, shot in the face at a London coffee shop. Mossad station inside Israeli embassy in London was later expelled after Israeli agents implicated in the killing

September 1997

Mossad hit squad tried to assassinate Khaled Meshal, a leader of the Islamic fundamentalist group <u>Hamas</u>, in an Amman street. Two agents captured as they fled arguing. Israel later released the spiritual leader of <u>Hamas</u>, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, believed to be in exchange for the agents.

October 1997

Mossad embarrassed by revelation that its spymaster Yehuda Gil for 20 years invented supposed top-secret reports from an agent in Damascus. The reports almost sparked two wars by 'revealing' Syria was about to attack Israel.

Graphic

Focus

Load-Date: March 4, 1998



<u>HEZBOLLAH LEADER WARNS ISRAEL, URGES PALESTINIANS TO REVOLT</u>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

May 27, 2000, Saturday, FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

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Section: NEWS, Pg. 4

Length: 614 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Dateline: BINT JBEIL, LEBANON

Body

* Sheik Hassan Nasrallah says, however, that his guerrilla group is not a substitute for the state in southern Lebanon.

Hezbollah's triumphant leader warned Israel on Friday to leave Lebanon alone or expect reprisals. He also urged Palestinians celebrating Israel's chaotic departure from southern Lebanon to rise up anew against the Israelis.

Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, whose Iranian-backed guerrillas have been riding a wave of enthusiasm since Israel's departure this week, made it clear that it was too early to retire the Katyusha rockets it has periodically launched into Israel as part of its struggle to force Israel off Lebanese soil.

"If Israel commits any aggression against Lebanon, it will pay a high price," Nasrallah told 30,000 cheering supporters crowding a stadium and spilling into the streets of this former Israeli stronghold.

"The time when we were afraid of threats by Israel, the time when its planes and tanks and gunboats violated our skies, land and sea - that time is gone," he said. "You are today in Bint Jbeil safe and happy, and they are in the northern settlements of Palestine along all the border te rrified before an unknown future."

But Nasrallah said his guerrilla group, which led the Lebanese resistance after Israel invaded in 1982, was not a substitute for the state in southern Lebanon.

"The state is the one responsible. We are absolutely not responsible for the security in this area," he said, standing in front of Lebanon's flag and a banner that carried the number 1,276 - the total of Hezbollah guerrillas killed in the fighting. Draped from the podium was Hezbollah's logo, an arm clutching an AK-47 assault rifle and the words, "Hezbollah will conquer."

"Oh God, oh God preserve Nasrallah for us!" the crowd shouted, thrusting clenched fists in the air. Hezbollah's yellow-and-red flags fluttered over the white and black turbans of Shiite Muslim clerics, colorful headscarves of **women** and baseball caps worn by men to guard against the baking sun.

The jubilation since Israel's final departure Wednesday has spread beyond Lebanon, with Arab world officials and media praising Hezbollah. Supporters of the Islamic militant group <u>Hamas</u> in the West Bank town of Nablus celebrated in a march Friday to support Palestinian prisoners on hunger strikes. They raised the slogan, "Hezbollah is the victor." Others chanted, "Hezbollah is brave, moving forward."

HEZBOLLAH LEADER WARNS ISRAEL, URGES PALESTINIANS TO REVOLT

Nasrallah urged Palestinians to follow Hezbollah's example to regain their land, saying that if Palestinians wait for the international community, "You will get nowhere."

"In order to liberate your land, you don't need tanks and planes. With the example of martyrs, you can impose your demands on the Zionist aggressors," he said. "Israel may own nuclear weapons and heavy weaponry, but, by God, it is weaker than a spider's web."

Nasrallah also had a message for Arab leaders: "We demand from the Arab governments at a minimum to stop the normalization of relations and sever relations with Israel."

Israel completed its troop pullout from Lebanon before dawn Wednesday - six weeks ahead of its self-imposed July 7 deadline - as Israeli-allied militiamen dropped their weapons and fled in the face of advancing guerrillas and their supporters.

U.N. teams, meanwhile, fanned out in southern Lebanon to ensure Israel has withdrawn completely.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Friday in New York that he would send several thousand peacekeeping troops to southern Lebanon once the United Nations has formally verified that Israel's withdrawal from a border zone it occupied for 18 years was complete. Annan said he expected to have the certification of Israel's withdrawal "in the next few days."

Load-Date: May 27, 2000



TRAVELS IN A LAND WITHOUT HOPE; IN HIS 25 YEARS AS A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT, ROBERT FISK HAS REPORTED FROM MANY OF THE WORLD'S WORST TROUBLE -SPOTS. FEW HAVE FILLED HIM WITH SUCH FOREBODING AS GAZA, WHERE HE RECENTLY SPENT SEVERAL WEEKS. THESE ARE HIS IMPRESSIONS OF A REGION CONVULSED BY HATRED

The Independent (London)

August 29, 2001, Wednesday

Copyright 2001 Independent Print Ltd **Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 1,7

Length: 4201 words

Byline: Robert Fisk Gaza's streets are lined with images of Palestinian 'martyrs'; (top); 13 -year-old Fares Udah (pictured above on 29 October 2000) wanted to join them. Ten days later, Israeli soldiers shot him dead; Main picture, top: the Israeli fort at Netzarim Junction - Israeli soldiers have destroyed all the surrounding buildings. Above, left and below: Palestinian youths express their anger and defiance Antonio Olmos; Ahmed;

Jadallah/Reuters; Thomas Coex/AP

Body

There wasn't a scrap of Inas Abu Zein left. She was only seven, and the martyrs posters already going up around Khan Younis show her to have been a small, delicate-featured little girl. But there wasn't a trace of her amid the fragments of corrugated iron and plastic, not in the soft brown Gaza sand. Inas had been atomised, turned to dust in a millisecond. "I will show you where the missile came from," a whey-faced boy told me, pointing far across the sand to where a clutch of hovels - old concrete huts with rag windows and flapping, sand-caked washing - stood near the horizon. "The Israelis fired from behind those houses. It was a tank."

Was it so? I said that to myself, not as a question but as another of those little remarks you find yourself making in Gaza. Lie? Truth? Do they matter when a war has grown so brutal, so cruel as this? Inas's father Sulieman died with her. So did his six-year-old son, also named Sulieman. I don't think I've come across a war in which children are killed so quickly. If it's not an Israeli baby in a Palestinian sniper's crosshairs, it's two pesky Palestinian kids stupid enough to stand outside a <u>Hamas</u> office when the Israelis have chosen to blow the place away, or schoolkids who decide to take an early afternoon pizza, or Inas and Sulieman junior who got in the way or - if <u>Hamas</u> was lying and the Israelis are telling the truth - were turned to wet dust by their father's bomb.

The Palestinian Authority had made a clean sweep of the Abu Zeins' back yard. If he was making a bomb, it had disappeared, like Inas. I poked around amid the desert trash. There were some pulverised bits of plastic roofing, more corrugated metal. The explosion, in the late evening, must have occurred beneath the plastic. How could an Israeli missile fly over the other huts, turn the corner outside the Abu Zeins' back yard, pass over the yard walls and then dip below the plastic roof to blow the family apart? But who would make a bomb with his two tiny children standing next to him? Or maybe there was a bomb hidden at the back of the yard and Inas or Sulieman junior touched it.

A little crowd had gathered round us, unsmiling, suspicious. It's not so easy now to investigate these deaths. "I'm Norwegian, but Palestinians have started to look at me in the street and talk about me as if I'm an American," a smiling Norwegian lady aid worker told me. "They blame the Americans for what the Israelis do. And now they blame the Europeans because we do nothing to help them." Which is exactly what happened to foreigners in Lebanon 15 years ago. The Norwegian lady was right. I was watched as I walked through the street in Gaza City, scrutinised by small crowds in Rafah. At Kalandia - just outside Jerusalem, on the road to Ramallah - a Palestinian boy of perhaps 12 looked at my car's Israeli registration plates, picked up an iron bar and smashed it as hard as he could on to the back mudguard. Two men in a truck - we were all waiting at one of Israel's humiliating checkpoints - jeered at me.

Everywhere in Gaza, you notice the signs of collapse, of incipient anarchy. The murals used to show Yasser Arafat's beaming, ugly mug and pictures of the Al Aqsa mosque. Now they are filled with exploding buses and dead children and Israeli soldiers on their backs with blood squirting from their heads. "They don't even talk about Arafat any more," a Palestinian cafe owner says to me as three horse-drawn water carts clop lazily past us. "There's only one joke going the rounds about him. Arafat is at Camp David and the Israelis are demanding that he 'ends the violence'. And Arafat replies: 'I can't end the violence until I can stop my lips from trembling.'"

Arafat's growing senility is a source of deepening concern. Not far from Hebron, I meet a prominent Palestinian figure, important enough to require anonymity in this context, who shakes his head in despair. "What can Arafat do now? His marriage is in bits - he's only seen his wife for three minutes in the past 10 months. His child needs a father and he's not there. And he's allowing the whole place to tribalise and disintegrate. There is complete disintegration here."

It's true. On the road south of Nablus, a yellow Palestinian taxi is hit by a stone - apparently thrown by an Israeli driver in an oncoming car, or that's what the cops thought - and careers off the road. Its driver, Kemal Mosalem, is killed outright. But when his body arrives at the Rafidiye hospital, his family apparently believe he has been killed by a rival Palestinian clan led by Ali Frej. The two families have been feuding over control of the local branch of Fatah (the dominant faction of the PLO). The Frej family then ambush the grieving Mosalem family with Kalashnikov rifles. Among the four Palestinian dead are Ali Frej and a Fatah official who had been part of Jibril Rajoub's "preventative security" outfit. Six others are wounded. These are Arafat's people. They are killing each other. And Arafat remains silent.

Yet here's the thing. Ariel Sharon keeps saying that Arafat is a murderer, a super-terrorist, the leader of "international terror", linked to Osama bin Laden, a man who gives orders for the murder of kids in pizza parlours. And the Israeli public are buying this, their journalists front-paging it, their people repeating it over and over. Talking to Israelis - in taxis, on aeroplanes, in cafes - I keep hearing the same stuff. Terror, murder, filth. Like a cassette. Where have I heard this before?

In Gaza, I cannot fail to remember Beirut in 1982, when Sharon's invading army had surrounded the PLO. Gaza now is a miniature Beirut. Under Israeli siege, struck by F-16s and tank fire and gunboats, starved and often powerless - there are now six-hour electricity cuts a day - it's as if Arafat and Sharon are replaying their bloody days in Lebanon. And Sharon used to call Arafat a mass murderer back then. It's important not to become obsessed during wars. But Sharon's words were like a ghost to me. Every morning in these past few weeks, I would pick up the Jerusalem Post. And there on the front page, as usual, would be another Sharon diatribe. PLO murderers, Palestinian Authority terror. Murderous terrorists.

Each day, I travel to the scene of new Israeli incursions. The Israelis bomb Palestinian police stations, Palestinian security annexes, Palestinian police positions. Why the police? I drive round the Gaza Strip with an old friend from the Beirut war, a European aid worker who still bears the webbed scar of a bullet in his arm and stomach - the round punctured his spleen and liver. "Now if you look to your right, Bob, there's the police station that the Israelis bombed two weeks ago," he says. There's a mass of burned-out rooms and a crumpled office. "And just round the corner here is the police post the Israelis hit last week." More trashed buildings. "And down that road you can just see the Palestinian offices that were hit in July." After the early raids, the Palestinians would do a guick rebuilding

and repainting job. Now they no longer bother. But how can Arafat "arrest the murderers" if the Israelis are going to destroy all his police stations?

There was a story told to me by one of the men investigating Sharon's responsibility for the Sabra and Chatila massacre, that the then Israeli defence minister - before he sent his Phalangist allies into the Sabra and Chatila camps - announced that Palestinian "terrorists" had murdered the Phalangists' newly assassinated leader, president-elect Bashir Gemayel. Sharon was to say later that he never dreamed the Phalange would massacre the Palestinians. But how could he say that if he had claimed earlier that the Palestinians killed the leader of the Phalange? In reality, no Palestinians were involved. It might seem odd in this new war to be dwelling on that earlier blood-letting. But I was fascinated by the language. Murderers, terrorists. That's what Sharon said then. And that's what he says now. Did he really make that statement in 1982? I began to work the phone from Jerusalem, calling up Associated Press bureaux that might still have their files from 19 years ago. He would have made that speech if indeed he used those words - some time on 15 September.

One Sunday afternoon, my phone rings in Jerusalem. It's from an American Jewish man whom I met in Jaffa Street after the *Hamas* suicide bomber blew himself and 15 Israeli civilians to pieces on 9 August. An Israeli woman had been screaming abuse at me - foreign journalists are being insulted by both sides with ever more violent language - and this man suddenly intervenes to protect me. He's smiling and cheerful - courageous might be the right word after the atrocity that had just been committed - and we exchange phone numbers. Now on the phone, he says he's taking the El Al night flight back home to New York with his wife. Would I like to drop by for tea before he goes?

He turns out to have a luxurious apartment next to the King David Hotel and I notice, when I read his name on the outside security buzzer, that he's a rabbi. He's angry because a neighbour has just let down a friend's car tyres in the underground parking lot and he's saying how he felt like smashing the windows of the neighbour's car. His wife, bringing me tea and feeding me cookies, says that her husband - again, he should remain anonymous - gets angry very quickly. There's a kind of gentleness about them both - how easy it is to spot couples who are still in love - that is appealing. But when the rabbi starts to talk about the Palestinians, his voice begins to echo through the apartment. He says several times that Sharon is a good friend of his, a fine man, who's been to visit him in his New York office.

"What we should do is go into those vermin pits and take out the terrorists and murderers. Vermin pits, yes, I said vermin, animals. I tell you what we should do. If one stone is lobbed from a refugee camp, we should bring the bulldozers and tear down the first 20 houses close to the road. If there's another stone, another 20 houses. They'd soon learn not to throw stones. Look, I tell you this. Stones are lethal. If you throw a stone at me, I'll shoot you. I have the right to shoot you."

Now, the rabbi is a generous man. He'd been in Israel to donate a vastly important - and, I have no doubt, vastly expensive - medical centre to the country. He was well-read. And I liked the fact that, unlike too many Israelis and Palestinians who put on a "we-only-want-peace" routine to hide more savage thoughts, he at least spoke his mind. But this was getting out of hand. Why should I throw a stone at the rabbi? He shouted again. "If you throw a stone at me, I will shoot you." But if you throw a stone at me, I won't shoot you, I said. Because I have the right not to shoot you. He frowned. "Then I'd say you're out of your mind."

I was driving home when it suddenly hit me. The Old and New Testaments had just collided. The rabbi's dad had taught him about an eye for an eye - or 20 homes for a stone, in this case - whereas my dad had taught me about turning the other cheek. Judaism and Christianity had collided. So was it any surprise that Judaism and Islam were colliding? For despite all the talk of Christians and Jews being "people of the Book", Muslims are beginning to express ever harsher views of Jews. The sickening <u>Hamas</u> references to Jews as "the sons of pigs and monkeys" are echoed by Israelis who talk of Palestinians as cockroaches, who tell you - as my friend the rabbi did to me - that Islam is a warrior religion, a religion that does not value human life. And I recalled several times the Jewish settler who told me back in 1993 - in Gaza, just before the Oslo accords were signed - that "we do not recognise their Koran as a valid document".

Now it's my turn to get angry. I walk out of the Independent's office and home in the Jerusalem suburb of Abu Tor to find my car surrounded by glass. The driver's window has been smashed, the radio torn out. It is plastered with "TV" stickers, in the hope that Palestinian gunmen and Israeli soldiers will not open fire. Abu Tor is mostly Arab although the Independent's house is right on the old green line, Arabs to the right of the front door, mostly Jews to the left. I drive down to the Hertz rental agency, sitting on piles of glass. The girl tells me that to avail of Hertz's insurance, I have to report the robbery to the police. She tells me to go to the Russian Compound.

I know a bit about the Russian Compound from Amnesty's reports. This is where most of the Israeli torture goes on, the infamous, and occasionally deadly, "shaking" of suspected Palestinian "terrorists". It should be an interesting trip. The moment I park my car, a loudspeaker shrieks at me in Hebrew. A cop tells me that for security reasons I have to park round the corner. No trouble with that. I watch two big police vans with sealed windows pass through the security barrier. I park and return to the door. "Where was your car robbed?" I was asked. Just outside the office, in Abu Tor, I replied. The policewoman shrugged. "Well, what do you expect?" she asked. I understood what she meant. Abu Tor is mostly Arab, Palestinian. And Arabs rob, don't they, they steal car radios as well as blow up pizzerias. I waited for an hour. There was no cop to make out a report, although there were more than 200 surrounding Orient House, half a mile away across the city.

I spent three days watching the pathetic demonstrations that followed Israel's seizure of the PLO offices. Hanan Ashrawi, the senior PLO spokeswoman and politician, turned up to demand the right to enter. She was refused. But she came a day late, when most of the TV cameras had gone. Always late, the Palestinians.

But even when the cameras were there, it didn't stop the border police turning on several Palestinian youths. They were beaten in front of the cameras, groined and punched and head-locked by six cops. One was laid in a van where he was held down so that another policemen could stamp on his testicles. A young security man couldn't take his eyes off this vile scene, bending down low, right in front of me, to see where the other cop's boot was landing between the youth's thighs. How could they do this in front of the cameras? I kept asking myself. And then the dark thought occurred to me: that the police want the cameras to film this, that they want the Palestinians to see what happens to them when they oppose Israel, when they demonstrate, when they object - as one boy did - by holding up a paper Palestinian flag.

I think it's the psychological shock of violence that always hits first. The sudden realisation that human beings are going to hurt each other. It afflicts everyone in this conflict. I had been attending the funeral of a *Hamas* man in Tulkarem, in the north of the occupied West Bank, and was returning to my taxi, which was parked on the Israeli side of the line. On the map of the West Bank and Gaza - a broken window of settler roads and frontiers - Area A is supposed to be Palestinian-controlled and Area C Israeli-controlled. When I'd crossed from Area C to Area A in the morning, the road was a litter of garbage and stones. But when I returned, there was a battle in progress, kids throwing stones at Israeli positions, rubber-coated steel bullets thwacking back through the trees, burning tyres.

I was tired and hungry and impatient to return to Jerusalem. So I grabbed the boys beside the burning tyres and told them I was a journalist, that I had to cross back through the line. I found two more sinister figures lurking in a wrecked bus shelter. I told them the same. Then I walked between the burning tyres towards the unseen Israelis, slowly, almost a dawdle. Then a stone landed at my feet. Just a very small stone, but it landed with a nasty little crack. Then, when I turned round, another hissed past my face. One of the Palestinian boys began to shriek with laughter. I kept walking slowly and realised that I would have physically to dodge each well -aimed stone calmly, as if it was perfectly normal for an Independent correspondent to be stoned by Palestinians on a hot summer's afternoon. The road ran parallel with Area A now, and a teenager with a sling-shot came crashing through the trees - I could hear the whir of the rope. The stone came towards me so fast that I couldn't duck, but it missed me by about a foot and smashed into the iron wall of an Israeli factory. The crash made me look around. I was in the middle of an abandoned garden shop, surrounded by pots and cement eagles and deer and tree-holders. One of the eagles had lost its head. Then three more stones, maybe 8in long. I realised what had happened, of course. The Palestinians knew I was a foreign journalist - I had shown them my Lebanese press card. But the moment I crossed the line, I had become an Israeli. The moment they could no longer distinguish my face, they no longer

cared. I was an Israeli because I was on the Israeli side of the line. And I wonder what my friend the rabbi would have done.

Back in Jerusalem, I work the phone again, trying to track down that elusive quotation. If you call people animals, terrorists, vermin, can you be surprised when they behave so violently? Is it any wonder that Arafat is himself tribalising the garbage tips he still controls, playing the Musris and Nabulsis of Nablus off against each other, backing the Shakars of Nablus and the Shawars of Gaza, placating *Hamas* or Islamic Jihad by saying nothing about their organisations, merely issuing routine condemnation of suicide bombings, and by mouthing the old revolutionary rhetoric I used to hear in Lebanon 20 years ago? Some say he is now frightened of the religious men, fearful of the contrast between the ideology of the suicide bomber and the tired, inept, corrupt old men who surround him. I found one of them in an office, swigging from a beer bottle.

And I think of Lebanon again, of the disintegration of armies. And I realise, each time I see their checkpoints and their beatings, that the Israeli army is suffering its own disintegration; you notice it everywhere, the sullen, violent soldiers for whom stone-throwers are worthy of execution, the indiscipline of the police, the casual acceptance of murder squads and death-by-missile.

On the way to Jenin, we are stopped by Israeli border guards. On the sweaty road, we call the Israeli army press office for permission to pass. There's a small Jewish settlement up the hill, all red roofs and luscious foliage. It's strange how naturally we treat these little land- thefts now. By calling them settlements and their inhabitants "settlers", we all help to perpetuate a lie, that these people are in the Old West tradition, making the badlands bloom, ready to fight off the natives. And we forget that this is the only colonial project still in existence - the French word for settlers, colons, is more accurate - and this battle between Palestinians and Israelis is the world's last colonial war. As long as the Israelis can puff it up as a "war against terror", they'll be able to conceal this. But we should be using the word "colony". Just as the French did before they were driven out of Algeria.

Then the border guards get bored. One of them switches on the Jeep's loudspeaker and hooks the mike to his mobile phone and begins playing the music "hold" button. Three lines of the 1812 Overture, three lines of Beethoven's Fifth, three lines of the Water Music, all squawking out at high decibels, distorted and high-pitched, spilling its hi-tech destruction of the world's greatest musicians over the sweltering road with its lizards and bushes and garbage.

It's a relief to find sanity. On a flight into Tel Aviv I find myself sitting next to an Israeli paratroop officer. I give him my own gloomy assessment - an "intifada" that will go on until 2004. He says it will last well into 2006. "And in the end, we'll be back on the '67 border and give them East Jerusalem as their capital," he says. And then he adds: "But given the way we're treating them, I'd be surprised if they'd settle for that." I ask a Palestinian in Rafah what he thinks. "Two thousand and five, 2006, what difference does it make? But I tell you one thing. After this 'intifada' is over, there will be a revolt against Arafat. How did he ever allow this to happen? How did he ever think he could win?"

And again I remember Beirut. After Arafat and the PLO left Lebanon in 1982, a rebellion started among his own guerrillas. A man called Abu Moussa turned Palestinian against Palestinian, helping to lay siege to the PLO when Arafat briefly returned to the Lebanese city of Tripoli. The Syrians chose Abu Moussa as mutineer - he still lives in Damascus - and so I find myself asking who is the new Abu Moussa? Have the Israelis chosen him yet?

I am driving again through Gaza. Beside the road, a group of middle- aged men are sitting under a green awning; some have their heads in their hands, others are just looking at the sand. They are mourning Mohamed Abu Arrar, shot in the head by an Israeli soldier while throwing stones. He was just 13.

Every wall has become a mosaic of posters: dead youths, dead old men, dead children, dead <u>women</u>, dead suicide bombers; usually they have a coloured photograph of the Al Aqsa mosque behind their heads, a building some of them will never have seen.

Just outside Khan Younis, the Israelis have bulldozed acres of citrus groves and houses - for "security" reasons, of course, since there is a Jewish settlement in the distance - and left yet another bit of "Palestine" looking like the moon. "Well, they say it's for security of course," a European official tells me. "But I have a question. There were three houses standing over there, one of them was finished and lived in, the other two were still just walls and roofs. The Israelis said they could be used for ambushes. So a bulldozer comes and totally demolishes the completed home, and then just destroys the staircase of the two unfinished houses. Now, how can that be for 'security'?"

Down at Rafah, I come across the truly surreal. A middle-aged man steps out of a tent right on the border - the Egyptian flag behind him almost touching the Israeli flag - and asks me if I would like to see the ruins of his toy shop. And there it is, right beside the tent, a tumble of concrete blocks, model telephones, lampshades, clocks, toy helicopters and one large outsize till. "The Israelis destroyed it in May and I stayed till the very last moment, running into that alleyway when the tanks arrived," he says. Mohamed al-Shaer, it turns out, is a Palestinian with an Egyptian passport. "I've got one house over there behind the palm tree," he says, pointing across the Israeli frontier wall. "And I'm here to guard this property." He's allowed to pass back and forth like other dual-citizen Rafah residents because of a 1906 agreement between the Ottoman Empire and Britain that he proceeds to explain in complex and unending detail. Behind him, children are flying kites and - each time a kite floats over the frontier wire - an Israeli soldier fires a shot. It cracks across the muck and sand and the children shout with pleasure. "Cracrack", it goes again. "They always shoot at the kites or the kids," Mohamed al-Shaer says. He learnt his English as a computer programmer in Cairo and explains fluently that the real reason he stays is that he has a brother whom he distrusts, that the brother lives on the Palestinian side of Rafah and might re-register the land on which the shop was built as his own if Mohamed returned to Egypt. Every night, Palestinians shoot from these streets at the Israelis - which is why the Israelis destroyed Mohamed al -Shaer's shop. "These were the bullet holes from last night," he says, pointing at three fist-sized cavities in the wall of the nearest building. "I could hear the bullets going over my tent." I wonder how this little cameo can be written: a Palestinian at war with his own brother, sitting in a tent next to a demolished toy shop watching the Israelis shooting at kites.

I call up an old friend, an American Jewish woman with a talent for going through archives. I give her the date that is still going through my head, 15 September 1982, the last hours for up to 2,000 Palestinians who were about to be murdered in the Sabra and Chatila camps in Beirut. She comes back on the line the same night. "Turn your fax on," Shifra says. "You're going to want to read this." The paper starts to crinkle out of the machine. An AP report of 15 September 1982. "Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, in a statement, tied the killing (of the Phalangist leader Gemayel) to the PLO, saying that "it symbolises the terrorist murderousness of the PLO terrorist organisations and their supporters".

A few hours later, Sharon sent the Phalange into the camps. Reading that fax again and again, I felt a chill come over me. There are Israelis today who feel as much rage towards the Palestinians as the Phalange felt 19 years ago. And these are the same words I am hearing today, from the same man, about the same people. Why?

Load-Date: August 29, 2001



Families Press for Release of Palestinian Prisoners

The New York Times

December 9, 1998, Wednesday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 3; Column 1; Foreign Desk ; Column 1;

Length: 1303 words

Byline: By DEBORAH SONTAG

By DEBORAH SONTAG

Dateline: BETHLEHEM, West Bank, Dec. 8

Body

They are the mothers of the Palestinian prisoners with what the Israelis call blood on their hands. Scarves swaddling their heads, the <u>women</u> sit cross-legged on Muslim prayer rugs inside an army tent in a public square here, holding framed photographs in their laps.

Since Saturday they have been fasting in solidarity with their sons, prisoners on hunger strike in Israeli jails.

One by one they wearily offered hair-raising testimonials. Aziza al-Hiraimi's son was a bomb-maker for *Hamas*, the militant Islamic group. Mazumeh Abu Srur's son killed a member of Shin Bet, the Israeli security agency. Watfa al-Afandi's son stabbed an Israeli civilian to death in Jerusalem. Amouneh Abed Rabu's killed two Jews in the West Bank town of Beit Jala.

Some of the <u>women</u> see their sons, who have been in jail for almost a decade, as heroes of the battle for Palestinian independence. To others they are just sons, who must be defended no matter what they did.

But to all, the young men are victims, imprisoned because they followed their leaders' orders to pursue an armed struggle. Now the leaders are shaking hands with the Israelis, the mothers said, but their sons are withering away behind bars, many serving life sentences.

"The Israelis killed thousands of Arabs and they keep saying my son's hands are filled with blood," said Mrs. Abed Rabu, holding a giant gilded frame with her son's picture. "Their soldiers walk free. Our soldiers stay locked up. Is our blood cheap, and theirs precious and expensive? The war is supposed to be over."

For more than two weeks there have been mass protests on behalf of the prisoners and violent clashes across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In every Palestinian town, and in East Jerusalem, the prisoners' relatives have put up makeshift tents -- bases for fasting, camping and marching into familiar confrontation with Israeli soldiers.

Families Press for Release of Palestinian Prisoners

With every day, until the relative calm of today, the unrest has gained momentum, threatening the Israeli-Palestinian peace effort. In response to the violence, the Israelis have frozen the land-for-security plan, and it appears increasingly unlikely that they will carry out the second of three withdrawals from the West Bank as scheduled by Dec. 18.

And with every day, the prisoner issue has assumed greater importance.

Some youths are referring to the riots as "the prisoners' intifada," evoking the Palestinian uprising of 1987-1993. The anniversary of that uprising's outbreak will be celebrated on Wednesday. Israeli officials have seized on the label to paint the unrest as a breakdown of the peace effort.

Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, cut short a trip abroad to oversee the containment of the violence, which, in the days before President Clinton's visit to the region, has taken on anti-American as well as anti-Israeli overtones.

To the Palestinians, the fate of their prisoners is as deeply felt as any issues that were on the table during the peace talks at the Wye River Plantation in October. They negotiated hard for what was agreed would be the release, in three batches, of 750 of the roughly 2,200 Palestinian prisoners.

But when the Israelis released the first group, most were common criminals, not political prisoners. The Israelis said that was because, as agreed, they would not free any terrorists or anyone with "Israeli blood on his hands," and that disqualified everyone but about 100 security detainees.

The Palestinians say that was not the agreement. "No one thinks we went to Wye to get our car thieves liberated," said Ahmed Qurei, known as Abu Ala, the speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council. "This has created a difficult and complicated situation with our people, and the Israelis need to amend it."

The Americans say publicly that the Israelis have stuck to the letter of the agreement on the prisoner issue, but privately some American officials say the Israelis have wiggle room. And Israeli security officials have pressed others in the Government to consider loosening their criteria for release to avoid an explosion in the jails and on the streets.

Mr. Qurei said President Clinton himself was immersed in the details of the prisoner negotiations, in the haggling over who specifically could be freed -- "how much from Fatah, how much from **Hamas**."

Generally, Palestinian officials say the understanding was that members of the Fatah movement -- the Palestine Liberation Organization branch led by Mr. Arafat -- who had taken part in terrorist acts could be freed if they had not directly committed murder and if the acts had been undertaken before the Oslo peace accord was signed in 1993.

Ahmed Tibi, a senior aide to Mr. Arafat, said only a fraction, about 300, of the Palestinian prisoners had been directly involved in bloodshed.

If so, they are overrepresented in the tent in Bethlehem.

To sit with the mothers here, on the rugs that do little to make the cold pavement softer, is to enter a mind-set clouded by years of living under Israeli occupation.

To talk with them, as with the prisoners' advocates who occupied the tent beside the Red Cross building in East Jerusalem, is to understand that one man's terrorist is indeed another man's freedom fighter.

"My son is a good boy, a smart boy," said Mrs. Afandi, whose son has served 7 years of a 30-year sentence for stabbing an Israeli in Jerusalem.

"The Jews made him what he was," she said. "When he was a student at Bethlehem University the Jews beat him severely. During the intifada they stormed our house. They beat his brother. I was injured by a rubber bullet. After what he experienced, he understood the cause deeply. He rose to our defense. He reacted."

Families Press for Release of Palestinian Prisoners

Mrs. Hiraimi nodded, holding up a prison portrait of her 27-year-old son, his hands and legs in shackles. "My son was preparing some bombs when he was caught," she said. "Thank God. I am proud of what they did, our sons. They didn't do anything shameful. They devoted their life to our cause."

The mothers described years of grueling trips to visit their sons in prison. Wrapped in traditional Islamic dress, they complained about being strip-searched by the Israelis, down to their false teeth.

In East Jerusalem the fathers and brothers kept camp in the tent beside the Red Cross building, chain-smoking to distract themselves from hunger pangs after several days of fasting. In contrast to gatherings of prisoners' relatives elsewhere, no one maintained that the charges were false.

Perched on stools, leaning on canes and peering through thick bifocals, they, like the mothers in Bethlehem, talked frankly about their relatives' offenses -- "military activities," like kidnapping and killing Israeli soldiers or hijacking airplanes, they said.

"My son was a soldier in the P.L.O." who followed orders from its leaders, said Kasem Bakhatan. "His cell was active in attacking Israelis, in injuring them. But what he did was before Oslo and the peace agreements. It was during the armed struggle. Now we are in the midst of peace."

In the Israeli jails, hundreds of Palestinians are refusing to eat as part of a hunger strike that stretches from the detention tents of Megiddo to the concrete cells of Ashkelon.

Israeli prison officials are concerned about an uprising timed with Mr. Clinton's visit, which begins on Saturday, just as Palestinian officials are worried that a general strike in solidarity with the prisoners, called for Monday, could get out of hand.

During clashes that grew out of the prisoners' marches, the nephew of Saeb Erekat -- a Palestinian negotiator who is a familiar figure in Middle East diplomacy, often seen translating into Mr. Arafat's ear -- was struck by a rubber bullet on Monday.

The nephew, Nasser Erekat, who Mr. Erekat said had climbed onto a rooftop to urge his younger brother to come in out of harm's way, was pronounced clinically dead today.

Graphic

Photo: Among Palestinian prisoners' mothers on hunger strike in a tent in Bethlehem yesterday, from bottom left: Amouneh Abed Rabu, Mazumeh Abu Srur and Aziza al-Hiraimi. The woman at top left is unidentified. (Rina Castelnuovo for The New York Times)

Map showing the location of Bethlehem: In Bethlehem an encampment of prisoners' mothers is protesting.

Load-Date: December 9, 1998



NEWS: OTHER

Western Morning News (Plymouth)

November 1, 2001

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Section: NEWS: OTHER, Pg.24

Length: 695 words

Body

Cache of gold found under the rubble

RECOVERY workers at the World Trade Centre have found a cache of gold which has already filled two lorries. The precious metal find may be part of the vault containing more than GBP 137 million in gold and silver which was buried under the twin towers when they collapsed. The vault was owned by the Bank of Nova Scotia, which held the gold and silver as security for trading international currencies in New York. Work is continuing to get at the gold, after the first two loads of the metal left under tight security on Tuesday night. Workers had toiled for two days to clear a delivery tunnel under the World Trade Centre, taking out tonnes of debris, a ten-wheeled lorry and several crushed cars. Watched by hundreds of heavily -armed Secret Service agents, FBI and police, they built a ramp into the tunnel to allow an armoured truck to drive in.

Bullet-proof doors

BULLET-PROOF doors have been introduced for the first time on British passenger planes. Sir Richard Branson, the Virgin Atlantic chairman, said the armour-plated cockpit door was a "necessary safety change" after the September 11 suicide hijackings which destroyed the World Trade Centre and part of the Pentagon. British Airways is conducting similar security measures by fitting full-length armour -plating which will substantially reinforce cockpit door exteriors and prevent unauthorised access to the flight deck on all its 340 planes. The first door on a Virgin Atlantic jet was installed on a New York-bound 747 200 from Heathrow, renamed The Spirit of New York, which yesterday carried British emergency personnel to help with the recovery effort at the World Trade Centre site.

Remember women

AN AFGHAN woman urged the UN Security Council to ensure that the country's war-battered <u>women</u> are included in any peace negotiations, despite their current second-class status. "Do not think that because <u>women</u> wear a veil we do not have a voice," said Jamila, who heads an organisation that helps Afghan refugee <u>women</u> in Pakistan. "When the UN is looking for leaders, look to us. I have often heard that Afghan <u>women</u> are not political. That peace and security is man's work. I am here to challenge that illusion," she said.

Israel kills 'militants'

AN ISRAELI helicopter missile killed a senior member of the Palestinian militant group <u>Hamas</u> as he hid in a barn yesterday, and Israeli troops gunned down five other militants, including two Israel claimed were plotting to ambush settlers. Militant Palestinian groups vowed revenge. Also, after nightfall, two Palestinian policemen were killed in a clash with Israeli soldiers in Qalqilya, one of the four towns Israeli forces are holding. Palestinian security officials said Israeli forces moved into the town and then withdrew to their previous position. Despite the violence, there

NEWS: OTHER

were signs that both sides may be seeking a way out of the political stalemate. Prime Minister Tony Blair was travelling to the region for talks today with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the latest diplomatic initiative to end 13 months of fighting.

Kissinger's view

FORMER US Secretary of State Dr Henry Kissinger last night said only the complete destruction of the Taliban and Osama bin Laden's al Qaida terrorist network could safeguard world security. Dr Kissinger, 78, was giving the 2001 Ruttenberg Lecture in London, in which he also praised the special relationship between Britain and the US. Speaking on events following the September 11 terrorist attacks in the US, he said: "There can not be an ambiguous outcome to the war in Afghanistan. The Taliban has to be eliminated and bin Laden and his network has to be unambiguously destroyed and this has to be done in a time limit because if the Taliban is standing at some point in the future they will become a symbol for the ability to resist the strongest nation and its allies and their response to an outrageous and unprovoked attack on the US." Since the Second World War, the US has been the main protector of countries around the world and that that structure would disintegrate if they failed in their war against terrorism, he said.

Load-Date: November 1, 2001



NO HEADLINE

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

November 21, 1999, Sunday,

TWO STAR EDITION

Copyright 1999 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,; WORLD BRIEFS

Length: 620 words

Body

China launches first shuttle

BEIJING -- China has launched its first shuttle into space, the official Xinhua news agency said today.

The unmanned space vehicle, named "Shenzhou," was launched with a new model of the Long March rocket from the Jiuquan satellite launch center in northwestern province of Gansu, Xinhua said. It returned to earth today.

China, which decided in 1992 to carry out space launches, would conduct more unmanned test flights before putting astronauts in space, the head of the program said.

Scandal ends mayor bid

LONDON - Jeffrey Archer, the best-selling novelist who was the Conservative Party candidate for mayor of London, dropped out of the race last night after admitting he had once asked a friend to lie for him.

Archer's statement came in advance of a story about him in a Sunday tabloid, the News of the World.

Archer, 59, admitted that he had asked a friend to lie 13 years ago when Archer was embroiled in a libel suit against the Daily Star newspaper, which had accused him of hiring a prostitute.

"Thirteen years ago, I asked a friend of mine, Ted Francis, to cover for me by saying that we were having dinner together on the evening of Sept. 9, 1986, when in fact I was having dinner with a close <u>female</u> friend at a restaurant in Chelsea," Archer said.

"This was the day I was accused by a newspaper of having slept with the prostitute Monica Coghlan."

Archer denied that accusation and won \$ 800,000 in damages in his suit against the Daily Star.

IRA splinter group

LONDON - British police are hunting a dissident Irish Republican Army guerrilla group believed to be planning a campaign of violence on the British mainland to disrupt the Northern Ireland peace deal, a newspaper said today.

The Sunday Telegraph said the group was believed to have bases in London and Manchester and was linked to guerrilla splinter groups the Continuity IRA and the Real IRA - which was behind last year's deadly Omagh bomb.

NO HEADLINE

Pope to Iraq?

BAGHDAD, Iraq - - A Vatican delegation arrived in Baghdad yesterday for talks with Iraqi officials to determine if and when Pope John Paul will visit the country.

"We are happy to be in Baghdad," delegation head Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano said after the 12-hour, road journey from Amman, Jordan. Vigano who is an official in the Vatican's Secretariat of State, declined to give details of his schedule in Iraq.

Two experts with the team will inspect the ancient biblical site of Ur in southern Iraq, where the patriarch Abraham was born, which the pope wants to visit.

Nazareth mosque

RAMALLAH, West Bank, - - Islamic leaders in Jerusalem yesterday urged colleagues in Nazareth, Jesus's home town, to postpone plans to build a mosque that have angered Christians.

A leader of the Islamic Movement in Nazareth rejected the appeal, saying a cornerstone would be laid as planned.

Churches throughout the Holy Land will close their doors tomorrow and Tuesday to protest at the building of a mosque next to Nazareth's Basilica of the Annunciation, where tradition has it that the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary she was pregnant with the son of God.

Israel gave permission to the Moslem Waqf religious council in October to build the mosque following months of protests by Nazareth Moslems. But the decision angered the Vatican and cast a cloud over prospects for a pilgrimage by Pope John Paul to Nazareth during a visit to the Holy Land in March.

Also in the world

Chinese authorities have charged 23 farmers with various crimes for their involvement in a protest against high taxes, a human rights group reported yesterday. ... The government plans to free 24 *Hamas* leaders soon under an agreement authorities claim will end the militant Palestinian group's activities in Jordan.

Load-Date: May 17, 2000



<u>The Devil's Advocate;</u> <u>Devil's Advocate - (advocatus diaboli), one who advocates opposing,</u> <u>unpopular view, usually for sake of argument</u>

THE BRISTOL POST
October 24, 2001
EP GREATER BRISTOL

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Section: News, Pg.8 **Length:** 637 words

Byline: BARRY BEELZEBUB

Body

HUMOUR has always been a part of war, usually as propaganda aimed at deflating the enemy.

Remember Hitler's alleged deficiency downstairs, or Charlie Chaplin's film The Great Dictator?

We also often react to tragedies in a similar way. I heard the first Princess Diana "joke" within hours of her death.

With the Twin Towers, it was different. At least a week passed before the first "funnies" reached an uncertain audience.

And with the internet, once they'd started, they didn't stop. Most were dire, but some were genuinely funny. I therefore make no apologies for bringing you details of what's on Taliban TV, courtesy of the world wide web.

(I've no idea who wrote this, but if they get in touch with the Editor of the Evening Post, he'll send them a big cheque.Not.) TALIBAN TV 6.00G-Had TV: Morning prayers;8.30 Talitubbies: Dipsy and Tinky-Winky repair a Stinger missile launcher;9.00 Shouts of Praise: More prayers.

11.00 Jihad's Army: The Kandahar-on-Sea battalion repulse another attack by evil, imperialist, Zionist-backed infidels:

12.00Ready, Steady, Jihad!: Celebrities make lethal devices out of everyday objects;13.00Xena, Modestly-dressed Housewife: Xena stays at home and does some cooking.

14.00Only Fools and Camels: Dhal-Boy offloads some Chinese rocket launchers to <u>Hamas</u>;14.30Green Peter: The total number of Kalashnikovs bought by the milk bottle-top appeal is revealed;15.00 University Challenge: Two more Islamic colleges meet.Bambah Kaskhain asks the questions. "Starter for ten, no praying."

15.30 I Love 629: A look back at the events of the year, including the Prophet's entry into Mecca;17.00 Koranation Street:

Deirdrie faces execution by stoning for committing adultery;17.30Middle-East Enders: The entire cast is jailed for unIslamic behaviour.

The Devil's Advocate; Devil's Advocate - (advocatus diaboli), one who advocates opposing, unpopular view, usually for sake of argument

18.00Holiday: The team go on pilgrimage to Mecca.Again;18.30Top of the Prophets: Will the Koran be No.1 for the 63,728th week running? ;19.00Who Wants To Be A Mujahadin? : Will contestants phone a Mullah, go "inshallah", or ask the Islamic council?

20.0 FILM: Shariah's Angels: The three burkha-clad sleuths go undercover to expose an evil scheme to educate **women**;

21.30Big Brother: Who will be taken out of the house and executed this week?;

22.30 Shahs in their Eyes: More hopefuls imitate famous destroyers of the infidel.

23.30They Think It's Allah Over: Quiz culminating in the "Feel the Camel" round; Midnight.When Imams Attack:

Amusing footage shot secretly in mosques.

The filmers were also secretly shot;

12.30amThe West Bank Show: Arts programme looking at anti-Israel graffiti art in the occupied territories.

1.30Bhuffi the Infidel Slayer; 2.00A Book at Bedtime: The Koran.Again.

AND THEN there's this variation on an urban myth which was doing the rounds last week: "I was on the Underground travelling on the Northern line. A man of Arabic appearance got off the train and I noticed that he had left his bag behind. I grabbed the bag and ran after him, caught up with him at the top of the escalator and handed him back his bag.

He was extremely grateful to me and reached into his bag which appeared to contain large bundles of banknotes. He offered me a reward, but I refused. So he looked round, made sure nobody was looking and whispered to me: "I can never repay your kindness, but I will try to with a word of advice for you. Stay away from Aberdeen Steak Houses."

I was terrified. "Is there going to be an attack?" I whispered.

"No, " he whispered back "I went there yesterday evening - the food was crap and the dessert selection extremely limited."

Pip, pip!

The views of Mr Beelzebub are purely personal and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor or staff of this newspaper, or of the lazy Liverpool post office workers who went to work with a pocketful of Homepride self-raising and then blagged a day off.

Load-Date: October 25, 2001



WAR ON TERRORISM: JUBILANT ALLIANCE CLAIMS NEW GAINS;
CRACK SAS TROOPS HELP THE BIG PUSH FIRE POWER: A Northern
Alliance soldier covers his ears near a firing mortar close to the village of
Quruq, in Takhar province, Northern; Afghanistan. The alliance says it has
captured the city of Talogan, the provincial capital of Takhar which served
as its capital until the Taliban drove it out on September last year.

Coventry Evening Telegraph November 12, 2001, Monday

Copyright 2001 Coventry Newspapers Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 10

Length: 618 words

Body

ANTI-TALIBAN forces were today continuing their advance through northern Afghanistan as it was confirmed for the first time British troops were active on the ground.

Jubilant Northern Alliance commanders claimed a string of towns and villages had fallen to their soldiers, and were now awaiting orders to advance on Kabul.

The alliance said it had made major gains in the provinces of Bamiyan and Baghlan and had captured the city of Taloqan, although the claims remain to be independently verified.

It also claimed it had captured the western city of Herat.

Opposition spokesman Mohammed Abil, speaking by satellite telephone, said soldiers on the front line in Herat reported that the city had fallen.

The fall of Herat would be another sign of a significant shift in the balance since Taliban troops abandoned Mazare-Sharif on Friday.

Herat is the largest and most important city in western Afghanistan.

The opposition now appear to have control of virtually all major cities in the northern half of Afghanistan apart from two provinces where the Islamic militia still has some control but is under pressure.

The gains follow the first admission that British military personnel, believed to be members of the Special Air Service (SAS) are active on the ground in Afghanistan.

Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said: "I can certainly confirm that there are members of Britain's armed forces on the ground in northern Afghanistan liaising with the Northern Alliance providing advice and assistance."

Jubilation was reported in Mazar-e-Sharif following its capture by alliance troops.

WAR ON TERRORISM: JUBILANT ALLIANCE CLAIMS NEW GAINS; CRACK SAS TROOPS HELP THE BIG PUSH FIRE POWER: A Northern Alliance soldier covers his ears near a firing m....

Men were said to be queuing up to have their beards shaved off, while <u>women</u> were removing their head-to-toe burga.

Overnight, US aircraft, including B-52 bombers, roamed the skies above Afghanistan, blasting Taliban positions on the front line about 30 miles north of Kabul and seeking out retreating bands of Taliban fighters.

But American president George Bush has said that opposition troops should steer clear of Kabul until a broad-based government including all ethnic groups could be formed.

"We will encourage our friends to head south... but not into the city of Kabul itself," he said.

The Taliban is believed to hold more than a two-to-one edge in ground troops along the Kabul front, meaning it would be nearly impossible for the alliance to take the city without the kind of strong US bombing that paved the way for the opposition to seize Mazar-e-Sharif.

in BRIEF

HOME Secretary David Blunkett was seeking Parliament's approval today to take emergency powers to detain terror suspects without them going through a criminal trial.

Mr Blunkett wants a temporary opt-out from part of the European Convention on Human Rights as one element of a package of measures to protect the UK from attack in the wake of September 11.

It will allow authorities to lock up foreign nationals suspected of threatening national security without a trial "in very limited circumstances."

NEW powers to combat money launderers as part of the post-September 11 crackdown on terrorist networks came into effect today.

They will give customs officers powers of inspection and regulation of bureaux de change, cheque cashing companies and money transmission agents.

PRIME Minister Tony Blair was resuming his efforts today to buttress the international coalition against terrorism at 10 Downing Street with Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

TWO French radio journalists were killed when the convoy of vehicles they and other foreign journalists were in was ambushed near the Tajikistan border.

ISRAELI troops entered a Palestinian village in the West Bank today and shot dead a <u>Hamas</u> member suspected of killing two Jewish settlers.

Load-Date: November 13, 2001



St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

December 16, 2000, Saturday, FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

Copyright 2000 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS, Pg. 21; Nation/World Briefs Column

Length: 1415 words

Byline: From News ServicesMILITARY; HELICOPTERS; INSPECTION; PROBLEM; FORMER CANDIDATE CAMPAIGN FINANCE; FEDERAL EMPLOYEE; CAMPAIGN; ACTIVITY; HATCH ACT POSTAGE INCREASE; GEORGIA; SCHOOL OF THE; AMERICAS; U.S. ARMY GREAT BRITAIN; IRELAND; MIDDLE EAST; EARTHQUAKE; GREAT BRITAIN COMMERCIAL AIRPLANES; JETS; DESIGN; CHANGE; MODIFICATION

BUILDING COLLAPSE; ASIA; POLITICAL PRISONER; DEATH

Body

NATION

WASHINGTON

Flight control flaw grounds Army's Apache helicopters

The Army grounded its entire fleet of Apache attack helicopters as a precaution after discovering a flaw in a key component of the flight control system, officials said Friday.

The grounding, ordered Thursday, was the second for the Apache fleet in a little over a year. In November 1999, the fleet was grounded to replace their tail rotor bearings or to replace transmission parts. There are 742 Apaches in service worldwide.

The latest problem was discovered this week during a preflight inspection of an Apache at Fort Bragg, N.C. Apaches are the Army's best attack helicopters and were used extensively in the Gulf War against Iraq in 1991. WASHINGTON

McCain seeks quick action on campaign finance bill

Sen. John McCain said Friday that he wants the Senate to consider his campaign finance bill before President-elect George W. Bush begins sending his legislative proposals to Congress.

"I believe we have 60 votes," the number needed to limit debate on the bill, McCain, R-Ariz., said on CBS' "The Early Show."

"I will insist we bring it up at the earliest and address it," McCain said of the measure, which would ban contributions of "soft money" in federal campaigns. Such contributions are used to sell an issue rather than directly promote a candidate.

"We can get it done before the Bush legislative agenda comes over. I think that would be in the best interest of the new administration as well as the country," he said.

WASHINGTON

Health official resigns after admitting violation

An administrator with the Department of Health and Human Services resigned Friday after saying he unknowingly violated a federal law by holding a fund-raiser for a congressional candidate from Pennsylvania.

Michael Hash, acting administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, held a fund-raiser at his house on May 4 for Democratic congressional candidate Ronald Strouse, said Jane McFarland, spokeswoman for the Office of Special Counsel, an independent agency of federal prosecutors.

After speaking with his department's ethics officer, McFarland said, Hash realized he had violated the Hatch Act, a federal law that bans campaign activity by government workers. Hash then voluntarily reported his violation and cooperated with its investigation. Hash agreed to resign in exchange for no additional punishment. Penalties for violating the Hatch Act can range from a 30-day suspension to firing.

WASHINGTON

34-cent stamps go on sale in anticipation of rate hike

The new 34-cent stamps went on sale in post offices across the country Friday.

The rate increase takes effect Jan. 7, but postal officials said the stamps were being made available now so people could get them in advance. In the meantime, the 33-cent first-class rate remains in effect.

The stamps do not show any price because the millions needed for a rate change had to be printed in advance, before the exact new price was known. The three new stamps designs feature the Statue of Liberty, flowers and a flag flying over a farm.

Millions of 1-cent stamps also are being shipped to post offices for people to use with leftover 33-cent stamps after Jan. 7.

FORT BENNING, Ga.

Army closes school for Latin American soldiers

The Army on Friday closed a school that has trained Latin American soldiers who were later accused of human rights abuses. Army Secretary Louis Caldera defended the institution as "not a rogue school."

The School of the Americas will be replaced next month by the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, which will be run by the Defense Department under guiding principles of the Organization of American States.

Army officials say it will be a vastly different institution, focusing more on civilian and diplomatic affairs.

But critics, who maintain that the School of the Americas graduates have committed torture and other human rights abuses, say the changes are merely cosmetic.

"No one's being fooled by this," said the Rev. Roy Bourgeois, a Roman Catholic priest who founded School of the Americas Watch, a protest group. "It's like taking a bottle of poison and writing 'penicillin' on it. It's still very deadly."

WORLD

NORTHERN IRELAND

Rival gangs declare end to feud in Protestant areas

Rival outlawed gangs declared an end Friday to a feud within Belfast's most militant Protestant neighborhoods that left seven men dead and forced hundreds to flee their homes.

In a joint statement, the Ulster Defense Association and Ulster Volunteer Force announced that after weeks of negotiations their commanders had reached "an open-ended and all-encompassing cessation of hostilities."

These so-called "loyalist" groups in 1994 called a halt to their campaign of terrorizing Northern Ireland's Roman Catholic minority, but in recent months their traditional rivalry over status and control of criminal rackets turned deadly.

TURKEY

Earthquake starts fire that kills five people

An earthquake rocked central Turkey on Friday, starting a fire that killed five people. Dozens were injured when they jumped from windows and balconies in panic, officials said.

The quake toppled a spire on a mosque, sparking the blaze that claimed five lives in the village of Yasarlar in Konya province, provincial Gov. Ahmet Kayhan said. The mosque was packed with men gathered for evening prayers during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The quake had a preliminary magnitude of 5.8, the Istanbul-based Kandilli observatory and the U.S. Geological Survey said. Quakes of that strength can cause considerable damage in populated areas. The temblor was centered between the towns of Ilgin and Bolvadin in Afyon province, 160 miles southwest of Ankara.

BRITAIN

Officials will test changes to Concorde fuel tanks

Authorities will conduct tests early next year on changes to the fuel tanks of Concorde planes, grounded since one of the needle-nosed jets crashed on takeoff this summer, an Anglo-French team announced Friday in London.

New fuel tank liners are expected to greatly reduce the chance of fire, said the team, made up of the plane's manufacturers, aviation regulators, crash investigators and the two airlines that operate the world's 12 Concordes - British Airways and Air France.

The modifications will be tested on a British Airways Concorde around February. The entire Concorde fleet was grounded shortly after one of the planes caught fire and crashed July 25 near Charles de Gaulle airport, killing all 109 aboard and four on the ground.

EGYPT

Two buildings collapse, killing 7, trapping 3

Two buildings collapsed in Cairo on Friday, killing at least seven people and leaving three others trapped under debris, police said.

The first building collapsed just after midnight in the Cairo neighborhood of el-Koulali, killing a 65-year-old woman and her 10-year-old granddaughter and leaving eight families homeless.

In the second incident, a three-story apartment building in Giza collapsed, killing the building's owner, his three children and sister-in-law, officials said. Three others received minor injuries. Late Friday, rescuers dug through the debris to try retrieve the victim's wife and two *female* relatives.

Building collapses are not unusual in Egypt. They are often blamed on shoddy construction or the unauthorized addition of extra stories.

CUBA

Cuba blocks phone calls from U.S. over tax dispute

As promised, Cuba blocked direct telephone service from the United States to the communist island Friday in retaliation for the refusal of U.S. phone companies to pay a new 10 percent tax.

People in Cuba were able to call the United States with some difficulty, but it appeared that people in the United States could not get through to Cuba.

It remained unclear if all service from the United States to Cuba had been severed, or if the disruptions where temporary as calls start to be rerouted through third countries - as has occurred in the past when direct service has been cut.

TIBET

Group reports death of jailed Tibetan activist

A Tibetan political activist has died while serving his third jail term in Chinese-ruled Tibet's most notorious prison, a monitoring group said Friday.

Shol Dawa, 64, died Nov. 19, five years into a nine-year sentence in Drapchi prison in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa for compiling a list of political prisoners, the Tibet Information Network reported.

The circumstances of his death are unclear, but other prisoners said Dawa suffered from a kidney ailment and was in poor health from beatings, the group said.

Notes

NATION / WORLD

Graphic

PHOTO Photo by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS - Members of <u>Hamas</u>, an Islamic militant group, march during a rally Friday in the Gaza Strip. More than 25,000 people gathered in a stadium to mark the 13th anniversary of the group's founding. <u>Hamas</u> has rejected Israeli-Palestinian peace deals and has carried out a spate of bomb attacks against Israelis in the past.

Load-Date: December 16, 2000



MAN OF THE PEOPLE: WHY BLAIR IS PLAYING WITH FIRE AT HOME

The People

October 14, 2001, Sunday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 27

Length: 643 words

Byline: David Mellor

Highlight: TARGET: Bin Laden

Body

THE war against terror has begun. Good. But I do have one worry - we seem to be overstating the short term risks, and underestimating the long term ones.

In truth, hostilities against Afghanistan - one of the most primitive societies in the world - hardly justify the description "war".

And lobbing bombs and missiles on them from a great height is not that tricky. It will get tougher when ground troops go in, but I suspect they'll find the Taliban better at beating up <u>women</u> than slugging it out with well-trained soldiers.

No, this isn't the real problem. It's what comes after that's tricky. And that's where we and the Americans have a lot of thinking to do. Take New York's Mayor Giuliani. He's done well, but did he really need to humiliate the top Saudi prince who offered a \$ 10 million cheque to help bereaved families?

Just because he asked, in ever such moderate terms, for the Americans to be more even handed over Palestine?

Even Tony Blair has now latched on to the significance of this, and is talking of a Palestine State to diffuse the terrible impact on Muslim opinion of seeing on TV day after day, month after month, year after year, stone-throwing kids being shot with live ammunition by Israeli troops.

Of course, it's also wrong when <u>Hamas</u> suicide bombers blow up Jewish youngsters at bus stops, but does that justify it? Israelis say there's no link between the way they treat the Palestinians and young Arabs lining up with Bin Laden.

DON'T believe a word of it. Bush would do himself a huge favour if he told prime minister Sharon he'll no longer tolerate the Israeli tail wagging the American dog.

This week I asked a leading Gulf diplomat, what will happen after Bin Laden gets killed (as of course he will, if caught, because no one can afford the risk of putting him on trial).

He'll become the new Che Guevara, my friend replied. Sadly he's right. And that has implications for us, given our own enemy within.

MAN OF THE PEOPLE: WHY BLAIR IS PLAYING WITH FIRE AT HOME

Needless to say Britain's mad so-called mullahs, Abu Hamza and Omar Bakri Mohammed, are still at it and still not in jail. Or better still deported. Incidentally, if Hamza thinks the Taliban run such a great show why doesn't he sling his hook back there?

Omar Bakri Muhammed is more sinister. A spokesman in Pakistan, claiming to speak for the organisation of militant Muslim youth he runs in Britain, said Tony Blair and 10 Downing Street are now legitimate targets.

ARE we really going to tolerate that? Have we gone terribly and terminally soft?

We've played open house to so many fanatics for so long. There are dozens, particularly in London, who accept our hospitality but who would applaud if some nutter who disgraces the honourable name of Islam pulled a trigger, exploded a bomb or released a few anthrax spores.

This is a pigsty that needs cleaning out, and there's precious little evidence that Tony Blair is up for it.

But he's playing with fire. If a known fanatic he has allowed to live here commits an atrocity, the public backlash against the Government will be appalling. And those who have most to lose are the two million decent, hard - working British Muslims - who are being badly let down by those who claim to represent them.

A sizeable gathering of British Muslim clerics in Birmingham this week spoke emptily about "forgiving" Bin Laden and claimed attacking him meant we regarded all Muslim organisations as terrorists.

That's dangerous nonsense because it drives a wedge between British people and the new Muslim communities that have established themselves here.

In their own interests, these people - the vast majority of them decent and law abiding - should find a voice, not just to condemn terrorism, but to actively support action against the likes of Bin Laden, who drag the reputation of Islam through the gutter.

If they don't, I really do fear for race relations in this country.

Load-Date: October 14, 2001



ISRAEL PUTS OFF PEACE TALKS Palestinians shoot at settlers as Mideast ceasefire fades

Daily News (New York)
October 4, 2001, Thursday
FOUR STAR EDITION

Copyright 2001 Daily News, L.P.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 653 words

Byline: By KENNETH BAZINET in Washington and DAVE GOLDINER in New York DAILY NEWS STAFF

WRITERS

Body

Palestinian gunmen opened fire yesterday on a crowd of Israeli settlers in the West Bank city of Hebron, the latest in a series of attacks that have shredded a fledgling truce.

The attack followed an Israeli incursion hours earlier in the Gaza Strip that killed six Palestinians.

The accelerating violence led Israel to postpone peace talks indefinitely, and Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said the government would not return to talks "until the Palestinian Authority has taken control and stops terrorism."

"Yasser Arafat has made a complete mockery of this ceasefire," Israeli spokesman Dore Gold said of the Palestinian leader. "Until it becomes clear that Mr. Arafat is willing to fulfill his ceasefire obligations, what point is there in pursuing this discussion?"

U.S. condemns violence

In Washington, the Bush administration condemned the cycle of violence and revenge.

"The Palestinian Authority must take immediate, sustained and effective steps to preempt violence and shooting attacks," a State Department official said.

In the Hebron attack, gunmen fired on a crowd of Israelis gathered to mark the holiday of Succoth at the Tomb of the Patriarch, a shrine sacred to Muslims and Jews.

Two **women** were wounded, including one who was listed in serious condition.

Earlier, Israeli tanks shelled a Palestinian police station and rumbled through a tiny Arab town in the Gaza Strip.

Six Palestinians were killed in the raid, which Israelis called an act of self-defense after an attack on a nearby Jewish settlement, Elei Sinai, Tuesday left two settlers dead.

Scores of Palestinians fled their homes as the Israeli Army approached the dusty, garbage-strewn streets of Beit Lahia.

ISRAEL PUTS OFF PEACE TALKS Palestinians shoot at settlers as Mideast ceasefire fades

"I had to take my children out of the house, carrying two at a time," said Mahmoud Abu Khalil, 40, a father of 10. "The tank shells and bullets never stopped."

Yesterday, a crowd of 6,000 Palestinians, some chanting, "Revenge, revenge," marched at a Gaza funeral for Ibrahim Rayan, one of the men who attacked the Israeli settlement.

"I carry out this act to please God and to champion Islam and Muslims and our dispersed people," Rayan said in a videotaped message.

Arafat's Palestinian Authority condemned the settlement raid but also bitterly denounced the Israeli retaliation.

Since the terror attacks in the U.S. on Sept. 11, Washington has been trying to cool off the Mideast fighting as it tries to bring Arab states into an anti-terrorism coalition.

Yesterday's attacks did not, however, alter Bush's support for Palestinian statehood.

"I would say we all recognize the President leads, the President decides and the President spoke," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said. "That is U.S. policy."

Consistent violations

American Jewish leaders yesterday blasted U.S. support for a Palestinian state, with the leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations calling it "a reward for terrorism and violence."

"The Palestinian Authority has consistently violated its agreements on security," said a statement from the group's chairman, Mortimer B. Zuckerman, who is also chairman and co-Publisher of the Daily News, and Malcolm Hoenlein, the group's executive vice chairman.

"Mr. Arafat has consistently failed to call on the Palestinians to refrain from violence or to use the police forces he has available to him to restrain them."

The statement called on the Bush administration to include radical Palestinian groups in its list of terrorist groups.

"The President put it properly in appealing to everyone to join in a war against terrorism, 'Either you are with us or you are with the terrorists.' " the statement read. "But there seems to be an exception, and that is Yasser Arafat and the failure to include *Hamas*, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad on the list of terrorist regimes."

"I had to take my children out of the house, carrying two at a time. The tank shells and bullets never stopped."

MAHMOUD ABU KHALIL

Graphic

AP TIME TO REGROUP Citizens of the Jewish settlement of Elei Sinai in the northern tip of the Gaza Strip and Israeli soldiers grieve yesterday, a day after they were fired upon by Palestinian gunmen. Two people were killed in the attack.

Load-Date: October 4, 2001



On the brink of war: Intifada: Death toll nears 700 on anniversary: A year on, Palestinian anger is undimmed

The Guardian (London)
September 29, 2001

Copyright 2001 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 9

Length: 667 words

Byline: Suzanne Goldenberg in Ramallah, West Bank

Body

Thousands of Palestinians poured into the streets of the West Bank and Gaza yesterday to mark the first anniversary of a year of blood and hate, chanting: "The intifada will continue. We are the ones who will decide."

Two days after the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, sat down with the Israeli foreign minister, Shimon Peres, to agree on a ceasefire that bears the heavy imprint of US pressure, there was little sign that his people shared his desire to scale down their revolt.

In the West Bank town of Hebron, one Palestinian was shot dead and 12 wounded, and an Israeli soldier was injured in a gunbattle near a Jewish settlement. A 10-year-old Palestinian boy was shot dead in a nearby village when Israeli soldiers fired live ammunition at stonethrowers, and another Palestinian man was killed in a village south of Bethlehem.

Three Palestinians were killed and two seriously injured in unclear circumstances in Gaza, and a seventh Palestinian died when the bomb he was handling exploded.

In Ramallah, hundreds of people gathered in the main square to burn a model of a Jewish settlement and a tank before marching towards an Israeli army checkpoint. On other Fridays, that ritual has seen Palestinian stonethrowers and gunmen picked off by Israeli army sharpshooters.

But yesterday also saw a return to the earliest days of the revolt, with unarmed protesters, including dozens of <u>women</u>, confronting Israeli armour. There were no gunmen and precious few slingshots in the crowds of young men who jogged towards the checkpoint, chanting: "We might die, but Palestine will live".

They were met by rubber bullets, sound grenades and teargas from four Israeli army jeeps.

Inside Jerusalem's old city, ground zero of the revolt that followed a provocative visit to a disputed holy site by the then opposition leader, Ariel Sharon, hundreds of Israeli riot police maintained an uneasy calm.

At a <u>Hamas</u> demonstration in Gaza, meanwhile, protesters held up pictures of suicide bombers. "Do you support suicide bombings?" an activist asked through a loudspeaker. "Yes," the crowd shouted back.

Palestinian leaders say they understand the world has changed but they are not willing to end their revolt empty-handed.

On the brink of war: Intifada: Death toll nears 700 on anniversary: A year on, Palestinian anger is undimmed

"We understand the developments in the world since September 11, and we have given a chance to Mr Arafat to try to make progress with political measures," said Marwan Barghouti, the commander of his Fatah faction in the West Bank. "But the ceasefire is not going to work if it is not part of a political agreement. There is no future for any ceasefire without it."

To Mr Barghouti, no political agreement is possible while Mr Sharon remains prime minister. He believes that the 670-plus Palestinians killed in the intifada have awakened Israel to the folly of maintaining Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza.

A poll by the Jerusalem Media Centre, conducted after the September 11 attack, found 85% of Palestinians wanted to continue the uprising, although only 53% were hopeful that it would achieve its goals.

In Tel Aviv, meanwhile, Israeli and Palestinian security officials held their first joint meeting in two months to try to fix a timetable for lifting Israel's siege on the West Bank and Gaza, a crucial step if this ceasefire is to have even the faintest hope of success.

A CIA representative was also at the meeting to try to cement the ceasefire reached under intense pressure from the US. On Thursday, Washington asked Israel to halt "provocative acts", after five Palestinians were shot dead in the Gaza Strip.

The US views the uprising as the prime obstacle to its efforts to recruit Arab states to its war coalition. But Palestinians are suspicious of the Bush administration's belated interest after decades of military support for Israel.

"America is the pioneer of world terrorism," said the imam of Ramallah's main mosque during Friday afternoon prayers. "This war is like a crusader war against the Arabs and the Muslim people. It is not against terrorism."

Load-Date: September 30, 2001



LETTER: JEWS PAID FOR ISRAEL WITH MONEY AND BLOOD

Birmingham Post

November 3, 2001, Saturday

Copyright 2001 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

Section: Pg. 8

Length: 642 words

Byline: Mrs Judith Joseph

Body

Sir, - This country wants oil so badly it makes a buffoon of itself. To espouse the Arab/Muslim 'cause' is to endanger Britain and western culture. To mistake hysterical rhetoric and incitement to violence for a path to peace, is not only shame-making but mistaken in the extreme.

The term 'Arab' is very broad, almost to the point of the ridiculous. Indeed, among the so-called Arab nations are those who are not in the least Arab: Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, to name but three. Islam as practised throughout the world is as varied as the flowers in the garden, the Christians in their churches. Because 99 per cent of Westerners do not speak or read Arabic, or Hindi or Urdu, or any of the countless other languages within the greater Muslim-following nations, we are at a total loss to understand what is being said or written.

Do your reporters understand the finer details of Arabic, etc? Do the TV and radio newsmen/<u>women</u> understand all they see and hear? Do all British Muslims understand what is being broadcast or written?

And now we are to understand that Israel is responsible for how the Taliban is behaving.

The avowed purpose of <u>Hamas</u> and others, now apparently with Taliban-inspired involvement, is to push Israel into the sea. Were this to happen there would be an even greater conflagration in the area. No one Arab nation likes any other Arab nation more than they need in order to exploit their poor and wage war on Israel. To allow reporters of any kind, television/radio/ broadsheets/tabloids, to comment without full understanding is to besmirch Israel.

A democratic state manages to withstand incursions by terrorists who are sponsored by wealthy nations. That many Arab peoples are kept in poverty, on the whole, is one thing, but the money that the governments hold is colossal - more than Britain can envisage.

Arab countries treat the West as a great big joke. It is all very funny how seriously the British and other Western governments take the Arab and Muslim worlds' statements of friendship. No wonder the Pakistan government is holding its breath; they are on a knife edge.

Here in Britain less than half-of-one-per cent of the population is Jewish, but our input into the cultural, professional and commercial life of this country is equivalent to a greater percentage. We have a history of good will, acculturation and espousal of the causes for the betterment of the quality of life. As a token of recognition we are sold down the river and the only democratic state in the Middle East is vilified.

We have paid for our lives here with contributions in all fields, including in all your wars.

LETTER: JEWS PAID FOR ISRAEL WITH MONEY AND BLOOD

Israel has paid for her land with money (Abraham buying the cave of Machpelah - Genesis Ch XXIII: 9) and in blood (many wars and terrorist attacks since 1948).

When the media representatives talk of the West Bank, it is not a little village at the side of a small river, but a whole bulge in a very small country. All that land was paid for several times over. Now, again, Israel and those who build up the quality of life are to be sacrificed not for a mess of pottage (Esau), or 30 pieces of silver (Judas) but for oil (Blair, Thatcher, et al).

If the Muslims want to enter Paradise so much, why do they cry and wail when one of their people is killed? Why do they put <u>women</u> and children, old people and residential areas into the front line? Why do you believe them? Nobody has explained what happens to the **women** and girls who are killed, what is their reward?

For some years now Britain has been less than a friend to Israel or her Jewish population. I believe that Britain has lost her way and needs to re-invent herself. Perhaps Birmingham will become the true sounding board of Britain by committing herself to encouraging true acculturation of all its local populations. Perhaps.

Mrs JUDITH JOSEPH

Edgbaston,

Birmingham.

Load-Date: November 5, 2001



After Funeral for a Slain Palestinian Paramilitary Leader, More Death for Both Sides

The New York Times

November 11, 2000, Saturday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A;; Section A; Page 6; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Column 1;

Length: 1362 words

Byline: By DEBORAH SONTAG with JOHN KIFNER

By DEBORAH SONTAG with JOHN KIFNER **Dateline:** BETHLEHEM, West Bank, Nov. 10

Body

In Manger Square, spiffed up just last Christmas for what was supposed to be a banner year for the now-dead Palestinian tourism industry, thousands of Muslims bowed in prayer today to mourn a paramilitary leader assassinated by the Israelis.

The dead man, Hussein Obaiyat, 34, a baker by trade, a gun collector by avocation, was not well known here beyond his clan and the paramilitary unit that he ran for Yasir Arafat's Fatah organization. But when Israel used helicopter gunships to kill him on Thursday, and killing two middle-aged <u>women</u> as well, it instantly secured him a place in the pantheon of Palestinian heroes.

It also may have guaranteed a bloody weekend, and changed the rules of engagement for both sides, at least for now. Israeli generals made clear that more assassinations could follow. Some Palestinian officials said they no longer felt bound by peace or truce agreements, and paramilitary leaders promised swift revenge.

"Until now, it was an intifada," an uprising, said Wajid Abed Rabbo, the Fatah leader in nearby Beit Jala, as he hiked with tens of thousands of men over rocky hills to the new graveyard where Mr. Obaiyat would be the first buried. "Now it is a battle of independence."

The killing of Mr. Obaiyat, whom Israel held responsible for masterminding attacks on soldiers and civilians, marked "a critical point, almost a point of no return in the scale of the violence," Amir Oren wrote in the newspaper Haaretz this morning.

"Placing Fatah leaders in the Israeli forces' cross hairs is a clear attempt to have the outcome of the conflict determined in battle," he continued, "with the understanding that the Palestinians too will escalate their methods of attack against soldiers and settlers."

By mid-evening, after a day of sporadic clashes and intense gun battles, Palestinian officials reported 5 dead and 150 injured in Gaza and the West Bank.

An Israeli soldier was shot in the throat near Rachel's Tomb after militant mourners marched there from Manger Square; he died late tonight. A second soldier was wounded by gunfire in Ramallah. The Israeli Army encircled and closed both Bethlehem and Ramallah, and Palestinians shuttered themselves in their homes as normally bustling streets turned eerily empty.

The day began with a bomb explosion near the Muslim cemetery in Jerusalem's Old City, which wounded an Israeli border policeman. And it ended with shooting throughout the West Bank and Gaza, as both sides braced for a potentially long night of violence.

Israeli Army officials said the killing of Mr. Obaiyat could serve a long-term goal of discouraging attacks on their soldiers and on civilians, even if there is a short-term intensification of the conflict. Associates said Prime Minister Ehud Barak faced intense pressure to approve the action from military officials who felt that their hands had been tied, and from Israelis urging him to use more force.

The timing of the attack, hours before President Clinton met Mr. Arafat to discuss truce arrangements, was not propitious. It is unclear whether it was deliberate or coincidental; Israeli Army officials said they had secured permission for the killing in advance and then chose a tactically good time.

But it is unlikely that the assassination would have been approved if Mr. Barak foresaw any possibility of an imminent return to peace negotiations. And indeed Mr. Barak, who is to meet with President Clinton in Washington again on Sunday, thinks that even securing a workable truce seems very difficult, his advisers said. "I would like to lower all our expectations," Mr. Barak told reporters today during a visit to the Ayosh army base near Ramallah.

In style, the missile attack on Mr. Obaiyat recalled Israel's assassination of a Hezbollah leader in Lebanon in 1992. The comparison led many Israelis and Palestinians alike to comment on what they call the Lebanonization of the conflict. The Fatah paramilitary forces have become the Hezbollah of the Palestinian territories, Roni Shaked wrote today in the Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth: "a militia group that by day incites the Palestinian street and by night carries out guerrilla and terrorist missions."

During the Manger Square prayers, Hezbollah flags fluttered in a rainbow display alongside Iraqi flags, Fatah flags, Islamic movement flags and Palestinian national flags. That underscored the way in which Fatah, Mr. Arafat's organization and ostensibly pro-peace, has aligned itself with the Palestinian opposition during the recent conflict.

In fact, Fatah, whose power had diminished as Palestinians grew disenchanted with the Palestinian government, has regained its popularity. In taking the lead in organizing demonstrations and in fighting the Israelis, it has upstaged Islamic fundamentalist groups like *Hamas* while taking their side.

The widely displayed portrait of Mr. Obayait, brandishing a rifle against a backdrop of an Arabic language poster devoted to Allah, is not that distinguishable in imagery from a *Hamas* portrait.

Mr. Obayait's image was displayed not only in Bethlehem but also throughout Ramallah today, on the city walls and on automobile hoods. Near one such poster, a businessman who gave his name only as Ahmed methodically broke concrete chunks into pieces ready for throwing. He wore a necktie with a geometric pattern, a dress shirt and pressed slacks, incongruous attire for the task of piling the stones in a large black bucket, then dragging the bucket several hundred yards to a barricade across from Israeli jeeps.

"I'm 37 years old -- I can't throw rocks," explained Ahmed, who said he has a degree in computer science and lived in the United States for 20 years.

At the edge of Ramallah, the confrontation between Israeli-controlled and Palestinian-ruled territory has become ritualized during the last six weeks, to the point where families gathered there as if for a spectator sport and vendors sold kebabs. Daytime clashes gave way to nighttime gun battles.

But today was different; the rocks were quickly pushed aside, and the families disappeared.

The first tear-gas canisters were fired from the Israeli side promptly at 1 o'clock. As hundreds of people marched to the hillside, young men with AK-47 assault rifles, some with black hoods over their faces, slipped off into side streets.

In half an hour, the hillside was ringing with gunfire, which continued without pause for several hours. Staccato cracks of automatic weapons fire came from the Kalashnikovs on the Palestinian side, answered by solid, heavier thumps of rockets fired at buildings by the Israelis. An Israeli soldier was wounded. And Palestinians crouched behind cars and walls, watching the gunfight, which was unusually protracted and intense, in memory of Mr. Obaiyat.

In Manger Square, Mr. Obaiyat's body was laid out in front of a Checkers fast-food restaurant and beneath the clock that had been a gift to the Palestinian Authority from Greece to count down the days, hours and minutes until the third millennium.

Mourners wore black sweatshirts printed overnight with pictures of Mr. Obaiyat in full paramilitary regalia. Some displayed bullet necklaces; others thrust rifles into the air. When they prayed, their backs formed a human quilt stretched from one side of the square to the other. When they rose, they fired gunshots, burned Israeli flags and chanted, "No peace, no surrender." The *women* ululated.

After marching several miles to his clan's village, Obaiyat, Palestinians buried him without tears.

"The blood of Hussein will not be wasted," said a colleague, dressed in black with a black face mask and a sniper's rifle. "We will avenge his death at the time we choose and without waiting for political instructions. You should understand that there is now a separation between the political and the military leadership."

But some older Palestinians present questioned the young men's fiery words. "If Arafat reaches a solution and he wants to impose it, he can control the street," said Samir Qumsieh, president of the general union of private radio and television stations. "They like to say that they're not under remote control, but if an agreement is reached, things will calm down."

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo: Supporters of the Fatah organization of Yasir Arafat in Bethlehem yesterday during the funeral for one of its paramilitary commanders, Hussein Obaiyat, who was slain by Israeli helicopter gunships on Thursday. (Rina Castelnuovo for The New York Times)

Map of Israel highlighting Bethlehem: At a funeral in Bethlehem, Fatah leaders promised swift revenge.

Load-Date: November 11, 2000



Sharon: Israel won't be sacrificed: Prime minister warns West not to betray his country to 'appease' Arabs, build coalition

The Ottawa Citizen
October 5, 2001 Friday
Final EDITION

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Section: NEWS,; News

Length: 678 words

Byline: Matthew Kalman

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon issued a stark warning yesterday that Israel would not allow itself to be sacrificed by the United States and western democracies to "appease" Arab terror, just as they abandoned Czechoslovakia to the Nazis in 1938.

Mr. Sharon was speaking hours after a Palestinian gunman disguised as an Israeli soldier went on a rampage in a bus station in northern Israel, killing three people and wounding seven more before he was shot dead. The attack, coming amid U.S.-led attempts to form a coalition with much of the Arab world to respond to the events of Sept. 11, was the latest breach of a ceasefire agreement reached by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres last week.

A young Israeli couple was killed in a Gaza settlement on Tuesday night and another couple narrowly escaped death in a drive-by shooting in Jerusalem on Wednesday, the same day two <u>women</u> were wounded by gunfire in Hebron.

The Ottawa Citizen

A car bomb exploded in Jerusalem on Monday and Palestinian shooting, bomb and mortar attacks have continued unabated despite Mr. Arafat's assurances.

"Don't try to appease the Arabs at our expense," Mr. Sharon said. "We cannot accept that. Israel will not be Czechoslovakia. Israel will fight terror. There is no difference between good terror and bad terror. Just as there is no difference between good murder and bad murder."

In 1938, the West was so desperate to appease Nazi Germany that it allowed Adolf Hitler to violate agreements and overrun Czechoslovakia.

Dore Gold, a key adviser to the Israeli premier, said Mr. Sharon was responding to American-led efforts to build an international coalition against terror that have left Israel dangerously exposed to increased terror attacks because Washington wishes to woo moderate Arab states into the coalition.

Sharon: Israel won't be sacrificed: Prime minister warns West not to betray his country to 'appease' Arabs, build coalition

Some Israeli analysts are warning that Mr. Arafat now feels free to violate any ceasefire because he is the key to the entry of moderate Arab states into the coalition, leaving Israeli citizens even more vulnerable to attack.

Mr. Sharon said Israel's efforts to reach a ceasefire had been repeatedly undermined.

"All our attempts to reach a ceasefire have been foiled by the Palestinians," he maintained. "The fire has not ceased even for a day. Therefore the cabinet has instructed the security establishment to take all the necessary steps to bring full security to the citizens of Israel."

And in what appeared to be a warning of tougher military action against Palestinian forces, Mr. Sharon said that from now on Israel "will rely only on ourselves."

"I call on the western democracies, first and foremost the leader of the free world, the U.S. -- do not repeat the dreadful mistake of 1938, when enlightened democracies in Europe decided to sacrifice Czechoslovakia for the sake of a temporary and convenient solution," said Mr. Sharon.

Israeli Opposition leader Yossi Sarid denounced Mr. Sharon's comments as "pathetic and dangerous," but others said the dangers are real.

"There is a very serious problem emerging," said Mr. Gold. "Hezbollah and <u>Hamas</u> can escalate violence against Israel with the expectation that Israel's freedom of manoeuvre to respond will be constrained because of international coalition considerations. That is a recipe for escalation in the Middle East."

Even moderate Arab states have refused to join U.S-led military action against Afghanistan. Saudi Arabia, a key ally in the Gulf War 10 years ago, rebuffed U.S. Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld when he visited Riyadh this week.

The Saudi defence minister warned that Saudi Arabia would "not accept the presence of any (foreign) troops on its territory to fight Arabs and Muslims."

Prof. Barry Rubin of Bar-Ilan University said the West's desire not to upset Arab states is in danger of fatally undermining action against terror.

"The terrorist attacks on the United States are being planned and implemented by Muslims from the Middle East, primarily Arabs. It is also politically insane to pretend otherwise."

Load-Date: October 5, 2001



Peace plan must address Palestinian grievance

Deseret News (Salt Lake City) August 19, 2001, Sunday

Copyright 2001 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: VIEWPOINT;

Length: 700 words

Byline: By Holger Jensen Scripps Howard News Service

Body

Israel says there is no moral equivalent between its "targeted killing" of Palestinian terrorists, designed to avoid civilian casualties, and Palestinian suicide bombers who deliberately blow up **women** and children.

The line becomes blurred when Palestinian children die, like the two small boys killed in Israel's airborne assassination of <u>Hamas</u> leaders. But at least the Israelis apologized. Palestinians danced in the streets when one of their suicide bombers killed 15 Jews in a Jerusalem pizza restaurant.

This does a terrible disservice to the Palestinian cause by obscuring legitimate grievances while helping Israel convince the United States -- its chief protector and sole arbiter of Mideast "peace" plans -- that it is the victim of a people it has kept under military occupation for 34 years.

The Palestinians say they too are terrorized by a vastly superior occupation army that imposes "collective punishment" on entire towns and villages, destroys their homes and olive groves and kills five Arabs for every Israeli casualty. But they are losing the propaganda war.

Hanan Ashrawi, an articulate Palestinian spokeswoman, says this has produced an "insane logic that demands guarantees for the security of the occupier from any retaliation or resistance by the occupied. The fact that the occupation itself lies at the root of all insecurity is ignored by Israeli policymakers and their American backers."

Ashrawi, by the way, is a Palestinian Christian, no fan of Yasser Arafat and no supporter of Islamic bombers. But she is equally contemptuous of Israelis who "express perpetual 'surprise' at the lack of docility of Palestinians who fail to appreciate the virtues of occupation."

In an article titled "Delusional Politics," she explains -- sometimes sarcastically -- how Israeli doublespeak has created a "fictitious reality" accepted without question by Congress and much of the American public.

"Greater Israel" or "biblical Jewish homeland" are verbal substitutes for historical Palestine. Areas under military occupation are not "occupied" but "disputed."

That's because they contain 140 Jewish settlements ringed by bypass roads, green belts and security zones that effectively fragment any hope of a contiguous Palestinian state.

Israeli military units stationed there are not an "occupation army" but "self-defense forces" protecting 200,000 Jewish settlers who require yet more Palestinian land for "natural growth."

Peace plan must address Palestinian grievance

This is denied Palestinians, who find it incredibly difficult to secure building permits from Israeli authorities.

But that's because they're all "terrorists," says Ashrawi, "a genetically violent species" dedicated to the destruction of the Jewish state. Sarcasm, of course.

Their "dehumanization" is so complete, she goes on, "it seems that Palestinian mothers and fathers are born missing the parenting gene. Hence they deliberately and cold-bloodedly send out their children to intercept the free passage of Israeli bullets and shells. Not only is this a convenient way to get rid of their children, it also succeeds in giving the Israeli army a bad name, 'child killers,' thereby scoring free media points."

Thus, the 165 Palestinian children killed since October 2000 were all "human shields" or "media ploys," even though some were infants who died in their mothers' arms and older children shot on their way to school, hit by tank fire while playing soccer or shelled while napping in their beds.

"Security," says Ashrawi, "is a word that has become the exclusive domain of Israel. The Palestinians, therefore, have no right to feel 'insecure' when their homes are being shelled or their children killed or their crops and trees uprooted or their lands confiscated or their livelihoods destroyed or their freedoms negated or their very lives 'targeted.' "

So they fight back with terrorism. Their suicide bombings and other attacks on Israeli civilians, no matter how repugnant, have proved that no amount of military force can subdue a people yearning to be free. And no peace plan will work until it addresses the principal Palestinian grievance: It's the occupation, stupid.

Holger Jensen is international editor of the Rocky Mountain News. E-mail: hjens@aol.com.

Load-Date: August 19, 2001



St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

December 16, 2000, Saturday, EARLY FIVE STAR EDITION

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Section: NEWS, Pg. 21; Nation/World Briefs Column

Length: 1381 words

Byline: From News ServicesMILITARY; HELICOPTERS; INSPECTION; PROBLEM; FORMER CANDIDATE CAMPAIGN FINANCE; FEDERAL EMPLOYEE; CAMPAIGN; ACTIVITY; HATCH ACT POSTAGE INCREASE; GREAT BRITAIN; IRELAND; MIDDLE EAST; EARTHQUAKE GREAT BRITAIN; COMMERCIAL AIRPLANES; JETS; DESIGN; CHANGE MODIFICATION; BUILDING COLLAPSE; ASIA; POLITICAL PRISONER; DEATH JAPAN; CITY; EARTHQUAKE; AFTERMATH

Body

NATION

WASHINGTON

Flight control flaw grounds Army's Apache helicopters

The Army grounded its entire fleet of Apache attack helicopters as a precaution after discovering a flaw in a key component of the flight control system, officials said Friday.

The grounding, ordered Thursday, was the second for the Apache fleet in a little over a year. In November 1999, the fleet was grounded to replace their tail rotor bearings or to replace transmission parts. There are 742 Apaches in service worldwide.

The latest problem was discovered this week during a preflight inspection of an Apache at Fort Bragg, N.C. Apaches are the Army's best attack helicopters and were used extensively in the Gulf War against Iraq in 1991. WASHINGTON

McCain seeks quick action on campaign finance bill

Sen. John McCain said Friday that he wants the Senate to consider his campaign finance bill before President-elect George W. Bush begins sending his legislative proposals to Congress.

"I believe we have 60 votes," the number needed to limit debate on the bill, McCain, R-Ariz., said on CBS' "The Early Show."

"I will insist we bring it up at the earliest and address it," McCain said of the measure, which would ban contributions of "soft money" in federal campaigns. Such contributions are used to sell an issue rather than directly promote a candidate.

"We can get it done before the Bush legislative agenda comes over. I think that would be in the best interest of the new administration as well as the country," he said.

WASHINGTON

Health official resigns after admitting violation

An administrator with the Department of Health and Human Services resigned Friday after saying he unknowingly violated a federal law by holding a fund-raiser for a congressional candidate from Pennsylvania.

Michael Hash, acting administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, held a fund-raiser at his house on May 4 for Democratic congressional candidate Ronald Strouse, said Jane McFarland, spokeswoman for the Office of Special Counsel, an independent agency of federal prosecutors.

After speaking with his department's ethics officer, McFarland said, Hash realized he had violated the Hatch Act, a federal law that bans campaign activity by government workers. Hash then voluntarily reported his violation and cooperated with its investigation. Hash agreed to resign in exchange for no additional punishment. Penalties for violating the Hatch Act can range from a 30-day suspension to firing.

WASHINGTON

34-cent stamps go on sale in anticipation of rate hike

The new 34-cent stamps went on sale in post offices across the country Friday.

The rate increase takes effect Jan. 7, but postal officials said the stamps were being made available now so people could get them in advance. In the meantime, the 33-cent first-class rate remains in effect.

The stamps do not show any price because the millions needed for a rate change had to be printed in advance, before the exact new price was known. The three new stamps designs feature the Statue of Liberty, flowers and a flag flying over a farm.

Millions of 1-cent stamps also are being shipped to post offices for people to use with leftover 33-cent stamps after Jan. 7.

WORLD

NORTHERN IRELAND

Rival gangs declare end to feud in Protestant areas

Rival outlawed gangs declared an end Friday to a feud within Belfast's most militant Protestant neighborhoods that left seven men dead and forced hundreds to flee their homes.

In a joint statement, the Ulster Defense Association and Ulster Volunteer Force announced that after weeks of negotiations their commanders had reached "an open-ended and all-encompassing cessation of hostilities."

These so-called "loyalist" groups in 1994 called a halt to their campaign of terrorizing Northern Ireland's Roman Catholic minority, but in recent months their traditional rivalry over status and control of criminal rackets turned deadly.

TURKEY

Earthquake starts fire that kills five people

An earthquake rocked central Turkey on Friday, starting a fire that killed five people. Dozens were injured when they jumped from windows and balconies in panic, officials said.

The quake toppled a spire on a mosque, sparking the blaze that claimed five lives in the village of Yasarlar in Konya province, provincial Gov. Ahmet Kayhan said. The mosque was packed with men gathered for evening prayers during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The quake had a preliminary magnitude of 5.8, the Istanbul-based Kandilli observatory and the U.S. Geological Survey said. Quakes of that strength can cause considerable damage in populated areas. The temblor was centered between the towns of Ilgin and Bolvadin in Afyon province, 160 miles southwest of Ankara.

BRITAIN

Officials will test changes to Concorde fuel tanks

Authorities will conduct tests early next year on changes to the fuel tanks of Concorde planes, grounded since one of the needle-nosed jets crashed on takeoff this summer, an Anglo-French team announced Friday in London.

New fuel tank liners are expected to greatly reduce the chance of fire, said the team, made up of the plane's manufacturers, aviation regulators, crash investigators and the two airlines that operate the world's 12 Conc ordes - British Airways and Air France.

The modifications will be tested on a British Airways Concorde around February. The entire Concorde fleet was grounded shortly after one of the planes caught fire and crashed July 25 near Charles de Gaulle airport, killing all 109 aboard and four others on the ground. No date had been announced for the fleet to resume operation.

EGYPT

Two buildings collapse, killing 7, trapping 3

Two buildings collapsed in Cairo on Friday, killing at least seven people and leaving three others trapped under debris, police said.

The first building collapsed just after midnight in the Cairo neighborhood of el-Koulali, killing a 65-year-old woman and her 10-year-old granddaughter and leaving eight families homeless, officials said.

In the second incident, a three-story apartment building in Giza collapsed, killing the building's owner, his three children and sister-in-law, officials said. Three others received minor injuries. Late Friday, rescuers dug through the debris to try retrieve the victim's wife and two *female* relatives.

Building collapses are not unusual in Egypt. They are often blamed on shoddy construction or the unauthorized addition of extra stories.

CUBA

Cuba blocks phone calls from U.S. over tax dispute

As promised, Cuba blocked direct telephone service from the United States to the communist island Friday in retaliation for the refusal of U.S. phone companies to pay a new 10 percent tax.

People in Cuba were able to call the United States with some difficulty, but it appeared that people in the United States could not get through to Cuba.

It remained unclear if all service from the United States to Cuba had been severed, or if the disruptions where temporary as calls start to be rerouted through third countries - as has occurred in the past when direct service has been cut.

TIBET

Group reports death of jailed Tibetan activist

A Tibetan political activist has died while serving his third jail term in Chinese-ruled Tibet's most notorious prison, a monitoring group said Friday.

Shol Dawa, 64, was five years into a nine-year sentence in Drapchi prison in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa for compiling a list of political prisoners, the Tibet Information Network reported.

The circumstances of his death on Nov. 19 are unclear, but other prisoners said Dawa suffered from a kidney ailment and was in poor health from beatings, the group said.

JAPAN

Population rebounds in city devastated by quake

The population of Kobe has nearly rebounded to the level it was before an earthquake devastated the city almost six years ago, a city official said Friday.

The western Japanese city's population dipped nearly 100,000 after the 7.2-magnitude quake struck on Jan. 17, 1995. The earthquake killed 6,425 people and destroyed 250,000 homes, forcing many residents to leave.

A count taken on Oct. 1 shows the population of Kobe is now 1,493,595, officials said - 26,770 shy of pre-quake levels. Residents have gradually rebuilt their homes and businesses have moved back to the city, which has the biggest port in western Japan, about 270 miles west of Tokyo.

Graphic

PHOTO Photo by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS - Members of <u>Hamas</u>, an Islamic militant group, march during a rally Friday in the Gaza Strip. More than 25,000 people gathered in a stadium to mark the 13th anniversary of the group's founding. <u>Hamas</u> has rejected Israeli-Palestinian peace deals and has carried out a spate of bomb attacks against Israelis in the past.

Load-Date: December 16, 2000



<u>Israeli Labour party elects leader today: Members have a choice between the</u> enforcer and a leading dove

The Guardian (London)
September 4, 2001

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Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 11

Length: 641 words

Byline: Suzanne Goldenberg in Tel Aviv

Body

For Avraham Burg, the Speaker of Israel's parliament, the choice in today's Labour leadership contest is clear: the party can become a "cheap imitation" of the rightwing Likud, or it can remain true to its peacemaking past.

"It is a simple vote between yesterday and tomorrow, between more of the same and new hope for the future," Mr Burg told the Guardian. "It's a vote between a Labour that will allow Israel to exercise all its options, and a Labour party that wants to be a second Likud."

Today's contest, to be decided by 120,000 Labour members, pits Mr Burg, a leading dove, against Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, the stocky former brigadier, who is the defence minister in the national unity government of Ariel Sharon. It could also determine whether there is a credible voice for peace within the government.

Against Mr Burg's polish, and his appeal as an observant Jew to religious voters, Mr Ben-Eliezer - who is known as Fuad - is the tough-talking enforcer.

His bulky figure is a daily fixture on Israeli television, as he endorses the use of F-16s to drop one-tonne bombs on Palestinian police compounds, and guided missiles to assassinate <u>Hamas</u> leaders. His campaign slogan says: "Fuad will do the business", and he has told Israeli interviewers: "Terror has only one real answer - terror".

After a year of suicide bombings and drive-by shootings, such tough talk has an appeal for Israelis, for whom the over-arching issue is security.

Mr Ben-Eliezer, as defence minister - and army chief - has driven Israel's policy of relying on military might to crush a Palestinian uprising. "I will fight terror, and no one in the world has the moral right to demand that I do nothing after getting a report that terrorists are on the way to murder our children," Mr Ben-Eliezer told the magazine Jerusalem Report.

Mr Burg says the invasions, assassinations and missile strikes are closing off the prospects for a negotiated peace for another generation. He wants Labour to push harder for talks with the Palestinians.

But, with Israelis united in their distrust of Yasser Arafat, others in Labour fear that Mr Burg's approach would cast the party outside the shrinking ground of the political centre. Israel's wholesale shift to the right could prove his undoing in today's vote. Israeli Labour party elects leader today: Members have a choice between the enforcer and a leading dove

At a community centre in Tel Aviv's roughest neighbour hood, Mr Burg setout his stall for middle-aged <u>women</u> one of his sectors of support. The <u>women</u> were impressed by his oratory, his erudition, his good manners, and rarely for a Labour politician, the needlework kippa on his head.

Then a woman pipes up: "But what about security?" She will not be quiet. "First, there has to be security. We have no security," she said. "If he becomes head of the country, then the first thing he will do is meet Yasser Arafat."

The same line has been voiced by Labour's last prime minister, Ehud Barak, whose election rout last February has left the party dispirited. Last month, Mr Barak made a rare public appearance to declare: "Fuad represents the central path, and at this time he is the man I support to head the party."

In Mr Barak's view, men like Mr Burg are dangerous leftwingers who would sacrifice Israel's security for a shaky promise from Mr Arafat. Mr Ben-Eliezer does not say he would never talk to Mr Arafat, and said last week that he would not try to unseat the Palestinian leader or consider him a target for assassination.

Mr Burg accuses the present government - and by extension Mr Ben-Eliezer - of having no coherent policy for ending the Palestinian intifada. Others on the left wing of Labour say the defence minister's elevation could provoke a leftwing exodus.

Once the natural party of government, Labour is at a historic low. Mr Sharon appears firmly ensconced as prime minister, and elections are not due until 2003, an eternity in Israeli politics.

Load-Date: September 4, 2001



SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 17

The Scotsman

June 2, 2001, Saturday

Copyright 2001 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 1

Length: 664 words **Byline:** Foreign Staff

Body

SEVENTEEN people were killed and at least 68 injured in a suicide bombing on a crowded beachfront in Tel Aviv late last night.

The blast at the entrance to the Pacha nightclub on a palm tree-lined seaside complex caused heavy carnage.

<u>Women</u> wept and young victims lay groaning on the ground, comforted by rescue workers. Pools of blood covered the pavement.

"A man with explosives on him blew himself up at the entrance to the club and there are many casualties," said Tel Aviv's police chief, Yossi Setbon. A witness told Israel Radio that the bomber had been standing with a group of young people waiting to get in.

About a dozen cars parked in front of the club were heavily damaged by the blast, their windows shattered and pieces of flesh and blood splattered on them.

"I was about to enter (the nightclub) when suddenly I looked in the direction of the blast, I saw people thrown backward," said Dudi Nachum, 21. "I saw parts of a brain, things I have never seen before. It was terrible."

Rotem, an 18-year-old witness, said: "I was thrown back and fell on the ground. Bodies and body parts were all around me ... I can only be ashamed of this country."

"I saw a person's hand," said Ilan Amos, 35. "I don't know how to explain it to you, it hurts the heart."

Thirty ambulances raced to the scene of the blast, which occurred at about 11pm. Helicopters hovered overhead.

The bloodstained gloves of paramedics lay beside bodies along with personal effects left by the injured. A case of beer and mineral water from inside the disco were scattered on the street in front of the entrance.

The Syrian-based Islamic Jihad is reported to have claimed responsibility for the blast. Another Islamic militant group, <u>Hamas</u>, has said it would carry out at least ten suicide bombings and so far has claimed responsibility for eight.

Israel's security forces have been on high alert but have been unable to block the border with the West Bank to prevent infiltration. The Israel government said it held the Palestinian Authority responsible for the bomb attack.

SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 17

Israeli internet chatrooms erupted in anger and calls for war against the Palestinians after the bombing.

"It's time for war," wrote Dudi, from Tel Aviv, in a chatroom run by Israel's biggest newspaper, Yedioth Ahronoth.

Israel has declared a unilateral limited ceasefire after eight months of violence. But a spokesman for the prime minister, Ariel Sharon, said the government would respond to the attack "at a time and place that we will decide".

Israeli television said Mr Sharon, senior ministers and security advisers would hold an emergency meeting early today, but gave no details.

Israel has regularly blamed the Palestinian leadership for bomb blasts, saying it has done too little to prevent them.

"The finger (of responsibility) is pointing only in one direction and that is the chairman of the Palestinian Authority (Yasser Arafat) and the Palestinian leaders who have instigated (violence) in their responses to our call for a ceasefire," spokesman Raanan Gissin told CNN.

"We will have to draw the proper conclusion from this event. Our response will come at a time and place that we will decide a the decision of how and where and in what measure to respond is left with us."

In Washington, President George Bush urged Mr Arafat to condemn the bombing and called for an immediate cease-fire. "I condemn in the strongest terms the heinous terrorist attack a there is no justification for senseless attacks against innocent civilians," he said.

Since fighting erupted last September and until last night's bombing, 483 people had been killed on the Palestinian side and 88 on the Israeli side.

The blast came a week after the US revived efforts to bring the two sides together again for negotiations.

Israeli and Palestinian security chiefs held two rounds of talks and US diplomats met Israeli officials to discuss implementation of a report by an international commission headed by the former US senator George Mitchell.

Load-Date: June 4, 2001



SUICIDE BOMB RIPS THROUGH CROWD OF YOUNG ISRAELIS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

June 2, 2001 Saturday Five Star Lift Edition

Copyright 2001 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 19

Length: 658 words

Byline: Washington Post Post-Dispatch Wire Services Contributed To This Report.

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

* At least 17 people were killed and more than 80 were injured late Friday outside a beachfront disco in Tel Aviv, Israel's largest city. The attack intensified pressure on the Israeli Cabinet to strike back.

An explosion triggered by a Palestinian suicide bomber ripped through a throng of young Israelis outside a beachfront nightclub complex in Tel Aviv late Friday night, killing at least 17 people and injuring more than 80.

The bomber mingled with crowds outside the row of popular nightclubs on Tel Aviv's seaside boardwalk before blowing himself up. The blast occurred about 11 p.m. at the entrance to a nightclub called Pacha.

The suicide bombing was the most lethal in Israel in more than six years, transforming a balmy, palm-fringed scene of weekend revelry into a tableau of carnage. It intensified already strong pressure on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to renew airstrikes and other attacks on Palestinian targets, which had been suspended under a policy of restraint for the last two weeks.

Sharon called a Cabinet meeting this morning, breaking the Jewish Sabbath, to plan Israel's response.

There was no comment from Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader whom Israel blames for encouraging such attacks. But Ahmed Qureia, speaker of the Palestinian parliament, said Arafat's Palestinian Authority opposes the killing of civilians, whether Israeli or Palestinian.

President George W. Bush offered condolences to the victims' families and urged Arafat to condemn the attack.

"I condemn in the strongest terms the heinous terrorist attack in Tel Aviv this Sabbath evening," he said. "There is no justification for senseless attacks against innocent civilians. This illustrates the urgent need for an immediate, unconditional cessation of violence. I call upon Chairman Arafat to condemn this act and to call for an immediate cease-fire."

One witness told Israel radio that the suicide bomber had slipped into the midst of a mostly teen-age crowd celebrating the biggest party night of Israel's weekend before detonating the bomb. One of several nightclubs at the Dolphin complex in southern Tel Aviv was featuring free admission for <u>women</u>, so many of the victims were young and <u>female</u>. Stunned, bloodied and broken, they were shown on Israeli television being wheeled into hospital emergency rooms on gurneys, still wearing their sleeveless dresses, sequins and halter tops.

SUICIDE BOMB RIPS THROUGH CROWD OF YOUNG ISRAELIS

The promenade outside the nightclubs was also packed with young Russian immigrants. One of them, who identified herself as Irina, told Israel radio: "We were a lot of girls standing there. It was a lot of fun. And all of a sudden, there was a boom, smoke, and people fell."

An Israeli medic who said he arrived at the scene within 5 minutes of the blast said he saw "body parts everywhere, all of them youths, so young - the most horrendous scene I've ever seen."

At least two militant Palestinian groups, Islamic Jihad and <u>Hamas</u> claimed responsibility for the blast. But the Israeli government immedia tely blamed Arafat's Palestinian Authority, saying it gives its blessing to such attacks. At the outset of the Palestinian uprising against Israel last September, the authority released dozens of Islamic militants from Palestinian jails in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a move interpreted by Israel as a green light for terror attacks.

Until the Tel Aviv bombing, most of the week's most serious incidents had taken place in the West Bank and Gaza, where Israel still occupies much of the land it captured in the 1967 Middle East war. This attack was different, striking at the heart of Israel's largest city.

The area where the bomb exploded is packed with several thousand youths every Friday night, most of whom arrive after 10 p.m. to dance, drink and party. Several nightclubs are clustered there - Infinity, Pacha and Waterworld, which is popular with Russian-speaking immigrants.

The blast created instant mayhem, where moments earlier there had been merrymaking.

Notes

NATION / WORLD

Graphic

PHOTO; Photo by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS - Plastic sheets cover some of the victims of a suicide bomber who blew himself up in the midst of a mostly teen-age crowd outside a beachfront nightclub complex in Tel Aviv Friday night.

Load-Date: October 12, 2001



Arafat plea as Palestinians march: Five killed as thousands gather for day of protest to mark 53 years of catastrophe

The Guardian (London)
May 16, 2001

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Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 2

Length: 663 words

Byline: Suzanne Goldenberg in Ramallah, West Bank

Body

Thousands of Palestinians marched through the West Bank and Gaza yesterday on a day of protest that left five dead, including a Jewish settler, and more than 200 wounded.

In Ramallah, thousands gathered in the main Manara Square in a din of slogans, nationalist songs and the crackle of automatic weapons to mark 53 years since the day the Palestinians call the nakba, or the catastrophe: the founding of the Jewish state that drove more than 700,000 people from their homes.

At noon, a siren sounded for the more than 450 Palestinians killed during the uprising, now in its eighth month.

Old men stood with their hands on their hearts. Schoolgirls in striped green uniforms stopped their chatter. Militiamen in black masks, shoving their way through the crowds, froze in their tracks, and as the three minutes ended, church bells pealed. Moments later, the gunmen fired in the air, a prelude to the battles with Israeli soldiers at army checkpoints the length of the West Bank.

In the evening, an Israeli woman was shot dead and her male companion wounded when Palestinians fired on their car as it travelled on a road built for Jewish settlers east of Ramallah.

The gunfire, drive-by shootings and roadside bombs gave force to a defiant message from Yasser Arafat that vowed no surrender to the uprising, while claiming to support a negotiated peace. He also railed against the international community - including Arab states - for abandoning the Palestinians.

"No matter what weapons Israel uses against our <u>women</u> and children, it will not break the will of our people," Mr Arafat said in a televised address taped before his departure from Gaza. "It is time for the international conscience to wake up."

At the junction on the northern edge of Ramallah that has been transformed into a regular theatre of war during the last eight months, two stone throwers were shot dead by Israeli forces minutes after the protesters arrived.

Palestinians said that the men were shot by snipers; the Israeli army said it opened fire after two hand grenades were lobbed at army jeeps.

Arafat plea as Palestinians march: Five killed as thousands gather for day of protest to mark 53 years of catastrophe

A television journalist, Bertrand Aguirre, who reports for the French TF1 station, was shot and wounded. He told reporters he was deliberately targeted by an Israeli border policeman who pumped a single M-16 round into his torso. The Israeli army said it was investigating.

Earlier, a bodyguard for Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the disabled founder of the Islamic militant group *Hamas*, was killed near the border fence of the territory. The Israeli army said he was firing a mortar round at Israeli targets.

Amid the blood and rage, the protesters clutched at the hope of returning to their homes in Israel proper that they, or their grandparents, fled in 1948. Many of the elderly carried the keys of their lost houses.

For Omar Abu Saleh, 38, a foreign exchange dealer, the family home is lost forever. Raised in a refugee camp in Jordan, Mr Abu Saleh moved to Ramallah with his wife in 1999.

"All my childhood in a camp in Jordan I used to listen to my parents talking about Jerusalem and they built a dream in my head," he said. "They were dreaming all the time, but I came back and now I feel a stranger in my homeland."

The fury at yesterday's protests was stoked by the killing of five Palestinian, shot in the head and chest by Israeli soldiers at a checkpost west of Ramallah on Monday morning.

Referring to the incident yesterday, Israel's transport minister, Efraim Sneh, told Israel Radio: "I will ask for explanations". The Maariv newspaper called the killings a "military escalation of doubtful morality".

* A Palestinian bus driver who ploughed into a crowd of Israeli commuters, killing eight people including seven conscripts, was convicted of murder in a Tel Aviv court yesterday. Khalil Abu Olbeh, from Gaza City, said he turned his bus on the crowd last February to avenge the killing of Palestinians by Israeli soldiers.

Special report on Israel and the Middle East at guardian.co.uk/israel

Load-Date: May 16, 2001



ISRAELI KILLED IN SUICIDE ATTACK ON CROWDED BUS STOP

The Independent (London)
April 23, 2001, Monday

Copyright 2001 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 12

Length: 627 words

Byline: Eric Silver In Jerusalem

Body

ISRAEL DENOUNCED Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority for failing to prevent a suicide bombing that killed one Israeli civilian and wounded more than 40 others yesterday at a bus stop in the commuter town of Kfar Saba, northeast of Tel Aviv, during the morning rush hour.

According to witnesses, an Arab waited in the queue on the busy Weizmann Street until a No 29 bus pulled in, and blew himself up as soon as the driver opened the automatic doors. The bomber died instantly. So did an Israeli man in his mid-fifties who was going to work.

One of the wounded, a 14-year-old boy, was in a serious condition. Sunday marks the start of the working week in Israel. Kfar Saba, which is three miles from the Palestinian town of Kalkilya, has been a frequent target. A suicide bomber killed himself and two Israeli schoolboys at a bus stop just outside the town three weeks ago.

No one claimed responsibility for yesterday's bombing, though militant Palestinian groups have taken responsibility or been blamed by Israel for recent attacks.

After an emergency session of his inner cabinet, the Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, condemned what he called "this horrendous attack", which came just hours after Israeli and Palestinian security chiefs had resumed a dialogue designed to reduce the violence that has claimed 478 lives over the past seven months. Before the suicide bombing, the toll had grown at the weekend with the death of a Palestinian security officer from wounds sustained last Monday when Israel shelled a police compound in the Gaza Strip. And an Israeli motorist was found dead in his car near the West Bank town of Ramallah in what police suspect was a nationalist murder.

Mr Sharon's spokesman, Raanan Gissin, told The Independent last night: "It is regrettable that so soon after the security meeting we are faced with another suicide attack. The Palestinian Authority has failed to stop this terrorism. They have an apparatus whose main purpose is to prevent such attacks. We're only asking them to do what they have committed themselves to do, but the orders to stop violence have not been issued." Palestinian spokesmen announced at the weekend that Mr Arafat had ordered militants to stop firing mortars against villages housing Israelis in the Gaza Strip and across the border into the Negev desert. They reported that 16 <u>Hamas</u> gunmen, responsible for a recent wave of such bombings, had been arrested.

Israel remains sceptical. Mr Gissin said: "The test is what happens on the ground. Orders have to be followed by deeds."

ISRAELI KILLED IN SUICIDE ATTACK ON CROWDED BUS STOP

To show they were still in business, the Muslim extremists had fired another mortar near the isolated Gaza settlement of Netzarim on Saturday night and one of their spokesmen, Abdel-Aziz Rantissi, said yesterday: "The continuation of the Israeli occupation and Zionist aggression will be met by resistance. This is the legitimate right of the Palestinians."

The bus bombing came amid persistent reports of back-channel contacts between senior Israeli and Palestinian politicians.

Mr Sharon still insists that he will not negotiate under fire, but that did not stop him sending his son, Omri, to meet Mr Arafat this month.

Shimon Peres, Israel's Foreign Minister and an indefatigable peacemaker, confirmed that he remains in touch with the Palestinian leader.

t The former chief of Israel's military research and development unit has been accused of passing secrets to unauthorised authorities, Israel Radio said yesterday, quoting court documents. Details of the indictment filed last week against the retired Brigadier General Yitzhak Yaacov, 75, were released in Israel after the Sunday Times said he had been detained in Jerusalem since 28 March on suspicion of passing nuclear secrets to a *female* agent for Russia.

Graphic

Israeli medics pick up bodies at the scene of the suicide bombing at a bus stop in Kfar Saba AP; An injured soldier receives help at the scene of the suicide attack near Tel Aviv that killed one Israeli civilian and the bomber Reuters

Load-Date: April 23, 2001



ISRAELI DIES IN SUICIDE ATTACK ON CROWDED BUS STOP

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April 23, 2001, Monday

Copyright 2001 Independent Print Ltd

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ISRAELI DIES IN SUICIDE ATTACK ON CROWDED BUS STOP

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Graphic

An injured soldier receives help at the scene of the suicide attack near Tel Aviv that killed one Israeli civilian and the bomber Reuters

Load-Date: April 23, 2001



Suicide bomber kills three Israelis

The Times (London)
March 5, 2001, Monday

Copyright 2001 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 614 words

Byline: Sam Kiley in Netanya

Body

A suicide bomber killed himself and three Israelis in the town of Netanya yesterday as militant groups vowed more attacks against Israel.

<u>Hamas</u>, the Islamic Palestinian group, praised the bombing as a brave action but did not say that it had carried it out. It boasted that it had ten volunteers to carry out similar assaults once Ariel Sharon had formed a government.

An Arab man caught on the street of the Israeli coastal town by a mob of Jewish people inflamed by the sight of scattered body parts, was rescued by police after a severe beating that left him in a critical condition. Last night he was undergoing brain surgery.

It was the third bomb attack in Netanya in 16 months and the second there this year. A man of 85, the former mayor of a nearby town, and two <u>women</u>, aged 71 and 58, died when the bomber was stopped from boarding a crowded bus close to the town's main market.

The area had been flooded with police since last week's bombing near Umm al-Fahm, where one Israeli was killed, and a foiled attempt in Tel Aviv. Bomb disposal teams were close to the scene inspecting suspicious bicycles when the bomber, described as a man in his 20s, set off the device. William Weiss, a traffic policeman, raced to the scene the moment he heard the explosion, which threw a car across the street.

"I saw an old woman's body on the ground with no hands," he said. "A man was lying near by -he had a hole in his head and his arms were gone. It was awful, disgusting and terrifying." Mr Weiss added that he also saw a head lying in the street, which he thought was the terrorist's.

David Tsur, commander of Israel's police internal security service, who was quickly on the scene, said that the death toll could have been higher. At least 49 people were reported to have been hurt or were suffering from shock.

The security forces and politicians have been struggling with how to combat the wave of terror attacks and have given warning that they are likely to increase. Over the weekend the Israeli Army stepped up patrols across the West Bank and Gaza and placed armour at most road junctions. Police roadblocks along the "Green Line" demarcating Israel and the occupied territories screened the few vehicles crossing between the two areas.

"It's not easy to control this sort of thing. We have been on a very high state of alert. But there is a limit to what can be done," the police general said.

Suicide bomber kills three Israelis

Frustration and fear have gripped many Israelis in the face of the new intifada, which began last autumn. Attitudes among Palestinians have also hardened, with the growing death toll on both sides. On Saturday it rose to include two more Palestinians, one shot by the army, the other allegedly by Jewish settlers. They were buried in Nablus yesterday, where crowds of Palestinians shouted that the Netanya bombing was in revenge for their deaths.

Mr Sharon, leader of Likud, said: "We must learn from the terrorist attacks the importance of being united. We are facing an uneasy period that demonstrates the importance of a national unity government." Israelis are expecting Mr Sharon, who was a brilliant tank commander and a controversial Defence Minister, to produce drastic solutions to what many now consider is a Palestinian threat to the existence of the state. He has revealed little of his plans; some of his associates have advised him to ease economic restrictions on ordinary Palestinians but to attack their leaders.

Prominent Israelis denounced the attempted lynching of the Arab man in Netanya. Rabbi Yitzhak Levy, leader of the National Religious Party, whose daughter was killed in a car bombing last year, condemned the attack, saying it was forbidden by Jewish law.

Load-Date: March 5, 2001



<u>Palestinian rage builds as curfew cuts deep;</u> Hebron's Jewish settlers unrestricted

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

January 13, 2001, Saturday,

Home Edition

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Section: Religion Faith & Values; Pg. 5E

Length: 614 words

Byline: Larry Kaplow, Cox Washington Bureau

Body

Hebron, West Bank --- Not long after a scuffle between a <u>female</u> Israeli soldier and a Palestinian housewife one day this week, the loudspeakers began to blare.

"Go in your homes!" an Israeli soldier in an armored troop carrier yelled in Hebrew to the Arabic-speaking crowd. "Prohibited to go outside!" he shouted in Arabic.

Earlier Wednesday morning, two bursts of gunfire had been aimed at troops guarding a settlement of 400 Israelis in this Palestinian city about 15 miles south of Jerusalem. Immediately, the 30,000 residents of the neighborhood from which the gunfire had come, which encompasses most of downtown Hebron, were ordered to stay inside --- barred from going to work, attending school or visiting relatives.

AJC

The curfew has been imposed on and off since Sept. 29. It was lifted Thursday, but army officials said it could be reinstated at any time.

They said lifting the curfew was not part of the recent easing of restrictions throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which are Palestinian areas that were captured by Israel in 1967.

Fighting between Israelis and Palestinians over the last three months has killed more than 360 people, about 90 percent of them Palestinian.

Over that period, the curfew has sometimes been in effect for weeks at a time. It is one of the Israeli tactics that have stoked a seething Palestinian anger.

Just as Israeli anger over Palestinian riots and attacks has slowed efforts to negotiate peace, Palestinian bitterness is increasing on the streets and in opinion polls. It could pose an obstacle as leaders on both sides make one last effort at a U.S.-brokered peace before President Clinton leaves office Jan. 20.

Israeli officials and settlers say the curfew is necessary to rein in violence. But the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem released a report Thursday calling it "collective punishment" that often extends beyond security needs.

Palestinian rage builds as curfew cuts deep; Hebron's Jewish settlers unrestricted

The mix of restrictions has helped make Hebron a cauldron of distrust and hatred. While the settlers in Hebron --- among the most ideologically extreme Israelis --- can drive or walk wherever they like in most of the area covered by the curfew, Palestinians must stay in their homes.

Sometimes they are allowed an hour or two of freedom, which they use to buy food or visit relatives.

What's more, Hebron's roads, like many in the West Bank, have been closed by Israeli troops. When Palestinians need to be treated in hospitals outside the city, their stretchers are passed from ambulance to ambulance over cement blocks and earthen berms that choke the highways.

An unarmed Palestinian man was shot in the leg, the wound nearly severing his foot, in a mix-up at an Israeli checkpoint in Hebron a week ago. After the man was caught writhing on news video, Army officials expressed regret over the shooting. The man's foot may be have to be amputated.

When the curfew is in effect, Palestinians watch television, stockpile rice and lentils, and direct searing looks at the soldiers and settlers who drive by.

Some children pass the time by scrounging bullets discarded by the troops. They empty the gunpowder into plastic soft drink bottles and set off small explosions. The Israelis cock their rifles and chase the children up the alleys in a potentially deadly game.

During curfew, Hussama Rajabeh, a 25-year-old truck driver, watched from a window Wednesday as his 55-year-old aunt got into an argument with a <u>female</u> soldier in the incident which preceded the blaring of the loudspeakers. The soldier ordered Rajabeh's aunt to go inside. The soldier cocked her M-16 and leaned forward, Rajabeh said. His aunt aunt pushed the soldier, who then hit her in the head with her rifle butt, Rajabeh said.

Graphic

Photo

Israeli troops fire at stone-throwing Palestinians on Friday during clashes that followed a pro-refugee march by hundreds of supports of the radical Islamic group <u>Hamas</u> in the West Bank town of Hebron. / NASSER SHIYOUKHI / Associated Press

Load-Date: January 13, 2001



BOMBS SHATTER HOPES OF PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST

The Independent (London)
December 29, 2000, Friday

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Section: TITLE PAGE; Pg. 1

Length: 662 words

Byline: Eric Silver In Jerusalem

Body

TWO EXPLOSIONS, which killed two Israelis and wounded at least 14 yesterday pushed the fading Middle East peace process closer to extinction. Two days of intensive diplomatic effort, spearheaded by the United States and Egypt, failed to bring Israeli and Palestinian leaders back to the negotiating table.

Last night after the collapse of a planned summit between the Israeli, Palestinian and Egyptian leaders, followed by the bomb attacks, President Bill Clinton said there was "no point" in further talks unless both sides accepted his proposals as the basis for a negotiated settlement. He warned that a delay would make decisions even more difficult.

The first blast crippled a crowded bus on Petach Tikva Way, one of central Tel -Aviv's busiest thoroughfares, at midday. The "small" charge wounded 12 passengers, two seriously.

Later, a roadside bomb exploded near the Sufa crossing point in the southern Gaza Strip, killing a soldier and a paramilitary border guard and wounding two others. The crossing is used mainly for transporting goods between Israel and Gaza.

The victims were bomb-disposal experts summoned to what turned out to be a decoy. While they were inspecting it, the real bomb went off.

The radical Islamic Jihad movement claimed responsibility. Israeli officers said the trap was characteristic of Palestinian and Lebanese Muslim militant groups. Ismail Abu Shanab, a spokesman for the Jihad's rival *Hamas*, said last night: "For us, it doesn't matter who is responsible, as long as he is part of the intifada. It is the Palestinian people who are determined to continue this uprising."

Since the violence erupted three months ago, more than 40 Israelis and 350 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank and Gaza. Yesterday's attacks ended a four-day lull during the triple Christian-Jewish-Muslim holiday week.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Barak, said: "We will continue our determined war against terror and, as in the past, will get at those who carry out these acts. The criminal attack won't crack our determination to bring real security through an end to the conflict and to bloodshed in our region."

The bombings came as the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met the Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak to discuss the latest US plans, amid a strident right -wing Israeli campaign against offering the Palestinians anything more in negotiations.

BOMBS SHATTER HOPES OF PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST

Moshe Feiglin, a leader of the "This is our Land" movement, has accused Mr Barak of forfeiting his legitimacy and called for a campaign of civil disobedience. In rhetoric that reminded the Israeli left of the incitement that ended with the 1995 assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, Nadia Matar, of the militant <u>Women</u> in Green group, called Mr Barak a "traitor".

With up to 50,000 West Bank settlers facing evacuation if the American peace plan goes through, Noam Arnon, a spokesman for the 450 Jews who live among 100,000 Arabs in Hebron, said they would forcibly resist any attempt to move them out.

Ariel Sharon, Mr Barak's hard-line Likud challenger in the 6 February elections, urged his supporters to refrain from accusing the Prime Minister of treason. But the Likud mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert, stoked the boilers yesterday by moving his office to a Jewish seminary at the Wailing Wall.

He said: "All Jerusalem must remain united and part of Israel." The Wall, he added, was "an inseparable part of the Temple Mount", which Mr Barak is prepared to cede to Palestinian control (though not to Palestinian sovereignty). Earlier he had accused the Prime Minister of "selling out" Jerusalem, the prospective capital of a Palestinian as well as a Jewish state.

Opinion polls show Israelis and Palestinians losing faith in the peace process. After one survey this week found 52 to 38 per cent of Israelis against the US peace package, the Palestinian Centre for Public Opinion said 52 per cent of Pales- tinians oppose negotiating with Israel and 57 per cent rejected shared rule in Jerusalem.

Load-Date: December 29, 2000



Mistaken bombing puts Israeli military's reputation on line

The New Zealand Herald November 24, 2000 Friday

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Section: NEWS; World

Length: 651 words

Body

JERUSALEM - The timing was desperately unfortunate. Yesterday, a fighter jet from the Israeli Air Force dropped a bomb on the West Bank city of Nablus. By mistake.

True, it was a training bomb, empty of explosives. But the blunder was serious enough for the Israeli armed forces to rush out a statement "expressing sorrow" and to offer to help Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority clear up.

All this, only a day after Israel's Prime Minister, Ehud Barak, had blamed the Palestinian Authority for being indirectly responsible for a car bombing in the Israeli coastal town of Hadera, which killed two.

And only three days ago not for the first time Apache helicopters from the Israeli air force were firing rockets at the Gaza offices of the authority.

The strange contradictions of this grim low-level war grow by the day. Just the night before yesterday's embarrassing error, the streets of Jerusalem filled with tens of thousands of right-wing Israelis, infuriated by the Hadera bomb and demanding that the army use more force.

Israel's entire dilemma is complicated by doubts over the competence of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) to deal with the urban guerrilla war now developing out of what began as a popular intifada.

No one beyond the most wildly extreme elements in Israel wants to see the military make a mistake by slaughtering a large number of Palestinian civilians in oneattack.

International pressure on Israel has mounted sharply in the past few days and, feeling isolated and abandoned, Israel wants to avoid mistakes; meanwhile, its armed forces have moved to what it alarmingly calls "pro-active" operations, a euphemism for killing people on the basis that you suspect them of planning to kill you, a policy known in Britain in Baroness Thatcher's years as shoot-to-kill.

A "pro-active operation" was almost certainly behind the death yesterday of Ibrahim Bani Odeh, an alleged activist in the Islamic militant group *Hamas*, who was found dead in his car in Nablus.

Reports said he had been released from jail only 24 hours before.

For the IDF, one mistake has followed another in the uprising.

Three Israeli soldiers, and a reserve colonel, have managed to get captured by Hizbollah guerrillas in Lebanon.

Mistaken bombing puts Israeli military's reputation on line

And if the Palestinian mob that butchered two Israeli soldiers in Ramallah on 12 October acted in abarbaric way, the soldiers had made a breathtaking mistake by wandering into an autonomous Palestinian area.

Even after the lynchings, an Israeli military bus managed to stray into an Arab area.

And what Israel clearly intended as a clinical helicopter strike to take out a Palestinian guerrilla in Bethlehem was horribly marred by the casual killing of two middle-aged Arab **women**, who happened to be passing by.

This is not the heroic stuff on which the Israeli army's reputation as a brilliantly efficient force was built.

At heart, Ehud Barak, Israel's most decorated soldier, is a commando; in uniform he was part of a group that specialised in undercover assassinations.

But his enemies now are guerrilla fighters and a complex, popular uprising not directed by one single leader, but by several, almost certainly at odds with one another. The military manuals offer no quick fix.

- http://www.independent.co.uk INDEPENDENT

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storyarchive.cfm?reportID=56522 Herald Online feature: Middle East

<u>http://www.nzherald.co.nz</u> /storydisplay.cfm?storyID=156804&thesection=news&thesubsection=world Backgrounder: Holy city in grip of past

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?storyID=155216&thesection=Story&thesubsection=&reportID=56522
Map

http://www.middleeastdaily.com Middle East Daily

http://www.arabicnews.com/ansub/index.html Arabic News

<u>http://www.amin.org</u> Arabic Media Internet Network

http://www.jpost.com Jerusalem Post

http://www.israelwire.com/su1.html Israel Wire

http://www.state.gov/www/regions/nea/peace_process.html US Department of State - Middle East Peace Process

Load-Date: December 18, 2002



BILL SENT RIGHT MESSAGE WITH THOSE MISSILES . . .

Daily News (New York) August 23, 1998, Sunday

Copyright 1998 Daily News, L.P. **Section:** Editorial; Pg. 55

Length: 572 words

Byline: BY RICHARD Z. CHESNOFF

Body

THE supercynics who insist Bill Clinton ordered Thursday's anti-terrorist attacks to draw attention away from Monicagate are dead wrong. But for the sake of argument, if it took a little dog wagging to get the Clinton administration to finally take firm defensive action against terrorists, then so be it.

The tough lessons our missile force delivered in Afghanistan and Sudan were long overdue. Terrorists understand only one language: toughness. What's more, as Secretary of State Albright succinctly put it, these criminals "have to learn that while they can hide, they can't escape."

To be sure, the host countries the U.S. targeted are busily moaning and groaning. But neither has grounds for complaint.

Afghanistan's extremist Taliban leaders who specialize in oppressing <u>women</u>, and whom we once supported when they fought the Soviets have been warned for months to stop giving anti-American terrorists sanctuary. That includes not only Osama Bin Laden's gangs, but other fanatics who target Americans.

Sudan, which still tolerates the slave trade and savagely oppresses its black Christian population, has prided itself on being one of the world's primary centers for terrorist training. Recent guest lists in Africa's largest country read like a veritable terrorists' Who's Who.

To name a few: the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Iranian-backed <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad, the outlawed Algerian Islamic Salvation Front, Tunisia's Nahda, Yemen's al-Islaq and Egypt's Gma'at Islamiya. Remember them? They bombed the World Trade Center and targeted other New York landmarks. What's more, their leader, blind cleric Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, entered the U.S. from Sudan and now is serving time in a U.S. prison.

All these groups have used training camps maintained by Sudan's Popular Defense Forces. That's the kind of activity that once helped Sudan win the dubious honor of joining Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya and Syria on the U.S. government's list of nations sponsoring international terrorism.

Then, of course, there's Osama Bin Laden himself. The Saudi megamillionaire terrorist took refuge in Sudan in the early 1990s when his own country tossed him out.

It took a lot of pressure from the United States to get the Khartoum government to finally invite him to leave in 1996. But he still has considerable holdings in Sudan and a financial hold over some important Sudanese officials (his closest political ties are with Sudan's de facto leader, Islamic extremist Hassan al-Turabi).

BILL SENT RIGHT MESSAGE WITH THOSE MISSILES . . .

Intelligence sources tell me that while Bin Laden's fortune is spread among banks and front corporations from Switzerland to the gulf states, he still keeps major accounts in Sudan's Al Shimali Bank, using them to line the pockets of some Sudanese officials.

What happens now? There's no doubt terrorists plan new retaliatory attacks possibly on American soil. But that only means showing tougher resolve to battle them.

One way was shown on Thursday. Another is to cut off their financial support by getting nations and banks to freeze their assets. It also means new pressure on all countries that harbor terrorists.

That includes Iran and Syria, where Palestinian terrorists who have murdered scores of people in recent years including 13 Americans, like New Jersey student Alisa Flatow still operate and get support. Let them and their hosts learn they can hide, but they can't escape.

Graphic

ILLUSTRATION BY IGOR KOPELNITSKY

Load-Date: August 24, 1998



<u>TELEVISION REVIEW;</u> Ticktock, Ticktock, Habits of the Wily Croc

The New York Times

April 28, 1998, Tuesday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: The Arts/Cultural Desk

Section: Section E; ; Section E; Page 8; Column 1; The Arts/Cultural Desk ; Column 1; ; Review

Length: 604 words

Byline: By WALTER GOODMAN

By WALTER GOODMAN

Body

How doth the little crocodile

Improve his shining tail,

And pour the waters of the Nile

On every golden scale!

How cheerfully he seems to grin,

How neatly spreads his claws,

And welcomes little fishes in

With gently smiling jaws!

"Crocodiles!", David Attenborough's tribute to these sturdy survivors from the age of dinosaurs, cannot fail to improve on the reputation they have borne since Lewis Carroll stamped that sardonic grin on them. Sure, they still go around snapping up little fishes, but only when zebras are not available, and meantime, as reported tonight, they busy themselves with mating, rearing and other domestic duties.

Not only are they acclaimed as reptilian relics, but in the remarkable BBC photography -- much of it done at night and underwater -- the crocs also show flashes of beauty along with the cooperative skills that have kept them afloat for so many centuries.

Tonight's "Nova" begins with the romantic side of crocdom, capturing on low-frequency recordings the hisses and grunts that guide *females* to where they have to be. With mutual seduction helped along by excretions of crocodile perfume, things, as Mr. Attenborough delicately puts it, "get intimate." Despite the armor plating, the lovers are sensitive to touch, and sultry music, courtesy of the producers, enhances the mood.

TELEVISION REVIEW; Ticktock, Ticktock, Habits of the Wily Croc

Hatching, protecting and nurturing the young puts quite a burden on the <u>females</u>, since the males, like many present-day human dads, do not stay around to help with the chores.

When she is not gobbling up other <u>females</u>' hatchlings ("Crocs will eat just about anything," Mr. Attenborough notes) a foster mother may find herself rearing 100 babes. Despite the apparent power of maternal tendencies to subdue appetite, what with bad weather and predators only 2 percent of the babies are likely to grow to adulthood.

Those who make it, however, can be formidable, as demonstrated in an extended hunting scene: crocodiles against zebras. The zebras, with their potent kick and with rumps too wide for crocodile jaws, do not make easy prey, but crocodile speed and tactical cooperation can provide a meal. An audacious crocodile, like one filmed here, can prove a match for a pride of lions.

So save the crocodile tears. As Carroll knew, the gentle smiler can take care of himself.

'Suicide Bombers'
'Secrets of the Shaheed'
Cinemax, tonight at 8

Few secrets are revealed here by the young Arab men committed to blowing themselves up in hopes of taking some Israelis with them. But "Suicide Bombers" is as close as a Western documentary is likely to get to their mentality. These interviews with prisoners in Israeli and Palestinian jails (evidently their bombs didn't go off) confirm that they were inspired by prospects of martyrdom ("shaheed" is Arabic for martyr), of coming face to face with the Prophet Mohammed and enjoying the company of an eternity of virgins.

"Terrorism is the weapon of the poor," the narrator says. By this account, groups like <u>Hamas</u> and Hezbollah find their recruits among the jobless faithful in Gaza and vicinity, who are seen wearing shrouds and sitting in a graveyard to prepare themselves for heaven. "Death is a privilege," one says. Punctuating the interviews are newsreels of the slaughter that the most successful of the shaheed, not available for interviews, have wreaked on Israel's buses, streets and marketplaces.

NOVA Crocodiles! PBS, tonight (Channel 13, New York, at 8)

Written by Susan Western and produced by Karen Bass; Keith Scholey, executive producer for the BBC; Paula Apsell, executive producer for NOVA. David Attenborough, narrator. A BBC Production in association with WGBH/Boston.

Graphic

Photo: Baby jaws: A young crocodile docking on a lily pad, on "Crocodiles!" (Richard Kirby/BBC Natural History/"Nova")

Load-Date: April 28, 1998



SPEAK UP

Dayton Daily News (Ohio)

July 13, 1998, Monday,

CITY EDITION

Copyright 1998 Dayton Newspapers, Inc.

Section: NEWS,; SPEAK UP

Length: 562 words

Body

- * Re the July 3 letter on feminism, "How about respecting <u>women</u> who choose to raise kids?": True feminists believe you can choose to do anything, including staying home to take care of your children. Some of us managed to work full time, produce good children and a nice home. So you can do it all if you want to.
- * Re the July 3 letter about grammar errors in the Dayton Daily News ("Daily News' staff must take more care in editing," July 3): Doesn't the writer know that a completely new newspaper is made available to us every single day? That's a huge, huge effort for a minimal price. Thank you, Dayton Daily News.
- * Re Ken Starr's probe of President Bill Clinton's sex life: I'm just trying to figure out which one is the bigger pervert.
- * How much money would we have saved if Clinton and his cast of thousands had not gone to China?
- * Re the July 6 letter "Oppressor Israel deserves blame for Mideast unrest": Israel's tight security in Jerusalem is based on the always-present threat from Palestinian <u>Hamas</u> suicide bombers, who have killed dozens of innocent people in that city. If such a threat were present in their neighborhood, you can bet the letter writers would be screaming for more police protection.
- * There is still no proof that medical coverage was guaranteed to military retirees. Perhaps they should consider how guaranteed their Social Security or pensions are. Time to start taking care of yourself. The government is broke.
- * Kudos to the writer of the July 7 letter "Congress should investigate China trade actions." Is the United States brain-dead and completely apathetic? President Bill Clinton is a certified traitor.
- * I'm appalled by the number of July 8 "Speak Up" callers who think it was just fine for that cop to pepper-spray that Wendy's employee, especially since there appears to be no evidence that she shortchanged him. For the record, I'm white, and I can't see why it matters if the cop or the girl were black, white or rainbow-colored.
- * In response to the July 8 "Speak Up" comments for Officer McDonald: If he is kept on the police force, he should have to carry a sign that reads: "Armed and extremely dangerous."
- * Where are the police officers who are outraged about Officer McDonald's behavior? I know there are some. They have to stop being passive supporters of abuse and things that destroy democracy in America.

SPEAK UP

- * In response to a July 3 "Speak Up" comment: Regardless of whether I own a home in Florida, drive a Cadillac and tee off every day at 7 a.m., the Social Security money in my account is mine. I earned it. Let's quit using Social Security as a welfare system
- * It took me several minutes to quit retching after reading the July 3 Gwynne Dyer column, "Surgeons: Why not revive the human organ market?" It's pathetic how we make a profit out of the human body. But if we are going to make improvements, why not make a federal law that establishes that at least half of the total cost of a transplant be paid to the estate of the donor? Then prices would drop.
- * I hope all of the irate citizens who are angry with the Dayton city commissioners for hiring those aides remember this at election time. That's the time to throw them out of office.
- * Finally I liked one of Mike Peters' cartoons: the July 9 one about Roy Rogers. Nice!
- * Mike Peters did a cartoon that was nice to somebody who owns guns, Roy Rogers, on July 9.

Load-Date: July 14, 1998



PALESTINIANS KILL FOUR ISRAELIS IN GUN ATTACKS

The Independent (London)

November 14, 2000, Tuesday

Copyright 2000 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 13

Length: 636 words

Byline: Phil Reeves In Jerusalem

Body

THE MIDDLE East conflict slid deeper toward prolonged guerrilla war yesterday after three Israelis, including two soldiers, were killed in a drive-by ambush on the West Bank and a fourth was shot dead in Gaza.

They amount to the bloodiest single attack committed by the Palestinians in the last seven weeks and seem certain to produce a fierce response from Israel's armed forces.

The first shooting happened just before dusk, as reports were coming in from the Gaza Strip that another two Palestinian teenagers had been shot dead by Israeli troops and a third died from early wounds - a typical daily death toll in the occupied territories at present.

The Israeli media said gunmen opened fire from a vehicle as they overtook a private car and then an Israeli miltary bus, riddling it with at least 50 bullets before speeding off. It happened on a section of road controlled by the Israeli military running north from Jerusalem to Nablus through the West Bank.

Two soldiers and a woman - a settler who was a passenger in the private car - were killed; seven people were injured. A few hours later an Israeli citizen was shot dead in a car in Gaza.

The killings provide further evidence that the intifada is being fought on two fronts: at the barricades in daylight by a dwindling number of Arab youths throwing rocks and molotov cocktails under fire from the Israeli army, and in the field by Tanzim gunmen using guerrilla tactics to attack Jewish settlements and army positions.

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) were yesterday quick to emphasise that they view the latter as significant. The IDF's spokesman, Maj Yarden Vatikay, said: "This is turning into a guerrilla war against our army, and a terror war against our civilians. ... It is not a popular intifada."

Five days ago, in a shift of tactics, the Israeli armed forces killed a Palestinian guerilla leader, Hussein Abayat, by blowing up his car with a TOW rocket fired from an Apache helicopter in a suburb of Bethlehem. Two middle -aged <u>women</u> passers-by were also killed. Afterwards the Israeli army refused to apologise, saying it was Abayat's fault for operating in populated areas.

Palestinian Fatah leaders vowed vengeance, which quickly came: two Israeli soldiers were killed at the weekend, bringing the total of IDF fatalities to 12.

PALESTINIANS KILL FOUR ISRAELIS IN GUN ATTACKS

Yesterday's events may have been another episode in the same cycle of retaliation, but they are also part of a broader Palestinian strategy of targetting the Israeli army and the 200,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza in the hope of forcing them out. Twenty four Israelis have died in the conflict, of a total of around 215.

The killings yesterday will surely intensify the ongoing, low-level war on the West Bank between Palestinians and armed militant Jewish settlers.

Last night Israel's prime minister Ehud Barak interrupted a trip to the United States to consult with the IDF's chief-of-staff, Lt-Gen Shaul Mofaz, on how to respond. After previous attacks - such as the lynching of two of its soldiers - Israel has used tanks and helicopters to shell usually empty Fatah headquarters and Palestinian Authority headquarters in the West Bank and Gaza.

The strategy assumes that Mr Arafat is orchestrating the violence, despite evidence that he is far from in full control.

News of the ambushes was yet another blow for the Israeli public. The last 48 hours alone has seen Mr Barak meet fruitlessly with Bill Clinton in the White House; the death of Yitzhak Rabin's widow, Leah - a controversial but admired figure - and an annoucement from Yasser Arafat that the intifada will continue.

To the annoyance of Israel, Mr Arafat was at the Organisation of the Islamic Conference summit in Qatar yesterday where he met with a senior official from Israel's staunchest enemies - the Islamic militant group *Hamas*.

Graphic

A soldier is taken into a hospital in Jerusalem yesterday after gunmen ambushed Israeli vehicles in the West Bank AP

Load-Date: November 14, 2000



Barak, Sharon move to join forces; MIDDLE EAST

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

October 7, 2000 Saturday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 15

Length: 577 words

Byline: Ross Dunn, Herald Correspondent, in Jerusalem, and agencies

Body

The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Ehud Barak, has initiated secret talks aimed at forming a new government with Mr Ariel Sharon, the man blamed for inciting violence with the Palestinians.

Members of Mr Barak's Labour Party are calling for him to join forces with Mr Sharon, leader of the right-wing Opposition Likud party, to deal with the crisis.

The move came as Israeli police opened fire on Palestinian stone-throwers in Arab East Jerusalem following Muslim Friday prayers, wounding at least 10 people.

In the West Bank town of Nablus, a Palestinian teenager was killed during an exchange of gunfire between Palestinian gunmen and Israeli soldiers.

Mr Barak hinted he might want to form a national unity or emergency government, if it proved impossible to make peace with the Palestinian leader, Mr Yasser Arafat.

"I am not convinced at this time we have a partner for peace," Mr Barak said. "But it is our duty, our testament, to clarify this until the end.

"And if, God forbid, it turns out that we don't have a partner now to end the conflict, we will be united, and united one for all, against the difficult tests that will be awaiting us. And it seems the difficult tests are still before us."

Mr Arafat continues to blame Israel for the violence and is demanding an international committee be set up to investigate the causes of the clashes.

He said he hoped the door to peaceful negotiations was still open. "But first of all, we have to stop the massacres against our people ... against our students, and youth and children and *women*," Mr Arafat said.

But key ministers in the Israeli Government appear to have given up hope of reaching a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the current climate. They include Mr Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, the Communications Minister, known to be close to Mr Barak.

Mr Ben-Eliezer said a "national emergency government" should be established immediately, after almost 70 people were killed in a week of clashes in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Arab population centres in Israel.

Barak, Sharon move to join forces MIDDLE EAST

"In the present situation, I think that Israel in general and the party specifically have to put aside all score-keeping and stand together," he said.

Mr Ben-Eliezer rejected criticism of the plan by those who said it would be impossible to make peace with Mr Sharon as part of the Government. "When peace is escaping us, there is no alternative but to bring Sharon in."

Palestinians have criticised Mr Barak for allowing Mr Sharon to visit a site sacred to Muslims and Jews in the Old City in Jerusalem last week.

Riots broke out at the shrine known to Muslims as the al-Haram Sharif, site of the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa mosques.

Yesterday's disturbances erupted outside the Lion's Gate entrance to the shrine, following calls by the militant Islamic group <u>Hamas</u> for a "day of rage". Police said they fired rubber-coated metal bullets after hundreds of stones were thrown at them.

Earlier, witnesses said members of the Islamic Trust known as the "Waqf" and Faisal al-Husseini, the leading Palestinian official in Jerusalem, had stopped hundreds of Palestinians throwing stones from the shrine down onto Judaism's sacred Wailing

Wall.

The handful of Jewish worshippers at the Wall were evacuated by police but later allowed to return when the violence erupted at the Lion's Gate, at the other end of the Muslim complex.

About 20 Palestinians were wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers in the divided West Bank town of Hebron.

'I don't understand' Page 21

Graphic

TWO ILLUS: A time to speak ... above, Ehud Barak speaks to the press in Tel Aviv; left, Yasser Arafat passes a note to Egypt's President, Hosni Mubarak, during crisis talks in Sharm el-Sheikh. Photos: by Eyal Warshavsky/AP and Marwan Naamani/AFP

Load-Date: July 24, 2007



Barak, Sharon move to join forces; MIDDLE EAST

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

October 7, 2000 Saturday

Early Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 15

Length: 565 words

Byline: Ross Dunn, Herald Correspondent, in Jerusalem

Body

The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Ehud Barak, has initiated secret talks aimed at forming a new government with Mr Ariel Sharon, the man blamed for inciting violence with the Palestinians.

Members of Mr Barak's Labour Party are calling publicly for him to join forces with Mr Sharon, leader of the right-wing Opposition Likud party, to deal with the crisis.

The move came as Israel geared up for more clashes yesterday and Mr Barak hinted he might want to form a national unity or emergency government, if it proved impossible to make peace with the Palestinian leader, Mr Yasser Arafat.

"I am not convinced at this time we have a partner for peace," Mr Barak said. "But it is our duty, our testament, to clarify this until the end.

"And if, God forbid, it turns out that we don't have a partner now to end the conflict, we will be united, and united one for all, against the difficult tests that will be awaiting us.

"And it seems the difficult tests are still before us."

Mr Arafat continues to blame Israel for the violence and is demanding an international committee be set up to investigate the causes of the clashes.

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But key ministers in the Israeli Government appear to have given up hope of reaching a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the current climate. They include Mr Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, the Communications Minister, known to be close to Mr Barak.

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Barak, Sharon move to join forces MIDDLE EAST

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Palestinians have criticised Mr Barak for allowing Mr Sharon to visit a site sacred to Muslims and Jews in the Old City in Jerusalem last week.

Riots broke out at the shrine known to Muslims as the al-Haram Sharif, or Noble Sanctuary, site of the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa mosques.

The area is regarded as the third-holiest in the Islamic world.

More trouble was predicted at the shrine yesterday during mass demonstrations and following calls by the militant Islamic group *Hamas* for a "Day of Rage".

To Jews it is the Temple Mount, site of their holy temples in biblical times and the most sacred place in the Jewish world.

For this reason, Mr Barak has said he will never agree to the demand by Mr Arafat to give up Jewish sovereignty of the shrine.

But Mr Ben-Eliezer said that more than the Temple Mount was now at stake. He said Israelis were battling to preserve the whole of the Jewish state.

Mr Barak lost his parliamentary majority after he offered far-reaching territorial concessions to the Palestinians, with several parties resigning from the ruling coalition.

He believes his only chance of avoiding being forced to go to early elections is by securing Mr Sharon's agreement to have Likud join the Cabinet

`I don't understand' Page 21

Graphic

TWO ILLUS: A time to speak ... above, Ehud Barak speaks to the press in Tel Aviv; left, Yasser Arafat passes a note to Egypt's President, Hosni Mubarak, during crisis talks in Sharm el-Sheikh. Photos: Eyal Warshavsky/AP and Marwan Naamani/AFP

Load-Date: July 24, 2007



Anti-U.S. fervor heats up across Muslim world; A demonstration in Tehran drew more than 20,000. Islamic clerics throughout the region condemned the U.S. retaliation.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

OCTOBER 13, 2001 Saturday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A08

Length: 621 words

Byline: Brian Murphy ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: TEHRAN, Iran

Body

More than 20,000 people streamed through Tehran yesterday in the country's largest anti-Western demonstration since the United States began air strikes on Afghanistan, and Muslim preachers across the Middle East called for an end to the bombing.

Effigies of President Bush and anti-American signs - "America is a great evil" and "Curse the USA" - were carried by the Iranian crowd from the city's main mosque to the local office of the Palestinian Authority.

Even sharper calls came from the volunteer militia, or basiji, who chanted their desire to join a holy war against the United States and its allies.

Such passions could rattle the Iranian government, which is trying to juggle different objectives concerning Afghanistan, now home to terrorism suspect Osama bin Laden. The U.S. attacks are aimed at forcing Afghanistan's Taliban rulers to surrender the Saudi exile.

Iran's Islamic government has helped arm the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance. But Iranian leaders have condemned the U.S.-led attacks. They worry that a prolonged conflict could send waves of refugees toward Iran, and possibly draw in Iranian groups, such as the basiji corps and other hard-line factions.

Earlier, during the prayer sermon at the mosque, Ayatollah Mohammad Kashani said the United States sought "regional domination" through its antiterrorism campaign.

Similar sermons were delivered across the Middle East, where people thronged mosques for the Friday prayers and the sermons, which mark the Muslim holy day and often reflect popular sentiments.

Thousands of Palestinians held anti-American marches in the West Bank yesterday.

Anti- U.S. fervor heats up across Muslim world; A demonstration in Tehran drew more than 20,000. Islamic clerics throughout the region condemned the U.S. retali....

In Ramallah, Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti led 1,000 marchers who chanted "Bin Laden, bin Laden" and "Bush is the father of terrorism." About 2,000 Palestinians took part in a march in Nablus that was dominated by the Islamic militant group *Hamas*.

"America is a monster when it is shelling Kabul," the Palestinian protesters chanted.

In Iraq, the imam, or preacher, of an important Baghdad mosque nearly collapsed during a tearful sermon against the United States. His listeners wept as well.

"It is either Islam or no Islam," said Sheik Abdel Latif Humaim, the imam of Baghdad's al-Adham Mosque.

"We are facing another crusade led by the evil America," he told about 800 men packed inside the mosque compound. An additional 1,000 men assembled outside in the hot sun, listening to the sermon broadcast on loudspeakers.

Even in Arab states such as Jordan and Egypt, whose governments are U.S. allies, the sermons were harsh, reflecting widespread anger at the United States.

Sheik Thamer Al-Kuboj of Hara'a mosque in Amman, Jordan's capital, described the U.S. actions as a "savage attack" that he said also threatened Palestinians and Iraq.

In Damascus, the Syrian capital, the government-appointed cleric, Sheik Ahmad Kiftaro, said Islam was a religion of peace.

"At the time that I denounce terrorism, I say that terrorism can't be combatted by waging war against a peaceful people and displacing the people, killing their children and their **women** and bombarding their cities and villages."

In several small mosques in San'a, Yemen's capital, clerics called President Bush the leader of a new crusade.

At a mosque in the Omani capital, Muscat, the prayer leader said Islam would fortify and make victorious the mujaheddin fighting around the world.

In the Egyptian capital of Cairo, about 4,000 people attended the prayers at the main Al-Azhar mosque as hundreds of anti-riot police and armored vans surrounded the mosque to prevent demonstrations.

In Lebanon, several Islamic groups held a rally in Tripoli with people carrying pictures of bin Laden and chanting slogans such as "Osama, our beloved, strike against Tel Aviv."

Notes

The War Against Terrorism

Graphic

PHOTO:

PETER TOBIA, Inquirer Staff Photographer

Protesters praising Osama bin Laden and condemning the United States took to the streets in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, yesterday. It was one of several demonstrations of rising Muslim anger at the U.S.-led attack on Afghanistan. (A01)

Anti- U.S. fervor heats up across Muslim world; A demonstration in Tehran drew more than 20,000. Islamic clerics throughout the region condemned the U.S. retali....

MANISH SWARUP, Associated Press

Muslims in New Delhi gather outside Jame mosque for a demonstration against the United Sates and in support of the Taliban and Afghanistan. It was one of a number of anti-U.S. demonstrations yesterday throughout the Muslim world.

Load-Date: November 15, 2001



Bin Laden's TV choice

The Times (London)
September 28, 2001, Friday

Copyright 2001 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features
Length: 725 words
Byline: Adel Darwish

Body

The Arabic mouthpiece for Muslim radicals has broken a few taboos, says Adel Darwish.

Osama bin Laden's reply to President George Bush's "call to arms" against terrorism was sent by fax to Al-Jazeera, an Arabic satellite television channel that is favoured by Arab and Muslim radicals and can now be seen in Britain.

Thanks to the presence of a strong body of radical Palestinian and Syrian journalists working at the station, extremist groups such as <u>Hamas</u> and al Qaeda always send their press releases to Al-Jazeera. The network was also the first to be given an exclusive video of the destruction of the two Buddha statues last year by the Taleban.

A picture of the fax message carrying bin Laden's rare autograph, which called upon Muslims to fight America, was splashed on the front page of most of the world's press. The Qatar-based network welcomed this scoop as much-desired free publicity. With the exception of one or two radical newspapers -which also receive frequent messages from bin Laden -Arab papers, whose readers are also potential Al-Jazeera viewers, did not print the picture, thanks to covert pressure from conservative Arab governments.

Exploiting the unexpected free coverage, Al-Jazeera re-transmitted an exclusive interview with bin Laden conducted in an undisclosed location in Afghanistan in 1998 by its correspondent in Pakistan, Gamal Ismail.

World television networks queued up, and paid handsomely, for pictures of bin Laden's interview, according to Muftah Al-Suwaidan, the chief executive of the channel's London bureau, one of 35 bureaux worldwide.

Arabic speakers in Britain and elsewhere in Europe can from this week watch Al-Jazeera free on BSkyB (in which News International, owner of The Times, has a 37.5 per cent stake) after a deal was struck this month. Viewers with analogue equipment can receive it, also free of charge, on the W2 satellite.

Al-Jazeera was launched in November 1996 from the small, independent, oil-rich Gulf state of Qatar after the 43-year-old Crown Prince, Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, overthrew his father in a bloodless coup in 1995.

As part of Sheikh Hamad's attempt to modernise his tiny nation and raise its international profile, he set up the network. Unlike other Arab TV stations, most of which are controlled by ministries of information, Al-Jazeera was innovative in broadcasting live talk shows.

Bin Laden's TV choice

The channel benefited from the misfortune of the BBC. Its disastrous venture of Arabic Service TV, financed by the privately owned Saudi Orbit channel, collapsed because of cultural differences over journalistic standards and practice. Al-Jazeera quickly recruited the experienced but jobless BBC Arabic staffers.

The staff -the majority of whom are Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese, with the occasional Egyptian -have tried hard to plant what they learnt at the BBC in a hostile Arabic soil. Some, such as the Egyptian-born Yousri Fouda, have emulated BBC programmes successfully. His version of Panorama, the investigative Top Secret, which appeals to Arab viewers' firm belief in conspiracy theories, has become a household name.

Al-Jazeera's claim to have 35 million viewers is hard to verify, since viewer surveys are virtually unknown in the government-controlled environment of Arab countries.

Its claim that "impartial news and current affairs -including controversial topics such as <u>women</u>'s rights and peace with Israel -has earned it a global reputation" can definitely be taken with a pinch of salt. The reporting of news about Israel's clashes with Palestinians is always partial in Arab television, and Al-Jazeera is no exception, with its characterisation of Palestinian suicide bombers as "martyrs" and regular debates on how to defeat Israel.

So far, no reports have been broadcast on human rights abuses in Qatar or neighbouring friendly Gulf states, or the appalling conditions endured by "guest workers" and domestic staff from the Far East and the Indian subcontinent in Gulf states.

However, putting it in its historical context, Al-Jazeera represents an important milestone as it has broken a few taboos in Arab TV. As well as having live debates, it begins bulletins with real news rather than reporting what the head of the state did that day.

But it remains to be seen whether programmes such as Top Secret can succeed in truly tackling taboo subjects.

Load-Date: September 28, 2001



The Israeli voice Palestinians respect

Guardian Weekly January 3, 2001

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Section: LE MONDE; Pg. 19

Length: 1449 words

Byline: Sylvain Cypel in Gaza

Highlight: 'Child of the Holocaust' crosses divide to report on the life of the oppressed

Body

Since 1993 Amira Hass has worked for the Jerusalem daily, Ha'aretz, as its "Israeli correspondent in Palestine". If she decided to work in the midst of the Palestinians, who seem so foreign and so frightening to most Israelis, it is because when she was small her mother told her about the sweet sounds of her native city, Sarajevo: the call of the muezzin, psalms sung in Ladino (an old Spanish language written in modified Hebrew characters) and church bells. Hass inherited from her mother something of the multi-ethnic solidarity of the <u>women</u> of Sarajevo.

"In order to understand and to explain, you need to see things from the inside," Hass says. She is still the sole representative of the Israeli press reporting from the Palestinian territories. For seven years she has described the occupation, the collective punishments, the friskings and the countless days when borders are sealed off or a curfew is imposed.

Hass has explained how Palestinian workers are prevented from earning a living when their exit permits are not renewed, or how those who work illegally in Israel are packed off home without a penny if they are injured at work. She has evoked the myriad petty humiliations that are the lot of those whose land has been occupied -- humiliations that eventually spawn despair and rage.

For seven years Hass, 44, has also described the lives of Israeli settlers, the bomb attacks, the fear felt by the troops and the mullahs' calls for a holy war. She has charted the struggle of Palestinian NGOs to combat human rights violations -- committed both by Israelis and the Palestinian Authority.

"Palestine has not suffered the horrors of Chechnya," she says, "but there has been a form of apartheid here for 33 years, and the Oslo accords did nothing to change that." To start with, the Israeli army -- which she says was "accustomed to Pravda-like reporting" -- resented her articles. But her editor, Hanoch Marmari, told her: "You get up their noses, so you must be doing a good job."

The army regards her as a nuisance, but has had to get used to her presence. In 1998 she and a photographer covered an attack on Palestinian farmers by some settlers, who fired at them. She immediately informed the army spokesman, but he did not report the incident. "Since then, when it's a question of settlers, I don't believe a word of the military communiques," she says.

Most of the time she simply describes the lives of ordinary people. Sometimes she lets rip on the "Op-Ed" page of Ha'aretz. On November 1 she wrote: "How perfectly natural that 40,000 persons should be subjected to a total curfew for more than a month in the Old City of Hebron in order to protect the lives and well-being of 500 Jews . . .

The Israeli voice Palestinians respect

and that Palestinian children . . . should be imprisoned and suffocating day and night . . . while the children of their Jewish neighbours are free to frolic . . . How perfectly normal that a Palestinian mother must beg and plead so that an Israeli soldier will allow her to . . . obtain medication for her asthmatic children."

Hass went on to denounce the fact that Palestinians have to obtain a travel permit to enter East Jerusalem or travel between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, whereas Jews are free to travel on well-built highways driven through lands expropriated from the Palestinians, and she pointed out that in summer water is rationed for the Palestinians whereas Jewish settlers experience no shortages.

Has she ever been afraid? "Sometimes, but much less often than you might suppose." When things got particularly hot for Hass, her editor rang and said: "It's time you left." She refused. "I was beginning to build up a network of wonderful, warm people. The longer I lived in the territories, the safer I felt. The Israelis don't know the Palestinians."

In the eyes of her compatriots it is "madness" to live alone in Gaza. She still receives abusive letters. Some readers have cancelled their subscriptions because of her. Others regard her as "an honour to the profession". Many dismiss her as a "kind soul". In Hebrew a "kind soul" is someone who allows vain moral considerations to cloud political realities. Hass is quick to respond: "That's all right by me. I don't believe a good policy can be amoral."

Hass is often recognised and greeted in the street. Others regard her with suspicion. But to many Palestinians she is seen as someone who can pass on their message to her fellow Israelis. When she talks to Palestinians who resent the Israeli occupation, there almost always comes a moment when they refer to the "other" kind of Israeli, "the restaurant owner one of them worked for, who was very nice even when things were really bad, or the university lecturer with whom a Palestinian teacher still corresponds by email. The only Israelis that Palestinian **women** come into contact with are soldiers or settlers, so they are much more mistrustful."

Hass knows everyone in the Palestinian Authority, but has few illusions about their respect for democracy. Her articles are often published in translation in the Palestinian press, but never those that rub the authority up the wrong way. The Palestinian police have twice told her that things were getting too dangerous for her and that she should leave.

On both occasions the advice came shortly after she had criticised corruption in the authority or its poor human rights record. Various Fatah activists who had been in prison in Israel rallied to her defence. The day two Israeli soldiers were killed by a mob, a Palestinian MP invited her to stay with him if she felt she was in danger. She remained in her flat.

Hass has a fund of anecdotes. "In 1994 I got an interview with Hani Aabed of Islamic Jihad, the first interview with an Islamist leader published in an Israeli paper. When we got into the taxi, Aabed's interpreter, a <u>Hamas</u> supporter, said: 'Did you ever imagine you'd find yourself sitting next to a <u>Hamas</u> supporter one day?' I retorted: 'And what about you? Are you going to tell your wife you went for a ride with an Israeli woman, and an atheist to boot? In other words, the devil!' He roared with laughter."

Every evening Hass gets as many as 30 telephone calls at home. An Israeli woman wants to know how to get a Palestinian academic out of his village, which has been sealed off. "I don't know," Hass replies. "See if Yael Dayan [a Labour MP and daughter of Moshe Dayan] can do anything." A Palestinian woman in Jerusalem says: "They want to evict us!" "Ever since an article of mine got an eviction order quashed, they think I'm God," Hass explains. Villagers in Hares in the West Bank tell her: "Settlers have cut off our water and electricity, and they're firing at us." Hass phones the army, which says: "Yes, there were clashes. No, the settlers didn't shoot, but we did, to restore law and order." Hass sums it up: "It's 11pm, they're a long way from here, the roads are sealed off. How can one find out the truth?"

Why does she take such risks? "Because I'm a child of the Holocaust . . . I have an aching sensitivity to any dehumanisation that is typical of some survivors' children."

The Israeli voice Palestinians respect

Hass's father survived a ghetto that was razed in Romania. Her mother was deported to Belsen. Committed communists, they passed on to her a determination to resist, and not be indifferent. She resists by writing. There are two childhood memories that particularly marked her. One is of her mother describing how, when she arrived in Belsen after nine days in a cattle truck, "German <u>women</u> looked on silently as we marched towards the camp". The other is of an Israeli film in which there is a shot of the Warsaw ghetto going up in flames; in the background Poles are having fun on the Lunapark big wheel.

In both cases it is the indifference that Hass cannot stand. "My hair stands on end when 40,000 people are cooped up at home for a month like animals," she says. Politically, she has never been on the far left: "I'm culturally Jewish and sociologically Israeli. I was initially convinced that if I showed what the occupation was like in detail, public opinion would wake up. I've had to change my mind." She now believes that the Israelis' denial of other people's sufferings -- reinforced by fear of the new intifada -- is too powerful to be defeated.

Sometimes she feels it is all worth it. On October 31 the army partially lifted its curfew in Hebron after she had written a scathing article on the subject in the English-language edition of Ha'aretz. Her editor says the authorities are extremely sensitive about what is read abroad.

Last May Hass won the prestigious Freedom of the Press prize for her work in Palestine. November 22

Graphic

Photo, Amira Hass spends much of her time covering the West Bank and the refugee camps, Don McPhee

Load-Date: January 8, 2001



<u>Israel confronts risk within;</u> <u>Deadly attacks jeopardize hope for talks</u>

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
September 10, 2001 Monday,
Final Edition

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Section: News;

Length: 694 words

Byline: LARRY KAPLOW

Body

Jerusalem --- Palestinians killed five Israelis on Sunday and injured dozens of others in a wave of violence that could scuttle high-level peace talks this week.

Three Palestinians died in the attacks Sunday, and a Palestinian police officer was killed and four others were wounded early today when the Israeli army fired anti-tank missiles at a checkpoint in the West Bank village of Tamun, an army spokesman said.

The deadliest attack was a suicide bombing that killed three Israelis at a crowded train station in Nahariya on the Mediterranean coast. Police suspect the bombing was carried out by a Palestinian who lived inside Israel, rather than in the West Bank or Gaza Strip, where most attacks originate.

Cox Washington Bureau

If confirmed, it would be the first time that a suicide bomber came from an Israeli town and would be a chilling development.

Of Israel's population of 6.2 million, more than 1 million are Israeli Arabs. They generally have been less militant than Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, and none has committed a suicide bombing before. As citizens of Israel, they have free movement within the country.

Israeli leaders blamed the attacks on Yasser Arafat's Palestinian National Authority and retaliated Sunday evening with helicopter attacks in four Palestinian areas, badly damaging bases of the Palestinian security services. No one was killed by the air strikes.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon seemed divided over how to handle the violence.

The Associated Press reported that President Bush might meet Arafat for the first time when both leaders are in New York in a few weeks to attend the U.N. General Assembly.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is intent on trying to arrange peace talks with Arafat this week. But other Cabinet members want him to call off the talks.

Israel confronts risk within; Deadly attacks jeopardize hope for talks

Israeli Internal Security Minister Uzi Landau told Israel Radio that peace talks would send a "mixed message" that terrorism was being rewarded and that Israel was "willing to make more concessions."

Nomi Chazan, however, a member of the left-wing Meretz Party, said the talks should go on.

"We must negotiate under fire," she said. "The only thing that is happening is a cycle of violence, I insist on that term 'cycle,' with no end in sight."

Government ministers also are split on whether Israel should step up retaliatory attacks on Palestinians and whether to let the army establish a "buffer zone" along the line where the Palestinian West Bank meets Israel.

Sharon reportedly shelved key components of a buffer plan Sunday.

Sharon and others worry that such a buffer could be interpreted as strengthening Israel's hold over West Bank land currently under military rule. Also, they fear the world could view the buffer as a border and as a sign of Israeli willingness to give up West Bank land it captured in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Sunday's worst attack, however, may have originated within Israel. If police suspicions are correct, the suicide bomber was Mohammed Saker Habashi, 55, of the Israeli Arab town of Abu Snan.

The bomber struck during the morning rush hour in Nahariya, a town on the Lebanese border in northern Israel, close to Abu Snan. He blew himself up at a train station crowded with Israeli soldiers and civilians beginning their workweek.

The blast killed three Israelis and injured dozens more, including two soldiers seriously hurt and two infants who required hospitalization. The blast shattered glass in storefronts nearby.

Habashi's identification card was found amid the debris of the explosion, and police detained one of his sons Sunday for genetic tests to be compared to body parts found at the scene of the bombing.

The fundamentalist Palestinian group *Hamas* claimed responsibility for the attack.

Earlier in the day, Palestinian gunmen shot to death two Israelis in a van carrying teachers. A <u>female</u> teacher, 22, and the driver were killed and three others wounded.

In a second bombing Sunday, a bomber, perhaps accidentally, blew himself up in a car near the coastal Israeli city of Netanya. Three Israelis nearby were wounded.

ON THE WEB: For news from Israel, see the Haaretz newspaper: www3.Haaretz.co.il

Graphic

Photo:

An Israeli man, surrounded by medics, rushes a baby from the site of a bombing Sunday that killed four people, including the bomber, and wounded more than 30 in Nahariya. / YARON KAMINSKY / Associated Press END 92

Load-Date: September 10, 2001



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The blast killed three Israelis and injured dozens more, including two soldiers seriously and two infants who required hospitalization. The blast shattered glass in storefronts nearby.

Tipped that Habashi was planning an attack, police had been searching for him for 10 days. He narrowly escaped them when they raided his home Aug. 30.

Habashi's identification card was found amid the debris of the explosion, and police detained one of his sons Sunday for genetic tests to be compared to body parts found at the scene of the bombing.

The fundamentalist Palestinian group <u>Hamas</u> claimed responsibility for the attack.

Earlier in the day, Palestinian gunmen shot to death two Israelis in a van carrying teachers. A 22-year-old *female* teacher and the driver were killed and three others were wounded.

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An Israeli man, surrounded by medics, rushes a baby from the site of a bombing Sunday that killed four people, including the bomber, and wounded more than 30 in Nahariya. / YARON KAMINSKY / Associated Press

Load-Date: September 10, 2001



In Mideast, both sides braced and defiant

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

August 10, 2001, Friday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 9

Length: 707 words

Byline: Ben Lynfield Special to The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Highlight: A suicide attack killed at least 15 people in West Jerusalem Thursday.

Body

A suicide bomb ripped through a crowded pizza restaurant in the heart of West Jerusalem yesterday, killing at least 15 people and wounding 92, opening a new and uncertain chapter in the 10-month-old Middle East confrontation.

It was the deadliest attack against Israelis since the June 1 suicide bombing outside a Tel Aviv disco that killed 22 Israelis. That time, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon chose what Israelis consider a restrained response. This time, that appears far less likely. The question is: How far will the Israelis go in retaliating? Israeli analysts predict this bombing alone won't set off a wholesale invasion - though an intensification of strikes against Palestinian Authority (PA) targets is considered likely.

"It is really too early to say if this is a turning point," says Ephraim Inbar, of Bar-Illan University near Tel Aviv. "We are locked into a war of attrition that will continue for a long time."

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer were to meet last night to draw up a list of Palestinian targets to strike in response to the attack, according to Agence France-Presse. Dovish Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was not invited to the meeting, signaling a potentially tough Israeli response.

In the past, Israeli responses have come on the same day as bombings and taken the form of helicopter strikes.

Islamic Jihad, a small militant group that seeks Israel's replacement by an Islamic state, claimed the attack, but Israeli officials were quick to fault the PA for failing to take action despite repeated demands.

"The government will make the necessary decisions in order to defend our citizens," says Ra'anan Gissin, a Sharon spokesman. "We have every right to take action in order to defend our citizens."

In Mideast, both sides braced and defiant

The scope of Israel's response will have wide implications. Egypt and Jordan have repeatedly warned Israel against escalating military attacks, and the US is anxious to prevent the spread of the conflict in a way that would involve its moderate Arab allies. President Bush called on Arafat to take immediate and sustained action to prevent future attacks.

Palestinian Authority Minister of Information Yasser Abed-Rabbo said Israel had brought the bombing upon itself by assassinating 23 Palestinians - including <u>women</u> and children - since the start of last week. An Israeli attack in the West Bank city of Nablus Tuesday killed two senior leaders of <u>Hamas</u>, the Islamic Resistance Movement, which Israel said was planning attacks, along with six other people, including two children. "Sharon provoked this. He waited for it, and he wanted it," Abed-Rabbo said.

The blast was certain to fuel calls on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for an even tougher approach to the intifada.

The attack transformed lunch hour downtown into a time of horror, panic, and shock. "I heard a bomb, took my gloves, and ran to the area and started to take care of the wounded," said Chaim Newman, a volunteer ambulance driver. "I saw a girl, she was about eleven, and I wanted to help her. Unfortunately, when I turned her over, she was dead."

Helen Boshkovitz, a Jerusalem resident who was shaken up by the explosion, said: "People are walking in the street and vomiting from the shock. This is what they have brought us to. They are embittering our lives. You don't know from where the next explosion will come."

Analysts, meanwhile, predict fresh military moves, but no war, at least not now. Joseph Alpher, former deputy director of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, said: "If we get a spate of these bombings ... things could reach a critical mass in which no prime minister will be able to avoid a heavy reprisal."

Leaders of Sharon's governing coalition have opposed a major military campaign and had been calling in recent days for a move toward renewed diplomacy with the PA. The bombing seems likely to undermine their position, at least during the next few days.

"I predict we will see more of the same, but on a larger-scale," says Mr. Inbar, regarding Israel's response.
"Targeted attacks will definitely continue, but we may also go for government installations, military installations, and communications infrastructure."

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Load-Date: August 9, 2001



The New York Times

February 6, 2000, Sunday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Magazine Desk

Section: Section 6; ; Section 6; Page 42; Column 1; Magazine Desk; Column 1; ; Biography

Length: 7890 words

Byline: Abdullah II (King of Jordan)

By Jeffrey Goldberg;

Jeffrey Goldberg is a contributing writer for the magazine. He has written frequently on the Middle East.

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Body

"THE THING IS," says His Majesty Abdullah II, the 38-year-old king of Jordan and 43rd-generation direct descendant of the prophet Muhammad, "is that I've become a bit like Elvis."

People see him where he ain't, in other words.

"There are sightings all over the place," he says. Since ascending the Hashemite throne last February, Abdullah has made it a habit to inspect his kingdom in mufti. "The bureaucrats are terrified. It's great."

Today, Elvis is flying to Zarqa, outside of Amman, in one of the Royal Squadron Black Hawk helicopters -- like his father, the late King Hussein, he is his own pilot. Once in Zarqa, he will execute a quick costume change and then pay surprise visits to the city's public hospital and to the local offices of the finance ministry.

We land at a paratrooper base outside the city. Prince Ali, the king's 24-year-old half brother and chief bodyguard, jumps out first. A second Black Hawk, filled with more bodyguards, lands a minute later. King Abdullah waves to the paratroopers who watch as he steps out of the helicopter. When his father was king, Abdullah, then a general, commanded these men.

We enter the office of the brigade commander, Maj. Gen. Ahmed Sirhan, who has become only semi-accustomed to the scene now unfolding. Before our eyes, the vibrant young king of Jordan transforms himself -- no point in mincing words here -- into a fat, old, one-eyed gimp in beat-up New Balance sneakers and a red-checkered kaffiyeh. The king first reaches into a gym bag and pulls out a pillow. "Excuse me for a minute," he says. "I have to put my padding on." He steps out of a bathroom a moment later with a tire of fake fat ringing his abdomen.

Out of another bag he takes a plastic-foam head that keeps his wig properly stretched. He holds up the wig, which has been styled into a sort of Bedouin Jheri curl. "Kind of gives me the Qaddafi look," the king says. Before the wig goes on, though, he pulls out a tray of fake mustaches and picks one. Then he takes out a beard extension. The long beard gives him the appearance of a <u>Hamas</u> sheik, which I mention to him with some trepidation, since he and **Hamas** are fighting a cold war at the moment.

"Wait till you see you me with the wig," he says. He pulls the wig over his short-cropped hair. Before me stands neither a *Hamas* sheik nor a Libyan strongman, but Samuel L. Jackson in "Pulp Fiction."

Then come the glasses, thick plastic glasses with one lens completely blackened out. An aide hands him a cane, and then His Majesty steps into the sunshine. The soldiers are not sure where to direct their salutes. Prince Ali, too, is in mufti -- fake beard, sunglasses, a kaffiyeh. Very 70's, I say. "Like a terrorist?" Prince Ali asks, smiling.

This is the plan: the king and Prince Ali will travel by taxi to the local offices of the finance ministry. I will follow in a second car with two of the king's aides. A Nissan pickup will carry the bodyguards. The king cautions me not to blow his cover by staring at him too overtly; he suggests, rightly, that a pale-faced American in khakis will draw more attention in Zarqa than a half-blind Arab, even a half-blind Arab wearing New Balance sneakers.

A rust-bucket yellow taxi pulls up, and the king of Jordan hops into the back seat. By the obsessive security standards of Middle Eastern royalty, he is quite alone. But Abdullah, like his father before him, is one of a handful of Middle Eastern leaders who are unafraid of their own people.

He has no particular reason to fear them. One year after ascending the throne, the king has reached a level of popularity no one in Jordan could have reasonably expected. After all, his father was revered the world over as "the plucky little king" who reigned for nearly 47 years and, by the standards of the region, gave his country a remarkable degree of peace, stability and modernity. Abdullah, though, was an unknown. King Hussein named his oldest son crown prince only two weeks before his death. The next king was supposed to be Crown Prince Hassan, youngest brother of King Hussein. Prince Abdullah had a reputation as a bit of a lightweight, a Prince Hal with a vaguely Falstaffian cast of friends who drove fast cars and enjoyed the company of <u>women</u>. A friend of Abdullah's from his Massachusetts prep-school days, Perry Vella, told me: "Right at the beginning, Abdullah said, 'You know, everybody's underestimating me.' But he said: 'I can do this job. I was born to do this job.' "

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, who has been paying close attention, is impressed by the job he's doing. "I have to tell you, it's been quite amazing to watch him," she says. "I hate to sound patronizing about a king, but he has quickly understood the possibilities of his role."

The possibilities are endless, and so are the challenges. He faces longstanding problems on the political front. Thirty years after the civil war known as Black September (White September to Jordanian nationalists), Palestinians, who make up 60 percent of Jordan's population, are still politically disenfranchised, grossly underrepresented in Parliament, the government and the army. It will be up to Abdullah -- and his wife, the 29-year-old Queen Rania, who is of Palestinian descent -- to define who is a Jordanian.

There is also the matter of Islamic fundamentalists, at home and abroad, who opposed his father's brand of moderate, outward-looking Islam and now oppose his. But the king's most pressing challenge -- at least if you accept his list of priorities -- is reviving Jordan's comatose economy. "We're not concerned about threats on our borders," he told a group of American high-tech executives in October. Queen Rania, who worked for Apple Computer before marrying the king, sat by his side -- a bold spot for the wife of an Arab potentate -- and whispered suggestions in his ear. "The only problem Jordan has ahead of it is its economy," the king continued. "We produce thousands of computer graduates, but we don't have the jobs to give them."

Then there is the quandary of how to honor his father's legacy while casting aside his method of governance. King Hussein built modern Jordan, but modern Jordan isn't modern enough, as the new king sees it, to survive. King Hussein, his obvious attributes notwithstanding, played tribe against tribe, showered cronies with duty-free Mercedeses and allowed state enterprises to be run like fiefs. The question is whether King Abdullah can convert his kingdom into a modern meritocracy.

The king has spent a good deal of time on matters of Middle East peace; he was instrumental in brokering the talks between Syria and Israel, Albright says, and he has spoken regularly with President Clinton on the subject. And he has repaired his country's strained relations with its Arab neighbors, visiting every Arab country except Iraq. He is regularly on the phone with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, one of his father's traditional rivals. Abdullah's energetic diplomatic efforts took the Egyptians by surprise. But to Abdullah, Mubarak, along with Yasir Arafat and the aging Syrian leader Hafez al-Assad, are yesterday's news. Steve Case and Bill Gates -- these are the friends he wants.

And so Abdullah is moving to reform the economy and make real his vision of the kingdom as the Internet capital of the Arab Middle East. But privatization is moving slowly, the king's own advisers have been warring with one

another and Jordan's bureaucracy is famously sclerotic and resistant to change.

Which is why we are in Zarqa today.

The taxi pulls up to the front gate of the finance offices, and the king and Prince Ali alight. They blend in with crowds of obviously frustrated taxpayers, who wait in line for clerks who aren't there or who, when they are there, do not seem all that interested in assisting the public. The king and Prince Ali spend five minutes banging on the closed door of the land-assessment office, which should have been open at this hour. Not a soul at the finance ministry even guesses he's here. At one point, the king, leaning on his cane, stands directly under his official portrait, the one that graces all government buildings in Jordan.

He spends an entirely unnoticed hour at the finance ministry before we move on to the government hospital. There, a fake television crew, sent by the royal court to stir up the crowd, interviews angry patients. The king's idea is simply to stand in a corner and listen to the complaints elicited by the crew. This works for quite a while. "The doctors are O.K., but the CAT scan never works!" one old man yells over the din.

Then something happens. Maybe it's the large number of very fit, very serious men in a sick ward, or maybe it's the presence of the television crew, but a ripple of excitement moves through the crowd. "I think the king of Jordan is here," a teenage boy tells me. The bodyguards get antsy. The king walks down a hallway, followed by an increasingly sizable, increasingly confused crowd. No one knows precisely what to say. Finally an old woman yells out, "May God grant you long life!" and the jig is up. Elvis leaves the building, and we drive back to base.

Later, in General Sirhan's office, I ask the king if the bureaucrats of Zarqa are by now aware of their unannounced visitor.

"Yes, I think so."

What should they be feeling about now?

"Panic," he says dryly.

How bad was it?

"You saw how people were being treated," he says. "There was a complete lack of organization. There was one old man who was complaining that his form hadn't been dated, and he was getting sent to one office and then another. They should be sweating, because a report is going to go to the prime minister and then on to the relevant ministers about the problems."

What he saw in Zarqa, he wants me to know, is not unique. "You get this in a lot of bureaucracies, all over the place," he says. "I was just watching 'Dharma and Greg' the other day and she was being sent up and down somewhere -- I think it was a registrar's office, and she wanted to solve a problem on a street she lived on. It's not unique."

" 'Dharma and Greg'?"

"It's a sitcom," he explains.

Utterly casual, disdainful of sycophancy and steeped in american culture, King Abdullah II is one of the Three Kings of what optimists might call the new Arab progressivism. Like King Mohammed VI of Morocco and the emir of Bahrain, Sheik Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa, he ascended his country's throne in 1999, promising economic reform and modernization. Like growing numbers of young Arab technocrats, he is Western-educated. And like his peers, he is frustrated that the West's power brokers haven't yet paid sufficient attention.

"We're at a very interesting crossroads," the king says. "Madeleine Albright asks, 'What can we expect of the younger generation in the Middle East?' And I always return by saying: 'Well, the younger generation was all educated in the West. We understand the West, so all of us are saying, what can we expect from the West?' "

In 10 or 15 years -- when Mubarak and Arafat and Assad and Qaddafi are all gone -- Abdullah may well be the senior Arab statesman, and already there is talk that he could emerge as a kind of "king of the Arabs" (which was, in fact, the self-proclaimed title of his great-great-grandfather, Sharif Hussein, the ruler of Mecca).

When I ask him if he seeks such a role, he chastens me (not aggressively, because Abdullah is too polite to administer an enthusiastic chastening), denying any pretensions of pan-Arab leadership. He does, however, offer up his hope that Jordan could emerge as a yardstick other Arabs use to measure their own level of freedom.

"What I keep asking my friends in the States is, 'The U.S. had a long-term approach in Europe, a doctrine that worked in Europe, so how can we do the same thing again for these modern, progressive countries in the Middle East?" the king says. "You have to strengthen them, invest in them. We can be symbols for someone sitting in Yemen, who can say: 'I don't want my country to be like it is now. I want to be like the Jordanian model or the Bahraini model or the Moroccan model.'

"People in Baghdad," he notes, could also "benefit from seeing this. How did the wall fall? East Germans looked into West Germany and said, 'Enough is enough.' We're trying to say the same thing."

Though he has been king for only 12 months, Washington views him as an emerging heavyweight. He played a major role in bringing the Syrians and Israelis together, carrying messages between Assad and Ehud Barak, the Israeli prime minister, whom he talks to regularly. "I told the Americans, 'Look, Assad is sincere, he wants to have peace and he wants you to know that,' "the king recalled. "They were very skeptical throughout the summer. They thought that I was new, maybe I was being nave. But if there's anything I know, I have at least some understanding of people, and the guy came across as genuine." A short time later, the Syrians and Israelis were sitting face to face in West Virginia.

But unlike his father, whose great game was the Middle East peace process, King Abdullah is more interested in what comes after the peace. "The U.S. needs a doctrine for this region," he says. "The U.S. could come in and, say, get Bahrain, the U.A.E., Qatar, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia. . . . Give us incentives to come together." The benefits to the United States are obvious: an alliance of modernist, outward-looking Muslim Arab states would counter the forces of anti-Americanism rampant in the region. Madeleine Albright thinks the king is on to something. Referring to the new kings, she said, "He turned me on to looking at them as a group."

What is unusual about this nascent reform movement is that in the main it comprises men who inherited their countries from Daddy. It is not the usual place for hereditary kings to push for reform, reform that could ultimately undermine the power of their own thrones. But this is the Middle East, and everything is inverted.

Many of the monarchies are, all things considered, benign; and the republics -- places like Iraq and Syria -- are run by despots desperate to see their sons follow them onto their jerry-built thrones. The king of Jordan, to be sure, is not Spain's King Juan Carlos, and he is certainly not Vaclav Havel. Abdullah seems genuinely interested in economic reform, but his taste for political reform so far seems limited. His regular undercover visits to hospitals and ministries, though motivated by a desire for change, owe more to populism than they do to ideals of a civil, democratic society.

Press freedom in Jordan is spotty: on the subject of the royal family, and its budget, the newspapers print what the royal court tells them to print. Then there is the persecution of Mustafa Hamarneh, the director of the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan. Hamarneh was forced out of his job after publishing poll results that angered the prime minister. One poll found that most Jordanians feared criticizing their government.

The prime minister, Abdel Rauf Rawabdeh, is a traditional Jordanian pol, and he recently won -- or appeared to -- a nasty power struggle with the former chief of the royal court, Abdel Karim Kabariti, himself a former prime minister who is known to be a politically liberal advocate for Palestinian enfranchisement. (The prime minister and the chief of the royal court are, in theory, the king's two most important advisers.)

When I raised the matter with the king, he told me, "Competition is good, but in this particular setup, it took a destructive turn. The chief of the royal court was more on his own agenda. I think he thought, There's a new guy running the show, I'll do my own thing.

"This was not a victory for the traditionalists," the king continued, slightly defensively. "I think now the prime minister understands more than ever that if I've removed the head of the royal court, I'm quite prepared to remove the prime minister if he doesn't implement social reforms."

That the king can remove the prime minister at will underscores the fact Jordan is, of course, no democracy: ultimate power rests with the king and the king alone. King Hussein fired prime ministers once every 11 months, on average, and the king has it within his power to dissolve the popularly elected Parliament.

As in much of the Arab world (see Algeria), the most strident agitators for democracy in Jordan are found among the Islamists. Still, even the Muslim Brotherhood and its political party, the Islamic Action Front, are loyal to the Hashemites. King Abdullah is himself not an excessively zealous Muslim. He fasts on Ramadan and prays, he says, every day. But like most of the Hashemites, he is the Muslim equivalent of high Episcopal.

Not long after becoming king, Abdullah did have to make sure that the Muslim Brotherhood stayed loyal in the face of wholesale infiltration of the group by <u>Hamas</u>. The brotherhood, like <u>Hamas</u>, is allied with the so-called antinormalization forces opposed to King Hussein's peace treaty with Israel, but the Islamists, the king said, have always known where to stop.

"I told the Muslim Brotherhood, 'I have no animosities to anybody in Jordan, but I'm concerned that there are elements in society that are beginning to cross the line, and terrorism is a red line for me,' "he said. "I told them I hoped they weren't going to allow outside influences to affect an organization that was part of Jordanian society."

They didn't listen. Intelligence sources say that, with Iran's backing, <u>Hamas</u> continued its plotting. "They were warned 22 times," the king said. " 'We know what you're doing, stop it, we know what you're doing, stop it.' Eventually, it got to the point where the government had to take the issue in hand." Which it did last fall, expelling several key <u>Hamas</u> activists from the country and shutting down <u>Hamas</u> offices in Jordan. Turning <u>Hamas</u> into his enemy does not come without danger for King Abdullah. Anti-Israel feeling runs deep in Jordan.

Queen Rania, somewhat surprisingly, is turning into a force for normalized relations with Israel. She is Palestinian -her father is from Tulkarm and her mother from Nablus, both in the northern West Bank, and when she spoke to me
about Israel, she was quite withering about people who are removed from the conflict but who counsel against
peace.

"I'm close to the issue," she says. "I have a higher appreciation for peace because I've seen what goes on there. It's very easy for people outside, Jews and Palestinians, to say they're against the peace process. They're not the ones who are suffering, both on the Israeli side and on the Palestinian side."

As a child, she said, she would visit the West Bank, and she would also visit Israel proper. "I used to visit Netanya, I'd visit all these Israeli cities, and I'd see how much pressure the Israelis were under because of security threats, and I'd see how much pressure Palestinians were under. I just don't have high regard for people who are very far away but make these judgments without knowing the true dimensions of the problem."

King Abdullah has not yet visited Israel, and the Israelis, at least for public consumption, have expressed annoyance at his hesitancy. Some Israeli pundits have suggested that Abdullah seems more interested in developing a relationship with Qaddafi than with his next-door neighbor Barak. Asked about this, the king said: "I had to establish my relationship with the Arab world first. What I'm doing will benefit Israel. If Arab countries look at Jordan with respect and Jordan has peace with Israel -- my friends in Israel have to understand that what I was doing was in their best interests.

"You know," the king says, mindful that his adversaries, even his friends, still underestimate him, "I understand the game."

One day in Amman, while reading some of the endless literature on the king's storied family, I came across this description, written by an English visitor to the region: "His eyes had a confirmed twinkle; and though only 35, he was putting on flesh. It might be due to too much laughter. Life seemed very merry for Abdullah. He was short, strong, fair-skinned, with a carefully trimmed brown beard, masking his round smooth face and short lips. In manner he was open, or affected openness, and was charming on acquaintance. He stood not on ceremony, but jested with all comers in most easy fashion: yet, when we fell into serious talk, the veil of humor seemed to fade away. He then chose his words, and argued shrewdly."

This passage is a dead-on sketch of Abdullah II, except that the Abdullah in question is King Abdullah I, the current king's great-grandfather and namesake, who was awarded the territory that became Jordan by the British after World War I. T. E. Lawrence wrote this 74 years ago, in his masterwork on the Great Arab Revolt against the Ottoman Turks, "Seven Pillars of Wisdom." Abdullah plotted the revolt; his father, Sharif Hussein, ruler of Mecca, was its inspiration.

I was so taken by my little literary discovery that I immediately mentioned it to the king. He seemed unimpressed, and reminded me that Lawrence did not particularly care for Abdullah I. (Lawrence was partial to Abdullah's younger brother, Feisal, the military leader of the revolt and the future king of Iraq.) He is acutely conscious of his lineage. After our discussion of T. E. Lawrence, he gestured to the wall before him, which was lined with portraits of his Hashemite ancestors. There were his father, Hussein; his grandfather, Talal, who was briefly king before mental illness forced him to abdicate; his great-grandfather, Abdullah I, and his great-grandfather, Sharif Hussein.

"One day," King Abdullah II said, "I hope my picture is up there, and people say I continued the tradition of my forefathers."

The Hashemites are perhaps the most noble family in Islam. For hundreds of years, they ruled -- in a comparatively enlightened manner -- the Hejaz, the strip of western Arabia that is home to Mecca and Medina. Only in the last hundred years did they lose control of Mecca, to the more fundamentalist House of Saud, which gave its name, and its particular brand of desert conservatism, to Saudi Arabia.

The Hashemites trace their lineage directly back to the prophet Muhammad through his daughter, Fatima, and beyond, to the tribe of Quraish. Hashem, who gave the dynasty his name, was Muhammad's great-grandfather.

If this sounds as if it could be burdensome to the computer-game playing, New Economy-minded king now running Jordan, he doesn't mind letting you know it is. "It's a corny slogan," he said, "but our purpose -- my great-grandfather's purpose, my father's purpose -- is to serve the people. It's a tremendous responsibility to be direct descendants of the prophet Muhammad. This family has had the burden of leadership on its shoulders for 1,400 years. I'm not going to drop the ball on my shift."

Fealty to the memory of King Hussein and to the ideals of the Hashemite dynasty may explain why the whole house didn't come crashing down, taking Jordan with it, when King Hussein died last year.

"Other Middle Eastern families would have found themselves at each other's throats, literally, over the events of the past 12 months," says Robert Satloff, an expert on Jordan who runs the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "It's to the King's credit -- and Prince Hassan's, too -- that the family has stayed together."

Seated in his grand office on the grounds of the Raghadan Palace, Prince Hassan, Abdullah's uncle who was in line to become king, has at least retained his sense of humor. When I tell him that I want to talk about two very different things -- I want to hear about his work fostering dialogue among the three Abrahamic faiths, but first I want to talk about the events of last January -- he laughs and asks, "Do I really have to have the medicine?"

I ask him why he made no trouble when his own brother removed him from the line of succession. "There are two taboos in my existence," the prince says. "I don't mean to sound noble or conceited. One, once you've taken an oath of loyalty, there is no way around it. The other taboo is, I don't steal money. These are my guiding lights."

No one better than Prince Hassan knows the price Hashemites pay for loyalty. His staff, which once stood at 80, has been halved. On his wall there is a poster that reads, "Even Superman Is Clark Kent Most of the Time."

Though Hassan's allies suggest his brother's change of heart was sudden, in retrospect it was never entirely clear that Hussein meant for Hassan to be king. Abdullah was crown prince for the first three years of his life. King Hussein gave Hassan the title only in 1965 -- altering the constitution to allow himself to name a brother, not just an eldest son, crown prince. King Hussein, according to his confidants, made the decision reluctantly, only after realizing that should he be assassinated, a real possibility at the time, with anti-Hussein feelings running high in the Arab world, it would be quite dangerous to make king a boy barely out of diapers. King Hussein is said to have never stopped contemplating restoring the crown princeship to Abdullah. Robert Satloff recalls a conversation he had with King Hussein in 1993, shortly before the time he proposed convening a council of Hashemites to discuss issues of succession.

"He didn't say specifically that he was going to remove his brother," Satloff told me, "but he said he felt a heavy responsibility to right one of the great wrongs he committed in his life, which was the wrong he committed against his son Abdullah."

Prince Hassan didn't help himself by opposing his brother's wish to convene the Hashemite men to debate the rules of succession. King Hussein worried, apparently, that as king, Hassan would appoint his own son, Rashid, his successor, rather than one of Hussein's sons.

It seems fairly clear that King Hussein seriously weighed changing succession long before his first bout with cancer, in 1992. But Abdullah, who has always maintained that he didn't want the job, says he picked up on rumors that he would be replacing Prince Hassan only in late 1998. And it wasn't until his father returned to Jordan in January 1999 from an extended stay at the Mayo Clinic, he says, that he knew the change in succession was imminent. His father, a master of discretion and surprise, communicated the change in typically unorthodox fashion, according to his son.

"I had pretty much known I was going to be crown prince for a couple of months. I had a heard from members of my family, 'The king is very proud of you and your achievements.' That was a message. But it was confirmed to me by the way my father had received me at the airport when he arrived home. He stepped off the plane and completely ignored me. In His Majesty's absence, some people had been bad and some people had been good. And you watched how he shook hands with people who had been bad, and how he walked straight past me, and I knew."

There was, Queen Rania says, no joy in her house the day Abdullah learned definitively that he would soon be king.

"I was upstairs organizing some photographs when my husband came in and said, 'I'm going to be the crown prince,' "Queen Rania recalled. "I looked up at him and said, 'O.K.,' and then I continued organizing photographs. That was denial. I had an hour to let the implication sink in and see the positive side, but then, after an hour, we heard that His Majesty wasn't doing very well. We thought we were over the cancer, and everything would go back to normal." Two weeks later, her husband was king.

King Abdullah moved quickly to let the Hashemites know that he was in charge, and that family unity was paramount. His first act was to issue a decree -- as King Hussein wished -- naming Hamzeh, Hussein's elder son by Queen Noor, crown prince. A month later he elevated Rania from princess to queen.

The family, Abdullah says, quickly rallied around the new team. This is not as easy as it seems, because King Hussein had what might delicately be termed a complex personal life. He was married four times, and had children by all four wives. With his first wife, Dina, he had a daughter, Alia. After divorcing, he then married an Englishwoman, Toni Gardiner, who took the name Muna and bore four children: Abdullah; his younger brother, Faisal; and twin girls, Aisha and Zein. After divorcing Princess Muna -- who still lives in the royal compound, near Abdullah's palace -- Hussein married a Palestinian woman named Alia Toukan, who bore a son, Ali, and a daughter, Haya, before she was killed in a helicopter crash. Then came Noor (nee Lisa Halaby), an American-born graduate of Princeton who is the mother of Hamzeh, the 19-year-old named the crown prince; his brother, Hashem, 18; and two girls, Iman, 16, and Rayah, 13.

The siblings are, they say, unified. "The five brothers are like the five fingers of a hand," Prince Ali says. "If you're nice to us, it's an open hand. If you don't want to be nice to us, we become a fist." The king said: "Jordan's got to survive, and it's going to survive with the brothers sticking together."

Despite the apparent unity among the sons of Hussein, these are still uneasy days in the palaces of the Hashemites: prominent family members have been eclipsed, most obviously Prince Hassan and Queen Noor.

"Noor has a good role in Jordan and internationally," the king said, referring to his stepmother's energetic charity work. "But things have changed. There's been a shift. The team is now Abdullah, his wife, Rania, and Crown Prince Hamzeh. That's the team."

It is up to Rania, the brainy and also quite stunning new queen, to apply a little diplomatic finesse to an awkward situation. "There's so much work to be done here," Rania says.

Amman is in many ways a small town -- the elite tend to live in one neighborhood, Abdoun, and the Abdoun chatterers are quite busy parsing the relationship between the two queens.

"People are going to look for negatives," Rania says. "The idea of two queens is intriguing, but we have a very good relationship."

Queen Noor has retained her title, but she seems conscious that her influence is diminished. "I see us all being in transition," she told me as we sat in Bab-al-Salam ("the Gate of Peace"), the palace she shared with King Hussein. ("Palace" is actually too grandiose a word for the houses of the Hashemites; they live well, but there are people in Amman who live better.) "Abdullah and Rania and the new people coming in need to make an independent way for themselves. I'm trying to maintain a low profile."

The king is similarly blunt on the subject of his once-powerful uncle.

"I give the ex-crown prince all the support I can, but he's not part of the executive team anymore," Abdullah told me. "The difficulty he has is coming to terms with the fact that he's no longer No. 2."

King Abdullah says the dysfunction between his father and his uncle extended well beyond issues of succession.

"In the old system, His Majesty had his policy and the crown prince tried to create his own policy," the king said. "So, the system effectively created two bosses. His Majesty would give one directive and the crown prince would give totally different directives. It confused everybody."

The ultimate question asked in palace circles, of course, is this: Why won't Abdullah one day do to his younger half brother Hamzeh what Hussein did to his younger brother Hassan? Won't he arrange to be succeeded by his own son?

Right now, all sides profess harmony. "There's no byzantine quality here," Abdullah says of his relationship with Hamzeh. "We're very close and we think the same way. My father maybe favored the two of us because I think we're both very much like him."

On the other hand, Abdullah and Rania have a 5-year-old son, Prince Hussein, along with a 3-year-old daughter, Princess Iman. Hussein is a typically Americanized kid: when I last saw him, he was battling his uncle Hamzeh with a "Star Wars" light saber. But one day, he will be old enough to be crown prince, and that's when things could get interesting.

"You know, Satloff wrote a very interesting article about this," the king said, referring to Robert Satloff, the Jordan expert. "I showed Hamzeh this paper. Satloff says that whatever Abdullah does and says will not convince the skeptics that what King Hussein did with Hassan would not happen again with Abdullah and Hamzeh. I told Hamzeh that I wanted him to read this. I've told Hamzeh: 'Look, I've got to make this work, you've got to make this work, we know what happened between Hassan and Hussein and why it didn't work. Let's use them as a model in a way, to make sure that you, Hamzeh, succeed.' "

It is probably a relief to Abdullah that Hamzeh purports not to care at all about issues of succession. Hamzeh, who is easily the most earnest 19-year-old in the history of 19-year-olds, is known in Jordan to be the son who was closest to his father. He became fascinated early on in the workings of the royal court, and seldom left his father's side. In Amman, it is often said that, had King Hussein lived a few years longer, he would have made Hamzeh, not Abdullah, his successor.

"I was always trying to balance the time he was spending with his father by encouraging his father to encourage him to involve himself in a range of other activities with people his own age," Queen Noor remembers.

In an interview in the Basman Palace, near his father's grave, Hamzeh says he happily leaves his future in the hands of his oldest brother:

"Well, sir, His Majesty is my king. He is my older brother. I love him dearly, sir, and I would follow him anywhere. Whatever he chooses will be for the best of the country," he says, unrelentingly serious and completely, refreshingly archaic. Like his father, he addresses everyone as sir.

You don't care about being king at all?

"It doesn't matter at all."

This is not, his mother says, public relations. "Believe me," Queen Noor says, "he doesn't know about spin. He really means what he says."

When I ask Hamzeh if it ever crossed his mind simply to hang out for a while, like other 19-year-olds, his eyes grow wide. "Hang out?" he asks, astonished. "Sir, by privilege of birth you are born into a responsibility and a duty, and it's an honor for me to be my father's son and to be born with a heritage that goes back over 1,000 years. It is a great responsibility to serve God Almighty and serve one's country and one's people with every ounce of energy -- and I pray to God Almighty that I will be able to serve them well."

No hanging out, then.

This might change, though, if his brother gets a say. Next year, the plan calls for Hamzeh to begin his career as a college freshman. "Harvard or Princeton, I hope," King Abdullah says. "He needs to fall in love, get into a bar fight, that sort of thing. It'll be good for him."

All Hashemites, it seems, find their way to America. The American influence in Jordan cannot be overstated. The United States is Jordan's biggest benefactor and most important ally. They agree about almost everything, except Iraq; Jordan, which broke with the U.S. during the Persian Gulf war, today supports an end to the United Nation sanctions. The level of intelligence cooperation between the two countries is extraordinary: the effective and, by Middle Eastern standards, elegant Jordanian intelligence service has become perhaps the C.I.A.'s most important partner in the fight against Islamic terrorism, far more important than the Israelis. Last year, sources in Jordan say, the Mukhabarat, the intelligence service, alerted the C.I.A. to at least three plots by Bosnia-based Islamic terrorists to attack U.S. targets in Europe. In December, the Jordanians also arrested 13 people associated with Osama bin Laden in connection with a suspected plot to attack Christian and American targets in Jordan. The C.I.A., these

sources say, declares all of its agents in Jordan to the Mukhabarat, not even bothering to develop cover stories, as it usually does in closely allied countries.

Most of the Jordanian Army's top commanders have trained with the American military. (In 1983, King Abdullah spent six months at Fort Knox, where, his instructor, a Capt. Gary McFadden, wrote in a fitness report that "Captain Abdullah is a great credit to the Jordanian Armed Forces and to the country of Jordan.") In the royal court, searching for someone who did not spend time at Georgetown University can be a frustrating task.

But even in the highly Americanized royal court, Abdullah stands out as the most Americanized of them all. His English has a slight British accent, a product of his early English public-school education, but his vocabulary is idiomatically American, as are his cultural references. He is fluent in the language of American pop culture; he has well-formed opinions of dozens of new movies. "I'm easily entertained," he says. "I'll sit through just about anything."

He is also very American in his distaste for excessive protocol. One time, while talking to him in his living room, I began a sentence with either the word "yo" or the word "hey," for once catching myself midsentence. I told him I forgot for a moment he was king. "Thank God," he said.

The great benefit of his seven years of American prep school, he says, was that his teachers and friends didn't particularly care he was a prince.

In fact, at his first prep school, the Eaglebrook School in Massachusetts, he was treated quite poorly by some students precisely because he was who he was.

"I had a slight problem because there was some prejudice," the king said. "I never learned to fight in my life, but I had to learn quickly at Eaglebrook. In the first month, the two proctors came in and picked a student from my year and said, 'This guy is going to beat you up and we're going to watch.' The proctors said, 'You know, you're an Arab.' The majority of students were Jewish. A lot of the Jewish students were very nice, but some of them had extremist views toward Arabs. So I didn't know how to fight, but I took a chance and jumped off the bed and I knocked the guy off his feet, and he knocked his head against the wall. Pure chance."

There were others at Eaglebrook who picked on this diminutive Arab. As we talk in his office -- his dagger-carrying Circassian guards standing just outside -- the king momentarily loses himself in unhappy memories of his first New England prep school.

"There was a guy who was much bigger than me," he says. "I still dream of the time I could find this guy. I'm sure he's a lot bigger than me, but I'm quite capable of handling myself now and I'd like to remind him of some of the things he did to me in school."

One time, his father came visiting and saw evidence of his son's difficulties. "I had this huge black eye," Abdullah recalls. "He said, 'How did you get that?' I said I ran into a wall. He didn't believe me." (A few minutes after this interview concluded, the king's cousin, Princess Ghida, found me to say the king was worried I might think his views of Jews or of Israel have been colored by ancient prep-school unpleasantness. She was too clever, though, to say that some of the king's best friends are Jews, though he does, in fact, have Jewish friends. Most of the king's best friends are in fact Christian, which is something in this part of the world.)

By the time he began 10th grade at nearby Deerfield Academy, he was an expert wrestler, and his troubles had long since receded. "The three best years of my life," he says of Deerfield.

In its 200-year history, Deerfield has always been most interested in character building, says one teacher, Jim Marksbury, a close friend of Abdullah's. At Deerfield, he was known simply as "Ab." Abdullah, Marksbury says, fit in well: he was uninterested in receiving any special privileges. People knew who he was, but they didn't care.

"I remember meeting him for the first time," his classmate Perry Vella remembers. "They said, 'This is Prince Abdullah of Jordan,' and I said, 'I'm Perry Vella of Queens.' And that was it."

Deerfield, his former teachers say, shaped Abdullah into a bit of a Yankee.

"Good manners, sportsmanship -- knock a man over, you help him up -- the New England work ethic, these are the things that inform the school," Marksbury said. "He didn't like ostentation."

He willingly took his turn in the dining hall waiting tables, recalls the school's former head football coach and dining-hall manager, Jim Smith. "People treated him like one of the guys," Smith says. "He became really Americanized." The only duty Abdullah actively shirked, Smith remembers, was his weekly Arabic lesson, arranged for him by his father, who worried -- rightly, it would turn out -- that Abdullah's Arabic was inferior to his fluent, idiomatic English.

"This instructor, his name was Muhammad, would come over from U. Mass., and Abdullah would always hide from him," Smith says. "After he left, Abdullah would appear out of a closet somewhere."

When he went home to Amman for vacations, Abdullah became something of a Massachusetts Yankee in King Hussein's court, sharing with his father some of the ideas he had picked up.

"I had a lot of crazy and wild ideas that I wouldn't want to blame the American system for," he says, laughing. "My father was always saying, 'Well, maybe you should think about that.' "

When I pressed him, though, he wouldn't specify which ideas he took from America. He didn't mention press freedom or the separation of church and state. Which raises the question: Was the Americanization of Abdullah more a matter of style than of substance?

Here, he retreats into circumspection. "I've benefited from the best of both societies and both cultures, East and West," he says. I realized later that I might have been expecting the impossible from him: after all, his business is the monarchy, which is the most un-American business of all.

So how does a man learn how to be a king?

"There's no Kingship 101," King Abdullah told me one day. "But there are teachers. Usually your father or your grandfather. The best teacher I ever had was H. M." -- by which he means His Majesty, King Hussein.

Abdullah's full brother, Prince Faisal, a general in the Jordanian Air Force (and a 1985 graduate of Brown University), says: "My brother would have loved a couple of years as crown prince. But he was better prepared than his father was for the throne."

True, his father was only a teenager when he was crowned. But by the time King Hussein reached the age of 38 -the age Abdullah is now -- he had watched his grandfather's assassination at the Al Aksa mosque in Jerusalem; he
had fought, and lost, the Six-Day War; he had survived the murder of his cousin, the king of Iraq, which spelled the
end of Hashemite rule in Baghdad; he had himself survived numerous assassination attempts; and he brought his
country through Black September in one piece.

Abdullah has never been through tests like these. But he has been tested.

In 1987, when he was a 25-year-old armored corps officer, stuck out in Jordan's eastern desert, the army's commanders, never keen to have the king's son among them -- competition," Abdullah says today -- began a campaign of intense harassment designed to drive him into early retirement. "Mine was the only company that would constantly be inspected," the king, who spent 18 years in uniform, recalled. "In the middle of the night, they'd come in and inspect my unit, check my stores. I was the only one -- this was real harassment, but my soldiers were very loyal to me. After six months, the soldiers were paying the price. The final day of this, they came in to inspect my company. The battalion commander was in on this. They tipped the beds over, they stepped on my soldiers' shoes and then they went and struck one of my senior sergeants.

"I waited until the delegation went out -- this is the only time I've ever done this -- I went to my battalion commander and I pulled a gun out and stuck it to his head and said, 'Anybody comes to my company like that again I swear to

God I'll shoot him.' They wouldn't come near me. They probably thought I was crazy. I was out there alone for the next three or four months."

I told him his story sounded improbable -- how could the son of the supreme commander be treated this way?

"They knew that I wouldn't run to Daddy and complain," he said. "I never did that in my life, and I wasn't about to start."

King Hussein, it turned out, knew of his son's problems. Two of the late king's confidants said King Hussein was made aware of the harassment. "It pained him, but he let it happen," one of the confidants, a high-ranking official in the current government, said. "He wasn't going to intervene if his son didn't want him to."

This incident, the confidant said, sealed Abdullah's reputation with his father: "This was the test, and Prince Abdullah passed."

Just hours after King Hussein died, on Feb. 7 of last year, Abdullah was standing before the Jordanian Parliament. Stone-faced, he swore an oath and became Jordan's fourth king. The next days were a whirlwind: his father's funeral, televised worldwide, was attended by dozens of kings, presidents and prime ministers, each of whom took time to meet with the new, young king. He says he never got a chance to mourn for his father. He told me this matter-of-factly, as if to say: this is the price you pay.

He did go on to tell me that, every so often, his father visits him in his dreams and brings him a message of comfort. "I'm not a person who's really into spirituality, but I've had a couple of dreams that have been so unique," the king said. "One of the times His Majesty came to me was the day I went to the Baqa camp, the Palestinian camp. I went just to tell <u>Hamas</u>: 'Oh, yeah, you think you have support here? Well, I have support, too.' That night, I had a dream that H. M. stepped off an airplane -- we were in Tanzania or something, I don't know why, you know how dreams are -- and he just came and gave me a big hug and said, 'I'm so proud of you."'

When I first spent time with King Abdullah early last fall, it was clear that the work didn't intimidate him. But the title seemed to. "There's still this thought in my mind that I'm holding the fort until His Majesty comes back," he said at one point. That thought seems to have dissipated. He is now very much the king.

Being king, however, is likely to become a more difficult job. The world made it rather easy for him during his first year. His father's old rivals, Arafat and Assad and the rest, kissed him on both cheeks and promised him their friendship. President Clinton made him feel at ease in the corridors of Washington power. The titans of the New Economy, perhaps intrigued by the exoticism of it all -- the Arab king of Deerfield, his beautiful wife with high-tech skills -- gave him a most respectful hearing.

And at home, he had the warm sympathies of his people.

But sympathy has a way of drying up in stagnant, corrupt places like Zarqa, and the region in which he rules remains tough and volatile, and the international businessmen he has met have so far extended him only their attention, not their money. The honeymoon will end, and the memory of King Hussein will grow more faint. Only then will the world see for sure if that king's final decision was the right one.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photos: Young, in love and in charge: Queen Rania and King Abdullah of Jordan;. The man who would be king (Crown Prince Hamzeh, left) and the man who is (his brother Abdullah).; Queen Noor (far left), King Hussein's

widow and Hamzeh's mother, is working to preserve her husband's memory. (photographs by Joyce Tenneson for The New York Times); Abdullah's road to the throne, with a stopover in New England: With his parents, King Hussein and Princess Muna, in 1962; leading the Royal Artillery Parade in Amman in 1971; as wrestling captain (far right) at Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts, 1980; in the Jordanian Army, 1980's; with his father (left) and Prince Hassan, whom he replaced as crown prince, 1999; just after addressing Parliament, 1999; as an F.O.B. (Dalmas/Sipa Press; Keystone/Corbis Sygma; Deerfield Academy Yearbook; Prince Abdullah Collection/AAR/Sipa Press; Corbis Sygma; Mazraawi/AAR/Sipa Press; Robert Trippett/Sipa Press); King Abdullah's children, Hussein and Iman, are just like any other Americanized kids, for now. (Joyce Tenneson for The New York Times)

Load-Date: February 6, 2000



PALESTINIANS TURN FIRE ON ARAFAT AIDE AFTER ARRESTS

The Independent (London)
July 25, 2001, Wednesday

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 10

Length: 668 words

Byline: Phil Reeves In Jerusalem Arafat: Cancelled a visit to Jordan after unrest; Palestinian <u>women</u> weep at the funeral of Islamic Jihad militant activist Mustapha Yassin in the West Bank city of Jenin. Israel said its forces killed a Palestinian in the West Bank on Monday in an operation linked to the arrest of a would-be bomber a day earlier

Reuters

Body

YASSER ARAFAT cut short a visit to the Gulf yesterday and sped back to the Gaza Strip to try to head off the outbreak of a serious internal conflict after gunmen surrounded the house of the head of Palestinian military intelligence - his cousin - and blasted it with gunfire.

The show-down came after the Palestinian Authority, reacting to intense pressure from Israel and the US, arrested five members of the Palestinian Popular Resistance Committees, a coalition of activists that has been prominent in the 10-month intifada.

As Mr Arafat contemplated the perilous fissures within the Palestinian population of the occupied territories - having flown home early from the United Arab Emirates, cancelling a visit to Jordan - Israeli security officials were piecing together the final hours of 18-year-old Israeli settler, Yuri Gushtzin.

The youth's shot, repeatedly stabbed and mutilated body was discovered on the West Bank yesterday in what appeared to be the latest brutal sectarian killing to blight the Middle East conflict. His remains were transferred to the Israeli authorities, which were last night working to establish why he was killed and by whom, amid strong suspicions of political motive.

If proved, then there will be even stronger pressure from Israel on Yasser Arafat and his coterie to round up and jail militant elements. Mr Gushtzin lived in the settlement of Pisgat Ze'ev in the northern suburbs of Jerusalem. Police believe he was killed in the Palestinian town of Ramallah, and his body later dumped in the nearby West Bank under control of the Israeli military.

Since the start of the intifada, Ramallah has been the scene of several horrific killings of Israelis, including two reserve soldiers were lynched by a mob and a 16-year-old boy, who was shot dead in a car after being lured into the occupied territories by a Palestinian woman whom he got to know on the internet. In April, a 37-year -old Israeli was also killed there in what seem to be similar circumstances to yesterday's killing. Witnesses in the Gaza Strip said that late on Monday an angry crowd surrounded the home of Moussa Arafat, the intelligence chief, and pounded it with rocks after news of the arrests circulated through the teeming, blockaded strip.

Some 20 gunmen - including militants from <u>Hamas</u>, Islamic Jihad, and the mainstream Fatah - blasted the building with guns. The security guards fired back, but aimed over their heads.

PALESTINIANS TURN FIRE ON ARAFAT AIDE AFTER ARRESTS

A Palestinian official denied the Palestinian Authority was making political arrests, but confirmed some activists had been detained on "grounds of discipline". It is not the first eruption of violence between the Palestinian authorities - which before the intifada were reviled as hugely inept, compromising and corrupt by many Palestinians on the street - and radicals committed to continue what they see as a national war against Israeli occupation. The Palestinian leadership has repeatedly argued that this important reason is why they cannot fulfil Israel's demand - which is underscored by the never-implemented Tenet ceasefire and Mitchell report - to jail militants.

Israel has submitted a list of activists that it wants behind bars. The latter are becoming more outspoken in their criticism of Mr Arafat and his coterie.

"The Palestinian Authority should stop political arrests. It should liaise with the resistance against the (Israeli) occupation and not confiscate rifles," a senior leader of the group told journalists. Security has been heightened in Israel in recent days, partly because Monday was the closing ceremony of the Maccabiah Games - the so-called Jewish Olympics - but also because of the risk of reprisals after a group of armed Jewish settlers shot dead two young Arab men and a three-month -old baby outside their village close to Hebron.

That attack has prompted the Palestinian leadership to emulate Israel, and issue a list of more than 50 names of Jewish militant settlers whom it demands that Israel should now arrest for attacking Arabs.

Load-Date: July 25, 2001



SEASIDE CARNAGE ROCKS TEL AVIV

The Toronto Star

June 2, 2001, Saturday, Edition 1

Copyright 2001 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS

Length: 729 words

Body

17 killed, 86 hurt in suicide attack outside nightclub

Medical personnel and civilians aid the wounded in last night's suicide bombing in Tel Aviv. Blood and human flesh spattered over the scene.

TEL AVIV (AP-Reuters) - A suicide bomber killed at least 17 people last night when he blew himself up in a crowd of teenagers outside a seaside nightclub in Tel Aviv, police said.

At least 86 people were wounded.

It was the deadliest bomb attack in Israel in five years and the worst since the Palestinians began an uprising against occupation eight months ago, increasing doubts that Israel will stick to an already strained and limited ceasefire.

The blast occurred after

11 p.m. at the entrance to a nightclub named Pacha, which faces a promenade area lined with restaurants, bars and hotels. The promenade was packed with people enjoying the beginning of the Jewish Sabbath.

The nightclub was frequented by teenagers from Russian immigrant families.

It was also a ladies night and many of the people standing outside the discotheque were female, witnesses said.

Police rushed along the seaside promenade, closing down other nightclubs for fear more bombers were about to carry out attacks.

Witnesses told Israel Radio that the bomber had stood with a group of young people waiting to get in.

The bomb was strapped to the attacker and spewed out bullets and nails when he detonated it, police said.

"I was about to enter (the disco); suddenly, I looked in the direction of the blast, I saw people thrown backward," said Dudi Nachum, 21.

"I saw a hand of a person, a brain," said Ilan Amos, 35. "I don't know how to explain it to you, it hurts the heart."

SEASIDE CARNAGE ROCKS TEL AVIV

Cars within a 20-metre radius were spattered with blood and human flesh, their windows shattered. Bloodied first aid bandages and discarded water bottles lay all around.

Doctors in Tel Aviv area hospitals said many of the dead and badly wounded were hit by metal shrapnel packed in the powerful bomb. The metal shards were deeply embedded in their bodies, doctors said.

Police Chief Shlomo Aronishky told Israeli TV "a number of suspects have been arrested." There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Israeli television reported the attack appeared to be the work of the militant Islamic Jihad, which has been responsible for other suicide bombings in Israel.

But the Jihad said it had no confirmation on who was responsible, spokesperson Abdul Hakim Salim said.

A spokesperson for *Hamas*, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, also said he had no confirmation of who was behind the attack.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat today condemned the attack, his spokesperson said.

Speaking on behalf of Arafat, the spokesperson told Reuters: "The president condemns such attacks especially against civilians and calls on all sides to show self-restraint."

"We also call for an end to the military escalation and siege and all forms of violence and a return to the negotiations in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace," said the spokesperson.

Israel security forces have been on high alert for attacks but have been unable to block the border with the West Bank of the Jordan River to prevent infiltration. Early today, the army announced a tightened shutdown on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, whose ceasefire proclamation was dismissed by the Palestinians, was convening a cabinet meeting today to assess the situation, said adviser Raanan Gissin.

"We intend to keep the ceasefire as long as it's possible," Gissin said at the scene.

But he added: "We'll choose the proper time and place. We'll take the proper action."

U.S. President George W. Bush urged Arafat to condemn the attack and call an immediate ceasefire, and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he was "horrified" by the attack.

The Palestinian uprising erupted last September after peace talks became deadlocked.

Before the blast, at least 450 Palestinians, 91 Israelis and 13 Israeli Arabs had been killed since the Palestinian uprising erupted last September after peace talks became deadlocked. The new deaths would take the overall Israeli death toll to 107. The bombing last night was not the first on the Tel Aviv waterfront.

In July, 1990, Willowdale teen Marnie Kimelman was killed by a bombing on a Tel Aviv beach.

Kimelman, 17, died five hours after a homemade pipe bomb exploded in the sand near a lifeguard station.

Load-Date: June 4, 2001



<u>ISRAEL STEPS UP BOMB RETALIATION BY SEIZING HEADQUARTERS OF</u> PLO

The Scotsman

August 11, 2001, Saturday

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Section: Pg. 10

Length: 741 words

Byline: Ben Lynfield In Jerusalem

Body

AS stunned Israelis mourned the victims of a devastating suicide bomb that left 15 dead and scores wounded, the government yesterday seized the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters, long seen as the seat of government of a future Palestinian state in east Jerusalem.

The Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, said his forces would remain in the PLO headquarters, the symbolically resonant Orient House mansion, "forever." At the same time, in a move that Palestinians found especially galling, Israeli forces lowered the Palestinian banner on the building and replaced it with the star of David.

Israeli police also closed nine other Palestinian offices in the Abu Dis area of the city, including a tourism council and chamber of commerce.

In Washington, a state department spokesman, Richard Boucher, criticised Israel's actions, which he said "represent a political escalation, undermine faith and confidence in a negotiated settlement of this conflict and increase the risk of further deterioration of the political institutions".

Sari Nusseibeh, a leading Palestinian academic, criticised the Israeli move as a blow to hopes for a compromise solution of the conflict. "As far as I can tell, this is a message to us, the Palestinian people - not the Palestinian Authority, not *Hamas*, but the ordinary Palestinians hoping for peace. The message says look at the place that gave birth to the peace process. It is closed, with soldiers all around and the Israeli flag.

"It's telling us goodbye to peace and the negotiations."

The latest developments came as Israelis mourned the victims of the suicide bombing at a pizza restaurant in west Jerusalem, the second deadliest bombing since the start of the Palestinian uprising ten months ago. Most of those killed were <u>women</u> and children; one of the dead was a pregnant teacher from the United States, Judith Greenbaum. She had been standing next to the bomber when he detonated the explosives.

At the Givat Shaul cemetery in west Jerusalem, mourners put small stones on to the dirt covering Ms Greenbaum's body, in accordance with Jewish funeral custom. "She always had a smile, a happiness, making other people happy," said a mourner. Also at the cemetery were the Schijveschwrder family, immigrants from Holland who lived on a west Bank settlement. They lost five members, including three children.

ISRAEL STEPS UP BOMB RETALIATION BY SEIZING HEADQUARTERS OF PLO

Israeli officials stressed that the steps they had taken in response to the bombing reflected a desire to minimise civilian casualties. There were no injuries or fatalities despite the use of F-16 warplanes to level a Palestinian police station in Ramallah, on the West Bank, and an increase in military activity in the Gaza Strip.

"The picture of the Israeli flag over Orient House was a very clear signal that there is a change in Israeli policy," said the deputy internal security minister, Gideon Ezra. He said that while the previous government of Ehud Barak, who was ousted by Mr Sharon in February, was willing "to give part of Jerusalem to the Palestinians, and some Palestinians started to feel Jerusalem already belongs to them, we are emphasising a different point of view - to give them nothing".

Orient House had been the headquarters of the Palestinian peace negotiators with Israel, and a venue for hosting foreign diplomats, but it also offered a gamut of services to Palestinian civilians in the city, including loans, conflict resolution and legal assistance. One of its departments mapped Israeli settlement expansion in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Israeli security forces "confiscated our files, maps, everything," said Halim Abu Shamsiya, an Orient House worker. "They took our most sensitive materials."

Seven Orient House workers were arrested and later released. Mr Ezra said that police had found an Uzi submachine gun he believed was to be used against security forces. Mounted police yesterday charged a group of peaceful demonstrators near the building.

Police said they had also closed Palestinian security offices in Abu Dis, just outside the Jerusalem municipal border that were being used as a springboard for activity inside the city. While Labour Party governments generally tolerated Orient House's active role, viewing it as a potential partner for peace arrangements in the city, Likud party hardliners had insisted for years that it be shut down, charging that it conducted illegal activity on behalf of the Palestinian Authority.

Load-Date: August 13, 2001



WORLD IN BRIEF

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

July 23, 1999, Friday,

Metro Edition

Copyright 1999 The Atlanta Constitution

Section: News; Pg. 2B

Length: 622 words

Byline: From our news services

Body

Slow handover of KLA arms worries NATO

Failure of the Kosovo Liberation Army to turn in a sufficient number of its heavy weapons, including mortars and anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns, has forced NATO commanders to extend the deadline for compliance with a disarmament agreement to Saturday.

NATO officials said it was apparent that the rebel commanders had hidden large stockpiles, and peacekeepers fear growing divisions among rebel leaders could lead to factional fighting.

They are also concerned by continuing attacks against Serb civilians remaining in Kosovo. An estimated 80,000 of the 200,000 Serb residents have left the Yugoslav province since the NATO peace force was deployed in June. Constitution

EUROPE

Yugoslavia cuts aid worker sentences

A military court in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, reduced the prison sentences of three aid workers charged with spying for NATO, but denied international requests for their release, the private Glas newspaper reported Thursday. Steve Pratt's sentence of 12 years in prison was lowered to eight, while Peter Wallace's four-year term was slashed to one. The two worked for CARE Australia. The term of Yugoslav CARE worker Branko Jelen, sentenced with the Australians, was reduced from six years to three, the newspaper reported. The three were sentenced in May after being convicted of gathering and passing on sensitive military information.

London, Moscow signal new warmth

Declaring a new era of cooperation, Britain and Russia on Thursday traded material about the assassination of the last czar for belongings of British troops captured in World War II. Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, ending a two-day visit to London, also said the international community must provide reconstruction aid to Yugoslavia. Britain maintains that Yugoslavia --- apart from Kosovo --- deserves no war reparations.

Britain fails to budge N. Ireland rivals

The key antagonists in the deadlock over forming a government in Northern Ireland met separately Thursday with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, but neither ceded ground. Gerry Adams, leader of IRA-allied Sinn Fein, accused the province's largest Protestant party, the Ulster Unionists, of continuing to "ride roughshod" over last year's peace

WORLD IN BRIEF

agreement. Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble did not budge from his insistence that his party would not take part in any government that includes Sinn Fein until the Irish Republican Army begins to disarm.

MIDDLE EAST

Israeli peace effort gains momentum

A top aide to Prime Minister Ehud Barak said Thursday that Israel is prepared to resume talks with Syria at the point they broke off three years ago, accepting a formula demanded by Syria for renewed negotiations. Barak also moved to calm Palestinian and Egyptian concerns that he was trying to avoid troop withdrawals from the West Bank that are called for in last October's Wye River agreement, by announcing that he would meet this weekend with both Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. But casting a shadow over the diplomacy, the armed wing of the militant Islamic group *Hamas* warned in a statement that it would renew attacks against Israel.

THE AMERICAS

Women in Mexico send men a message

Housewives throughout Mexico took off their aprons and rested Thursday in a quiet protest against the macho culture that they say dominates Latino households. In Mexico City, where massive protests clog streets almost daily, homemakers simply stopped doing the laundry and cleaning the house and refused to go shopping. The daylong boycott captured public attention in a country where many husbands carry on brazen affairs, <u>women</u> often seek their husbands' approval to go to school, and <u>women</u> are regularly fired from jobs for getting pregnant.

Graphic

Photo

A Bangladeshi girl fills pots with drinking water Thursday in the Manikgonj district, 25 miles north of Dhaka. Monsoon rains have flooded hundreds of villages in the last two weeks, leaving 19 people dead and nearly 1 million homeless or marooned. Weather forecasters are warning that more rain is on the way. / PAVEL RAHMAN / Associated Press

Load-Date: July 23, 1999



Israeli 'indiscriminate' use of weapons questioned

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

June 12, 2001, Tuesday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 7

Length: 692 words

Byline: Ben Lynfield Special to the Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: AL HADABE, GAZA STRIP

Highlight: Saturday, three Palestinians were killed with flachettes.

Body

The damage spread widely in this tiny Palestinian community, as befits the Israeli weapon that killed three civilian <u>women</u> Saturday night and deepened the mistrust that is hanging over efforts to reach a durable Middle East cease-fire.

The weapon was a tank shell packed with flachettes: small, deadly darts that spread out in an arc of dozens of meters with such force that they can penetrate concrete blocks.

The use of the weapon in populated areas, which the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem says violates the Fourth Geneva Convention, highlights the continued risks faced by Palestinian civilians despite Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's declaration late last month of an Israeli cease-fire.

Israeli army chief of staff Gen. Shaul Mofaz says that the deaths here were possibly the result of "a mistake in which they used the wrong range. It is night, it is dark, you are fired upon, and it is possible to make a mistake." The unabated mistrust and only partially reduced violence means that the contacts the two sides are maintaining through CIA Director George Tenet, currently visiting the region, have more to do with their relations with Washington than any inherent belief that a lasting cease-fire will actually come about. The two sides are far apart on Israel's demand that the Palestinian Authority re-arrest dozens of militants from <u>Hamas</u> and the Islamic Jihad, which Israel holds responsible for bombing attacks and who were freed at the start of the uprising eight months ago. The PA is refusing to make the arrests.

"If the Israelis are killing our people daily, are we supposed to make arrests?" asks Industry Minister Saadi Krunz. "What would we say to our people? Will the Israelis arrest the soldiers responsible for killing these <u>women</u>? Do they do anything to stop these killings?"

Dore Gold, an adviser to Mr. Sharon, says that the arrests are the "litmus test" for a de-escalation. "We are working to help Tenet have his best shot to make the cease-fire work. And if it does not work, it will be because of [Palestinian leader Yasser] Arafat, not Tenet."

According to a report published Sunday in Ha'aretz, flachette shells have been banned in the West Bank by Yitzhak Eitan, the local commander, because of the risk they pose to civilians.

Here in al-Hadabe, near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim, blood-stained sheets were visible in the shack that housed Nasra Malalha, Samia Malalha, and Hekmat Malalha, the first fatalities since Mr. Arafat declared the cease-fire. Around the structure, 1-1/2 inch flachettes were stuck in a rock, wooden planks, a tree, and a television antenna.

Muawiya Hassanein, the physician in charge of emergency services at Gaza City's Shifa Hospital, said: "There were more than a dozen nails in each one." Two other people were wounded by nails, he said.

Dr. Hassanein said he first saw cases of flachette injuries in February and has offered treatment for them in four instances of Israeli shooting since then.

The residents of al-Hadabe, bedouin refugees from what became southern Israel in 1948, raise livestock for a living. At least three animals, too, have been killed.

B'Tselem staffer Lior Yavne says of the weapon: "The laws of war do not explicitly prohibit it, but when it is used in a populated area, it is the equivalent of indiscriminate fire. This is prohibited by the Fourth Geneva Convention."

In the perception of Israeli leaders, flachettes are not the issue. The army yesterday said it would not comment on the types of weapons soldiers were using. Officials say that continued Palestinian mortar and shooting attacks, as well as the injury that led to the death yesterday of an infant son of Jewish settlers, fly in the face of Arafat's declaration of a cease-fire 10 days ago. The killing of the Malalhas, which is being investigated by the army, was touched off by Palestinian gunfire, they say.

Sheikh Sueleiman Abu Abdul-Rahman, a mosque preacher in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, said while touring al-Hadabe that international observers are exactly what is needed. "What happened here was a big crime," he said.

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Load-Date: June 11, 2001



The News in Brief

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

April 13, 1998, Monday

Copyright 1998 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: NEWS IN BRIEF; Pg. 2

Length: 1496 words

Byline: Compiled by Robert Kilborn and Lance Carden

Body

The US

Basking in the Northern Ireland peace agreement, President Clinton said it was appropriate the breakthrough came as Christians celebrated Easter and Jews celebrated Passover. Clinton was not only credited with sending former US Sen. George Mitchell to broker the peace accord, but with telephoning some of the key participants in the talks to help overcome last-minute sticking points. Clinton said the parties had chosen "hope" over "hate."

About 60 percent of Americans want to invest some of their Social Security taxes in the stock market - and 80 percent say individuals, not government, should control the investments, a Time-CNN poll of 1,011 adults indicated. GOP leaders in Congress have echoed Clinton's suggestion that budget surpluses be set aside until Social Security is strengthened, but there is no consensus on how to reform the system. The survey's margin of error was plus or minus 3.1 percent.

There were predictions of soaring US budget surpluses as taxpayers approached the April 15 deadline for filing tax returns. Economist Lou Crandall of R.H. Wrightson & Assoc. in New York forecast a \$ 40-billion surplus, well above a Congressional Budget Office projection of \$ 18 billion. The Washington Post, citing internal central-bank reports, said the Federal Reserve is anticipating a \$ 50-billion surplus. Fed officials responded by saying the size of this year's surplus was "highly uncertain."

Disaster aid was arriving in four Southern states in the wake of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. Storms damaged or destroyed more than 2,000 homes in Alabama alone, state and local officials said. Tornadoes reportedly killed 33 people in Alabama, at least nine in Georgia, one in Mississippi, and one in North Carolina. The tornado - with winds exceeding 260 m.p.h. - that hit Jefferson County, Ala., was ranked F-5, the most powerful classification. On average, only one of the 1,000 tornadoes that hit the US each year is F-5, weather experts said.

New rules to halt stock-market trading when prices fall sharply were approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The new curbs, which take effect Wednesday, require trading to halt after drops of 10 percent, 20 percent, and 30 percent in the Dow Jones Industrial Average. Currently trading is halted when the Dow industrials fall 350 points, or about 4 percent, and again after a 550-point drop, or about 7 percent. The changes reflect concern that current curbs on trading could aggravate market instability.

Allegations that a conservative foundation may have given financial aid to one of his star witnesses were being pursued by Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr. Brushing aside possible conflicts of interest, the Justice

The News in Brief

Department said Starr should look into allegations that David Hale received payments and other aid from people working for a foundation that publishes the American Spectator magazine. An Arkansas <u>women</u> has alleged that Hale received the aid while cooperating with Starr's inquiry. American Spectator publisher Terry Eastland said no money was given to Hale.

Immigrants awaiting citizenship protested problems at the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form 1994 to 1997, the number of citizenship applications reportedly tripled from 500,000 to almost 1.5 million - doubling the backlog of citizenship cases. Press conferences were held in Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, and Washington.

A computer network that handles data much faster than the Internet will connect a consortium of universities by June, the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California said. The University of California, Stanford University, and the California Institute of Technology are among the state's participating schools.

The World

Sinn Fein leaders Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams urged members of their party and supporters of the Irish Republican Army to give "fair" and "balanced" consideration to the historic peace accord reached Friday with Protestants in Northern Ireland. It would establish a new local government for the province but require close cooperation with the predominantly Catholic Irish Republic. The executive committee of the Ulster Unionists, the province's largest Protestant party, voted 55-23 to support the accord.

A senior member of <u>Hamas</u> has confessed to the murder of leading bombmaker Muhyeen al-Sharif, Israel Radio reported, quoting Palestinian Authority police sources. His death is blamed on an internal power struggle, which the militant Islamic group vehemently denies. Over the weekend, an estimated 5,000 <u>Hamas</u> supporters burned a mockup of an Israeli bus in the West Bank city of Nablus, in a demonstration aimed at reinforcing the group's vow to conduct revenge attacks against Israel, which it blamed for Sharif's death.

Indicted war-crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic isn't ready to surrender to the UN tribunal in The Hague, Bosnian Serb sources said. They rebutted a Washington Post report that Karadzic, who's blamed for some of the worst atrocities of the 3-1/2-year Bosnian civil war, was discussing surrender terms with his more moderate rivals who now hold the leadership of the Serb sub-state. Karadzic reportedly is weary and ill from months of being on the run from pursuers.

South Africa's last hard-line apartheid president, P. W. Botha, is scheduled to go on trial before a black judge tomorrow on contempt-of-court charges. Botha was ruled fit despite claims of ill health. He is accused of ignoring three subpoenas to testify before the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which investigates atrocities during the apartheid era. Botha did submit more than 1,700 pages of written replies to the commission's questions and accuses it of wanting to humiliate him.

Only 22 of more than 130 human-rights groups operating in Congo (formerly Zaire) were granted "provisional authorization" by the government. The Justice Ministry said those not approved were "working in illegal fashion" and that "severe measures" would be announced shortly. All rights groups were required to register by midnight last Wednesday. Meanwhile, the editor of a Kinshasa newspaper was jailed, apparently for criticizing self-proclaimed President Laurent Kabila in print.

More than 100 people are missing and presumed dead in the collapse of gemstone mines in Tanzania, reports said. Local officials said 14 tanzanite mines caved in under heavy rains. The semiprecious purple stone used in jewelry is mined by traditional methods, with few safety procedures.

Reports from the city of Hardwar, India, said security arrangements were collapsing under the weight of Hindu worshippers arriving for a traditional bathing ritual in the River Ganges. More than 10 million people were expected to overwhelm Hardwar for the Baisakhi harvest festival, which is held in the city once every 12 years. Sixty

The News in Brief

thousand police and government officials, backed by a system of checkpoints and closed-circuit TV cameras, were sent to ensure order. Clashes erupted between rival sects last month over the order of bathing.

Etceteras

"A lasting peace will become a reality as anger, hatred, and violence are replaced by love and mutual acceptance."

- Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey, on the accord between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland.

Columbus, Ohio, resident Lorie Marling knew she owed the Internal Revenue Service some money in back taxes. But even she wasn't prepared for the bill that arrived in the mail last week. It had a dollar sign, a 2, a 7, and then a whole lot of zeroes - 10, in fact. Yes, the IRS wanted \$ 270 billion. But at least it was willing to let her remit the money in three easy installments. "My accountant," she says, "thought I was being asked to pay off the national debt." Ms. Marling inquired whether there mightn't have been some mistake. Yeah, well, OK, so we goofed, the agency admitted, adding: "Now and then an erroneous notice does get through."

The Day's List

The Nation's Largest Women-Owned Firms

Working Woman magazine has published a list of the 500 largest <u>women</u>-owned US businesses. To qualify for the list, which ranks the firms according to revenues, a woman running an enterprise also must be the largest individual shareholder. Those owning or operating companies with annual revenues of at least \$ 1 billion:

- Pat Moran JM Family Enterprises \$ 5.4
- Abigail Johnson Fidelity Investments 5.0
- 3. Martha Ingram Ingram Industries2.4
- 4. Marilyn Carlson Carlson Cos. 2.3
- 5. Marian Ilitch Little Caesar Enterprises2.1
- 6. Mary Kay Ash Mary Kay Cosmetics2.0
- 7. Joyce Raley Teel Raley's 1.9
- 8. Katharine Graham Washington Post Co.1.9
- 9. Bernice Lavin/Carol Bernick Alberto-Culver Co.1.8
- 10. Maggie Magerko 84 Lumber1.6
- 11. Lynda Resnick Roll International 1.5

- 12. Linda Wachner Warnaco Group1.4
- 13. Elaine Frank, Frank Consolidated Enterprises 1.4
- 14. Antonia Johnson Axel Johnson Group1.4
- 15. Lily Bentas Cumberland Farms1.1
- Associated Press

Graphic

PHOTOS: 1) Andrea Washington (I.) and her cousin Charles Raby receive Easter baskets from relief worker Melia Burse at what remains of Washington's house in McDonald Chapel, Ala. BY TAMI L. CHAPPELL/REUTERS 2) Cuban worshippers at Havana's Roman Catholic cathedral hold an Easter candlelight vigil, the first one permitted outdoors under Communist Party rule on the island in many years. BY JOSE GOITA/AP MAP: Showing India. BY STAFF

Load-Date: April 12, 1998



Israel pulls out of captured territory: U.S. criticizes occupation as excessive response to Palestinian attack

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

April 18, 2001 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: International; Pg. C12; News

Length: 760 words

Dateline: GAZA CITY

Body

GAZA CITY (AP) -- Israel began pulling its forces out of Palestinian territory in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, after holding it for less than a day, following harsh U.S. criticism of the Israeli move.

Israel had seized about 2.5 square kilometres of the Gaza Strip early Tuesday, retaking Palestinian-controlled territory for the first time since 1994, in retaliation for a mortar attack on a small Israeli desert town.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat denounced the seizure as an "unforgivable crime" and said his people will "not kneel before gangs."

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell called the action in Gaza "excessive and disproportionate" and said Israel should respect its commitment to the Palestinians.

Associated Press

"The situation is threatening to escalate further, posing the risk of a broader conflict," Powell said.

Israel initially said it could hold the territory -- an area of orange groves and farmland -- for months until Palestinian mortar fire stopped. But Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's aides were quick to say their forces would withdraw when the danger of mortar attacks was gone.

Palestinian security officials, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said U.S. officials told them the Israelis would withdraw from the area.

A military statement said the pullout began after the mission was accomplished.

The Israeli assault came in response to mortar fire Monday night on Sderot, a working-class town of 24,000 about four kilometres east of Gaza. The town is a stronghold of support for Sharon and his sheep ranch is eight kilometres away. The Islamic-militant group <u>Hamas</u> claimed responsibility for the mortars but Israel blamed Palestinian security forces.

Flares lit up the sky Monday night as Israeli forces shelled and fired rockets at Palestinian police stations across the Gaza Strip, killing a policeman and injuring 36 other people. Soon after, troops crossed into the corner of Gaza closest to Sderot, seizing and tearing down abandoned Palestinian security posts. Under Israeli tank fire, army bulldozers razed orange groves outside the Palestinian town Beit Hanoun and Israeli troops built fortified positions.

Israel pulls out of captured territory: U.S. criticizes occupation as excessive response to Palestinian attack

During the barrage, hundreds of Palestinians, including crying children, ran into the streets in Gaza City's Rimal neighbourhood, where rockets punched holes in the facade of a police headquarters. Rimal resident Ghada Skaik, whose bedroom window was shattered, said she spent a sleepless night.

"If you go to bed and you can't feel safe, then where can you go and feel safe?" she said.

By daybreak, after Israeli troops settled into their new positions, tanks periodically fired toward Palestinians trying to approach the area. Palestinian medics carrying the body of a Palestinian policeman away from the rubble of a Beit Hanoun police compound were sent running by Israeli fire, at one point dropping to the ground to take cover.

Two Palestinian boys were killed by Israeli gunfire late Tuesday. In Gaza's Rafat refugee camp, Bara el-Shael, 10, was shot by soldiers, relatives and doctors said. In el-Khader, near Bethlehem on the West Bank of the Jordan River, Rami Musa, 16, was killed when an Israeli tank shelled his home, Palestinians said. The Israeli military said there was an exchange of fire at el-Khader.

Since the violence erupted Sept. 28, 475 people have been killed, including 391 Palestinians, 64 Israeli Jews and 19 others.

Israeli tanks also cut the Gaza Strip into three parts, preventing north-south traffic and paralysing life in the crowded territory of one million Palestinians. The crossing from Gaza into Egypt was sealed.

Stranded Palestinian commuters resorted to the Mediterranean beach -- the only remaining passage. Young <u>women</u> in long robes and white headscarves, some carrying schoolbooks, walked along the beach and donkey carts and tractors ferried passengers.

The Israeli commander of the region, Brig.-Gen. Yair Naveh, said the seizure of the territory removed Sderot from the danger of mortars.

Israeli troops withdrew from two-thirds of the 363-square-kilometre Gaza Strip in 1994, as part of interim peace accords with the Palestinians.

Since the outbreak of Israeli-Palestinian fighting in September, Israeli troops have entered Palestinian-controlled territory from time to time but each time withdrew quickly.

Palestinians fired dozens of mortars at Israeli targets in recent weeks, mainly Jewish settlements in Gaza.

The attack on Sderot caused no damage or injuries but was the first on a town inside Israel proper.

Graphic

Colour Photo: AP; An Israeli soldier breaks up a scuffle Tuesday between Palestinians and Israeli settlers in Hebron

Load-Date: March 29, 2002



<u>LETTER FROM: FAMILIES PUT ARAFAT IN A SPIN OVER DEATH PENALTY</u>

Birmingham Post

March 15, 1999, Monday

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Section: Pg. 10

Length: 672 words

Body

Pressure from one powerful family apparently led Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority to impose a death sentence last week. Pressure from another led him to reconsider it.

Human rights monitors and political observers said the about-face showed how justice among the Palestinians has more to do with the street than with the law.

A Palestinian military court on Wednesday ordered the death penalty for Raed Attar, an agent in a shadowy security arm of the Palestinian Authority, for his role in the shootout killing of Captain Rifat Joudeh, an officer in a rival agency.

Both men were from Rafah, a town on the Egyptian border. Capt Joudeh's family had clamored for Mr Attar's execution. As soon as the sentence was pronounced, Mr Attar's relatives took to the streets and stoned the Joudeh home.

Palestinian troops attempted to quell the riots and two youths were killed in street battles.

Arafat cut short a trip to Jordan and returned, promising an investigation into the shootings. He also postponed a decision on affirming the death sentence - a requisite for it to be carried out.

A Palestinian official said that Mr Arafat told Rafah residents he would review Wednesday's court decision regarding the death penalty.

Bassam Eid, of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, said a turf war between the two rival security agencies led to the shoot-out that killed Capt Joudeh. There are at least eight such agencies, and frictions are frequent.

"Arafat's policy is to divide and rule," Mr Eid said. "On the one hand it gives him all the power he wants, on the other it leaves him with no problem solving mechanism. There is no consultative system at all."

Mr Arafat has so far failed to approve a basic law passed in 1996 by the Palestinian Legislative Council to create checks and balances between the legislative and executive branches.

Trials in the Palestinian-controlled autonomy zone are often conducted in military courts, which administer a speedy version of justice. Defendants do not have the right to name their own counsel and there is no appeal.

LETTER FROM: FAMILIES PUT ARAFAT IN A SPIN OVER DEATH PENALTY

The Prisoners' Support and Human Rights Association issued a statement calling for civilian courts. The military court system "contradicts all internationally acceptable standards of human rights and the rule of law, and does not fulfil the conditions of a fair trial," the group said.

Including Mr Attar, 27 prisoners have been sentenced to death since the Palestinian Authority was formed in 1994. Mr Arafat has commuted all but four to life terms in prison.

Three sentences have been carried out - all by firing squad. A Palestinian colonel convicted of raping a child was executed last month within hours of the verdict. Two police officers who killed two colleagues they accused of looking at **women** in their family were executed last August.

The executions, which drew strong public approval, were meant to send a message that Arafat does not tolerate abuses by his 40,000-man police force.

"In every case the death sentence was carried out, it was because the people screamed for it," said Haidar Abdel Shafi, a former Palestinian peace negotiator and a frequent critic of Mr Arafat.

But now things are different, said Mr Eid.

Mr Arafat "did not consider for one second the impact that an execution of someone with Mr Attar's political background would have," Mr Eid said, referring to the condemned man's former association with the militant Islamic movement *Hamas*.

The situation also troubled Israelis, who are anxious about stability in the Palestinian areas and about Mr Arafat's commitment to promises on security.

"Living across from a regime, an entity, that practises this kind of arbitrary, murderous justice rather than due process is not a pleasant thought," said David Bar-Illan, an adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In Rafah, riots subsided by Friday, the Muslim holy day. But graffiti proclaiming "We want freedom" streaked the walls of the poverty-stricken town and people still occasionally chanted "We want justice".

Ibrahim Barzak

Load-Date: March 17, 1999



ISRAEL HITS PALESTINIAN OFFICES AFTER 2 TEENS SLAIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer MARCH 29, 2001 Thursday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A01

Length: 750 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

Israeli helicopters rocketed Palestinian police buildings in Gaza and the West Bank town of Ramallah yesterday, retaliating for a wave of bombings that included a suicide attack in which two Israeli teens were killed.

The targets were headquarters of Force 17, the elite guard of Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat.

The buildings under attack - all in areas governed by Arafat's Palestinian Authority under peace agreements - had been evacuated after the Israeli military warned Palestinians to leave.

Red flares lit up the night sky over Ramallah, where two people were killed in the assault, and flames leaped from burning buildings and cars as firefighters tried to put out multiple blazes.

Doctors in Ramallah said a member of Force 17 and a <u>female</u> civilian had been killed. Overall, more than two dozen Palestinians were injured in Ramallah and Gaza, several critically, doctors said.

The attacks on Palestinian government buildings were the first since last fall. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon repeatedly has accused Force 17 of involvement in attacks against Israeli civilians.

"The purpose is to strike directly at those responsible for terrorism," the Israeli military said in a statement. The military said it had hit the Force 17 headquarters in Ramallah, and four Force 17 targets around Gaza City and Deir al-Balah in the southern Gaza Strip - including a training camp and an arms depot.

In Gaza City, low-flying Israeli helicopter gunships blasted a Force 17 building that had been used as a weapons arsenal and is only 100 yards from Arafat's house.

The Palestinians said the building had been empty for some time, but <u>women</u> and children screamed as they fled nearby buildings. The smell of gunpowder hung in the salty sea air after the attack.

ISRAEL HITS PALESTINIAN OFFICES AFTER 2 TEENS SLAIN

The nighttime assaults came hours after a suicide bomber had detonated nail-filled explosives strapped to his body near a group of Jewish seminary students in an area close to the West Bank, killing two. The previous day, militants had carried out back-to-back attacks in Jerusalem, including a suicide attack that injured two dozen people.

The Palestinian militant group <u>Hamas</u> claimed responsibility for both suicide bombings and said more bombers were ready to strike.

Sharon, who had been under mounting pressure to respond to the string of attacks, called his security cabinet into session before the Israeli offensive began.

"We are witnessing grave terrorist activities - terrorist activities that the chairman of the Palestinian Authority [Arafat] has not been willing until now to control," Sharon said.

Israel says that Arafat has released hundreds of Islamic militants from prison in recent months, and that gunmen of the Tanzim militia affiliated with Arafat's Fatah movement have killed a number of Israelis in shooting attacks during the last six months.

Since the current Palestinian uprising began in late September, 443 people have been killed - 362 Palestinians, 62 Israeli Jews and 19 others.

Palestinian cabinet minister Nabil Amr denied that the Palestinian Authority had any ties to the bombings of recent days.

And Saeb Erekat, a senior Palestinian negotiator, called the attacks on Gaza and Ramallah "premeditated Israeli aggression which will escalate drastically."

In Washington, the State Department demanded an end to the escalation of violence and urged all Middle East leaders "to condemn the violence and do everything they can to end the bloodshed."

The Israeli assault began soon after an Arab summit - which Arafat attended - ended in Amman, Jordan. Israel apparently had wanted to avoid any retaliation during the gathering of Arab heads of state.

Israel launched a similar helicopter assault in October, striking Palestinian police buildings in Ramallah and near Arafat's headquarters in Gaza City, in retaliation for the mob killing of two Israeli reserve soldiers in Ramallah.

The latest suicide bomber targeted a group of teens who had been dropped off yesterday at a gas station near the communal farm of Sdeh Hemed, about 15 miles northeast of Tel Aviv and close to the boundary of the West Bank. The teens were waiting for a bus to their school in the West Bank.

The assailant, described as a man in his late 20s with black hair and a mustache, approached the youngsters.

"He looked at them. Then the explosion went off," said one of the students, Rafael Somer, 15, suppressing tears. "I was hurled backward. When I got up, I saw one of my friends without hands. Another friend was torn apart." Somer was slightly injured.

Load-Date: October 31, 2001



Bus turns into deadly weapon: Palestinian driver kills 8 Israelis in terrorist act

The Ottawa Citizen February 15, 2001 Thursday FINAL EDITION

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Section: WORLD,; News

Length: 727 words

Byline: Lee Hockstader

Dateline: AZUR, Israel

Body

A Palestinian bus driver steered into a throng of young Israeli soldiers and civilians at a crowded bus stop near Tel Aviv yesterday morning, killing eight, injuring 20 and transforming rush hour into a tableau of carnage.

Leaving the bodies of his victims strewn over the sidewalk and roadside, the driver sped off, leading Israeli police on a wild 32-kilometre chase until he was shot, crashed into a truck and was captured north of the Gaza Strip where he lived.

The hit-and-run attack in the heart of Israel was the most lethal terrorist act here since 1997 and the deadliest single event in the past 4 1/2 months. It reinforced a growing sense that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, having already taken almost 400 lives since the end of September, is on the verge of escalating even further. The Washington Post

"Today, every Palestinian is like a Scud missile," said David Bar Maoz, 33, an Israeli who joined an angry crowd protesting at the scene of the incident. "He gets up, puts on his clothes and mows people down."

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at first blamed Israel, which assassinated an alleged Palestinian terrorist in Gaza on Tuesday, for fuelling a cycle of violence and revenge. "What is happening is an Israeli military escalation that has direct consequences on the feelings of the Palestinian people," Mr. Arafat said while visiting the Jordanian capital of Amman.

Later, speaking at a news conference in the Turkish capital of Ankara, Mr. Arafat said that according to information he had received so far, he believed the episode was an accident, Reuters reported. "Whatever the cause, we are against the use of violence and of course killing people," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak ordered a tightening of the blockade on Palestinian towns and villages in the West Bank and Gaza, including a closure of border crossings from Jordan and Egypt -- measures likely to inflict further damage on the already crippled Palestinian economy. He also barred even Palestinian officials holding Israeli-issued VIP passes from entering Israel. And he instructed police to be on the lookout for all Palestinians in Israel, of whom there are thousands at any time.

Bus turns into deadly weapon: Palestinian driver kills 8 Israelis in terrorist act

"This is further proof that terrorism will seek by any means to undermine our ability to endure," Mr. Barak said. "We are fighting for our right to maintain Jewish sovereignty and to live in this country, and we shall do whatever necessary to fight for this right."

A sharp escalation in clashes continued through the day and evening.

At least three Palestinian groups, including the militant Islamic Resistance Movement, or *Hamas*, claimed credit for the bus attack, saying it was carried out to avenge the death of Massoud Ayyad, the high-ranking Palestinian security official killed Tuesday by Israeli Apache helicopters firing anti-tank missiles.

Mr. Barak, who remains in charge until prime minister-elect Ariel Sharon can form a government, vowed to punish those responsible. But relatives of the driver, 35-year-old Khalil Abu Olbeh, said he has no ties to any militant group, nor is he religious. And Israeli officials said Mr. Abu Olbeh, a married father of five who was one of scores of Palestinian drivers licensed to ferry Palestinian day workers in and out of Israel, had held a clearance to enter Israel for five years. His clearance was renewed two weeks ago by the Israeli General Security Service after a background check.

Mr. Abu Olbeh, whose leg was amputated in surgery following the incident, was listed in moderate condition and was under heavy guard at an Israeli hospital. According to Israeli officials, he left the Gaza Strip early yesterday morning on a daily run with a busload of Palestinians, dropped off his passengers as usual just east of Tel Aviv in Ramle, then headed south.

At the Azur intersection, near Holon just south of Tel Aviv, Mr. Abu Olbeh suddenly steered his bus onto a sidewalk where several dozen soldiers and civilians were waiting for buses to take them to their bases and work places. Without slowing down, he slammed into the crowd, throwing at least one soldier into the air and leaving a jumble of army boots, backpacks and blood.

All but one of the dead were soldiers between the ages of 18 and 21, and five were <u>women</u>, including the lone civilian. Three other *female* soldiers were seriously injured.

Load-Date: February 15, 2001



Israel Acknowledges Hunting Down Arab Militants

The New York Times

December 22, 2000, Friday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 12; Column 3; Foreign Desk ; Column 3;

Length: 797 words

Byline: By DEBORAH SONTAG

By DEBORAH SONTAG

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Dec. 21

Body

Senior Israeli officials have acknowledged a new tactic of hunting down and killing individual Palestinian militants whom Israel holds responsible for planning attacks on or attacking its citizens.

The Israeli radio and the newspaper Haaretz have quoted senior military officials on a "liquidations" policy that has provoked an outcry among Palestinian officials, who call it "state terrorism." While Israeli officials never denied that they were tracking down and killing armed operatives, they are now beginning to acknowledge this publicly, explicitly and even proudly.

Carmit Guy, an Israeli radio interviewer, today asked Ephraim Sneh, the deputy defense minister, about "our eliminations."

"When we say that we will punish the murders and we will prevent terror attacks, we really mean it," Mr. Sneh said. "The good thing is that we have succeeded in getting to, in an exact, pinpoint and clean manner, people who have launched terror attacks, murdered Israelis and are planning even more murderous attacks."

Ms. Guy said, "But they then accuse us."

"So let them accuse all they want," Mr. Sneh said. "You can't beat terror at symposiums at the university. The most effective and just way to deal with terror is the elimination or incarceration of the people who lead these organizations."

The Israeli Army unveiled this approach quite openly in early November, but then proceeded quietly.

In early November, it assassinated a paramilitary commander in Beit Sahur, near Bethlehem. During peak daylight, Israeli helicopter gunships dropped missiles on his car as he left a site from which Palestinian gunmen often fired on an Israeli Army post. The missiles killed the commander, Hussein Obaiyat, and two middle-aged <u>women</u> passing by.

Israel Acknowledges Hunting Down Arab Militants

The army admitted the killing, which it referred to as a "surgical strike," in contrast to the shelling of security force headquarters and other Palestinian government offices. At the time, several senior government officials were beginning to question Israel's retaliatory bombardments as counterproductive displays of force. The shellings damaged public buildings -- which were evacuated because the Israelis gave warnings -- but also hurt private homes, terrified civilians and harmed Israel's image, they said.

The changing nature of the conflict also called for different tactics, they said. The uprising began with large clashes between Palestinian rioters and Israeli soldiers. But it mutated into something more akin to a Lebanon-style guerrilla war, in which Palestinian gunmen mounted shooting attacks and planted bombs. Israel, too, began thinking as it had in Lebanon, using intelligence information to track down field commanders.

In three consecutive days last week, Israeli soldiers shot dead three Palestinian militants -- one from the <u>Hamas</u> organization, one from the Islamic Jihad and one from Yasir Arafat's Fatah organization. All died instantly in a hail of gunfire.

An Israeli radio report today cited a senior Israeli officer who called the policy "very effective" in thwarting attacks and damaging the operational ability of Palestinians. Using their one public case, army officials have pointed to what they consider the positive aftermath of the Obaiyat assassination; the shooting from Beit Sahur onto the Israeli Army outpost dwindled to almost nothing.

Since the Obaiyat attack, the army has carried out its hits more quietly.

"After a dozen such revenge attacks, the army has developed a tactic that takes into account media coverage of the event," Amos Harel, the military correspondent for Haaretz, wrote this week. "When operations do not involve an exchange of live fire, the Israeli Defense Forces spokesman declines to respond. When attempts are made to stop activists and those activists open fire, Israel immediately disperses its version of events."

The army generally says it was trying to stop and arrest the militant, who responded by shooting and was shot dead in an ensuing gun battle.

The Palestinians say Israel has killed about 20 operatives, but the Israelis say that number is exaggerated. Still, Israeli Army officials believe that the killings, which they say are not directed at political leaders, have had a chilling effect on the Palestinian paramilitary operations. Several well-known Palestinian commanders are keeping a lower profile now, out of fear that they will be chosen for attack.

Haaretz reported this week that several Islamic militants who were recently released from prison have asked the Palestinian Authority for protection. Some have been taken into protective custody, it said.

Meeting with Israeli lawmakers this week, Mr. Arafat said the "assassinations" fueled violence. He urged them to intervene with their government, but in Israel there has been little protest over the policy.

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: December 22, 2000



THREAT TO PEACE DEAL AFTER ISRAELI SHOT DEAD

The Scotsman

October 14, 1998, Wednesday

Copyright 1998 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 12

Length: 668 words

Byline: Matt Rees In Jerusalem

Body

THE ISRAELI prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, said there was "no chance" that he would sign an interim peace agreement with Yasser Arafat at a summit in Washington tomorrow, after the killing of an Israeli by Palestinian terrorists yesterday angered the right-wing of his coalition.

Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat are to meet in seclusion outside Washington for four days.

President Bill Clinton engineered the summit to bring an end to 19 months of deadlock in the peace process and, in meetings between the two leaders and US officials last week, it had appeared a deal was, indeed, likely.

But Mr Netanyahu has been under pressure from within his coalition and from Israeli settlers living in the West Bank not to cede more land there to Palestinian control. The murder yesterday of an Israeli afforded the prime minister an opportunity to strike a tough pose and complicated the already difficult negotiations which are to take place at Wye Plantation, a retreat outside the US capital.

"Without fulfilment of all Palestinian security commitments, there will not be an agreement, and in light of this gloomy reality, there is no chance at this stage of signing an agreement," Mr Netanyahu's office said.

The murdered Israeli had been swimming with a friend in a spring at a farming community outside Jerusalem. A car drove by and sprayed the two with automatic gunfire, killing one and seriously wounding the other. The car was found near the border with the West Bank and police said it appeared the gunmen, who had planned the attack carefully, had fled into Palestinian -controlled territory.

Right-wingers, already fearing Mr Netanyahu would strike a deal at the weekend, seized upon the killing to demonstrate that Mr Arafat's Palestinian Authority continues to fail in its commitment to crack down on terrorism. "It's inconceivable that the prime minister will go to this summit at a time when the Palestinian Authority is pulling the wool over our eyes," said Uzi Landau, a leading hawk in Mr Netanyahu's Likud party.

At a demonstration by Jewish settlers outside the prime minister's office, Noam Arnon, a settler leader from the divided town of Hebron, said that if Mr Netanyahu gives "more land to the Palestinians, he will deliver us to the murderers".

However, the National Religious Party, the coalition partner which represents the settlers, has only two seats in the 17-minister cabinet. Even if the NRP were to try to bring down Mr Netanyahu in the Knesset, where he has a shaky 61-59 majority, left-wing legislators said they would vote for the prime minister they revile and preserve his majority, if peace is threatened by the Right.

THREAT TO PEACE DEAL AFTER ISRAELI SHOT DEAD

Moderates in the coalition said that to withdraw from the summit would be to grant the terrorists a veto over progress towards peace. Yesterday's killing and the stabbing to death of a *female* Israeli soldier last week are a sign, they said, that Palestinian extremists are trying to derail the peace talks.

The Israeli cabinet discussed the summit for seven hours yesterday and, eventually, gave Mr Netanyahu the power to make a deal in Washington, provided he believes it guarantees Israel's security.

Mr Netanyahu, who is a stubborn negotiator, to say the least, already has shown that he does not intend to be a pushover at the talks, which will be the lengthiest meeting ever between him and Mr Arafat. His aides say they have outlined 50 steps the Palestinians must take, in return for which Israel will carry out its long overdue West Bank troop withdrawal.

The Palestinians also will have to agree that the pullback should be phased over three months.

Mr Arafat will be trying to get the whole withdrawal in one shot, plus a freeze in the growth of Jewish settlements in the West Bank. He also wants Palestinians held in Israeli jails to be released and wants to avoid being forced to round up hundreds of Islamic fundamentalists from the group <u>Hamas</u> -something which could cause dissent among the Palestinians and weaken Mr Arafat's hold on power.

Load-Date: October 14, 1998



<u>Arafat agrees to peace talks with Clinton meanwhile, car bomb explodes</u> inside Israeli city, injuring dozens dozens

\$%Charleston Gazette (West Virginia) virginia)

January 02, 2001, Tuesday tuesday

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Section: News; Pg. P1A P1A

Length: 727 words

Byline: Ellen Knickmeyer The Associated Press press

Body

JERUSALEM - Yasser Arafat agreed Monday to go to Washington for what Palestinians called a last try at a peace breakthrough before President Clinton leaves office in three weeks. Also Monday, a car bomb exploded in a coastal Israeli city, injuring dozens.

Arafat spokesman Nabil Aburedeneh called the Palestinian leader's visit "a decisive visit at which the future of the peace process will be determined."

Palestinian officials announced this morning's trip after a new phone call from Clinton putting pressure on Arafat to say yes to the U.S. leader's invitation to peace talks. talks.

The bombing in Netanya, 21 miles north of Tel Aviv, increased tensions as the clock ticked on Clinton's term.

The bomb detonated in a parked car, sending off three rapid-fire blasts that shattered windows and blew apart vehicles on a crowded shopping street.

"Cars were ripped up, <u>women</u> [were] screaming," a witness told army radio. Police ordered people from the area for fear of more bombs.

Israel radio said 54 people received medical treatment. Only one was seriously hurt, and police suspect that man was involved in the bombing, Israeli Police Commissioner Shlomo Aharonishki told reporters.

The explosion came nearly a day after gunfire and apparent revenge attacks for the killing of a prominent Jewish settler left four Palestinians dead in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including a 10-year-old boy and two Palestinian policemen. More than 350 people have been killed in the three months of near-daily bloodshed, most of them Palestinians.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombing. The <u>Hamas</u> militant group denied involvement but called such attacks a "holy right' for Palestinians.

Israel quickly threatened retaliation.

"I think the time has come to stand up and say enough," Deputy Prime Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer, a retired general, said.

Arafat agrees to peace talks with Clinton meanwhile, car bomb explodes inside Israeli city, injuring dozens

"Our forbearance cannot go on, and in my opinion the reaction has to be vigorous and immediate ... it has to be made clear to [Yasser] Arafat, whom I still see as responsible for all that is happening in the territories."

Israel immediately closed Gaza's airport, sealing off the territory entirely after closing West Bank and Gaza's land borders following two bombings Thursday.

Clinton's invitation to peace talks have been stalled for more than a week on Palestinians' demand for clarification of the terms.

U.S. officials were refusing to go into details of the terms before the Palestinians give a clear yes to the talks invitation.

Aburedeneh, the Arafat spokesman, said the U.S. and Palestinian leaders in Washington "will discuss the American ideas and the clarifications the Palestinians are requesting concerning these ideas."

Palestinian officials said Israel's closing of the Gaza airport would not effect the trip, planned for just after midnight Monday.

Earlier Monday, Arafat declared his people would keep resisting what he called Israeli aggression.

"I say that our people are very strong and will continue their struggles and confrontations," Arafat said in Gaza.

Israel agreed earlier to Clinton's slate of proposals for the talks, with reservations.

Earlier Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak raised the possibility of a "unilateral separation" from the Palestinians absent a peace deal.

"We must part from the Palestinians. It is one of our highest priorities to do so in an agreement, but we will have to prepare to do so without an agreement if it becomes clear that the Palestinians are not interested in an agreement," Barak told army radio, speaking before the new blasts.

Unilateral separation would entail Israel setting borders between Israel and Palestinian land - a harsh prospect for both sides absent negotiations to resolve the difficulties involved.

For Israel, it would mean the dilemma of what to do for the 200,000 Jews living in settlements in the West Bank.

For Palestinians, an abrupt separation could sever the life lines of their economy, cutting off everything from electrical power to trade and tens of thousands of jobs.

About 1,500 Jewish settlers, angered by two high-profile killings in their own West Bank community, barricaded a route near the site of the deaths, vowing to "take back the roads." Binyamin Kahane, son of late extremist U.S. Rabbi Meir Kahane, and his wife, Talia, died Sunday when suspected Palestinian gunmen opened fire on their vehicle.

Load-Date: January 2, 2001



MY WEEK WASHING BLOOD WITH BLOOD

MAIL ON SUNDAY December 9, 2001

Copyright 2001 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: Pg. 54

Length: 1568 words **Byline:** Orla Guerin

Body

The bang came just as I had sat down on the couch and flicked on the TV. For an instant I froze, unwilling to make the call that would tell me where the explosion was, and how many lives it had destroyed. Death invades every day here, chasing us like a cold wind.

For one guilty, selfish moment I didn't want to count more victims.

And because this was a Saturday night in Jerusalem, anxiety was closing in. Were my colleagues downtown, or any of my friends?

(Later I discovered all were safe.) As I reached for the phone it was already ringing. Two Palestinian suicide bombers had struck on Ben Yehuda Street, a packed pedestrian mall. In Israel, counting sirens is a rough guide to the scale of an attack. So many ambulances were wailing past that I knew how bad things would be. Within minutes I had confirmation. As they ate pizza, drank coffee, flirted, maybe, or joked, ten Israelis had been killed the youngest 14 the oldest 20.

On Sunday at noon, I was on Ben Yehuda Street, waiting for America's new peace envoy Anthony Zinni to arrive. My mobile phone, walkie-talkie and pager all erupted together an orchestra that always means death. Carnage has become so routine here I didn't wonder what or how, just where.

'Another one,' said a voice on my walkie-talkie. 'Haifa this time.' This was the third suicide bombing in less than 24 hours. The bomber boarded a bus in the northern city of Haifa, paid his fare of about one pound, and blew himself up. The death toll here was even higher. He killed 15 Israelis, including a 73-year-old woman called Leah who had survived the Holocaust.

Israel's loss meant the future was guaranteed. After the mourning and the funerals would come Israeli retaliation to be followed, as always, by Palestinian revenge attacks. By early Sunday afternoon it was already clear this would be one of the worst weeks in years.

Twenty-four hours later, in a comfortable apartment on the outskirts of Jerusalem, I sat with a Jewish family whose oldest son had been stolen from them.

Moshe Yadid Levy left home on Saturday night for a night on the town. He survived the first blast, but rushed to help a friend running straight into the path of the second suicide bomber. In this last act of kindness, he lost his life.

MY WEEK WASHING BLOOD WITH BLOOD

Their second son Tal showed me Moshe's photo stroking the face as if his adored older brother could feel his touch. Moshe gazed back from his pictures glasses, round face, handsome, with a smile. 'He'd gone out to talk to girls,' his father Yanki said, bowing his head. I asked how he would remember him. 'Like a friend,' he said. 'He was always very happy here with us.'

Moshe's mother Anat was in shock, her voice controlled but her eyes darting around the room, searching the empty spaces. 'He wasn't even 20,' she told me. 'He didn't have a chance to live his life.

These awful murderers took it from him. There can't be peace.

Our country is soaked in blood.' I drove back to the BBC bureau with my colleagues in a car full of silence. How can a devoted mother survive after her cherished son is torn limb from limb?

And what makes a loving father decide to kill?

On Wednesday morning the sound of an explosion forced me awake.

This one was close. A suicide bomber had blown himself up in front of a five-star hotel, two minutes' walk from my home.

This was Palestinian revenge for Israel's retaliation after the weekend attacks. Ariel Sharon laid siege to the West Bank and Gaza, imprisoning Palestinians in their villages.

He declared a kind of war on Yasser Arafat, insisting he must round up the extremists. Israel scorched his helicopters in Gaza and fired missiles into his compound in the West Bank.

Massive Israeli air strikes had also killed a 15-year-old Palestinian boy called Mohammed. He started to run, but couldn't make it to safety in time.

The F-16s had bombed a security post close to a school.

Just after 7.30am on Wednesday, the Islamic extremists hit back at Israel, as they had promised they would. When I arrived outside the hotel a few minutes after the blast, a severed arm was stretched across the middle of the street, as if reaching for something. It looked like a horror-movie prop. The suicide bombing was claimed by both *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad.

Later that day I went looking for the bomber's family in a dreary Palestinian village outside Bethlehem. An Israeli checkpoint scars the entrance to the town one of many places where Palestinians get their daily dose of humiliation.

Men, <u>women</u> and children can be questioned, delayed for hours, harassed and eventually turned back. That includes those in need of medical treatment.

Palestinians claim there are cases where the dying are held up, and the corpse allowed through after death. Israel claims its troops and border police have orders to let humanitarian cases through quickly. But at times I've seen ambulances held up until the soldiers deign to allow them through we had them on camera.

Behind the checkpoint, beyond Bethlehem, is the village of Irtas.

Daoud Abu Sway Sa'ad left there early in the morning, and travelled to Jerusalem to blow himself up.

He was 46 and left behind four sons and four daughters, the youngest only seven. Inside his home, his male relatives were gathered in one room, apart from the **women**, according to tradition.

His nephew Khaled Mahmud Sa'ad said Daoud was a quiet family man, others nodding in agreement.

Daoud did not come from a radical family. But such is the hatred here that his relatives had only one regret. Not that he was dead, but that he hadn't killed any Israelis.

MY WEEK WASHING BLOOD WITH BLOOD

'We were surprised when we heard his name on the radio, and they said he had caused injuries,' Khaled said. 'We prayed they weren't just injured, but that they were dead.' When I met Daoud's wife Fatima she was calm and dryeyed, her tired face framed by a scarf. 'I'm proud of him,' she said.

'Now he is happy.' Why this? I asked. 'He had seen too much suffering and violence,' she said. 'Israel's occupation is hard to live with the siege and assassinations. The weight is very heavy, especially in the past year.'

That

morning her husband of more than 20 years rose at 4am, prayed and read from the Koran. 'He told me to look after our children, and the house,' she said.

'I asked him when he would be back, and he said his return was in the hands of God.' Forty-eight hours later I sat in Yasser Arafat's office in the West Bank town of Ramallah, close to where Israel's missiles had struck.

He said he remained committed to 'the peace of the brave' for the sake of the Palestinians and Israel. The Palestinian leader says regularly that he still believes in peace. So too does Israel's Prime Minister Sharon.

But few here believe in their ability to make it. And 'peace', like 'Oslo', has become a dirty word.

The former US Senator George Mitchell, whose outline for progress here is gathering dust, has spoken about how exhaustion helped to end the conflict in Northern Ireland.

Since the Palestinian uprising began 14 months ago, more than 1,000 lives have been lost the majority Palestinian. Enough dead to exhaust both sides?

Not yet, it seems. Every killing here promises the next: what one weary Western diplomat calls 'washing blood with blood'.

Can peace really be hammered out between Arafat and Sharon two ageing warriors with bloody pasts, and a bitter history of unsettled scores?

Palestinians say the violence will end when Israel ends its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Israelis say the Palestinians want to drive the Jews not just from the occupied territories, but from their own state. There are complex issues to decide, but no trust and no goodwill. It will take huge pressure from the White House to produce real progress and it's not clear if George W. Bush has the sticking power. A comprehensive agreement may well have to wait for the next generation.

In the meantime, both sides are burying their future, but the losses are greatest on the West Bank and in Gaza. It's here you find the refugee camps that have turned into shabby cities desperate places packed with Palestinians who fled their homes or were driven out in 1948. In a camp in the town of Jenin recently, a gangly 14-year-old hinted at his future. 'If I die as a suicide bomber,' he told me, 'I'll go straight to heaven. The angels won't count my sins.' On the walls of his living room, no family photos, just framed posters of militants who had already chosen this path, and a glossy shot of Osama Bin Laden. Looking around the room the boy said: 'They are the lucky ones. They have escaped. We have to keep living here.' His words came back to me in Gaza on Thursday, when another child waved at me. A chubby toddler, already wearing the green headband of *Hamas*.

After the past week of suicide bombings, funerals, Israeli air strikes and Palestinian casualties, a friend called from abroad. 'What was the worst moment?' he asked.

'For which side ?' I thought. 'And on which day?' Months before this latest escalation, when Fatima still had her husband and Anat still had her son, I spoke to a senior figure in the Palestinian leadership. Mohammed Dahlan is the Palestinian security chief in Gaza, a man given to smart clothes and succinct phrases, seen by many as a pretender to Arafat's throne.

MY WEEK WASHING BLOOD WITH BLOOD

Where are things headed? I asked. 'The Palestinians and the Israelis,' he said. 'We are going together to hell.' I'm still waiting for a better assessment.

Graphic

IN A POWERFUL DISPATCH THE BBC MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT DESCRIBES WHAT SHE SAW AND FELT IN JERUSALEM WHERE CARNAGE IS COMMONPLACE

Load-Date: December 10, 2001



CHILDREN OF THE INTIFADA READY FOR MARTYRDOM

Scotland on Sunday
October 29, 2000, Sunday

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Section: Pg. 20

Length: 709 words

Byline: By Ben Brown In Ramallah

Body

WHEN Israelis watched pictures of the funeral of 24-year-old Nabil Arair, a cold shiver ran down their spines. Arair was a suicide bomber who strapped five kilos of explosives to his stomach and calmly cycled towards an Israeli army post before blowing himself up and injuring a soldier.

The radical group Islamic Jihad has warned this was only the first of a new wave of suicide bombings they will use to escalate the Palestinian uprising or intifada, now one month old.

"Barak, prepare the coffins!" chanted mourners at Arair's funeral. A note was read out from the dead man, who had been instantly proclaimed a martyr. "Thank God I am headed where I have always wanted to go," it said.

A Palestinian militant leader at the funeral, Ismail Abu Shanab, of <u>Hamas</u>, made this bloodcurdling threat: "We are coming to Tel Aviv, we are coming to every place in Palestine to purify it from Jews."

Israel has learned not to scoff at such dark menace. "Unfortunately this terrorist act is not the last one," said Israeli army spokesman Ron Kitrey. "We have 'hot warnings' of several attempts to cause as great a damage as possible to the Israeli population."

The spectre of suicide bombings that blow Israeli men, <u>women</u> and children to pieces is once again haunting the Jewish state. Rock-throwing rioters it can cope with: young men in search of martyrdom it finds far more traumatic.

Whichever turn the intifada takes next, most people here now expect it to last well into 2001. The Israeli military has asked the government for extra money and more troops to help it deal with the uprising. Soldiers expecting to be demobilised after a three-year tour of duty may now be asked to stay on.

The Palestinians are also preparing for a long haul. The uprising may have started spontaneously but it is now carefully co-ordinated by the Palestinian leadership - a jumble of 13 different factions which have daily planning meetings to orchestrate the violence.

The rioting ebbs and flows, but on most days it follows a predictable routine. You can almost set your watch by the start of the afternoon stone -throwing in cities like Ramallah on the West Bank.

It feels a little like a football match as the rioters take their positions at the barricades opposite Israeli troops, while the spectators congregate at a safe distance behind them to watch the ritualistic exchange of rocks and rubber bullets.

CHILDREN OF THE INTIFADA READY FOR MARTYRDOM

The Palestinian propaganda machine loves nothing more than for the world's photographers and film crews to focus on the young rock throwers. After all, the fact that children are prepared to risk being shot shows how desperate the entire Palestinian population has become, and how frustrated it is by the failure of the peace process to deliver genuine control over their lives.

But what the Palestinian spin doctors do not want the world's media to see is their gunmen, perched inside highrise apartment blocks, occasionally taking potshots at Israeli troops. They are trying to provoke the soldiers to shoot back, and perhaps kill or injure young rock throwers in the process.

Such casualties then become martyrs to their people, while the world condemns Israel as a nation of child killers.

So what is the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat getting out of all this? Many now believe he is hoping to grind Israel down, as he did to some extent with the last intifada that began in 1987 and continued for several years.

That led, indirectly, to the Oslo peace process. With the help of this latest uprising Arafat hopes he will eventually get more concessions out of the Israelis than they were prepared to give at the recent summit at Camp David.

Yet there is now a diplomatic vacuum. A weary President Clinton has all but given up hope, for the time being, of a new summit with the Israeli prime minister, Ehud Barak, and Arafat. It may well have to wait until after the forthcoming US elections. In the meantime many more people seem likely to die.

All eyes are now on Arafat and the possibility that he will declare an independent Palestinian state on November 15. Some fear such a declaration could make this crisis worse, heightening tensions further and perhaps provoking a new wave of violence.

Ben Brown is Special Correspondent for the BBC Ten O'Clock News

Load-Date: October 30, 2000



Moral blackmail and a PR pledge;

As anger grows over the declaration many politicians and media figures have declined to sign, Islamic group's links to hardliners are revealed

DAILY MAIL (London)

November 7, 2001

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Section: Pg. 4

Length: 1711 words

Byline: David Hughes; Michael Seamark

Body

A FURIOUS row exploded last night over the pledge of tolerance towards Islam which senior politicians and opinion formers were invited to sign.

The Islamic Society of Britain fuelled the furore by attacking the failure of Tory leader lain Duncan Smith to join Tony Blair and Lib Dem leader Charles Kennedy in backing the declaration.

Amid angry accusations of political correctness, it emerged that the organisation behind the highprofile campaign has links with hard-line anti-Israel radicals.

The ISB has provided a platform for leading figures in the Moslem Brotherhood, which has spawned a number of terrorist organisations.

The controversy came as police hunted a 50-strong Moslem gang who stormed and set fire to an Anglican church in Bradford before turning their anger on the vicar who raised the alarm.

One of the pledge's most surprising signatories was Cabinet Secretary Sir Richard Wilson. As head of the Home Civil Service, he has a tradition of impartiality.

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chief Rabbi were among those who chose not to sign.

Mr Duncan Smith robustly defended his decision not to add his name to the letter, which was circulated among 40 influential figures to mark Islamic Awareness Week.

He told BBC Radio 4's Today programme: 'We have made one of the fullest statements of support for Islamic Awareness Week. In my statement I made it absolutely clear that we have supported them throughout, that it is not about a war on Islam.

'The reason why I wanted to make the statement rather than just sign a pledge is that I felt I wanted to go wider than the pledge. I wanted to make a bigger and fuller statement than the pledge made.

Moral blackmail and a PR pledge; As anger grows over the declaration many politicians and media figures have declined to sign, Islamic group's links to hardline....

'But I made sure we were there to support them yesterday. I told the organisers that we supported their aims and objectives.' In a statement issued during a Middle Eastern tour, the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr George Carey explained: 'This came to my desk a week ago, before I left, and I haven't had the opportunity to look at it thoroughly.

'But I, as a general principle, do not sign petitions. That is simply something I've done.' He added: 'I want to make it very, very clear that what is in the petition, in the pledge, is something I believe in.

'Over the past ten years I've spent many, many hours indeed almost years cementing good relationships between the faiths. Moslems should be in no doubt about my commitment to understand them better. 'It is understood the Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, has profound concerns about the ISB's links with more extreme Islamic groups.

The Islamic Society of Britain hosted several meetings last year addressed by members of the Moslem Brotherhood.

Founded more than 70 years ago in Egypt, the Brotherhood is the world's oldest Islamic fundamentalist group and is staunchly opposed to the state of Israel.

Among its offshoots are *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad, terror groups with a bloody record across the Middle East.

The Prime Minister's statement launching Islamic Awareness Week was read in his absence by his deputy John Prescott at a ceremony in the House of Commons.

A Downing Street spokesman declined to comment on the ISB's links with hardliners last night.

Sher Khan, the coordinator of Islamic Awareness Week, said last night: 'We are not asking for a pledge for our organisation but a pledge for a set of principles.'

Church Wrecked Page 13 Comment Page TEN

THE QUEEN APPEALS TO MODERATES

THE QUEEN last night urged moderate Moslems to spurn extremists peddling hatred.

At a state banquet in honour of Jordan's King Abdullah, she said: 'Following the tragic events of September 11, all of us, whatever our religion or background, have an added responsibility to ensure that those who are intent on stirring up hatred, fear and prejudice do not succeed.' The Queen said the King's visit gave her a chance to underline her appreciation of the contribution made by Britain's two million Moslems.

She added: 'Your majesty's help in persuading others that this is not a conflict between Islam and the West but rather between decent people of all faiths and terrorism, has been greatly appreciated.' It was a speech of rare directness, reflecting Government fears of a Moslem backlash over the Afghan bombing.

THE REFUSENIKS

IAIN Duncan Smith was not alone in declining to sign the Pledge to British Moslems.

The Islamic Society of Britain asked more than 40 'opinion formers' to support its declaration. But many newspaper editors, broadcasters and religious leaders refused.

The editor of the Daily Mail, Paul Dacre, was among those invited to sign the pledge. He declined because he believes an editor should not be allied to any special interest group.

BBC director-general Greg Dyke and the editors of the Daily Telegraph, Times, Guardian, Sun, Observer and Independent also refused.

Moral blackmail and a PR pledge; As anger grows over the declaration many politicians and media figures have declined to sign, Islamic group's links to hardline....

The Archbishop of Canterbury Dr George Carey and the Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks were others who declined invitations to become signatories.

In the overwhelming majority of cases the reason given for refusing to sign was a desire to avoid on principle being associated with petitions or single-issue pledges.

More than 20 people did agree to sign, however, including Tony Blair and Sir Richard Wilson, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service.

Sir Richard's action raised eyebrows because of the tradition of civil servants remaining independent, impartial and neutral.

A Cabinet Office spokesman claimed his decision was in keeping with his role as a major employer within the Civil Service and the Government's 'diversity message'.

The editors of the Mirror and Financial Times, Piers Morgan and Andrew Gowers, both chose to sign the pledge, as did Liberal Democrat leader Charles Kennedy.

THE SOCIETY

MANY members of the Islamic Society of Britain are professionals such as doctors, teachers and lawyers. Several hundred strong, their group is widely regarded as one of the respectable, mainstream voices of Moslems in this country.

Affiliated to the Moslem Council of Britain, the society has more younger members than most Islamic groups.

It was the ISB which initiated the annual Islam Awareness Week in 1994. But it is what critics describe as the 'other face' of the organisation that causes some concern.

At a series of 'study circles' last year at a Moslem meeting place in London several representatives of the Moslem Brotherhood were on the platform.

The Brotherhood prototype of all Islamic militant organisations is the terror group which inspired Osama Bin Laden's second in command, Ayman Zawahiri.

Zawahiri, an Egyptian currently alongside the world's most dangerous man somewhere in Afghanistan, became involved with the still outlawed extremist group in the Sixties.

The terror group <u>Hamas</u>, responsible for a series of suicide bomb attacks in Israel, was formed from the Palestinian branch of the Brotherhood.

On three successive Fridays in May and early June 2000 Brotherhood officials addressed the ISB on a variety of Islamic topics at premises near Goodge Street Tube station.

ISB spokesman Sher Khan, national co-ordinator of Islam Awareness Week, insisted the men were not speaking for his society. We always say at each of these discussions that these are panellistswho represent their own views.

They don't represent the ISB.

'They will say things we don't agree with but that's the whole point of having them there. We want them to discuss, explain and justify themselves.

We want to argue and debate with them. We may well invite them again.' Last year the ISB issued a pamphlet entitiled 'Israeli terror' featuring pictures of a young Palestinian, cowering behind his father, who was shot dead during gun battles between Palestinian gunmen and Israeli troops.

Moral blackmail and a PR pledge; As anger grows over the declaration many politicians and media figures have declined to sign, Islamic group's links to hardline....

It urged supporters to protest about 'decades of Zionist oppression and inhumanity', write to Britain's Chief Rabbi and other Jewish leaders 'asking them to explain their unwillingness to condemn' the murder and boycott all 'Israeli goods and stop shopping at supermarkets that give money to Israel'.

Mr Khan said: 'We have to agree that we are going to disagree with other faith groups on certain international issues. We live in Britain as a peaceful and lawabiding community and clearly we are going to disagree on things.' The ISB founded by a number of professional Moslems in 1990 has representatives in most major cities, including Manchester, Glasgow and Huddersfield, as well as the capital.

Dr Mohammed Hanif, a father-of-three with a private practice in West Bromwich, said: 'It's our intention to teach people about the true value of Islam, about peace, freedom, democracy, rights and responsibilities.

'We are not about violence or terror in any way.' The society is self-funded, with members paying between GBP 5 and GBP 10 a month in subscriptions.

THE PR FIRM

THOSE invited to sign the Pledge to British Moslems are asked to post or fax the signed document to Hobsbawm Macaulay Communications.

The Islamic Society of Britain hired the public relations company on a one-off, three-week contract solely for Islam Awareness Week.

Its choice was a wise one. HMC is New Labour's PR firm of choice, an outfit with impeccable links not least because one of the company founders is Sarah Macaulay, better known as the wife of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mrs Brown, 37, announced last month that she was giving up her highflying role to prepare for the birth of the couple's first child, due in February.

She resigned as a director and employee.

Sarah met Julia Hobsbawm, daughter of the Marxist historian Eric Hobsbawm, when they were pupils at Camden School for Girls in North London.

The company they founded years later has been an unqualified success, trading on the image of 'integrity PR'.

Figures released six months ago revealed profits have soared more than 20-fold in five years to over GBP 196,000 last year.

The business, which employs 20 at its West End offices, is worth an estimated GBP 1million.

The firm's clients have included the Labour Party, Emily's List the organisation devoted to creating more <u>female</u> Labour MPs and the Left-of-centre think tank Demos.

Among other clients are the Arts Council, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Imperial War Museum, all of whom rely directly or indirectly on Treasury funding.

Load-Date: November 8, 2001



A showdown is brewing in Iran

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)
September 18, 2000, Monday, FINAL

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Section: Editorial / Op-ed; B3

Length: 771 words

Byline: HARRY STERLING

Body

Iran's self-proclaimed Islamic true-believers have gone on the offensive against their country's pro-democracy movement.

It is an ominous development that could lead to domestic turmoil and undermine the efforts of moderates to end their country's self-imposed political isolation. In recent weeks, militants have stepped up the intimidation of reformminded opponents, forcibly closing the last remaining liberal newspapers and unleashing religious thugs against pro-democracy rallies. In a clash this month, the religious militia attacked moderates at a political gathering. According to reports, one person was killed and dozens were injured.

This escalating harassment and violence have come despite the strong showing of reform candidates in Iran's parliamentary election in February, when groups supporting the moderate president, Mohammad Khatami, won a clear majority, raising hopes the new parliament would be able to lessen the repressive policies of the clerics who've ruled Iran since the shah was overthrown in 1979.

But the conservative clergy and their followers clearly have no intention of permitting any significant change within Iranian society. They seem prepared to do anything to retain power, even run the risk of further polarizing Iranian society into antagonistic camps.

What happens in Iran has direct implications not just for its own people but also for its neighbours and the international community, already concerned about terrorist acts carried out in western countries by extremists claiming to be acting on behalf of Islam, including the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York. Many anti-Israeli and anti-U.S. movements have been financed by the Iranian ayatollahs, including *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad, responsible for several suicide bombings and other acts of violence within Israel.

Despite widespread support for change, the conservatives still control the army, police, intelligence service and judiciary. Hard-liners in those organizations were responsible in recent years for not just intimidating opponents and critics, but also for murdering a number of prominent reformers.

The recent clampdown makes it abundantly clear the conservatives intend to use the full power of the state against moderates, including muzzling the press and media, most of which is now tightly controlled by the ruling clerics.

They can do this with impunity because the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini - who died in 1989 - ensured conservative clerics could thwart any fundamental change by institutionalizing the conservatives' dominance through granting ultimate power on all matters to the country's spiritual leader, currently Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

A showdown is brewing in Iran

Put bluntly, it makes no difference what the moderate majority in parliament passes in the way of legislation. Ayatollah Khamenei can veto it on religious grounds, by claiming it is not in conformity with Islamic teachings. He recently thwarted the will of Iran's legislators when he cut short a debate on legislation to expand press freedom, citing it as a danger to the Islamic Revolution.

Even if the ayatollah were to die, the Council of Guardians, who choose Iran's spiritual leader, would simply replace him with another conservative cleric.

None of this bodes well at a time when most of Iranian society - especially <u>women</u> who've been stripped of many basic rights for two decades, including access to birth control and abortions - has become increasingly frustrated by the ayatollah's suffocating rule and mismanagement of the economy. Students are also increasingly agitated by the cleric's puritanical rule and an economy limiting their own future prospects.

Paradoxically, one of the few things that could work to the advantage of the conservatives is the present OPEC-inspired oil crisis. With petroleum prices skyrocketing from a low of \$10 US a barrel in 1998 to \$35 in recent weeks, the government is reaping windfall profits, profits that could be used to revivify Iran's economy. An improved economy could make the clerics' rule slightly more tolerable, at least over the short term.

However, Iranians made it clear during February's elections that they wanted greater personal freedoms and a lessening of control by the clerics. Unless the clerics moderate their policies, they could set the stage for the same type of cataclysmic showdown that brought the students and populace into the streets in 1979 to topple the detested shah.

Iran has already had one bloody revolution. It doesn't need a second.

- Harry Sterling is a former Canadian diplomat who lives near Ottawa.

Load-Date: September 18, 2000



A PERSONAL VIEW OF TURMOIL IN MIDEAST

The Toronto Star

October 17, 2000, Tuesday, Edition 1

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Section: NEWS

Length: 769 words

Body

THIS IS A tough column to write. I've shared previous personal experiences that I hoped would inform others. But none felt so complex as trying to voice what I and many other Canadian Jews feel over the agonizing turmoil in the Middle East.

I claim no geopolitical expertise. Frankly, anyone with religious or cultural ties to either the Israelis or the Palestinians must admit some bias in their perspective based at the very least on the mutual mistrust in our respective communities.

But I can talk about the personal effects of public reaction to events.

I'm skeptical of so-called objective observers who sit in the security and peace of Canada as armchair critics.

Reality hit home in 1987 when my daughter went to university in Jerusalem, the year that saw the beginning of the Palestinian intifada or uprising that has recently resurfaced.

After she settled in, still weeks before the first stones were thrown by rebellious youths and bloody clashes with soldiers became commonplace, I naively asked if she had made any Arab friends in her classes.

She answered that the school population was so divided she never had the opportunity to even talk with Arab students.

We are seeing a second generation of fury from the now-grown revolutionaries and their offspring - the tanzim who train schoolchildren in camps to handle guns and ammunition - that has fomented ever since and exploded. It is not just the result of recent provocation.

The incendiary visit of Israel's hawkish Ariel Sharon to a holy site revered by both Muslims and Jews, the arming of a grassroots Palestinian paramilitary, ongoing controversy over Jewish settlers in the West Bank, exhortations to kill Israelis by the militant <u>Hamas</u> and rewards to martyrs' families, Palestinian school texts that deny the existence of Israel, all contributed to rage and retaliation.

Those who define a starting point reveal their own bias.

Here in Toronto, a handful of Jewish and Palestinian <u>women</u> once bravely tried to bridge the gap of unfamiliarity through regular dialogue. We began in heady optimism after the historic handshake in 1993 on the White House lawn, at the beginning of the peace process.

A PERSONAL VIEW OF TURMOIL IN MIDEAST

A small group, we found common ground as <u>women</u> even as we learned some of what had kept us separate. ("We" hadn't known "they" still called the land Palestine.) We struggled mightily to keep going during periodic outbreaks of terrorism and hostilities far away. The Jewish <u>women</u>'s view was that peace was being negotiated. The Palestinians resented the continued occupation. By last year, no one was trying any more. Our tiny peace process faded out as the real one straggled.

By the time Ehud Barak was offering more concessions than any previous Israeli prime minister, the Toronto Palestinian <u>women</u> believed not that Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat was refusing to go along, but that the offer was empty. Like the Mideast leaders, we were poles apart.

Hatred now erupts in the disputed land, innocent children get killed in the crossfire and barbaric savagery is displayed as a triumph.

I know of no Jewish person here who didn't despair over the Israeli shooting of a 12-year-old Palestinian boy in Gaza as he crouched in fear behind his father. I have to believe no Canadian Arab is proud of the butchering and stomping of Israeli reservists by a Palestinian mob.

All this is a world away yet aches in my soul. A Reuters news service account recently reported the total deaths of "unarmed" Palestinians killed by armed Israeli soldiers. Yet live television coverage has clearly shown Palestinians firing guns at Israeli soldiers. A horrified global audience has witnessed what thugs can do with blood on their hands. Erroneous information only serves to inflame passions. Extremists on both sides exploit every incident.

A total breakdown of civility threatens to throw the entire region into war with huge impact on the rest of the world, starting with the economics of oil. That is why knee-jerk judgments are damned foolhardy.

Add the betrayal felt by many Canadian Jews at Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy's support last week for a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israel's use of force, though Axworthy acknowledged the resolution was "far from perfect." This is no time to comply with one-sidedness.

Ordinary people, including Jews and Palestinians and their supporters, have to ask themselves how our two peoples can get past revenge to the point where children are not raised with hatred and can grow up in safety.

Ellie Tesher's column appears in The Star on Tuesday and Thursday. She can be reached at etesher@thestar.ca.

Load-Date: October 17, 2000



Army onslaught looms as Israeli dies in gunbattle

The Times (London)
October 20, 2000, Friday

Copyright 2000 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 732 words

Byline: Sam Kiley in Jerusalem

Body

The death of an Israeli last night looked certain to provoke Ehud Barak, the Prime Minister, into agreeing with his generals, who have been calling for permission to unleash the armed forces against targets throughout Palestinian-controlled territories.

Neither side had placed much faith in the truce, which they refused to sign in Sharm el-Sheikh on Tuesday. Israel said it would want to see tangible evidence that the Palestinians were going to end violence by tonight.

The dead settler, described as one of a group of about 30 "hikers" that included <u>women</u> and children, died of wounds sustained when his group clashed with Palestinians on the outskirts of Nablus.

The fight between the two sides escalated when helicopter gunships were called in to give covering fire to a rescue aircraft which came under attack from the Askar refugee camp on the town's outskirts. One Palestinian was also killed and at least ten Palestinians and five Israelis wounded.

The circumstances which led to the battle were unclear. Palestinian sources said that a group of "innocent olive pickers" came under fire from settlers. The Israeli media reported that the group were not settlers but "ramblers" who had somehow strayed into one of the most dangerous places on the West Bank for a Jew, and had come under attack from Palestinian gunmen.

Last week Israeli soldiers were evacuated from Joseph's Tomb in the centre of the city after spending 11 days under attack by rioters. On Wednesday a Palestinian was shot dead by settlers near Nablus Two settlers were arrested yesterday by Israeli police.

There were also clashes in Gaza, Hebron and Bethlehem, where two Palestinians were killed and eight injured in a mysterious explosion at the headquarters of "Force 17", part of Yassir Arafat's security network. The blast was blamed on a "gas canister" which then "ignited ammunition in the base".

Both sides accused the other of failing to observe the truce brokered in Sharm el-Sheikh. Saeb Erakat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, accused the Israelis of continuing to blockade West Bank towns, cities and refugee camps.

Israel's Interior Minister, Shlomo Ben-Ami, said: "I don't see things calming down. I personally see something more serious happening in the Palestinian Authority which raises a major question mark: Is Arafat in control?"

He also insisted that while the closure of Palestinian areas on the West Bank and Gaza had been partly lifted to allow traffic in and Palestinians to move between their own areas, they would remain sealed from Israel until

Army onslaught looms as Israeli dies in gunbattle

<u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad guerrillas who were released from Palestinian jails over the past three weeks were rearrested by Mr Arafat's security forces.

"I don't see the dust settling. I don't see that everything has calmed down. I am sending a letter to all foreign ministers today about the dubious implementation of the Sharm agreements by the Palestinian Authority, either deliberately or by turning a blind eye," said Mr Ben-Ami, who is also the acting Foreign Minister.

The two sides have been conducting secret talks brokered by the CIA to rebuild the trust which has been destroyed by the clashes in which 107 people have died. All but seven have been Palestinian, and more than a fifth of them children.

Qalqilya, Nablus, Tulkarm, Hebron and Beit Jal, all large West Bank towns, were still sealed off from the outside world yesterday. Over the weekend Arab leaders will gather for a summit in Cairo where they are expected to rally to the Palestinian cause. This will boost Mr Arafat's morale and could lead to further unrest.

As a result of the gathering storm clouds to the north, east and south, and dire predictions of an all-out war, Israeli ministers have begun planning for a unilateral withdrawal from Palestinian areas.

The plans would put an end to any further negotiations over a Palestinian state. Disconnected lumps of territory unable to trade with Israel would be all that Mr Arafat would inherit.

In leaking the plans, the Israelis intend to send a clear demand to Mr Arafat to end the strife.

Geneva: The United Nations Human Rights Commission voted to condemn Israel for widespread, systematic and gross violations of human rights and to set up an international inquiry into violence in the West Bank and Gaza. The 53-nation group voted by 19 votes to 16 to approve a draft resolution put forward by Arab nations. (AP)

Load-Date: October 20, 2000



Britain backs Algerian arms deal despite ethical policy

Sunday Times (London) July 16, 2000, Sunday

Copyright 2000 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Home news Length: 738 words Byline: Marie Colvin

Body

THE government is considering the sale of almost Pounds 5m in military equipment to the Algerian army, despite a record of atrocities committed by its soldiers that contravenes the ethical foreign policy espoused by Robin Cook, the foreign secretary.

The purchase of "specific items of defence equipment" was negotiated by BAe Systems, formerly British Aerospace, with the Qatar armed forces and finalised in late May. An order from the wealthy Gulf state, an ally of Britain, would not be controversial.

But the purchase order formally sent to BAe, leaked to The Sunday Times by a Qatari officer, states that "it is the intention of the state of Qatar, by order of His Highness the Emir, to gift, free of charge, all of the items (as per the attached list) to the armed services of the state of Algeria".

The purchase order goes on to offer to provide an end-user certificate for Algeria, a document that details where the arms will end up. Last week BAe confirmed the May 31 order, which followed extensive consultations, and said it expected government approval.

The order, worth Pounds 4.6m, is destined to improve the capabilities of the Algerian army, which is engaged in a civil war with the Islamic Salvation Front that was outlawed when it looked likely to win a national election in 1992.

The second round of elections was cancelled to prevent its victory and it went underground. An estimated 100,000 Algerians have died in the ensuing civil war. The rebels have massacred villagers who support the government, murdered journalists and killed <u>women</u> who do not adhere to their beliefs. The army has retaliated with acts that have inflamed the conflict and turned the population against the government. In the latest violence, 14 people have died since last Thursday.

The army, with its their roots in the brutal colonial war against the French that left a million dead, is subject to few controls. One of the worst atrocities occurred in the first three weeks of 1998, when more than 1,000 villagers were massacred, many within 500 yards of an army base that did not deploy a single soldier, despite the fact that the gunfire and screams would have been clearly audible. Villagers said that some of the attackers wore army uniforms.

An Algerian officer who defected told the Commons all-party human rights group that the army was implicated in "dirty jobs - the killing of journalists, military officers and even children".

The shopping list Qatar has negotiated with BAe for donation to the Algerian army will be welcomed by soldiers fighting a fierce guerrilla war. It includes 20 Land Rover Defender 110 rapid deployment vehicles with hot climate

Britain backs Algerian arms deal despite ethical policy

specifications (at a total cost of Pounds 596,666); 50 Land Rover Defender 110 pickup trucks with hot climate specifications (Pounds 618,333), down to 500 Pilkington Optronics Kite night vision sights (Pounds 1.75m).

The purchase order is straightforward. Qatar would like all the items to be "of new manufacture" and have full warranties from Land Rover and Pilkington. It emphasises that all this should be passed on to the "armed forces of the state of Algeria".

In the memorandum, it is clear that negotiations have preceded the order. The chief of staff of the Qatar armed forces, Staff Brigadier-General Hamad Ali Hamad al-Attiyah, opens the correspondence to Jerry Wooding, of BAe Systems, by referring to Wooding's letter of May 18.

The purchase order was leaked by a Qatari officer who opposed what he described as his government's hypocrisy. On the one hand, it had offered asylum to <u>Hamas</u> leaders expelled by Jordan, he said, but in this case was offering military equipment to an army massacring Islamic fighters.

He said he had no chance to debate the deal in his own country, so he turned to the British press in an attempt to put the issue in the public arena.

The trade and industry department, which has to grant an export certificate for the order to go ahead, confirmed last week that it had received the purchase order and it was being considered. However, a spokesman refused to comment "on individual cases".

Neil Durkin, of Amnesty International, said last night: "The transfer of military equipment through third countries to those ravaged by human rights violations, like Algeria, is a reminder of the need for more effective end user monitoring systems than we have at present. Tough new legislation is needed in the next parliamentary session."

Load-Date: July 17, 2000



PRISONERS WEIGH ON PALESTINIANS' CONSCIENCE

The Scotsman
May 19, 2000, Friday

Copyright 2000 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 14

Length: 690 words

Byline: Matt Rees In Gaza

Body

ESAYED Astal lies sweating on anarrow iron bed in the humid afternoon. He holds a plastic bottle of water across his belly. On his pillow, there is a pack of Rothmans.

Mr Astal vows he will consume only water and cigarettes for as long as it takes to extract a promise from Israeli peace negotiators to free 1,200 Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails. Those detainees, like Mr Astal, are on a hunger strike to protest their continued incarceration as "prisoners of war" even after, as they see it, the peace process ended the conflict.

"The war of the empty stomach is the holiest war," reads a banner hung over Mr Astal's bed. He and 88 other former prisoners, as well as mothers and wives of detainees, began their sympathy strike Tuesday. They have set up a camp in one of Gaza's main squares, close to Yasser Arafat's beachfront office.

The long rows of cheap, gaudy blankets and prostrate men in black tee-shirts are intended as a reminder to the Palestinian leader that the prisoners have become the top public issue, surpassing even the tortuous negotiations over land and Jerusalem in their emotional intensity.

The anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel has been the nominal reason for a week of rioting in the West Bank and Gaza, which has led to gunbattles between Israeli and Palestinian troops and a number of other shooting incidents. But the chants of the rioters focused on the freedom of the prisoners.

Groups representing relatives of the prisoners and Islamic organisations yesterday called for "two days of rage" today andtomorrow, which surely spells more confrontations with the Israeli soldiers.

Held in two Israeli jails, the prisoners have been refusing solid food since the start of the month, though some are eating soup and all are drinking milk. Prison authorities this week punished them by confiscating all electrical equipment and halting the delivery of daily newspapers.

Israel has released several hundred prisoners as part of the peace agreements over the last year. Most had played minor roles in terrorist attacks. For the Israelis, those still jailed are not prisoners of war but murderous terrorists. They are held because they "have blood on their hands", whether it be that of an Israeli or a Palestinian collaborator.

Mr Arafat's negotiators promised yesterday not to sign any new elements of a peace deal unless the prisoners are freed. Officials are supposed to be preparing a framework for a final peace accord. The whole peace process is intended to be concluded by the unlikely deadline of September.

PRISONERS WEIGH ON PALESTINIANS' CONSCIENCE

The Palestinian leader knows it will be hard for him to back down. The anger vented against Israeli soldiers and civilians in the last week would surely be turned against his Palestinian Authority, if he did so.

"Things will explode," says Mahbouba Hamdouna, whose son, Ra'afat, is on hunger strike in Nafha Prison. "This will be the fault of Arafat."

Mrs Hamdouna, who is 50 years old, considerably overweight and breathless in the heat, joined the Gaza hunger strike, nonetheless. She and seven other <u>women</u> lie on cots in a separate tent from Mr Astal. A member of Islamic Jihad, Ra'afat, who is now 30, was jailed 10 years ago for attacking two Israelis with a hammer. "He had no brains," she says. "He did not think of what would happen to him. But I cannot sleep while he is still in jail."

In Gaza, there are constant reminders of the importance of the prisoners, and of discontent with the way in which Mr Arafat has handled talks on their future with the Israelis. Many Palestinians are flying the national flag from their cars as they drive around their biggest town. Everyone knows the pennants flutter for the detainees, not for Mr Arafat and his promise to raise the flag over an independent state in a few months.

Fadi Gharbawi, who is 12 years old, takes a break from throwing stones at Israeli soldiers near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim, south of Gaza, to explain that the prisoners are the key issue now. "*Hamas* understands this," he says, referring to the Islamic fundamentalist opposition party. "But Arafat does not care. He is the s*** on my shoe."

Load-Date: May 19, 2000



Pope carries cross to observe Good Friday friday

\$%Charleston Gazette (West Virginia) virginia) virginia)
April 11, 1998, Saturday saturday saturday

Copyright 1998 Charleston Newspapers newspapers newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P3C P3C P3C

Length: 658 words

Body

ROME (AP) - Protected from the driving, chilly rain by an aide's white umbrella, Pope John Paul II carried a wooden cross in a solemn Good Friday procession at the Colosseum to symbolize Christ's suffering before his crucifixion.

Thousands of people stood beneath umbrellas outside the ancient monument, holding candles during the annual ritual enacting Jesus' execution and the events leading to it. The pope walked haltingly for a short stretch, carrying the lightweight cross.

Later, in a homily, John Paul said Christ identifies through his own suffering with the anguish of the "humiliated, downtrodden and exploited" in today's world. world.

"In every person suffering from hatred and violence, or rejected by selfishness and indifference, Christ continues to suffer and die," he said.

For the fourth consecutive year, the pope bore the cross only briefly.

The 78-year-old pontiff has been hobbled since undergoing hip replacement surgery in 1994. Still, his voice sounded firm, and he appeared to gather strength as the evening went on.

Others who joined the pope in bearing the cross during the procession included Catholics from the Philippines, Italy, Argentina, China and

Burundi.

The homily marking the Good Friday ritual, known as the Stations of the Cross, was written by Orthodox Christian theologian Olivier Clement of France. It underscored the suffering of <u>women</u> and lamented the pain that Christians have inflicted on Jews by accusing them over the centuries of killing Jesus.

A landmark 1965 Vatican document said Jews should not be held collectively responsible for Jesus' death.

In the past year, the pope has devoted special attention to the involvement of Roman Catholics in the Holocaust. A major Vatican document last month expressed remorse for the silence of some Christians during the Holocaust.

In October, the pope said centuries of Catholic prejudice against Jews was based on a misreading of the Christian Gospels. That misinterpretation was to be blamed, he said, for the "deadening" of Christian resistance to Nazism.

Earlier, John Paul heard the confessions of 16 people in St. Peter's Church, a tradition he began in 1979. The confessors came from Burkina Faso, Italy, Spain, the United States and the pope's native Poland, the Vatican said.

Elsewhere on Good Friday, thousands of pilgrims retraced Jesus' last steps in Jerusalem, some shouldering wooden crosses.

Dozens of believers in Taxco, Mexico, whipped themselves or strapped 100 pounds of thorny blackberry stalks to their bare shoulders in penance. And in the Philippines, 18 people screamed and grimaced on crosses while nails were driven through their hands and feet.

Holy week culminates Sunday with Easter, when Christians celebrate their belief in Jesus' resurrection. John Paul will celebrate an open-air Mass and deliver a message and Easter greetings in more than 50 languages.

Page 3 of 3

Pope carries cross to observe Good Friday friday friday

In Jerusalem on Friday, brown-robed Franciscan monks led pilgrims

through the Old City's cobblestone alleys singing hymns in Arabic,

Italian, Latin and English. They walked the Via Dolorosa, or Way of

Sorrows, which tradition says Jesus took to his crucifixion.

Nuns fingered rosaries and pilgrims held up Bibles and small crosses

as the procession made its way to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

One group re-enacted Jesus' last walk in full costume.

Muslim families attending noon prayers at nearby Al Agsa Mosque had to

push their way against the crowd. Friday also marked the end of the

Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha and the start of the Jewish holiday,

Passover.

Hundreds of Israeli soldiers were posted along the procession route.

Israel has been on heightened alert because of threats of suicide

attacks by the Islamic militant group, *Hamas*.

Inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, pilgrims placed silk cloth

and Bibles on the slab where tradition says Jesus was placed after

dying.

"I'm impressed to see all the nationalities here for the same cause,"

said Andrew Hayes, a monk from Valyermo, Calif. calif. calif.

Load-Date: April 11, 1998



MOURNERS CALL FOR REVENGE IN 3 PALESTINIANS' SLAYING / THE DEATHS SPARKED WEST BANK CLASHES. FEARS WERE RAISED THAT THE OLD PATTERN OF CONFRONTATION WAS BACK.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MARCH 12, 1998 Thursday SF EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A02

Length: 587 words

Byline: Laura King, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: DURA, West Bank

Body

The funerals of three Palestinian workers shot and killed by Israeli soldiers brought cries for vengeance yesterday from fellow Palestinians - and grim promises from Israel that force would be met with force.

"Blood leads to blood!" white-scarved Palestinian schoolgirls screamed as they marched through the winding streets of Dura, the hometown of three laborers slain Tuesday night at an Israeli roadblock on their way home from jobs in Israel.

The deaths set off the West Bank's worst day of violence in months, leaving 32 Palestinians and an Israeli border policeman hurt in a series of clashes yesterday.

More ominously, the chain of events raised fears that the two sides were returning to the kind of confrontations common before the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, which has been stalled for more than a year.

In Dura, where nearly everyone claims kinship or friendship with at least one of the dead workers, every shop and business was shuttered as the entire town mourned.

Thousands of people - little boys holding hands, old men leaning on canes, angry masked youths - marched in a funeral procession or lined the streets to watch it pass.

At the home of Adnan Abu Zneid, one of the slain men, his black-robed widow, Rima, 34, stood on the steps with village *women* ululating at her side. She is a mother of nine, including a boy born just six days ago.

"The soldiers killed my husband," she wailed. "Why, why?"

The bodies, shrouded in white and draped in the Palestinian flag, were paraded into the town's rocky burying ground after prayers in the eucalyptus-shaded mosque.

Page 2 of 2

MOURNERS CALL FOR REVENGE IN 3 PALESTINIANS' SLAYING / THE DEATHS SPARKED WEST BANK CLASHES. FEARS WERE RAISED THAT THE OLD PATTERN OF CONFRONTATION WAS BACK.

The burials, as is customary in Muslim tradition, came less than 24 hours after the men met their violent end at the army roadblock near the village of Tarkoumiah, west of Hebron.

Exactly how it all began is still being argued over. The army said troops opened fire in the belief that the driver had run down a soldier. A Palestinian passenger said the van had simply swerved close to them while trying to avoid being cut off by another vehicle, and the driver lost control after the shots were fired.

How it ended is not in contention. In the hail of gunfire - 20 shots were fired into the van, according to Israeli reports - the three workers, all family men, were killed. Four others were wounded.

Mohammed Sharah, a Dura laborer who knew the slain men and had often taken the same route home, said Palestinians felt it could have happened to any one of them.

"They were just working, trying to care of their families, and this happened," he said. "We are all so, so angry."

Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat denounced the slayings as a "big crime" and spurned an offer to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who called him to express condolences.

Netanyahu said yesterday that he hoped the Palestinians would realize that a calm approach would serve them as well as it would Israel.

Israel promised a speedy investigation, but one cabinet minister coupled that with warnings that unrest in response to the shootings would not be tolerated.

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, a former army chief of staff, told army radio that "force needs to be met with force." The Palestinians, he said, need to understand that "if that's their way to speed the negotiations . . . it doesn't work that way."

Palestinians said Israel was the one fanning the flames of violence. A spokesman for the radical Islamic group <u>Hamas</u>, Mahmoud Zahar, said Israel was trying to spark more bloodshed - and that, he said, was about to trigger a new Palestinian uprising.

Graphic

PHOTO;

PHOTO

Under attack by Palestinian stone-throwers, a Jewish settler with a handgun shoots and wounds a Palestinian (right) during clashes yesterday in the West Bank town of Ramallah. (Associated Press, NASSER NASSER)

Load-Date: October 24, 2002



Revealed: another bungle by Mossad; * SWISS FURY

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

February 27, 1998 Friday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 15

Length: 626 words

Byline: ROSS DUNN Herald Correspondent in Jerusalem

Body

Israel's Mossad spy agency has bungled another undercover operation, this time in Switzerland. It is the second time in six months that Mossad has been exposed for operating inside friendly countries.

The latest scandal comes only one day after Mossad's head, Mr Danny Yatom, resigned following an official inquiry into last September's botched assassination attempt in Jordan.

The Swiss Federal Prosecutor, Ms Carla del Ponte, confirmed yesterday that one Mossad secret agent was under arrest and police were searching for at least four others.

On February 19, the agents were discovered mounting an eavesdropping operation, reportedly against the Iranian Embassy in Berne. The Swiss Government insists the scandal had nothing to do with Iran, but has declined to give further details.

The Israeli Government has already begun negotiating for the agent's release.

The disclosures are particularly embarrassing for Israel because until now it has received close co-operation from the Swiss Government, particularly in the fight against international terrorism.

The Foreign Ministry's Secretary of State, Mr Jakob Kellenberger, said the Israeli Ambassador to Switzerland had been summoned on Monday to receive an official Swiss protest.

"This incident is unacceptable and has a chilling affect on relations between friendly countries," Mr Kellenberger told the news conference.

Only last week, the Swiss Government sent medical supplies to Israel for use in the event of a biological weapons attack by Iraq.

Switzerland also helped organise events to mark the 100th anniversary of the first Zionist Congress in Basel and hosted large delegations from Israel.

The Israeli Government so valued its relations with the Swiss that it adopted a low profile when evidence emerged showing Swiss Banks had been involved in the transfer of funds stolen by Nazis from German Jews. But the Mossad episode is likely to be seen by the Swiss authorities as a major breach of trust and could sour relations between the two countries.

Revealed: another bungle by Mossad * SWISS FURY

This is not the first time that Israel's eavesdropping operations have been exposed.

In April, 1991 four Mossad agents, two men and two <u>women</u>, were arrested in Nicosia, Cyprus, when they were caught replacing the batteries in a bugging device outside the Iranian Embassy.

But the latest incident is the first in Switzerland to be uncovered since 1963 when two Mossad agents were arrested, also in Berne, for intimidating a <u>female</u> member of the family of a German scientist, who had been offered a job in Egypt's missile development program. That affair also damaged Israeli-Swiss relations, even though the authorities released the agents two months later.

Mr Yatom insists that he did not try to cover up the latest bungled operation and reported it immediately to the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, who is now involved in choosing a new head of Mossad.

But Mr Yatom did admit that the bungled operation in Switzerland had been a factor in his decision to resign.

One Mossad official close to Mr Yatom told reporters: "This was another mishap - and one too many. Unlike a military unit, which goes on operations backed by artillery and rescue helicopters, here there is no rescue unit. People operate in the field alone and if something goes wrong, they are all on their own."

Mr Yatom told colleagues that regardless of the arrest in Switzerland, he could not have stayed in his job.

This was due to the insistence of Jordan's King Hussein that Mr Yatom's resignation was a pre-condition for renewing intelligence co-operation with Israel.

The Jordanian monarch has maintained his fury over the incident last September, when two Mossad agents were arrested after attempting to murder the *Hamas* leader, Mr Khaled Meshaal, in the capital, Amman.

Graphic

Illus: An ultra-Orthodox Jew prays at the grave of settler Baruch Goldstein who in 1994 gunned down ranks of Muslims kneeling at prayer. The site has been made into a religious shrine and object of pilgrimage by militant Jews. Photograph by REUTERS/YOSSI ZAMIR

Load-Date: July 23, 2007



<u>WORLD IN BRIEF;</u> Police say Fiat is not linked to Diana case

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution
February 14, 1998, Saturday,
ALL EDITIONS

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 10A

Length: 618 words

Byline: From news services

Body

Police dismissed a private investigator's claim Friday that a white Fiat Uno found in a garage outside Paris may be linked to the crash that killed Princess Diana and her boyfriend, Dodi Fayed.

The investigator, hired by the Fayed family, claimed that a photographer tracking Diana had owned the Fiat. He said the car showed signs of the same collision damage as the vehicle being sought.

But The Associated Press quoted a police source, speaking on condition of anonymity, as saying the Fiat found near Tours, 120 miles southwest of Paris, was neither the same model nor the same color as the vehicle being sought. The car was "formally excluded from the case," the source told the AP.

Police have been looking for a white Fiat Uno believed to have collided with the Mercedes carrying Diana and Fayed, which crashed on Aug. 31. Investigators have focused their attention in part on what role, if any, photographers pursuing Diana may have had in the crash.

AFRICA Outsiders take control of Sierra Leone capital

Amid charred bodies and smoldering rubble, a Nigerian-led African army took control of Sierra Leone's embattled capital of Freetown. The coalition drove out a 10-month-old junta in a final offensive this week and now is poised to restore the ousted president, Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, in what appears to be Africa's first successful experiment at using military might to return an elected government, rather than topple it.

EUROPE Hammer, sickle won't be part of party symbol

Italy's largest leftist party is dropping the hammer and sickle from its symbol, removing the last vestiges of communism. The old symbols of the Democratic Party of the Left will be replaced with a rose and the stars of the European Union, party leader Massimo D'Alema announced. "We will be more European," he said. "We will be the democratic party of the year 2000."

Shevardnadze gets new \$ 350,000 car

Germany and Daimler-Benz are giving Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze a new car to replace an armored Mercedes limousine damaged in an assassination attempt Monday. The new \$ 350,000 car is en route to Tbilisi.

MIDDLE EAST Panel says Netanyahu showed poor judgment

A parliamentary committee investigating Israel's botched assassination of a <u>Hamas</u> leader in Jordan last fall found that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu showed poor judgment in the affair, a newspaper reported. However, neither Netanyahu nor the head of the Mossad spy agency, Danny Yatom, should be asked to step down because of their handling of the case, the Haaretz daily said, quoting from the findings by the subcommittee on secret services.

Rushdie death sentence renewed by prosecutor

Iran's chief prosecutor, Morteze Moqtadaie, renewed the death sentence against British author Salman Rushdie, saying "the shedding of this man's blood is obligatory." Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini said in a Feb. 14, 1989, fatwa, or Islamic decree, that Rushdie should be killed for allegedly insulting Islam in his book "The Satanic Verses." Rushdie still lives largely in hiding. Many countries have denounced the fatwa as simply an excuse for terrorism.

OCEANIA Indonesian rampage has deadly result

Thousands of Indonesians rampaged in at least eight towns, burning shops, houses and cars in the most violent day of protest since the onset of an economic crisis. One person was reported killed. Mobs vented anger against Chinese traders they blame for the soaring prices and massive unemployment that followed a plunge in the value of the currency, the rupiah. Sweeping austerity measures under a \$ 40 billion International Monetary Fund bailout have only aggravated the economic despair. The Chinese minority has traditionally been targeted during times of unrest.

Graphic

Afghan <u>women</u> and children displaced by a Feb. 4 earthquake wait at a makeshift refugee camp set up at Rustag in northern Afghanistan. Harsh winds, snowfall and fog thwarted efforts by aid workers on Friday to distribute badly needed aid to survivors. / ZAHEERUDDIN ABDULLAH / Associated Press

Load-Date: February 15, 1998



Sharon's War Cannot Be Won

The New York Times

December 5, 2001 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 2; Editorial Desk; Pg. 29

Length: 770 words

Byline: By Ali Abunimah; Ali Abunimah is vice president of the Arab American Action Network.

Dateline: CHICAGO

Body

Once again the world has had to confront the horror of innocent men, <u>women</u> and children killed by suicide bombers in the heart of Jerusalem and in Haifa. No decent person can refrain from condemning such attacks in the strongest terms. Such deeds harm not only their innocent victims, which in this case probably included Palestinian citizens of Israel, but also the just cause of Palestine.

As a Palestinian I am often challenged by the press on my views about such horrific bombings. I emphatically repeat my condemnation and state that I oppose the targeting and killing of innocent civilians regardless of whether they are Israelis or Palestinians.

Yet I wonder why no one asked how I felt when five Palestinian schoolboys were killed by a bomb planted by the Israeli occupation forces in a refugee camp in Gaza less than two weeks ago -- or why Israelis and pro-Israel spokesmen, who are called for comment by the same radio and television stations that call me, are rarely asked to condemn the violence that is committed in their name.

I watched in sadness the latest American envoy to the Middle East, Gen. Anthony C. Zinni, laying a wreath in Jerusalem at the site of the bombings. But where was the American wreath for the five boys killed in Gaza? Why are the targeting and killing of hundreds of Palestinian civilians, including more than 150 children, and the suffocation by siege of three million Palestinians so often considered mere background noise to Israel's drama?

In response to the suicide attacks, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld said, "The only way to defend against terrorists is to go after the terrorists." This can only be understood as an endorsement of Israel's policy of extrajudicial executions, which on Nov. 23 took the life of a senior <u>Hamas</u> leader and set off the latest round of suicide bombings. The retaliation by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel -- bombing Gaza and the West Bank -- is the beginning of a new stage of war. What other punishments will be imposed on the Palestinians? More shelling of refugee camps? More houses destroyed? More kidnappings? More torture? An even tighter blockade?

None of these strategies are likely to end the violence; after all, all have been used relentlessly and without mercy. Perhaps this time Mr. Sharon will order the special forces to either kill Yasir Arafat or send him back into exile.

My response to all of this is a big shrug. So they send Yasir Arafat back to Tunis or assassinate him -- the occupation will still be there. The Israelis will be the losers because they will no longer have the decrepit old man,

Sharon's War Cannot Be Won

their bin Laden, to blame for all their problems. They will come face to face with the fact that it is the occupation that is the fuel of the conflict. Palestinians will be neither better off nor worse off. Some even think that a return to direct military occupation without the intermediary of the Palestinian Authority can only sharpen the confrontation and bring about a conclusion -- however miserable -- more rapidly.

Certainly no serious person believes that Mr. Arafat and his lieutenants, nominally controlling a few divided scraps of land in the West Bank and Gaza, can through coercion, arrests and torture do what Israel with all its might has failed to do: bring about an unconditional end to all resistance against the occupation or attacks on Israeli civilians.

Mr. Rumsfeld revealed that even he doubts that Mr. Arafat can succeed when he said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that Mr. Arafat "is not a particularly strong leader" and added, "I don't know that he has good control over the Palestinian situation." But the view of the Bush administration, reinforced by Israel's intransigent lobby, blames one man for all the ugly symptoms of 53 years of repression of millions of people in Palestine -- policies supported for decades by the United States. All too aware of his assigned role, Mr. Arafat has declared a state of emergency. This amounts to little in practice since all the means of repression and arbitrary rule at the disposal of the Palestinian Authority are already in full use while none of the means that could actually improve the lives of Palestinians are granted to it by Israel.

The burden of death has fallen on Palestinians as it has fallen on Israelis. The only surprise will come if dozens more innocent people are not killed in the coming weeks.

Mr. Zinni said he will stay in the region until he succeeds in getting a cease-fire. But if American policy avoids dealing directly with the root causes of the conflict, he should plan to be in the Mideast war zone a long time.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Drawing (Joe Sacco)

Load-Date: December 5, 2001



Got in a terrible jam up yonder in Afghanistan

The Australian

December 17, 2001, Monday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 11

Length: 761 words

Body

Despite some early success, the US-led war against terrorism has eerie echoes of Vietnam, warns Adrian D'Hage

THE triumphalists have broken out the champagne. With the Taliban routed and Osama bin Laden cowering in his cave, we're told, the critics who warned that the war against terrorism would be another Vietnam should have known better.

The unexpected speed of the Taliban's defeat is welcome news. But before we drink too much champagne, let's be wary of the challenges we're likely to face in the war against terrorism. It is still not a stretch to argue that the present strategy is a potential quagmire. It does have echoes of Vietnam.

MATP

First, there's the difficult task of apprehending or killing bin Laden and up to 1000 of his hardened fighters. Even as the fight against al-Qa'ida in Tora Bora intensified over the weekend, local Afghan leaders cautioned that the campaign for bin Laden and his top al-Qa'ida lieutenants could drag out.

Then there's the looming instability and chaos in war-ravaged Afghanistan. Having conducted the campaign against the Taliban mainly from the air, there is a danger that precisely the same lawlessness that allowed the Taliban to ascend to power in 1994 will prevail.

Ultimately, war always requires troops on the ground to dictate victory. Lacking that commitment, we have surrendered the opportunity to dictate the peace. Hopefully, Afghanistan's interim leader Hamid Karzai will be able to hold the warlords together and a several thousand-strong UN stabilisation force will be allowed in.

But history says otherwise. Already, many areas of Afghanistan are so dangerous that the UN cannot get winter relief supplies to ordinary Afghans, many of them children. At least classes have resumed for some children but, ironically, lessons are being conducted on mine recognition and how to distinguish a food parcel from a cluster bomb.

Having left the Afghans to their fate after the defeat of the Russians in 1989, the West has a responsibility to rebuild the roads, schools, hospitals and transport systems.

But in many ways Afghanistan is a sideshow in the war against terror. There are reports of US officers holding talks with the Rahanwein Resistance Army, opposed to the Government in Somalia, and with the Kurds in northern Iraq.

Got in a terrible jam up yonder in Afghanistan

WIDENING this conflict to any one of 50 countries with links to al-Qa'ida and other terrorists is a distinct possibility. It may be necessary but, unless the strategy is dramatically revised to simultaneously deal with the underlying causes, the quagmire is potentially very deep indeed.

The situation in the Middle East is as grave as it has ever been, short of all out war. Yasser Arafat is in as precarious a position as he was when Israel laid siege to Beirut in 1982. Ariel Sharon has implicit support from the US and he will never support an independent Palestinian state. The radical Islamic group <u>Hamas</u>, one of the potential replacements for Arafat's Palestinian Authority, does not recognise Israel's right to exist. The choice is stark.

The West can insist on support for the principles of Oslo -- a Palestinian state on the one hand and a crackdown on fundamentalist violence on the other -- or the killing can continue. Just to add to the chill factor of the latter, recent reports from Jerusalem say that the games played by Israeli and Palestinian children include Israeli checkpoints and suicide bombers. There were 10-year-olds cheering on the attacks in New York; 10-year-olds who in a few short years will emulate bin Laden, possibly in Australia, because they have been taught there is no other solution.

In Iraq, the West can continue to foment hatred among ordinary Iraqis with US-sponsored sanctions that kill tens of thousands of **women** and children each year.

Or we can do something radical and seek to open an embassy or two in Baghdad, from which dialogue might follow.

Lest more Islamic extremists from Afghanistan infiltrate Kashmir, we might even go so far as to allow the Kashmiris to make a choice on their future by holding the UN-sponsored plebiscite that was promised 50 years ago but never held.

Or we can expand the war against terror with just bombs and bullets, like Vietnam. No frontline. No end in sight.

I would be delighted to share some champagne with those who are toasting the fall of the Taliban. But it will have to be their shout. Mine is still in the fridge and I have chosen one that will age well in the bottle.

Brigadier Adrian D'Hage, a former director of Defence Joint Operations, was awarded the Military Cross for service in Vietnam

Load-Date: December 17, 2001



America may have forgotten the 9/10 world, but we can't

The Sunday Herald December 30, 2001

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Section: Pg. 15

Length: 781 words

Byline: Trevor Royle Royle

Body

Invited to put into historical perspective President Bush's decision to renege on the Kyoto agreement - one of this year's bigger talking points - a leading US political commentator could hardly contain his impatience. As if avoiding an indecent odour, he spluttered his response: "Come on pal, you can't be serious. That's so 9/10." In the manner of his calling he was, of course, both right and wrong. Kyoto was brushed aside before September 11 and in view of what happened on that unreal late summer day - 9/11 to all Americans - the first eight months of the year must seem irrelevant. But three suicide aircraft plus several thousand dead is not the sole computation for 2001; the arithmetic is not quite as easy as that.

For sure the attacks on the US mainland were devastating and mark this dying year as the period when the world had to take stock of the threat posed by international terrorism. They formed an unwelcome punctuation mark between a time when the twin towers stood in splendid isolation as symbols of western wealth and power and the time when the US had to wake up to the fact that it was not everyone's best friend. That alone makes 9/11 an indelible date on the calendar and helps to explain any irritation with the days which preceded it. Three airliners could have crashed that day as a result of a variety of accidents, the world would have been shocked, inquiries would have been demanded and the kin of the victims would have mourned but the grief and the heart-searching would have been temporary. That was impossible in New York and Washington when a nation's vulnerability was exposed by premeditated wickedness. The response to the attacks had to be different.

In the aftermath there was a good deal of humbug about things never being the same again - for example, the novelist Blake Morrison was moved to say that the day marked "the last week of the world as it was", as if he were the sole observer of a new apocalypse. Others, many of whom should have known better, joined the chorus. But just say that Mohammed Atta and his chums had been harmless passengers and that their flights had touched down safely in Los Angeles. What would be all be saying now?

The easy answer is that the Taliban regime would still be in residence in Kandahar and that no one would give two hoots about Afghani <u>women</u> being forced into wearing the burka or being denied an education. The internal war with the armies of the Northern Alliance would have received scant coverage and Osama bin Laden would remain the shadowy figure he was when he issued his first and largely unheralded videotaped threats during the summer. It is must unlikely that he would have emerged as the global star of al-Jazeera television and, be honest, had anyone heard of this obscure Qatar-based sub-office of the global media village?

More to the point, the treatment meted out to Afghanistan has had knock-on effects elsewhere. More Palestinians have been killed than might otherwise have been and India and Pakistan would not be squaring up to one another with murder in their hearts.

America may have forgotten the 9/10 world, but we can't

This is not to say that <u>Hamas</u> suicide bombers would have stayed at home or that Kashmir would have stopped being a bone of contention but there is little doubt that the Israeli and Indian leaderships followed the US lead in responding belligerently to terrorist attacks on targets within their countries. Both seem to agree with Bush's contention that terrorism has to be extirpated wherever it is encountered and that violent assaults should attract an equally vigorous riposte.

By the same token some problems have slipped below the horizon. In Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe is being allowed to dismantle his country with impunity and hardly an eyebrow has been raised as a result of his suppression of the opposition and the introduction of draconian laws. Compared to daisycutters on Tora Bora the threat to expel Zimbabwe from the Commonwealth seems almost laughable.

Elsewhere in the continent, Africa seems as intractable as ever, its wars and its famines constant companions which defy resolution and only attract attention on a quiet news day.

On the credit side Russia has been brought back into the fold of the international community and in the Balkans the process of resettlement and regeneration goes on apace. If anything, both have prospered as a result of the need to come to terms with terrorism and the dreaded eastern question might have been solved once and for all.

As for Kyoto, the environmental accords exist in an unhappy limbo, pre-Bush and very much 9/10. Perhaps 2002 can come up with a better equation? Answers, please, to the White House.

IReview of the Year: Tabloid

Load-Date: January 1, 2002



Peres, Arafat vow to enforce truce

Deseret News (Salt Lake City) September 26, 2001, Wednesday

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Section: WIRE;

Length: 806 words

Body

GAZA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Gaza Strip (AP) -- In truce talks held at the urging of the United States, Israel and the Palestinians agreed Wednesday on a series of confidence-building measures aimed at ending a year of fighting.

The two sides said they would resume security coordination and exert maximum efforts to enforce a cease-fire. In a first gesture, Israel was to ease security closures that have severely disrupted daily life in the Palestinian areas.

Yet violence continued even as the two sides met, underscoring the fragility of a truce. Just three miles from the meeting site, a 16-year-old Palestinian boy was killed and 11 youngsters were wounded when Israeli troops fired on a crowd of stone-throwers. Earlier, three Israeli soldiers were wounded when Palestinians set off an explosion at an army post in the same area.

Both sides approached the talks with great skepticism.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has been reluctant to allow the meeting to proceed. Sharon has portrayed Arafat as an unrepentant terrorist and said he could not be trusted. The Palestinians, in turn, have been concerned that Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the leading dove in Sharon's government, only has a limited mandate.

A major test of the truce will come Friday when Palestinians plan to mark the first anniversary of the fighting with marches. Traditionally, such marches have ended in confrontations with Israeli troops.

The United States hopes to calm the Mideast conflict, which threatens to get in the way of coalition-building efforts for the U.S.-led fight against international terrorism.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell repeatedly called Arafat and Sharon in recent days, urging them to hold the talks. Sharon canceled two previous sessions, arguing Arafat was not trying hard enough to contain violence.

Previous truce deals, including one negotiated by CIA chief George Tenet, have collapsed. However, there were some hopes the current cease-fire would stick. Neither Sharon nor Arafat apparently wants to be seen as defying Washington at a time of crisis.

Wednesday's meeting at Gaza International Airport lasted nearly two-and-a-half hours. At the start, Peres and Arafat briefly shook hands, without smiling or looking at each other. The meeting ended with a joint statement read by Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat.

Peres, Arafat vow to enforce truce

In the statement, the leaders pledged to resume security coordination and exert maximum efforts to enforce a cease-fire, based on the terms negotiated by Tenet three months ago. At that time, the cease-fire didn't take hold.

Israel promised to ease its security closures of the Palestinian areas and redeploy forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, without giving a timetable.

Peres and Arafat also renewed their commitment to recommendations by the international Mitchell Commission on how to end the fighting and resume peace talks. A panel of senior officials from both sides will supervise the implementation of the cease-fire and the Mitchell recommendations, the statement said.

Peres and Arafat agreed to meet again in about a week.

The Mitchell Commission, which issued its report in May, spelled out a series of confidence-building steps the two sides would take over a period of several weeks, ahead of a resumption of peace talks.

The commission said the Palestinians should make a "100 percent effort" to prevent terrorist operations and punish perpetrators, while Israel should freeze all settlement activity and not use lethal force in dispersing unarmed Palestinian demonstrators. The commission asked Israel to lift its closures, permit Palestinians to return to their jobs in Israel and transfer to the Palestinian Authority millions of dollars in tax revenues that were withheld for the past year.

Last week, Arafat announced an informal truce and ordered his security forces to prevent attacks on Israelis. However, there have been numerous shootings since then and two Israeli <u>women</u> were killed by Palestinian gunmen. A Palestinian man, who according to the army was throwing a grenade at soldiers, was killed by Israeli fire in the same period.

Wednesday's fighting began when Palestinians set off a bomb at an Israeli army post on the Israeli-Egyptian border in southern Gaza, a few miles from the Gaza airport. Three soldiers were wounded, the army said. The militant Islamic group *Hamas* claimed responsibility.

After the attack, Israeli tanks fired at the nearby Rafah refugee camp, damaging homes, but causing no injuries, Palestinian security sources said.

As Arafat and Peres met, Palestinian teen-agers threw stones at the Israeli post where the explosion had gone off earlier in the day. Soldiers responded with tear gas and live rounds, killing the 16-year-old boy and wounding 11 other youngsters, including three who were in serious condition, Palestinian doctors said.

Load-Date: September 26, 2001



A racist conference, full of lies

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)
September 9, 2001 Sunday
Final EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL / OP-ED,; Tommy Schnurmacher; Column

Length: 792 words

Byline: TOMMY SCHNURMACHER

Body

The United Nations is certainly having a busy fall season. First of all, it organized the World Conference against Racism, which succeeded in ignoring real racism to focus its attentions on its goal of whipping up hatred against Israel, which remains the only democracy in the Middle East. Now that the conference is out of the way, it's all set to appoint the totalitarian, terrorism-sponsoring regime of Syria to the Security Council.

The UN's anti-Israel bias is nothing new. On the occasion of the UN's 50th anniversary, this august world body came up with a World War II resolution that noted millions had "perished" but ignored Israel's request to make specific reference to the Holocaust and destruction of European Jewry.

Freelance

More than 150 nations attended the Durban conference, which lasted more than a week. During that entire time, there were precious few suggestions urging Israelis and Palestinians to negotiate. Instead, there was relentless criticism of Israel.

No one issued declarations denouncing the many murders committed by Hezbollah, <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad. Not one word about Syrian terror against Christians in Lebanon. No mention of the way <u>women</u> and Hindus are treated by the Taliban.

Not a peep about human-rights abuses by Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe or Cuba's Fidel Castro. And, of course, everyone has long forgotten that it was attendee Jesse Jackson who had once referred to New York City as Hymietown.

A couple of years ago, Mary Robinson, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, issued a righteous-sounding statement in which she emphasized the importance of targeting "hate sites on the Internet and youth groups promoting intolerance and xenophobia."

These hate sites would have had a tough time outdoing the anti-Semitic rhetoric spewing forth from Durban.

And if Robinson is so worried about youth groups promoting intolerance and xenophobia, why is she so silent about those who promise teenagers the favours of 70 virgins if they become suicide bombers who kill Jews?

The UN conference, of course, is not without its admirers. Neo-Nazi groups around the world have had, until now, to content themselves with peddling their vile hate on obscure Web sites.

A racist conference, full of lies

They could not have afforded to spend millions of dollars to pay for an international conference and were pleased to have the UN and world governments pick up the tab.

These same neo-Nazis must also have been delighted to see the University of Bonn is hoping to attract students by showing off about one of its most famous alumni: Nazi propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels.

A university brochure described Goebbels as a "a student of the philosophy department from 1917 to 1918." It did not mention his virulent hatred of Jews, but did point out that "from 1933 to 1945, the close friend of Hitler became propaganda minister and was responsible for Gleichschaltung, the forcing into line of the media and cultural life."

Goebbels would have appreciated the cartoons that appeared in Durban of hook-nosed Jews, and he certainly would have been thrilled with any conference where Jewish delegates were isolated and intimidated. One wonders however what even he would have made of pamphlets headlined "Down with the Nazi-Israel Apartheid!" that were distributed at the conference centre by the Afro-Brazilian National Congress.

Professional apologists for the Palestinian cause often make excuses for the murder of innocent Israeli civilians by claiming such actions are a result of the desperation caused by occupation. They do not, of course, mention the occupation occurred when Israel had to defend itself against Arab aggression. Nor will they mention Israel captured the Sinai from Egypt yet handed it back in exchange for peace.

But back to the conference.

The Canadian delegation, headed by Hedy Fry, also included Liberal MP Irwin Cotler, who is an internationally acclaimed human-rights activist.

Wednesday's Toronto Globe and Mail noted "the normally outspoken Mr. Cotler is not allowed to speak to reporters: Secretary of State for Multiculturalism Hedy Fry is the only authorized spokesperson for the Canadian delegation."

Not quite.

Thursday's Gazette quoted Cotler, who said: "This is becoming the kind of conference in which everybody believes they are a victim and everybody believes that somebody else is the victimizer. In that kind of situation, the real victims are not heard, and the real victimizers are sometimes not identified."

Hedy Fry is a shameless politician who lied about racism. She was the perfect representative to send to a racist conference that was full of lies.

- Tommy Schnurmacher is heard weekdays 9 a.m. to noon on CJAD 800 radio. His E-Mail address is: tommys@total.net.

Load-Date: September 9, 2001



Long haul ahead for terrorist war

Sunday Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)
September 23, 2001, Sunday

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Section: EXTRA; Pg. 83

Length: 795 words

Byline: Michael Barnard

Body

BEHIND the outrage of the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington lies a timely reminder: On and off, mostly on, the modern state of Israel has been forced to live with this sort of terror for half a century now.

Sure, the scale is different on this occasion, but the blind hatred, the palpable evil, is entirely the same.

It is important to note this because the story of modern Israel offers clues on how the US and its allies might well be treated (sabotaged?) by myopic but sometimes influential strands of Western Left-liberal opinion, once necessary reprisals begin in earnest.

Wimp-liberalism rarely has the ticker to face the long haul -- and the long haul is precisely what confronts us in the war against terrorism today. Wimp-liberalism consoles itself by turning victims into villains.

This is is how the once "brave" Israelis have long since been recast as "cold, brutal, unfeeling" Israelis, though they have done no more than defend their right to live at peace in their historic homeland.

Frequently lamentable Western media coverage has not helped. "What pretext did they give?", a Channel 2 TV news presenter asked a Jerusalem correspondent in the wake of a recent Israeli strike into Palestinian-ruled Ramallah.

Not "reason" or "explanation", mark you, but "pretext". In other words, a false reason. Such as, well, they were only going in there for fun; nothing to do with trying to stop Arab terrorists blowing up Israeli **women** and children.

If the Israelis play it tough it is because they have to. What the wimp-liberals will not tell you is what they think the Israelis should do in the face of continued anti-Jewish terrorism and sabotaging of peace initiatives. Apart from rolling over, that is.

Memories are short. Arabs scoffed at the United Nations' 1947 proposal to divide Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. And it was Arab armies -- Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt -- which attacked after Israel declared its independence in May 1948.

It was a consequence of this war -- not sought by Israel -- that upwards of 500,000 Arabs fled the region, only to become a refugee crisis diabolically manipulated by Arab states committed to the annihilation of the Jewish state.

Long haul ahead for terrorist war

It is worth pondering what could have resulted if even a fraction of Arab mega-dollars poured into terrorism had been devoted to refugee resettlement. Not to mention cooperation with Israel in scientific and agricultural research for betterment of the entire region.

But, no, developing unrest and nurturing terror was a much better option.

There was a hazy "preview" of the World Trade Centre outrage in 1970 when the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine hijacked four airliners and blew them up at airfields in Amman and Cairo. Those were the days of the waggish student poster, "Fly PLO -- A direct flight to Heaven."

R EMEMBER the recent <u>Hamas</u> suicide bombing of a Jerusalem restaurant that killed 18 Israelis and injured more than 100? The files are full of such incidents. Random examples:

- * July 4, 1975: Fifteen killed, 87 wounded by PLO bomb planted in a refrigerator in Zion Square, Jerusalem.
- * March 11, 1978: Fatah terrorists kill 38, wound 70, after seizing two buses carrying Israelis on a tourist trip.

And on and on. The Israelis talk peace. And still it goes on. And on.

And the more Israel defends itself, the louder the chant from the wimp-liberals. Like the chant addressed to Washington now. "Restraint. Show restraint! Choose peace, not war!" Well, yes, fine. But how do you choose peace when you are already in a war not of your own making?

The question is answered in the dust and rubble of the World Trade Centre. Thousands of innocents dead in the ultimate "peace" decreed by the likes of Afghanistan-based Saudi terrorist Osama bin Laden.

Back to Channel 2. Not everyone in Canberra is fully behind the US, we are told. Some people are angered by its "enduring support for Israel".

A quick rub of the magic lamp and swoosh, there on our screens is Ali Kazak, Palestinian Representative in Australia, to tell us the US should "learn its lesson". Well, we hope so, Mr Kazak.

Meanwhile, thousands of Palestinians take to the streets to celebrate the attack on the US.

Over to Channel 9. A Current Affair offers us an "expert on terrorism" who cautions the US to "think carefully" before any response.

"If the US is going to target every single person who shows any sympathy for the cause bin Laden represents they're (sic) going to be targeting millions of people around the Arab world", he says.

Millions? And in the Arab world alone? Well at least here is a reminder to all civilised nations of what we are truly up against. Do you think the Israelis know?

Load-Date: November 12, 2001



<u>Tale of Two Uprisings: This Time, the Palestinians Have Territory, and Guns</u> - Correction Appended

The New York Times

Correction Appended

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Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A;; Section A;Page 6;Column 1;Foreign Desk; Column 1;

Length: 1653 words

Byline: By JOHN KIFNER

By JOHN KIFNER

Dateline: RAMALLAH, West Bank

Body

When Hussam Shaheen was 14, in the first year of the first Palestinian intifada in 1987, his worried parents forbade him to join the street demonstrations.

"Of course, I found ways to sneak out of the house," he remembered. "But one day my mother, she caught me in the middle of the demonstration and took me home."

It was worse than embarrassing. It enabled the Israeli police to identify and jail him.

These days he strides confidently among the younger rock-throwers on the hillside that has become an institutionalized daily confrontation point here, shaking hands, slapping backs and producing a neatly printed business card that identifies him as the "international secretary" of the Fatah Youth Organization.

Like many Palestinians he sees some similarities between 1987 and today -- mainly that both erupted out of bitter, pent-up frustration -- as well as important differences.

"It is the same reasons that made people resist, actually the same reasons," he said of the two insurrections. "We have seven years of intifada without the Palestinian Authority and seven years of the authority without intifada. We have learned there is no way to obtain our rights without struggle. And it is carried on the shoulders of the young generation."

Intifada is generally translated as uprising but has a connotation of "shaking off." The tinder was laid for the first one at a 1987 Arab summit meeting in Amman, Jordan, that effectively abandoned the Palestinian cause. Protests erupted a few weeks later, after an Israeli tank in the Gaza Strip swerved into a line of cars, killing four Palestinians.

The immediate spark this time was a visit on Sept. 28 by Ariel Sharon, a rightist former Israeli general reviled by Palestinians, to the uneasily shared holy site in Jerusalem known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as Haram al Sharif.

Tale of Two Uprisings: This Time, the Palestinians Have Territory, and Guns

Palestinians say that incident ignited a simmering frustration fed by the unrealized promise of the Oslo agreement in 1993 and the Camp David talks this summer.

"Sharon was the starting point," Mr. Shaheen said. "He is the ugly face of the enemy, but not the main reason. After Camp David it became very clear the Palestinian dream will not rise. The Israelis were changing facts on the ground with more settlements. They wanted to maintain occupation. There was the daily humiliation at the checkpoints."

Indeed this uprising is a revolt not only against Israel and the Oslo agreement, many Palestinians say privately, but also against the Palestinian Authority, which is widely regarded as corrupt and undemocratic. There are strains between the "Tunisians" -- the longtime Palestine Liberation Organization officials Yasir Arafat brought here with him -- and local leaders who emerged from the 1987 uprising, like Marwan Barghouti, the chief here of the armed militia known as the Tanzim, or organization.

If the reasons for the two uprisings seem drearily similar, the action has played out in drastically different ways. The biggest difference is the most obvious: this time around, the Palestinians have guns.

The initial images of this uprising seemed almost a repeat of the first: young boys throwing rocks, soldiers shooting back. But recently a new pattern has emerged of nightly gunfire from Palestinian areas at Israeli settlements and army positions, answered by heavier return fire, often from tanks and helicopters.

Since Nov. 11 a half-dozen Israelis have been killed in ambushes and drive-by shootings, which drastically changes the character of the conflict.

"Lebanonization" is the term both Israelis and Palestinians are using for what seems to be a shift toward low-level guerrilla warfare, and it points toward another important change.

In the interim between the uprisings, guerrillas of Hezbollah -- a Lebanese Shiite Muslim militia backed by Iran -- mounted a campaign of ambushes and roadside bombings against Israeli troops who occupied what they called a security zone in southern Lebanon.

When the troops withdrew from Lebanon in May, Hezbollah, whose name means Party of God, claimed a signal victory in the long struggle with Israel. Now the young Palestinians are holding up Hezbollah as an example.

Coincidentally, Hezbollah had been searching for a new role over the summer, and Iran advised its leaders that they should lead the fight to regain Jerusalem for Islam, said Nizar Hamzi, an expert on the group at the American University of Beirut. The ambition seemed far-fetched until Mr. Sharon took his stroll.

Another sea change since the 1987 uprising, Palestinians say, is the emergence of independent Arab satellite television stations, particularly Al Jazeera, based in the emirate of Qatar on the Persian Gulf.

All television in the Arab world used to be state-run, the nightly news broadcasts consisting of the ruler greeting and being greeted. Instead, Al Jazeera and its imitators have been offering dramatic coverage of the clashes, along with discussions from a variety of political viewpoints, including appearances by Hezbollah's leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah.

It is a riveting combination, and Palestinians here watch it avidly, along with new local stations that can sometimes broadcast a nearby bombardment live. The Palestinian Authority also runs its own radio and television stations, nonexistent during the 1987 uprising.

Al Jazeera's influence is also felt throughout the Arab world, often to governments' discomfort, building support on the street for the intifada. Satellite dishes have been selling furiously in Jordan, for example, and the programming has helped build huge demonstrations in that usually orderly country.

"Al Jazeera has been for this intifada what CNN was to the Gulf war," said Daoud Kuttab, a Palestinian journalist.

Tale of Two Uprisings: This Time, the Palestinians Have Territory, and Guns

On the ground, the fact that Palestinians are now in control of chunks of territory has dictated a shift in tactics. The Palestinian Authority has jurisdiction -- in effect, borders -- in swaths of the West Bank and Gaza Strip designated "Area A."

"Before, the enemy was everywhere," said Mr. Shaheen, the Fatah youth leader.

What that meant, he and others explained, is that in the first uprising the Israeli Army controlled all the ground, so the tactics were fluid, hit and run. Now confrontations are more formal, taking place at fixed points where the Israelis have their posts -- for instance, the City Inn here, where parked jeeps are the targets of daily stonings.

During the uprising that began in 1987, the Israelis tried a series of tactics with little success. There were curfews and closings of villages and refugee camps, beatings that broke hands and arms, and mass arrests. Thousands of Palestinians were in jail at any one time, so many that two tent camps had to be built to house them. But the jails became schools of nationalism.

After widespread riots followed Israel's opening of an archaeological tunnel in Jerusalem in September 1996, the army's general staff decided to make more use of snipers, Western diplomats said.

That tactic was employed from the first day of the recent protests at Al Aksa Mosque, and it helps account for the large number of Palestinians shot in the head or chest.

Each death brings a funeral, which turns into an emotional demonstration, chants of "Revenge! Revenge!" and, almost inevitably, new deaths and new funerals.

The grim cycle is one result of Palestinian control of territory. The territorial change of hands also appears to have reduced the involvement of Palestinian <u>women</u>. In 1987 soldiers would go into villages or refugee camps to arrest youths, and protective <u>women</u> would fling themselves, screaming, onto the soldiers. Now, with the confrontations at fixed, often distant, points rather than near their homes, <u>women</u> are less in evidence.

Fourteen years ago a local leadership emerged, made up of academics, young street fighters and a few figures from old notable families, like Faisal Husseini of Jerusalem.

After about a year, *Hamas*, an Islamic fundamentalist group, emerged as a rival force. Particularly at the beginning, the leadership of the P.L.O., then in exile in Tunis, was relatively uninvolved.

Now, of course, there is the Palestinian Authority. Under its leader, Mr. Arafat, is a jumble of rival security agencies and the Tanzim militia, recreating the anarchic way he used to run things in West Beirut. And there is the Nationalist and Islamic Leadership, a group including representatives of *Hamas* and Islamic Holy War, which meets nightly to plan protests.

From there, things become more complicated.

The extent of Mr. Arafat's control is uncertain, and many here believe that it is slipping away. Much of the action seems to be carried out locally by leaders like Mr. Barghouti and Hussein Obaiyat, the leader of a squad of gunmen near Bethlehem whom the Israelis assassinated with rockets from a helicopter gunship along with two middle-aged mothers who happened to be standing nearby.

Mr. Obaiyat was a veteran of the first intifada who nurtured his hatred of the Israelis in their jails and whose gunbrandishing poster now adorns walls and automobile hoods.

"This intifada is stronger than the other one," said Mahmoud, a 28-year-old former construction worker, one of roughly 120,000 Palestinians who used to work in Israel and are now kept out, at a confrontation point the other day. Mahmoud threw stones for the first two years of the 1987 uprising, he said. Then one day an Israeli undercover unit dressed as Arabs caught him and some other teenagers. He spent the next three years in jail.

Tale of Two Uprisings: This Time, the Palestinians Have Territory, and Guns

"We have more experience," he went on. "Our consciousness is raised by the first intifada not to surrender. If an agreement is made that doesn't reach what we want, we'll carry on despite Arafat."

Standing next to him was an 18-year-old with a black headband, who said he came to the confrontation point every day to throw stones at the Israeli soldiers.

The 18-year-old summed it up this way: "They can't stop. And we can't stop."

http://www.nytimes.com

Correction

An article on Nov. 18 about similarities and differences between the current Palestinian uprising and the one that began in December 1987 referred incorrectly to the event that set off the earlier one. The vehicle that swerved into a line of cars in the Gaza Strip, killing four Palestinians, was an Israeli truck, not a tank.

Correction-Date: November 28, 2000, Tuesday

Graphic

Photo: The Palestinian Authority's control of territory appears to have reduced clashes between Palestinian <u>women</u> and Israeli troops. A soldier and a group of <u>women</u> faced off in 1988 in the West Bank village of Burin. (Jim Hollander/Reuters)

Load-Date: November 18, 2000



Priest of Nazareth tries to build bridges

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)
October 18, 1999, FINAL

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Section: News; A5 **Length:** 675 words

Byline: MARK ABLEY

Body

The Parish Priest of Nazareth Needs Money. or Rather, the School He Has Run for More Than 20 Years Needs Money. Which Is Among the Reasons Emile Shoufani, Increasingly Seen as a Leader Among Israel's Arabs, Is Spending a Few Weeks in Canada.

Shoufani, 52, a genial man with bushy dark eyebrows, a white beard and an intense gaze, became principal of St. Joseph's School and its attached seminary in 1976. Back then, its 200 or so students were all boys. Today the school has nearly 1,200 students of both sexes.

But it's not size that makes the Nazareth school so distinctive. What matters is that Shoufani defines its mission as "education for the sake of peace." To his regret, no Jewish children attend the school (its students are about two-thirds Christian, one-third Muslim). But a few of its teachers are Jewish and the school goes to great lengths to foster exchanges between Arabs and Jews.

Scholarship Hope

"The exchange program allows Jewish students to stay in Arab homes and vice versa," Shoufani said. "When this happens, the 'other' becomes real and takes on a name and a face. It becomes impossible to demonize the other side any longer."

The school's reputation is not matched by its facilities. It needs a new gymnasium, a modern library and a computer lab, and it would like to set up a scholarship fund for gifted students from poor homes. All in all, St. Joseph's is hoping to raise about

\$10 million.

As well as being an educator, Shoufani is a priest of the Melkite Catholic Church - a Middle Eastern body that is in communion with Roman Catholicism, though distinct from it. Its liturgical language is Arabic. Indeed, most of the people of Nazareth are Arabs, the descendants of Palestinians who chose not to flee in the wake of Israel's war of independence in 1948. During that war, Shoufani's grandfather and uncle were killed.

"He is a very powerful thinker," said Senator Pierre de Bane, one of the organizers of Shoufani's Canadian tour. "To the Arabs, he explains what they have gained from being in Israel: democracy, the rule of law, the emancipation of <u>women</u>. And to the Jews, he explains that real peace will only come when they grant the Arabs their

dignity."

Priest of Nazareth tries to build bridges

A strong believer in a Palestinian state, Shoufani is quick to say that he also accepts the legitimacy of the state of Israel. Within his country, he says, 95 per cent of Arabs voted for the Labour Party of Prime Minister Ehud Barak, which was elected to power in May.

"So far," Shoufani admitted, "there have not been many concrete steps toward peace since Barak's election, but I remain very optimistic. I think everyone is waiting for change now. And if change comes, the power of the political extremists will be reduced - not just *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad, but also the extreme right wing in Israeli politics."

Shoufani spent seven years in France as a young man before he was ordained. With his excellent grasp of French, he has become well known in Paris - indeed a biography of him, Le Cure de Nazareth, was published there last year. Shoufani moves with practiced ease among the leaders of society - last Thursday, for example, he held a meeting at the headquarters of the Bronfman family investment firm, Claridge Inc.

Coldness in Relationships

Still, Shoufani is by no means starry-eyed when he looks at life in Europe and North America. At the invitation of the Centre Emilie Gamelin, he spoke at a conference in Joliette on the problems of the aged.

"In the West," he said, "more and more I notice a coldness in people's

relationships. They are afraid of isolation but their very fear is something that creates isolation.

"The flight of people from the church - which is something we haven't seen so much in the Eastern churches - is making Christianity very marginal. But all that stands in its place is consumption.

"And so, in the West, I fear the world is being emptied of meaning."

D Emile Shoufani's office can be contacted by E-mail at almutran

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Graphic

P Photo: Emile Shoufani believes in education for the sake of peace.

Load-Date: October 19, 1999



Bloody payback would backfire

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia) September 14, 2001, Friday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 21

Length: 833 words

Byline: Paul Stenhouse

Body

ATTEMPTS to explain the mind-set of those guilty of the heinous crime against humanity on Tuesday usually falter because it is assumed that there is some rational explanation. There is, and there isn't. Hatred (and fear) of America and the West are part of the mix, but reason was abdicated long ago.

A fanatic, whether belonging to the PLO, IRA, ETA or the Red Brigades, or the Red Army Faction in Germany, or *Hamas*, or any one of myriad other Muslim extremist groups, is psychopathic and ignorant, as well as naive and suggestible. Not unlike Stalin, who reportedly saw "a million deaths (as) a statistic", they see their hapless victims (in the words of an ETA *female* terrorist who killed nine people -- including four girls -- and injured 50 in an attack on the Civil Guard in Spain) as "casualties of war".

I lived in Italy for years at the height of the terror provoked by the Red Brigades. Its members were dysfunctional, mainly middle-class, Marxist-Leninist terrorists who kidnapped and murdered journalists, public figures and carabinieri indiscriminately. Italian president-elect Aldo Moro died at their hands in 1978. Like all terrorists they had delusions of grandeur. Their contemporary, Marxist mass-murderer Pol Pot was described by his brother-in-law leng Sary, as a "megalomaniac" who thought that he was "a god on earth". This genius for self-deception and lying is a characteristic of all ideological militants whose aim is to destabilise the target society. Psychologists are predicting that many people will suffer long-term post-traumatic stress disorder in the wake of Tuesday's horrific events. But what of the USA as a society? How will it exorcise this trauma?

Far from being afraid of a US response, I suggest that the perpetrators undoubtedly planned for a reflex and bloody response -- with all the military power that the US can summon -- against one of any number of targets around the world. Iran, Iraq, the Palestinian territories, Libya, Afghanistan have all been mentioned as possible sponsors of the suicide squads so intent on destabilising the US and the West. If the US identifies those responsible and exacts immediate and bloody revenge, this will go a long way towards achieving the terrorists' aim -- which was both to provoke a response and send a battle call to rally fundamentalist extremists all over the world. Military revenge will probably provoke further, and even bloodier, acts of terror.

Were it to emerge, for instance, that Osama bin Laden organised and financed the attacks, and that the Taliban knew of the plan, it is to be hoped that the US would try all other avenues, especially diplomatic and economic, before resorting to military means of apprehending the culprits. Put bluntly, US involvement in a war in Afghanistan (or in any other country identified as a sponsor of terrorism) would play into the hands of those who like to paint the US and the West as oppressors. Pressuring the more co-operative Islamic states to have bin Laden handed over, tried, executed or confined incommunicado would be a far greater deterrent to others. Terrorists are control freaks: they must not be allowed to stage-manage the response of their victims, no matter how vile the provocation.

Bloody payback would backfire

The US and all non-Muslim countries need to consider some of the causes of the terror. Critiques of the human rights situations in the Islamic world such as that offered by a group of Muslim intellectuals in Tunis, in 1983, which addressed the plight of mainly Arabic Muslims, are just as relevant today.

The Tunisian critique showed that the vast majority of Muslims living in the Middle East live in fear. They are politically repressed and denied free speech, facing imprisonment, torture and murder if they protest. Islamic rulers have a record of cruelty and tyranny stretching back to the time of Mohammed. Islamic Law, as it is understood by fundamentalists, is incompatible with democracy and tolerance for other religions and political systems.

Fundamentalist Islam is doomed to failure, like Fascism, Nazism and Marxist-Leninist Communism. To hasten its demise, the US and the West must confront the social injustices perpetrated against Muslims and non-Muslims alike in Islamic countries. As a Muslim from Libya wrote: "We are not all terrorists; has anyone noticed that some of us have been terrorised? Most Libyans feel vulnerable because we cannot rely on the West to support us in our fight against Gaddafi and his regime".

Support for moderate Muslim leaders, especially religious leaders, and refusal to support oppressive and corrupt Islamic military regimes for the sake of oil and profit from arms sales, would send a clear message to the Islamic world that the West is not in moral decline and would do more to uproot Islamic terrorism than billions of dollars spent on a military response to the unspeakable evil unleashed on the US last Tuesday.

Dr Paul Stenhouse is a priest and journalist who specialises in Middle Eastern politics and Islam.

Load-Date: November 12, 2001



Killers make funeral of wedding: Settler cell suspected of ambushing Palestinians

The Guardian (London)
July 21, 2001

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Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 15

Length: 791 words

Byline: Suzanne Goldenberg in Idna village, West Bank

Body

The idling car with the yellow Israeli plates flashed its headlights, willing the Palestinian wedding party in the battered old Peugeot through the junction. "As soon as we crossed the road, they opened fire," said Hilmi Tmeizi.

The first shots hit the Palestinian driver in the forehead, and the car plunged into the raised bank of the road.

As Hilmi, 17, cowered in the front seat beside the slain driver, two men with automatic weapons got out of the white Mitsubishi and killed the man on the other side of the Palestinian youth.

Less than two minutes later, the gunmen were back in their car, crashing through an Israeli army barricade on a road leading west towards Israel. In the Peugeot, they left behind the two dead men on either side of Hilmi, and in a back seat slick with blood, a baby boy three and a half months old, two severely injured <u>women</u>, and a wounded girl, aged three years. Hilmi was hit in the shoulder.

Thursday night's gangland-style execution of the wedding party was claimed by a group linked to the outlawed Jewish extremist movement Kach and calling itself the Committee for Road Safety. A manhunt was under way yesterday for the killers - reported to be four Jewish men wearing skullcaps.

It was the deadliest attack by Israeli extremists since 1994, when a militant settler, Baruch Goldstein, shot dead 29 Palestinians as they knelt in prayer in the nearby town of Hebron.

The attack was a copy of the drive-by shootings and ambushes that have killed nearly 30 Jewish settlers since the latest phase of the Palestinian uprising began almost 10 months ago.

Frustrated by these shootings and infuriated at the refusal of the prime minister, Ariel Sharon, to reoccupy Palestinian-run towns, Jewish vigilantes are starting to take the law into their own hands.

Earlier this week, the chief of Israel's Shin Bet intelligence agency warned that the settlers' rage was being channelled into a cell of armed extremists.

The violence breeds violence: at the burial of the wedding group yesterday, Palestinians demanded vengeance or threatened to turn themselves into human bombs.

Last night the Israelis and Palestinians blamed each other for an explosion that killed at least one man and injured three in a building in Hebron. The Palestinians said that the house had been hit in a helicopter strike, but the Israelis implied that the building was a bomb factory.

The episode added to the case for outside observers for the West Bank and Gaza. But Mr Sharon rejected such a measure, endorsed just hours earlier by foreign ministers of the G8 group of leading industrial countries in Rome.

His defence minister, Binyamin Bin Eliezer, momentarily showed some softening, telling Israeli TV he would accept observers - if it was a US force, and if Israel had no choice: "If something will be imposed on us . . . then, without any other possibility, I will accept the presence of the CIA here."

The killings, which were condemned by Israelis of almost every political stripe, are bound to ignite new violence centred on Hebron, a cauldron of hatred where 400 Jewish settlers are surrounded by 120,000 Palestinians.

A spokesman for the Hebron settlers, David Wilder, would not condemn the attack. "If they ever do find who did shoot last night they'll find it was not a psychopathic killer but normal people who have just had it. How many funerals can you go to?"

Because the Tmeizi family was gunned down in a part of the West Bank that is entirely under Israeli military occupation, the killing affords Palestinians the chance to throw back in Mr Sharon's face his routine charge that Yasser Arafat is responsible for all acts of violence in Palestinian territory - including those by his opponents in the *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad.

"This horrible crime could not be carried out without the help of both the political and military levels in Israel," the Palestinian security chief in the West Bank told the Voice of Palestine radio.

For the people of Idna, six miles north-west of the town, the killings are a tragedy. All of the dead are from the same extended clan, the Tmeizis. The car was ferrying passengers from a wedding at the centre of the village to a family home across the main road.

For the short trip the parents of the dead baby, Diya Tmeizi, had set their plump boy in the lap of a young auntie in the car, Mai Tmeizi.

Yesterday, Mai lay writhing in Hebron's al-Ahli hospital, her left leg encased in plaster studded with metal rods. A nurse held up an X-ray: from ankle to knee the leg was shredded by shrapnel, evidence of high velocity bullets.

Mai, 17, had been married for two weeks. The <u>women</u> at her bedside could not bear to tell her that her husband, Mohammed Salameh Tmeizi, was being buried yesterday.

Load-Date: July 30, 2001



World Briefing

The New York Times

September 30, 1999, Thursday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A;; Section A; Page 6; Column 4; Foreign Desk; Column 4;

Length: 781 words

Byline: Compiled by Terence Neilan

Compiled by Terence Neilan

Body

EUROPE

BRITAIN: PINOCHET DEFENSE

Many of the interrogation techniques used during Gen. Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship in Chile were the same used by British forces in Northern Ireland and found by the European Court of Human Rights not to constitute torture, the lawyer leading the general's defense told a London court. Spain is seeking the extradition of Mr. Pinochet, 83, to stand trial on torture charges. Warren Hoge (NYT)

BRITAIN: BLAIR INVITATION TO TORIES

A day after assailing "conservative forces," at the Labor Party convention, for holding Britain back, Prime Minister Tony Blair invited Conservatives to desert their party, saying Labor represents "traditional" conservative values better than a "Conservative Party more extreme than ever." The Tory leader William Hague said the attack showed "incredible hypocrisy." Warren Hoge (NYT)

SCOTLAND: GAELIC SCHOOL OPENS

Scotland opened its first all-Gaelic public primary school in an effort to safeguard a traditional language spoken by only 60,000 people, most of whom live in the Highlands and the Western islands. The school, in Glasgow, has 109 students and will hold all classes solely in Gaelic, with English offered as a separate course starting in the third grade. Warren Hoge (NYT)

ITALY: EXPATRIATES GET VOTE

Parliament approved a law that allows Italian citizens abroad to vote in Italian elections. Government statistics show that about 3.6 million Italian citizens live outside the country, more than 300,000 of them in the United States and Canada. Alessandra Stanley (NYT)

ITALY: WOMEN CAN ENLIST

World Briefing

Up to 20,000 <u>women</u> are expected to apply to join Italy's armed services after Parliament passed a law that allows <u>women</u> to serve as volunteers in the military. Most other European countries already allow <u>women</u> to serve. Alessandra Stanley (NYT)

LIECHTENSTEIN: PRINCELY THREAT

Prince Hans-Adam II has threatened to move to Austria if Parliament votes to rein in his powers, his spokesman said. The prince seeks the authority to dissolve the Government and Parliament without explanation. He said he would first work with his advisers to create a new reform package that both sides can accept. (Agence France-Presse)

BULGARIA: DEATH PENALTY BAN

Bulgaria has confirmed its decision to abolish the death penalty by ratifying an international ban on capital punishment, the Council of Europe said. The council said the decision would take effect on Friday. (Agence France-Presse)

THE AMERICAS

MEXICO: NEW MAYOR

Mexico City's legislative council has ratified Rosario Robles Berlanga to succeed Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano and become the first woman to be Mayor. Ms. Robles served for nearly two years as the chief of staff of Mr. Cardenas, who stepped down on Tuesday to run for President. Julia Preston (NYT)

COLOMBIA: NEW VIOLENCE

Yet another outbreak of violence by armed groups of the left and right has resulted in the deaths of at least 15 people and the kidnapping of another 16. Right-wing death squads killed 10 people and abducted 10 in Magdalena and Antioquia provinces, authorities said, while a unit of the Marxist-Leninist People's Liberation Army stormed into a village in the same northern region, executing five people. Larry Rohter (NYT)

ASIA

JAPAN: CULT CUTS BACK

Bowing to public pressure, the Japanese doomsday cult accused of a 1995 nerve gas attack on Tokyo subways said it would close its branches, stop recruiting and stop using its current name. But the Aum Shinri Kyo (Supreme Truth Sect) did not offer an anticipated public apology for the incident that killed 12 and left thousands ill, saying only that it was considering its future. (Reuters)

MIDDLE EAST

JORDAN: EDITOR HELD

The editor-in-chief of an independent newspaper was arrested in connection with the publication of articles by a pro-*Hamas* former Islamist legislator, the newspaper said. "Editor in chief Azzam Yunis was summoned for questioning this morning by the Amman prosecutor general and later ordered detained for 14 days," a spokesman for the newspaper Al-Arab Al-Yawm said. (Agence France-Presse)

IRAQ: NEW ATTACKS

World Briefing

Iraqi forces fired surface-to-air missiles at American and British aircraft flying over the south, a military spokesman in Baghdad said. He added that the planes "fled in the direction of their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait." (Agence France-Presse)

AFRICA

UGANDA: HOMOSEXUALS FACE ARREST

President Yoweri Museveni has ordered the arrest of homosexuals in Uganda, saying United Nations human rights conventions do not necessarily apply to Africa, the Government-owned New Vision newspaper quoted him as saying. Homosexual acts are illegal in Uganda and carry a maximum punishment of life imprisonment. (AP)

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photos

Load-Date: September 30, 1999



Where fear rules; The grinding West Bank conflict has left people feeling utterly trapped in a terrifying nightmare of bombings and blood.

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

June 1, 2001 Friday Final Edition

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Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. C03; News

Length: 711 words

Byline: Ben Lynfield

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

At first glance, Sharon Davara, a student at the Hebrew University, seems calm and collected as she sits with friends at the counter of Elisha's Espresso Bar in the heart of Jewish West Jerusalem.

It is Sunday morning, an hour after the latest bombing by Palestinian militants -- this one just around the corner, near the office where she works part-time -- and the third in 48 hours. It is only after Davara is asked about the apparent escalation in bomb attacks that her inner struggle appears.

"The feeling of fear controls my mind. It affects everything," says Davara, of the eight-month-old intifada, or uprising.

The Christian Science Monitor

"Before I brush my teeth, I open the newspaper to make sure nothing has been bombed...

"You sit on the bus and look around to see if there are Arabs or someone with a big bag. You don't want to go out."

Psychologists here say the fears of Davara and Israel's six million other citizens are out of proportion to real danger they face.

Out of the 88 Israelis who have been killed on the Israeli side during the intifada, most were on the front lines -- either in the army or living in Jewish settlements. At least 478 Palestinians have been killed.

To the militant Arab groups launching the attacks, it's what terrorism is intended to do: sow insecurity among Israeli citizens and political leaders.

A survey last week in the Ma'ariv newspaper showed that for the first time Israelis, by a margin of 48 to 45 per cent, favour a U.S.-imposed ceasefire in the conflict with the Palestinians -- despite a sharp swing to right-wing parties among those surveyed.

"The message is 'come save us, the main thing is to get us out of this trouble," wrote Chemi Shalev, the paper's diplomatic correspondent. "The public is ready to clutch any straw that might get it out of its distress."

Where fear rules; The grinding West Bank conflict has left people feeling utterly trapped in a terrifying nightmare of bombings and blood.

For <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad, the attacks "are part of a long-term struggle they hope will end up by defeating Israel and establishing an Islamic state," says Ghassan Khatib, head of the Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre.

Attacks in the occupied territories by Fatah, a Palestinian political movement with an armed wing, are "aimed at giving Israelis the impression that if there is no peace then there will be a price to pay," says Khatib.

Palestinian fears appear even more widespread. "I think everyone in the Gaza Strip is traumatized one way or another," psychiatrist lyad Sarraj recently told Reuters. "A state of tension doesn't pass anyone by."

Anxieties for Israelis and Palestinians play out in many ways, psychologists say, beginning at home. Tensions are exacerbating among couples, who lose their sense of security and belief they can work out differences.

"People's paths in life aren't as clear as they used to be. They are all braced inside -- waiting for the next attack," says Janet Baumgold-Land, a therapist at the Counseling Centre for <u>Women</u> in Jerusalem.

"They stay where they are, they are not looking forward to moving onto something new. The idea is to stop here and dig in, rather than feel that the world is open," she says.

Chanoch Yerushalmi, director of student counselling at the Hebrew University, says his patients are having dreams about bombings and terrorist acts.

Cheli Mualem, who works with Davara, says that every day she wonders which is the best bus line to take so that "you don't come home without your arms and legs."

This kind of response is not simply a reaction to the actual danger of bombs, psychologists say. Rather, it comes from an accumulation of previous traumas or as a result of the tremendous emphasis placed by the government and media on bombings by Palestinians.

"We are in a tunnel without light," says Cheli's sister, Michal, who, like many Israelis, immediately phones friends and relatives to check on them after explosions.

In the view of Baumgold-Land, the government highlights the bombings to send the message that Israelis are "the good guys" while the Palestinians are "terrorists."

"They'll show footage of terrorist attacks over and over, but they won't show Palestinian victims of the Israeli army. The feeling is that we're the victims, it's only happening to us. We tend to demonize the other so that it becomes a whole group that is out to get us. It's way beyond a specific act."

Graphic

Photo: Reuters; An Israeli woman cries in the aftermath of the shooting death of a settler near the city of Nablus.

Load-Date: November 5, 2001