

Massive Crackdown On Terrorists

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli security forces raided the Balata refugee camp near Nablus in a massive crackdown on terrorists held responsible for recent unrest in the West Bank. A number of arrests were made, including that of Jihad Mseimeh, described as head of the local branch of Shabiba, the El Fatah youth organization.

A deportation order was promptly issued by Maj. Gen. Amram Mitzna, commander of the central sector. It was not immediately carried out to give Mseimeh a chance to appeal to the military appeals board, as allowed by law.

A similar sweep in the Gaza Strip culminated in the deportation of Ahmad Nasser, a resident of the Khan Yunis refugee camp and the Shabiba leader there. He indicated he would not appeal and was expelled to Jordan.

The Balata camp, long one of the worst trouble spots in the West Bank, was hit by surprise following several gasoline bomb attacks on Israeli soldiers Saturday night which caused no casualties. The camp was put under curfew and closed off as a military zone while suspects were lined up for questioning.

But women and children filled the narrow alleys of the camp chanting anti-Israel and pro-Palestinian slogans. Tear gas was used to disperse them.

Mseimeh was a major catch. He was once sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for planting a bomb in the central square of Nablus and illegal possession of explosives. But he was freed three years ago as part of a prisoner exchange with the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, headed by Ahmed Jabreel.

Since then he had been placed under administrative detention for four months on suspicion of terrorist acts. He resumed his subversive activities after his release, security sources said.

The arrest and deportation of Ahmed Nasser capped 10 days of counter-terrorist activities in the Gaza Strip during which several El Fatah cells were uncovered and a number of arrests made, it was disclosed.

The suspects are believed to have been responsible for terrorist and sabotage acts in the Gaza Strip and in Israel. A bomb explosion in a Ramat Gan market recently was attributed to the group, as was a bomb planted in a bus in Ashkelon. It was discovered before it exploded.

Two terrorists were killed in the Gaza Strip in recent days. One was shot fleeing security forces and the other blew himself up while making an explosive device.

Free Tuition Program Announced For Young Jewish Deaf Camp Being Held

Free tuition will be awarded to those attending the first summer camp experience for young Jewish deaf people, June 18 - 21, at Camp Henry Horner in Round Lake, Ill.

The program is designed to attract deaf Jewish high schoolers from throughout the United States, according to Douglas Goldhamer, rabbi of Chicago's Congregation Bene Shalom of the Deaf. Participants in the program will take part in various Jewish customs and exercises, and dietary laws will be observed. One of the main purposes of the program is to provide an opportunity for those with hearing impairments to meet each other.

Many of Congregation Bene Shalom of the Deaf's families have at least one member who has a partial or total loss of hearing. It is the oldest full-time Jewish congregation for the deaf in the world. Its services are conducted in both voice and sign language.

Those seeking further information are invited to write Rabbi Goldhamer at the Congregation's offices, 4435 West Oakton Street, Skokie, Ill. 60076, or to call 312/677-3330. Those who are hearing impaired can reach him via TTY-312/674-0327.

JNF New Leadership Sponsors 3rd Annual Mission To Israel, July 26 - August 6

Reservations can still be made for the Jewish National Fund New Leadership Network's third annual mission to Israel, from Sunday July 26, to Thursday, August 6, 1987.

"New Leadership missions are action-packed, exciting, unforgettable experiences, and they provide an opportunity for travel throughout Israel with other members from across the USA," stated Richard Spitz, director of the New Leadership of Greater New York.

Besides surveying JNF's historic accomplishments in transforming Israel's environment and enjoying all major tourist attractions, mission participants will enjoy such special events as meetings with top-level Israeli officials; exciting nightlife and entertainment in Jaffa, the ancient port city; an exploration through the subterranean city of Acre, with its colorful bazaars reminiscent of the Middle Ages; a tour of Rosh Hanikra, Israel's beautiful underwater grottoes; a tour of Kfar Veradim, part of Israel's "Silicon Valley"; a visit to the ancient synagogues and charming artists' quarter of Safed, and two full days' expedition throughout Jerusalem. The trip will be videotaped and edited into a personal souvenir available to participants.

The New Leadership Network is a group of young business and professional people -- married or single -- who have organized themselves across the United States to support JNF's ecological, environmental and agricultural development of Israel.

For more information on the New Leadership annual mission, contact the JNF mission desk at (212) 570-1673, 1674 or 1675 or write to the Jewish National Fund, 42 East 69th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021.

SPRING GLEN, N.Y. (JTA) — Five leading American Orthodox rabbis, just returned from the Soviet Union, reported here that the Soviet authorities accepted their proposal to allow six young Russian Jews to study at rabbinical seminaries in the U.S. for the purpose of ordination.

Distrust Of Soviets, PLO Cloud Conference Issue

By Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

It would be ironic, if not tragic, were the current proposals for an international Middle East peace conference between Israelis and Arabs to end up achieving nothing more than a war between Jews.

Recently, a group of Jewish leaders met with Yossi Ben Aharon, an official representative of Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir. Soon after, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres addressed the American Jewish Committee in New York. As one listens carefully to their respective versions of the proposal for convening an international conference under UN Security Council auspices, it is as if they are describing two differing realities.

Shamir sees the proposal as bristling with danger for Israel. He fears that the Soviet Union would exploit the conference to impose a pro-Syrian, pro-PLO settlement that could endanger Israel's existence.

Peres apparently has an agreement with King Hussein of Jordan that would limit the Soviet Union to a ceremonial role and would involve Palestinians committed to co-existence with Israel.

The dilemma is heavy, for the majority of Israelis and American Jews are eager for peace through direct negotiations, but the distrust of the Soviet Union and the PLO is profound.

Before racing into any agreements, it is essential that the United States make clear it will oppose any imposed settlements. And, above all, the Soviet Union and Palestinians will need to demonstrate through deeds, not just words, that they are genuinely committed to peace and co-existence.

Spiritual Thought For The Week

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