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De Cuellar's Palestine

*The UN secretary general uses the 'P' word,
touching off a hysterical Israeli response*

The secretary general of United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar, earned a rebuke from the Israeli foreign ministry on August 30 when he referred to the West Bank and Gaza as Palestine.

De Cuellar made his statement to reporters on August 29, after a meeting in Geneva with Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yaser Arafat.

He said he had discussed the situation in Palestine with the Palestinian leader. When journalists

asked him if his use of the word "Palestine" was deliberate, he said there was nothing unusual in a UN official referring to the Israeli-occupied territories by that name.

"There is a Palestinian people," he said, "and they live in a land called Palestine."

RESOLUTION

He added that no one should forget UN Resolution 181 of November 29, 1947.

That resolution, which was

adopted by 33 votes, with 13 against and 10 abstentions, provided for the creation of Jewish and Arab states in Palestine, with the Arab state covering an area of 11,800 square kilometers (43 percent of the territory of Palestine) and the Jewish state 14,500 square kilometers (57 percent).

According to the resolution, a *corpus separatum* should be established for the city of Jerusalem which would be subject to a special international regime to be administered by the UN, and the Arab and Jewish states should be economically united.

The UN proposed that both states pass laws against discrimination on the basis of religion, race, language or sex, prohibit the expropriation of Jews' lands in Arab Palestine and Arabs' lands in Israel "except for public purposes," and allow persons 18 years or older to choose to be citizens of either state unless they are Jews who have already been residing in the proposed Arab state.

Alon Liel, a spokesman for the Israeli foreign ministry, said De Cuellar's "terminology is unacceptable to us" and promised to make this known to the UN chief through diplomatic channels.

After nine months of study...

Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center of Strategic Studies has, after much analysis and evaluation, come to conclusion that one of the principal losers in the Palestinian uprising is Israel.

This considered view appeared in a special chapter of the Jaffee Center's recently published 506-page book, *The Middle East Military Balance, 1987-1988*.

The chapter, written by Aryeh Shalev, further suggested that Israel could not hope to end the *intifada* by force alone.

As for the principal beneficiary of the *intifada*, Shalev, in another explosion of insight, named the Palestine Liberation Organization, but wondered whether the PLO would prove capable of taking the "difficult decisions" necessary to become a partner in negotiations.



Palestinian political platform in the making

Don't expect any gratuitous concessions to Israel, says Abu Iyad

Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) has said that the Palestine National Council may or may not issue a declaration of independence and form a government-in-exile, but the likelihood is that it will adopt a new Palestinian political platform.

Speaking in an August 30 interview with a London-based publication, Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yaser Arafat's second-in-command said there was one thing the world could be certain about: the PNC would not make any gratuitous concessions to Israel.

A meeting of the PNC was to be held in Algiers later this month, but Abu Iyad reported that the meeting could be postponed until October. The PLO's legislative body, which serves as the Palestinians' parliament-in-exile, has been widely expected to make a dramatic move toward Palestinian statehood to bolster the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and fill the gap left by Jordan, which broke off legal and administrative links with the West Bank in July.

CONSULTATIONS

The constituent groups of the PLO have been holding consultations in various Arab capitals to arrive at a unified position on the next step the organization should take. Parallel discussions have been under way between PLO leaders, UN officials, Arab governments and representatives of Eastern and Western nations.

Abu Iyad said that the outcome of these talks would be analyzed at a meeting of the PLO's Executive Committee in the second week of September, when a

final decision on the measures to be taken would be adopted and a specific date would be set for the landmark meeting of the PNC.

So far, he said, some PLO groups were placing the emphasis on the need for a Palestinian political initiative or platform to be adopted by the PNC, "whether it is put forward by the proposed (Palestinian) government or the PLO as such... Everything is under study. There are those who argue against a declaration of independence now, saying that a political platform by the PLO would suffice."

Asked if he believed the platform would offer mutual Palestinian-Israeli recognition, Abu Iyad said: "Nobody will offer recognition gratuitously... Recognition can be announced as part of a whole at the international peace conference."

He added that in the meetings held so far between four major PLO groups -- Fateh, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), and the Palestinian Communist Party -- "everyone concentrated on determining which moves would best serve the interests of the Palestinian people without making gratuitous concessions."

MUTUAL

Abu Iyad denied that he had told a French magazine earlier in August that he was ready for mutual Palestinian-Israeli recognition.

"What I said was that this and everything else is to be discussed at the international conference," he said. "It is also up to the Palestinian leadership to decide how much of the political platform it wishes to release or withhold at this stage... We're all awaiting the proposed political program of the PLO, which would commit me as well as everyone else."

The political program, he said, should be "unequivocal and geared toward winning as much international support as possible."

As for rumors of disputes within the PLO on the direction its expected initiative should take, Abu Iyad said they had been "blown out of proportion."

He noted that the Unified National Command of the Uprising, which groups several of the PLO's constituent organizations, was unified in its public request to the PLO to take a bold step.

In its 24th leaflet, issued August 22, the Unified National Command expressed confidence that the PNC would now "adopt a clear and comprehensive political program that will mobilize maximum international support for our people's national rights" and would "take practical steps to support the *intifada*."

The crime of parenthood

Israeli Trade Minister Ariel Sharon has proposed a new pretext to throw Palestinians out of the West Bank and Gaza.

In an August 31 speech in Jerusalem, Sharon suggested that any Palestinian man or woman found guilty of parenting a child who threw stones be immediately deported.

He did not say what punishment should be reserved for the stone-throwing child, but he did demand the death sentence for "terrorists," and his expansive view of terrorists has been known to accommodate infants packing pebbles.



Savages in uniform

Western relief workers, stunned by a new wave of Israeli brutality, say that no matter how vicious the occupation soldiers get, the bludgeon isn't working'

Senior Western relief officials working in UN agencies and private organizations told the *Reuter* news agency on August 31 that a new wave of brutality had been unleashed against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza by the Israeli occupation forces.

They said beatings, the use of live ammunition and various forms of collective punishment, including indiscriminate harassment and punitive curfews, had reached the highest level since last February and March.

A senior UN relief official told *Reuter's* Paul Taylor: "The UN is extremely worried by what seems to be an escalation of mass punishment and an increased use of firearms, especially against very young children."

CHILDREN

The head of one humanitarian organization said, "Live ammunition is now used routinely against children."

The director of another relief agency said the Israelis' increased savagery had merely stiffened the resistance of the Palestinian people. "The bludgeon hasn't worked," he said.

The statements were made as the news broke that another Palestinian teenager, 16-year-old Ayman Ahmad Najjar, of Rafah, Gaza, had been beaten to death by Israeli soldiers, and that a 22-year-old West Bank villager, Lou'ay Fakhri Barghouti of Dair Ghassaneh, had been killed by Israeli troops using live ammunition.

Najjar was attacked on the night of August 30. After being downed by rubber bullets, he was beaten by

Israeli soldiers. He died in hospital the next morning, and doctors determined the cause of death as brain hemorrhage.

Darghouthi was shot killed at dawn on August 31, during a raid on his village by Israeli troops mounting a campaign of indiscriminate arrests. Four other villagers were wounded in the raid, and five were dragged away by the Israeli soldiers, presumably to be thrown in jail without trial or charges.

Reuter reported that in the first three weeks of August, 92 Palestinians suffering from serious beating injuries, including several multiple fractures, were admitted to the Ahli Hospital, one of three major hospitals in the Gaza Strip.

BEATEN

Dr. Habis Wahiddi of Ahli Hospital told *Reuter*: "We have seen a sharp rise in the number of patients we receive who have been beaten by the army. We received seven or eight children between the age of five and seven who were beaten. Most of the rest were aged between seven and 15."

Hospital admission records seen by *Reuter* indicated that in a single night, 120 residents of Gaza City's Sheikh Radwan neighborhood had been taken to hospital with beating wounds.

International relief workers in the Gaza Strip said that in two cases in Deir al-Balah and the Bureij refugee camp, they witnessed Israeli soldiers wielding leather whips.

The relief workers said midnight beatings were becoming more common. In the Shate' and Jabalya refugee camps and the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza, all

men over 15 have been ordered into the streets during the night, made to stand for hours, and then beaten.

At the height of the latest crackdown, all 700,000 Gaza Strip residents were confined to their homes in a three-day curfew, and UN clinic records showed that more than 100 Palestinians per day were treated for tear-gas inhalation and beating injuries.

TALLIES

Correspondent Joel Greenberg, writing for the U.S. daily *Christian Science Monitor* on August 31, said that "reliable tallies" indicated that since last December Israel had expelled 33 Palestinians (25 more have received expulsion orders but have yet to be thrown out), demolished 75 Palestinian homes, and detained 2,600 without trial (in all 18,000 have been arrested, 5,000 without charges or trial, of whom 2,600-3,000 are still in jail, according to Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who announced the figures at the Knesset on August 30.

But "the *intifada* is at the same level it was at the beginning," Jerusalem lawyer-journalist Ziad Abu Zayad told Greenberg. "All the Palestinians are involved in the uprising, and if the Israelis want to punish people for that, they will have to outlaw and imprison all of us, which is impossible."

In a recent letter to Rabin, Knesset Member Dedi Zucker said that every deportation, imprisonment or other arbitrary punishment "damages efforts to calm things down. Every such measure creates a local hero, causes unrest, and fuels the fires of revenge."



The not-so-myopic Israeli

A new survey commissioned by the Israeli Labor Party has revealed that 71 percent of the people of Israel want an international peace conference -- the conference that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has rejected -- and 71 percent support negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The 71 percent calling for negotiations with the PLO broke down into 60 percent who wanted the talks to be conditional on the organization's recognition of Israel and renunciation of "terror," and 11 percent who insisted on unconditional talks.

The survey, whose findings were made public on September 1, revealed that 57 percent want a peaceful settlement in which Israel withdraws from territories it occupied in 1967, and 37 percent favor the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

TAMIR

As the findings were being announced in Tel Aviv, the director general of the Israeli foreign ministry was stating in Washington that there was no substitute for the PLO as the national representative of the Palestinian people.

"Everyone knows that the PLO is, for the

Israeli public, press and officials show flashes of realism as the inevitability of Palestinian victory begins to dawn on them

Palestinians, for the Palestinian people, their national organization," Director General Avrahm Tamir said in a meeting attended by reporters and Jewish leaders in the American capital. "There is no replacement for them."

Tamir, whose recognition of the facts did not extend to an announcement of Israel's readiness to negotiate with the PLO and accept the inevitability of Palestinian statehood, nevertheless mocked the Israelis who believed they could maintain the status quo in the Occupied Territories.

"Some people think," he said, "that maybe we can wait and wait and wait until there will be a change in the Arab world and they will crawl on their knees and be ready to accept a peace on the basis of our conditions. But as long as there is no peace process, the Palestinian uprising will continue."

Tamir's statements brought predictable protests from various

Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Shamir, who demanded his dismissal. As this issue goes to press, no action has been taken against Tamir yet.

OFFICERS

The survey and Tamir's statements coincided with another reason offensive by a group of Israeli army reserve officers calling themselves the Council for Peace and Security.

The Council, composed of 34 full generals and hundreds of other senior officers, issued a statement on August 31 to the effect that "peace without the territories is better than war with them."

The group, led by former military intelligence chief Shlomo Gazit, warned that continued occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip would divert the energies of the Israeli armed forces, split the Israeli population, obstruct peace, pose a demographic danger to Zionist Israel, and lead to

"a war in which the number of Israeli casualties will be worse than we have ever known."

Answering the Israelis who said Israel needed the territories for "strategic depth" that would act as a buffer against external military threat, the Council said that one did not have to be a reserve general to understand that the territories could not serve as a buffer in the age of missiles.

TIME

Meanwhile, in an August 30 editorial, the Israeli newspaper *Maariv* wondered why, if the PLO was so unacceptable as a negotiating partner, Israel was banging on every word uttered by the organization. It suggested that this was so because Israel suspected that no negotiations on the Palestinian issue were possible without the PLO.

"The fact that Israel rejects the PLO out of hand no longer carries much weight in the world," the paper said. "The world is merely awaiting the opportunity to offer the PLO full diplomatic recognition and the PLO has only to determine if and when this will occur."

Time, *Maariv* mourned, was working in the PLO's favor, not Israel's.



Give it up

Stop resisting the intifada and the PLO, advises a Washington think tank

A leading Washington think tank has said that the Israeli crackdown, no matter how savage it becomes, can never end the Palestinian resistance, and that the Palestinians have become a nation that only the Palestine Liberation Organization can represent.

These conclusions, among others, came in a monograph recently published by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), which is producing a series of papers designed to "assist the next generation of national (U.S.) leaders to anticipate and grapple with (foreign policy) problems before crisis erupts."

The assessments and recommendations on the Palestinian problem, titled "U.S. Policy toward the Arab-Israeli Conflict: Tasks for the Next President," was written by Robert G. Neumann, senior adviser at CSIS and director of the Middle East Studies Program. Neumann was director of the State Department transition team for the Reagan administration in 1980-81, and has served as U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

INEVITABLE

"Whatever the duration of the Palestinian uprising, whatever the success or failure of the increasingly harsh measures of the Israelis," Neumann wrote, "one thing is certain and predictable: the resistance to occupation will not end. *Nor should it be expected to.* It is inevitable that human beings of any race, religion, or color are bound to resent and resist the

occupation of their habitat by an alien people and culture. The only surprises in the current situation are that the Palestinian resistance has taken so long to reach its present dimensions and that the Israelis are startled by the hatred they see in the eyes of the young Palestinians. The fact that the present situation is untenable is now clear to virtually all observers, both inside and outside Israel. This applies not only to the current uprising and Israeli reaction, but to the continued cohabitation of the two peoples in one country."

Future negotiations, he added, "are impossible without some form of PLO participation."

He explained: "The Palestinians have become a nation in their own minds, and no one can speak for or represent them except the Palestinians themselves." The PLO "is the only entity that has consistently fought for Palestinian nationhood, and it alone represents that nation."

Arguing in favor of a Palestinian mini-state or a Jordanian-Palestinian federation, Neumann dismissed concerns about possible Palestinian expansionist designs on Israel as unrealistic. No agreement would allow the West Bank and Gaza Strip to be militarized, he said, and any future U.S. administration would make sure that Israel was "militarily cap[able] of meeting any attack from any quarter."

EXPULSION

The former American official warned Israel against resorting to the mass expulsion of Palestinians

from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He pointed out that the transfer of Palestinians to Jordan, Syria or Egypt would probably be militarily resisted by these countries, and the transfer of Palestinians to Lebanon would "once again bring that country to the point of explosion."

He said that "such horrors, which would be depicted daily on the world's television screen, would have a profound impact, not only on world opinion in general, but also on U.S. opinion in particular. No U.S. government, no U.S. public, no U.S. Jewish community could remain indifferent to such a development. U.S.-Israeli relations would be strained to the breaking point. If such a situation were to arise, the Jewish community in the United States would be faced with the heartbreaking necessity of either breaking with Israeli policies and siding with the overwhelmingly clear U.S. national interest or running counter to U.S. sentiments and interests, thereby encouraging anti-Semitic feelings."

CONCESSIONS

In a word of advice to future American administrations, Neumann said it was a bad idea to make concessions to Israel in the hope of increasing its security and eliciting concessions from it.

"Unilateral concessions are never a good idea in diplomatic relations," he wrote. "The illusion that greater aid to Israel, cooperative military agreements, and other measures make it easier or more probable for Israel to make concessions has always failed."



The not-so-ugly American

Palestinian leaders view recent U.S. statements and gestures with a mixture of appreciation and suspicion

The United States has decided to stop harassing the Palestine Liberation Organization's observer mission at the UN, and an American diplomat in Jerusalem has said his government may drop its opposition to Palestinian self-determination.

The new developments, coupled with a stiff American protest to Israel against its deportation of Palestinians and a decision by the U.S. authorities to look into complaints about Israeli mistreatment of Palestinian workers, have raised cautious hopes among the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and in the diaspora that Washington may finally be shedding some of its blind pro-Israel bias.

BALANCED

The East Jerusalem Arab daily *al-Fajr*, commenting on the U.S. Justice Department's decision to stop challenging the PLO mission's right to remain at UN Headquarters in New York, quoted the Palestine Liberation Organization's second-in-command, Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), as saying that he hoped the decision heralded a new American policy toward the Palestinians and that the Palestinians appreciated "any balanced American position."

The Palestinians, *al-Fajr* editorialized, were well aware of America's "hostility to them and their cause" but did not bear grudges, always kept an open mind, and were ready to express appreciation for any gesture of support, even if it came from their enemies.

Another daily in Arab Jerusalem, *ash-Shaab*, claimed the American decision as a victory for Palestinian diplomacy, which had mobilized world opinion against the

U.S., and warned against interpreting Washington's move as a sign of a fundamental change in its policy toward the Palestinians.

The United States could not be said to be "speaking a new language," it added, until it changed its policy of unconditional support for Israel and started tackling the facts of the Middle East realistically and even-handedly.

The U.S. Justice Department, going by a 1987 law that banned any PLO offices or activities on U.S. soil had gone to court over the objections of the UN to force the closure of the PLO's UN observer mission.

On June 30, a federal district court in New York had ruled that the new law, the "1987 Anti-Terrorism Act," did not supersede U.S. international obligations under the UN Headquarters Agreement. The Justice Department had fully intended to appeal the decision, but President Ronald Reagan, acting on the advice of the State Department, decided not to press the case further. An announcement to that effect was issued by the Justice Department on August 29, drawing protests from several pro-Israel members of Congress, who were expected to challenge the decision when Congress reconvened in the first week of September after its summer recess.

YEUTTER

The Justice Department's announcement came eight days after acting Secretary of State John Whitehead warned Israel that its continued deportation of Palestinians "could damage our bilateral relations" and six days after U.S. Special Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter announced that his office would open a formal

investigation of Israel's duty-free privileges in the U.S. in response to complaints by the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) that Israel was mistreating Palestinian workers.

In his announcement, Yeutter said his enquiry "is the first step in determining whether these countries (Israel and the Central African Republic) should be denied special access to the U.S. market on the basis of their labor practices. There will be a thorough investigation before we make our formal determination."

Hearings on Israel's labor practices are scheduled to start in October, unless Congress and the pro-Israel lobby, both of which were taken unawares by the decision, make enough noise and exert enough pressure to squash the investigation.

As Israel and its supporters in the U.S. were still ranting about the three unwonted American moves, a senior U.S. diplomat told a Palestinian reporter in Jerusalem that Washington was reevaluating its policy on the Palestinians and considering an end to its opposition to Palestinian self-determination.

UNDERSTANDING

The diplomat, whose name was withheld on his request, said his government was becoming more understanding of the PLO's refusal to accept Security Council Resolution 242 unconditionally.

Acknowledging that the resolution reduced the Palestinian national problem to a problem of refugees, the diplomat said: "We are ready to amend our position in a way that would indicate recognition of the Palestinians as a people involved in a national struggle."

He said that "there are a hundred



Invisible evidence

Two Israeli courts rule that an arrested Jerusalem leader may not see the evidence against him

There is plenty of evidence to justify the arrest of Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein, Israeli courts have ruled, but the catch is that neither Hussein nor his lawyer is allowed to see it.

Hussein was arrested on July 30 on vague charges of "hostile activities." The occupation authorities said the activities included coordination, incitement, "institutionalization of the uprising and attainment of its objectives" in cooperation with Fateh, one of the major Palestine Liberation Organization groups.

When Hussein, shortly after his arrest, asked to see the evidence against him, District Court Judge Eliahu Noam turned down the request. Noam also rejected Hussein's demand that he be given a public trial, insisting that the trial be held in camera.

APPEALED

Hussein appealed both decisions, and on August 30, the Israeli Supreme Court slapped down the appeal.

Hussein's colleagues in Jerusalem were not surprised by the verdicts of the district and supreme courts. "Palestinians are generally arrested, convicted and sentenced without evidence or trial," one of them said. "In the rare cases when a trial is arranged for the benefit of international public opinion, it's almost invariably a sham, a travesty of justice -- as in this case. Here's a man who is being told there's a lot of evidence against him but is not allowed to see or hear what the evidence is. Invisible

evidence and no evidence are twin brothers. And judges who agree to try anyone under such circumstances are more qualified to be judged than to judge."

This is the third time Hussein has been arrested and jailed in less than two years.

PATTERN

His first arrest, in April, 1987, got him a three-month stay in jail. It came after contacts between him and Soviet Jewish activist Anatoly Scharansky.

His second arrest, in September, 1987, came after peace discussions he held with Moshe Amirav, member of the right-wing Herut Party's central committee, who has since been thrown out of the party. Hussein spent nine months in jail that time.

His third arrest on July 30 followed a speech he delivered to the Israeli *Peace Now* movement, in which he supported a Palestinian-Israeli peace proposal put forward last June by Bassam Abu-Sherif, adviser of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. The arrest was accompanied by an order to close Jerusalem's Arab Studies Center, which is headed by Hussein, for a full year.

Considering that each of the three arrests followed a move by Hussein toward peace with the Israelis, his colleagues in Jerusalem see what they describe as "an alarming pattern" in Israel's targeting of the Palestinian leader.

Hussein himself says: "The Israelis are afraid of peace with the Palestinians, and that is one of the reasons they have arrested me."

ways of making this point without necessarily amending 242."

PLO officials have taken note of the recent actions and statements of U.S. government representatives and say they are detecting "a change in the tone" of Washington.

But as one Palestinian leader put it to this newsletter, "It will take more than a few statements and

gestures to wipe out 40 years of American support of Israel's war against Palestinian rights and the very existence of the Palestinian people."

Noting that for all the statements and gestures, American military, economic and political support of the Israelis against the unarmed people of the West Bank

and the Gaza Strip was continuing, he said, "I don't think it will come as a big surprise to anyone when we say that we regard the new face Washington is trying to show us with a good deal of suspicion. We hope the suspicion is not justified, but the coming few months will settle the question one way or another."



Cohen get your gun

*A stone should be reclassified as a lethal weapon,
says Shamir as he hands an Israeli settler back his Uzi,
and stone-wielders should be shot*

The prime minister of Israel, Yitzhak Shamir, has demanded that Israeli civilians and soldiers be given the right to shoot Palestinians wielding stones without having to fire warning shots first.

A stone, the prime minister's office quoted him as saying last week, should be reclassified as a lethal weapon, and any Palestinian wielding one should be fair game for the heavily armed Jewish soldiers and settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shamir made the statement after meeting with a Jewish West Bank settler, Misha'el Cohen, who was outraged because soldiers had confiscated his Uzi submachinegun after he almost blew their head off while trying to shoot at Palestinian children.

Cohen, a resident at the Kiryat Arba Jewish settlement near Hebron on the West Bank, was driving in al-Arub on August 24 when the bus ahead of him was attacked by stone-throwing Palestinian children. He got out of his car and started shooting, and the bullets whistled by the heads of Israeli soldiers manning a lookout post nearby, frightening them badly and prompting them to seize his Uzi.

WEAPON

Yossi Ahimeir, an aide to Shamir, quoted the prime minister as declaring that "a stone must be considered a weapon that can end your life" and be treated as such.

Reporters interviewing Gaza and West Bank Palestinians after Shamir's statement made the headline reported reactions bordering on amusement:

"So what's new?" said one Palestinian youth in Ramallah. "They've been shooting Palestinians holding stones for months."

A Palestinian housewife in Gaza City pointed out that two Palestinian prisoners at the Ketziot concentration camp were killed in mid-August, either because they shouted at Israeli soldiers or because they were holding their dinner plates threateningly, depending on which version of the "provocation" you believed. "We already know that Israel considers pebbles lethal weapons. What we're waiting for is the announcement that taunts and crockery are also deadly and justify massacring Palestinians."

"It's difficult to keep up with Israeli logic," a Nablus businessman remarked. "According to them, a stone thrown by a seven-year-old is deadly, but a rubber or, more recently, the more powerful plastic bullet, fired at high velocity at the heads of Palestinians, is a humane weapon."

COHEN

Shortly after Shamir expressed his outrage at the Israeli troops' confiscation of the trigger-happy settler's Uzi, Cohen and two other settlers were given their guns back, and the Israeli press quoted Cohen as saying, "Should it be necessary in the future, I'll open fire in the air, at the feet or at the head."

As he was making the statement, another Jewish settler was finding it necessary to open fire.

Gedalia Beker of the Ma'aleh Amos settlement was driving near the Efrat settlement, close to Bethlehem, when his car came under attack. He got out and started shooting at "figures running in the dark." The figures turned out to be Israeli soldiers, two of whom were wounded by the burst of gunfire.