## Israeli Ambulance Driver Assaulted By Egyptian Official At Taba Border

Israeli ambulance driver clothes arrived and tried was assaulted by an Egyptian army officer recently at the Taba border checkpoint, as he was transferring a patient from the Taba Sonesta Hotel to a hospital in Eilat.

The Magen David Adom ambulance had been summoned to transfer a Ramat Gan resident who had injured his shoulder when he slipped into an empty decorative fishpond on the hotel grounds.

Because of his injuries, the man was propped up inside the ambulance with his legs against the rear door.

Under normal procedures agreed to by Israel and Egypt, ambulances do not have to undrego the usual vehicle and passenger checks at the border. Paperwork is completed later to allow prompt medical treatment.

But this time, eight border guards halted the ambulance and sought to carry out a check. the driver When

TEL AVIV (JTA) - An army officer in plain to force open the rear

The ambulance driver, fearing further injuries to the patient, tried to prevent him. Apparently regarding this as an attack on him, the officer punched the driver in the face, knocking him to the ground.

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officer in fluent Arabic, and the officer placed him under arrest, declaring he and the ambulance would not be released "even President (Hosni) Mubarak himself were to come and appeal."

He said that cursing an army officer warrants a death sentence in Egypt.

The incident ended when, on the intervention of senior Israeli and Egyptian officials, the The driver cursed the ambulance driver agreed

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apology and the Egyp- developed by Israeli entian officer rescinded trepreneurs in the 1970s, his demand for the was handed over to driver's arrest.

Taba, a beach resort part of a border dispute

to offer a written area outside Eilat Egypt on March 15, as

settlement.

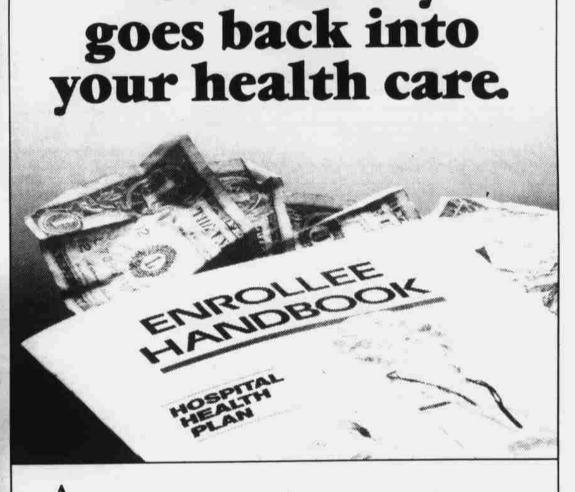
Under the deal, the Sonesta Hotel was sold to Egypt. But Israeli tourists still frequent the popular resort.







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