

state/nation/world

Israel claims soldier, not policeman, killed vacationers in Egypt

By ARTHUR MAX
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Israel raised doubts yesterday about Egypt's claim that it was a demoted policeman who shot to death seven Israeli vacationers along the Sinai coast. Officials said the gunman might have been an Egyptian soldier whose presence in the area would violate the 1979 peace treaty.

Egypt said a crazed policeman fired on a group of tourists from his own unit Saturday at Ras Bourqa, a coral-lined beach 27 miles south of the border checkpoint of Tabá. One Egyptian reportedly was killed before the gunman was captured.

"We know he (the gunman) was a soldier. We have known for some time they have had soldiers in the area," said an Israeli government official, speaking on condition of anonymity. He also said Israel was checking reports that a machine gun was used.

Acting Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said Israel was investigating whether Egypt had stationed army troops on the Gulf of Aqaba coast in violation of the peace treaty, which allows Egypt to station only police with sidearms in the coastal region.

A senior Egyptian official in Cairo denied the gunman was a soldier and said he would be court-martialed by the General Security Police Force.

Israeli Health Minister Mordechai Gur said witnesses reported that the gunfire came from four different directions, but cautioned that the reports might be unreliable.

Other officials said autopsies were being conducted to determine if more than one weapon was used.

In Cairo, President Hosni Mubarak called the shootings a "small accident" that was the work of a man "who lost his mind" and sent condolences to Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Israel sent Egypt a sharply worded demand for a reply within 48 hours about possible treaty violations, progress in the inquiry and an explanation as to why the victims were

denied prompt medical attention, the Foreign Ministry said.

Peres sent a separate message to Mubarak expressing concern about the "hosting atmosphere" between the two countries which he said was casting a shadow over hopes to broaden the peace, Israel Radio said.

Gur claimed that the Egyptians "did not take the minimum steps to treat casualties." Witnesses said the Egyptians prevented an Israeli doctor and army-trained medics from giving first aid.

The victims reached a hospital in the Israeli port of Eilat eight hours after the shooting. They were flown by helicopters of the Multinational Force and Observers, a U.S.-led international unit sent to Sinai when Israel relinquished the peninsula in 1982 under the terms of the peace treaty.

A source at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a 10-year-old victim died to death from a bullet wound in the leg that was left untreated for several hours.

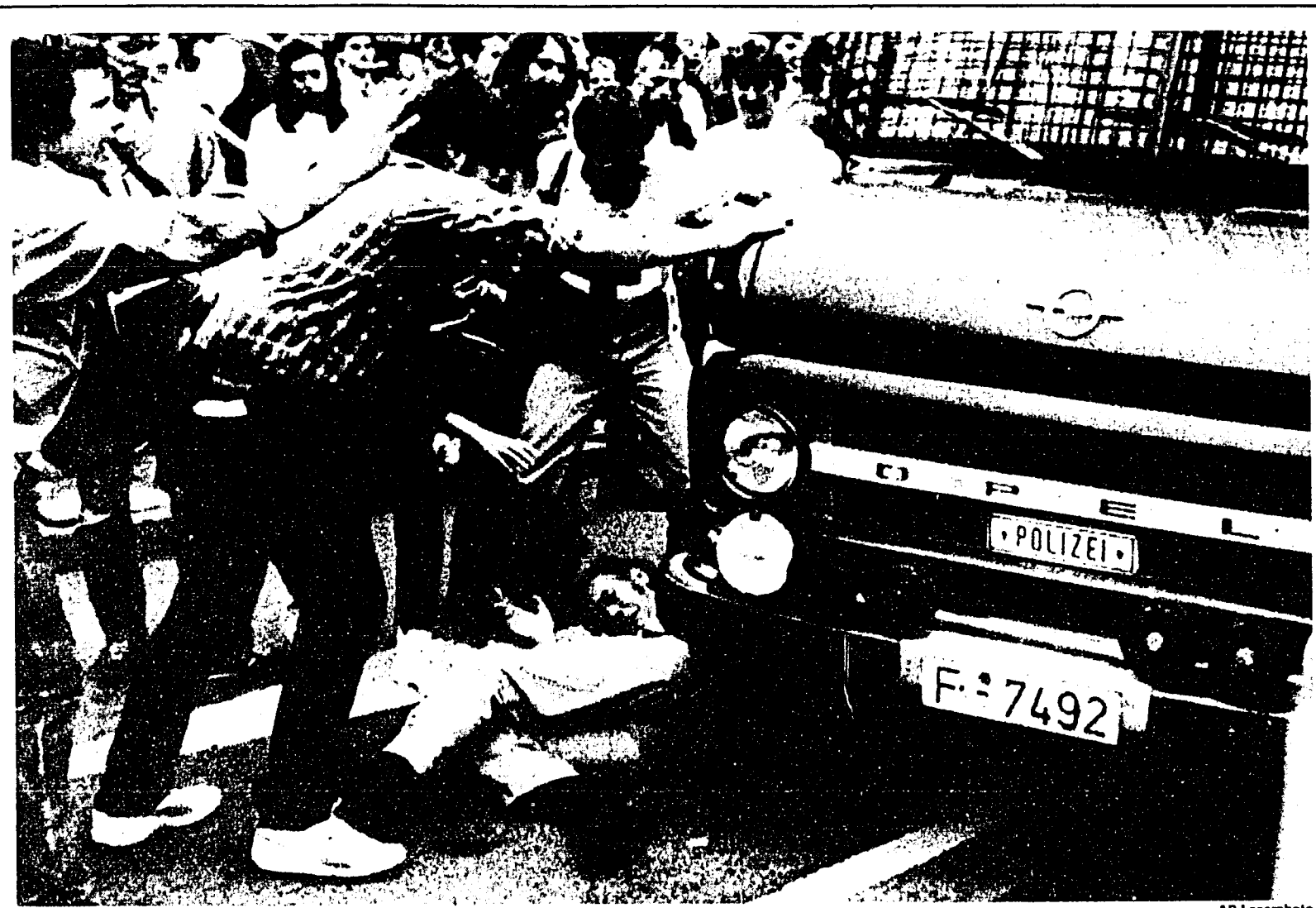
Right-wing Israeli politicians demanded that Israel summon home its ambassador from Cairo to protest the shooting.

Former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, now commerce and trade minister, said the killings should encourage Israel to toughen its position in talks with Egypt over their disputed border at Tabá.

"We cannot trust anybody," Sharon said on Israel Radio. "In any solution we have to make sure that the fate of Jews will be solely in our hands and no one else's."

The shooting capped a week of bloodletting in the Arab-Israeli conflict. It came a few hours after the bodies of three Israelis were found in Israel in what police called terrorist murders.

Israeli jets bombed the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Tunisia Tuesday, killing a reported 82 people, in retaliation for the Sept. 25 slaying of three Israelis aboard a yacht in Larnaca, Cyprus.



AP Laserphoto

Stop!

Demonstrators stretch out their hands to prevent a police van from running over a shopper in downtown Frankfurt, West Germany on Saturday. They were protesting the death of Guenter Sare, 36, who was killed when he was struck by a police truck during a eight days ago while demonstrating against

the meeting of a neo-Nazi party. Yesterday in Hamburg, firebombs exploded in five downtown stores before dawn, and police suspect the blasts were connected to protest marches the day before. The fires were extinguished by automatic sprinkling systems. Police gave no damage estimates.

Senate faces deadline on increasing the national debt limit

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Despite a last-minute plea from President Reagan, the Senate refused yesterday to choke off debate on a proposal mandating a balanced budget by 1991 and left in doubt urgently needed legislation to continue the government's borrowing authority.

The Senate voted 57-38 for the so-called cloture motion to limit debate on the amendment, but it was seven votes short of the necessary two-thirds majority and meant that further action on increasing the national debt limit remained stalled.

The meaning of the tally was muddled because it did demonstrate a strong majority backed the pending budget plan. That was reaffirmed on a 59-36 vote that tabled — in effect killed — a move for a small increase in the debt limit that would have removed the pressure to act now.

After the votes, it was unclear when a debt limit increase could be passed, although another vote to shut off debate was scheduled for today.

"The government will not shut down tomorrow. Money will still be coming in," said Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan.

However, Dole continued pressing for action saying, "The American people think we've gone bonkers because we won't do anything."

"Zero hour is approaching," Reagan said in a statement issued from his weekend Maryland retreat at Camp David just hours before the Senate convened yesterday afternoon. "By tomorrow (Monday), the federal government's cash balances will be virtually exhausted and we will be facing a financial emergency."

Debate on the balanced budget plan offered by Sens. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, Warren Rudman, R-N.H., and Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., has held up legislation increasing the national debt limit, which Treasury Department officials have said must be done by today.

state news briefs

University strike reportedly averted

HARRISBURG (AP) — A tentative agreement was reached Saturday in negotiations between the state university system and the union representing faculty members at the 14 universities, according to the union.

A recorded message on a telephone "hotline" operated by the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties said the agreement was reached early Saturday, but no date has been set for a ratification vote.

The recording said union members will be briefed on the tentative settlement during the coming week. No other details were available.

The announcement comes two weeks before a strike deadline set by the union, which represents more than 4,000 faculty members.

Federal mediator Thomas Quinn has imposed a news blackout on the talks. A spokesman for the state university system could not be reached for comment.

nation news briefs

Body of patient found in closet

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The decomposed body of a man believed to be a mentally retarded patient at a state-licensed board and care home was found in a closet that had been nailed shut, and police were seeking the home's manager.

A neighbor said the six patients at the Heaven's Crest board and care home were often left unattended, screams could be heard from the home and the live-in manager, Rudolph "Rudy" Harris, 43, sometimes appeared to be intoxicated.

"We are treating this case as a homicide," police Detective J.D. Furr said, adding that Harris was being sought for questioning.

The body found Friday was believed to be that of Ray Walker, 31, an epileptic and mentally retarded patient who entered the home in February and was last seen at the end of August, officials said.

The owner of the home in south-central Los Angeles, Yasmi Miller, found Walker's body fully clothed and wrapped in blankets. A handyman at the home had called Miller when Harris failed to show up for work Thursday or Friday, police said.

The cause of death had not been determined and it was unclear if the man was dead before being put in the closet.

Police Lt. William Hall said there appeared to have been attempts to conceal the body's presence in the closet.

"There was incense burned and a whole lot of Pine Sol (scented cleaner) on the floor," Hall said.

Furr said the patients in the home, licensed to care for six, were too severely retarded to assist in the investigation.

The California Community Care Licensing Board, which licenses the home, will conduct its own investigation, police said.

Shuttle to end secret mission today

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — The space shuttle Atlantis will complete its secret military mission and maiden voyage with a landing today in California, the Air Force and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said.

"All systems aboard the space shuttle Atlantis continue to perform satisfactorily," said a terse announcement from Mission Control at 1 p.m. yesterday. "The crew is doing well and at this time is beginning preparations for a landing at Edwards Air Force Base."

The five-man crew is to land at 1 p.m. EDT on a dry lake bed in the Mojave Desert at Edwards Air Force Base.

The landing announcement was the first official release about the mission since a brief progress report four hours after Atlantis was launched last Thursday from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The landing will complete a four-day mission that included the launch of two \$100 million military satellites and a shakedown cruise for Atlantis, the newest and last planned member of NASA's fleet of four space shuttles.

Neither NASA or the Department of Defense would confirm deployment of the military satellites, but reliable sources said the craft were successfully ejected from the shuttle's cargo bay.

The sources said the two satellites were linked on a single rocket engine which later fired to place the two craft in a geostationary orbit 22,300 miles above the Earth. Later, the satellites parted and guided themselves to separate work stations in the high orbit.

A NASA spokesman said the crew spent some time testing systems aboard the \$1.1 billion Atlantis, and that no problems were reported.

Public release circuits, which usually carry air-to-ground conversations with the astronauts and their mission, were silent during the mission. The launch time of the shuttle was also kept secret until nine minutes before its rockets ignited.

The military secrecy is intended to hinder surveillance of the launch and satellite release by the Soviets.

It was the second dedicated military shuttle flight. A spy satellite was reported deployed on the earlier mission.

Reliable sources said Atlantis' prime payload was two Defense Satellite Communications Systems satellites, a new type of craft known as DSCS-3. The satellites are described as jam-proof and shielded against the electromagnetic bursts created by nuclear explosions which can short out unshielded electronic equipment.

world news briefs

New agency will aid poor nations

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The World Bank will approve the formation of an agency this week to promote urgently needed foreign investment in the Third World, a top bank official said yesterday.

"The world debt crisis and the resulting decline in commercial lending to developing countries have created an urgent need for increased direct investment flows to these countries," World Bank Vice President Ibrahim Shihata said.

The bank's board of governors, in Seoul for a week-long meeting with the International Monetary Fund, is expected to approve the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency on Friday, Shihata said.

The agency will go into force once 20 countries — five developed and 15 developing — agree to take part and contribute \$300 million for the agency's capital, which is expected to eventually reach \$1 billion.

Shihata, who is also general counsel to the bank, said he hopes the agency will begin functioning within a year.

Direct foreign investment to poor countries fell from a high of \$17 billion in 1981 to \$9 billion in 1983, according to World Bank figures.

Concerns about political risks in developing countries had been a "formidable barrier" to investments, said Shihata, an Egyptian who is a former international law professor.

"This establishes the case for a mechanism designed to alleviate and manage such risks," he said.

The proposed agency will guarantee investments in its member developing countries against non-commercial risks, including certain breaches of contract by the host government, war and civil unrest.

Some Latin American countries are reportedly wary of the scheme because they believe local as well as foreign investors should benefit from the guarantees.

Similar agencies have been proposed before, but supporters of the current plan say it will create an improved investment atmosphere and not just be an insurance mechanism.

The proposed agency will provide, advice, technical aid and information on investment to developing member countries, Shihata said.

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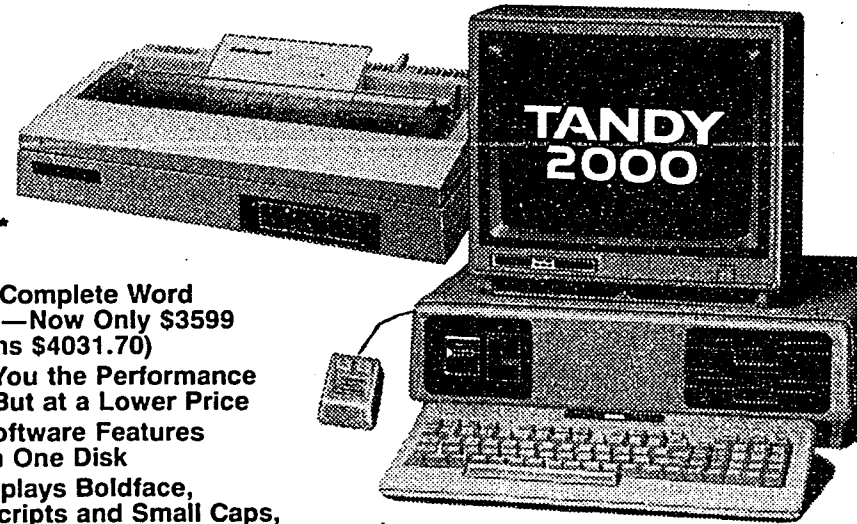
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