Press Review N° 143 - By Gilberte Jacaret

CRIF, May 7 - Richard Prasquier, tells us that one of his father’s friends was fond of reading an anti-Semitic newspaper. He would not go through the Jewish press where Jews stood as powerless victims of anti-Semitism and misery. He would feel depressed. On the opposite, in an anti-Semitic newspaper, he could read that Jews rule the whole world whether it be finance, industry, politics and news. That made him feel great.

The New York Times - May 8 - Swine Flu Cases Worldwide Exceed 2,300

The World Health Organization said Thursday that 2,371 people in 24 countries now had confirmed cases of swine flu.

Only 46 people are known to have died of the virus, all but 2 of them in Mexico.

ISRAEL

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Address by President Peres to the Annual AIPAC Conference - 4 May - The aggressiveness of the Iranian government is not limited to Israel.
Indeed, they seek regional hegemony and want to control Arab states
using terror and coercion.

Haaretz, May 4 - Livni: Iran threat opens door to peace with Arabs - Opposition leader and Kadima party head Tzipi Livni on Sunday said that
Israel must view the threat posed by Iran as an opportunity to further
peace with other neighbors in the region.

Haaretz, May 3 - IDF staged drills over Gibraltar, in preparation for Iran strike' - The Israel Air Force recently staged military exercises between Israel
and the British colony of Gibraltar near southern Spain, the French
magazine L'Express reported on Saturday.

The fact that the drills were held 3,800 kilometers away from Israel
"confirms that the Israel Defense Forces is making concrete
preparations" to attack Iran over its refusal to cooperate with the
international community over its contentious nuclear program, according
to L'Express.

Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman vowed last week that Israel would
not attack Iran even if the international sanctions against Tehran fail
to convince President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to give up his country's
nuclear program, in an interview with the Austrian daily Kleine Zeitung.

But The London Times reported a few weeks ago that the IDF was indeed making preparations to be able to launch a massive aerial assault on Iran's nuclear facilities, to be carried out within days of being given the go-ahead by Israel's government.

"Israel wants to know that if its forces were given the green light they could strike at Iran in a matter of days, even hours. They are making preparations on every level for this eventuality. The message to Iran is that the threat is not just words," one senior Israeli defense official told The Times.

The London Times report appeared to be an Israeli message to Iran conveying its capability and readiness to prevent Tehran from developing nuclear weapons……..

Haaretz - May, 5 - PA working to root out Hamas, Hezbollah secret agents - The Palestinian Authority has established a special
counter-intelligence squad in its security services to uncover agents working for Hamas and Hezbollah. To date the Palestinian Authority security services have arrested dozens of Palestinians suspected of collaborating with the two radical Islamic groups.

Israeli security sources said that the PA has made a focused effort to uncover foreign agents, noting that the new unit involves a large contingent of officers. ……..

,In the past, the relationship between the various PA security groups was characterized by enmity, with rival groupings working to counter each other's influence. Israeli sources note that this has improved significantly.

A senior security source said PA security forces are operating in the West Bank in a manner that is "considerably better than at any time during the past 15 years," marking the period since the Oslo B agreements went into effect and Israel transferred security responsibility for parts of the West Bank to the Palestinians.

Haaretz, April 4 - Researchers shed light on Nazi murder of Soviet Jews, By Ofri Ilani - In August 1941, German sailor Reinhard Wiener saw something he was
unlikely to forget. Stationed in Latvia, Wiener was walking with a fellow serviceman toward the beach, when a soldier came running toward them. "He said we shouldn't go on because a horrible thing was happening on the beach," Wiener recalled. "We asked what was going on, and he said yes, they're shooting Jews down there."

Wiener recounted the story in an interview in 1981, published on a new Yad Vashem Holocaust museum Web site documenting the annihilation of the Jews in the Nazi-occupied areas of the Soviet Union. Trained as a cameraman, Wiener carried a Kodak 8mm camera that day.

"I decided to go on anyway, so I could document it," he said. Wiener reached a line of soldiers standing along a trench. A truck full of people soon arrived. "The guards shouted something I didn't understand and the people in the truck started jumping out. I saw they were wearing yellow badges."

The Jews were ordered to run to the trench and stop. "They were told to stand with their backs to the firing squad. I think at that point they understood what awaited them, because just below they could see a layer of bodies covered with sand. The firing squad was then immediately ordered to step forward and shoot."

Wiener's two-minute film is the only filmed evidence of one of the worst stages in the annihilation of European Jews, the murders in the Soviet Union.

Despite decades of research, this chapter of the Holocaust remains one of the least documented. The last three years have seen a vast project by Yad Vashem to shed some light on the era. The project, "Story Untold," was sponsored by the president of the Russian Jewish Congress, Moshe Kantor. It examines 101 killing sites in 51 areas in Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus, Russia and Ukraine, some of them previously undocumented. Jews were shot dead by Germans and local collaborators.

"The Eastern area is one of the largest gaps in our knowledge," says Prof. David Bankier of the Hebrew University, who heads the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem.

"The project's uniqueness is that it deals with the smaller killing sites, not the large ones like Babi Yar, of which so much has already been written. We are dealing with sites about which there is very little information. Not many eyewitnesses remain, and we even lack basic information like numbers and the conduct of Jews and the local population."

The liberation of the region by the Soviets spurred inquiries examining the events. "As soon as an area was liberated, the NKVD [secret police] would come and investigate - what happened, who cooperated. It's fascinating material," Bankier said. The reports, uncovered after the fall of the Soviet Union, formed an important part of the research.

The researchers compared the NKVD reports to those made by the Germans, and mapped the sites through the GPS satellite navigation system.

Yad Vashem also looked into the composition of the killing units, organized by the Germans but including many local residents. "Our estimate is 10 locals to every German," said Bankier.

"Sometimes we could recreate the social and political profile of the members of the killing squads. The general impression is that we're not talking about criminals, but literally about the Jews' neighbors - the grocer, the barber, sometimes friends of the victims. They killed voluntarily."

"But perhaps we can also answer some questions about the Jews. How were they tricked to go to the pits? What was explained to them when they were told to take their clothes off? Did they know by this stage what would happen, or were they told they'd be getting work clothes before being sent to the east? I hope the new research will answer all those questions."