Terror in the capital

In a rampage along Jerusalem’s crowded Jaffa Street thoroughfare, a bulldozer hoisted and overturned a packed No. 13 bus, then extended its shovel and plowed into several vehicles and pedestrians, leaving 3 dead and dozens injured. One of the victims, 33 year old Bat-Sheva Unterman, nursery school teacher in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Har Homa, managed to throw her baby out of the car window and save its life, before being crushed to death by the oncoming Caterpillar.

The bulldozer driver was shot dead by a young religious off-duty soldier, who clambered on the vehicle and cut the carnage short opposite the national broadcasting center. A police spokesman said later that the lethal bulldozer was halted only 200 meters short of Jerusalem’s big open air market and thus averted a potential massacre. The terrorist was 30-year old Hosam Dwayyat, an Arab living in the village of Tsur Bachar, who was employed by the Jerusalem municipality in one of the road works underway to prepare the thoroughfare for a light railway line.

He was able to move around freely and work in Jerusalem on an Israeli resident ID. The same was true for the murderer at Merkaz Harav, who killed 8 Yeshiva boys in cold blood.

The ‘Truce’ must go on

Gaza-based Arab terrorists attacked Sderot with another Kassam rocket early Thursday evening, the sixth day rocket and mortar shell explosions have broken the temporary truce since it went into effect two weeks ago. The rocket exploded in an open field near the town and caused no damage or injuries. More than 70 trucks of humanitarian aid were shipped into Gaza on Thursday before the latest Kassam strike.

The Erez Crossing never closed, despite numerous attacks. Hamas has warned that closing the Gaza crossings is a breach of the temporary truce and that if they were closed it would retaliate.

Fatah warms up to Hamas

Palestinian Authority (PA) Prime Minister Salam Fayyad has signed a deal with the World Bank to finance three projects in the Hamas-run Gaza region, according to Reuters News Agency. The deal signals closer relations between Hamas and Fatah, which was ousted from the leadership in Gaza by the rival terrorist party last June.

Half of the $29 million agreement for the infrastructures projects is earmarked for Gaza despite vows by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert that he would stop negotiating with Abbas if he were to work with Hamas. Fayyad said at the signing of the agreement that the projects for Gaza are conditioned on Israel’s “lifting the siege imposed on Gaza... [and] reopening the border crossings.” He also said that 40 percent of the $7.7 pledged last year by international donors will end up in Gaza. In addition to money that the PA receives from Europe, the Olmert administration sends it millions of dollars in tax revenues collected for the PA every month, with the “understanding” that the funds stay out of Hamas’ coffers.

The obligation to settle the land Part 2 of 2

In his address of Pesach Sheini, 5738 (1978), the Rebbe said that there is an immediate need to populate the entire eastern border of the Holy Land, adding: “This is literally a matter of security for three-and-a-half million Jews!”

The Rebbe always mentioned in his addresses the saying of the Sages, “Action is the main thing.” He also mentions this saying in connection with the indivisibility of the Land of Israel, which is an important and fateful issue. In his public address of 13 Tishrei 5738 (1977), the Rebbe stresses that action is the main thing with regard to the integrity of the land:

The entire Land of Israel should be populated, along its entire boundaries. This is similar to that which is said regarding Torah and mitzvos — just as we must perform the actual physical act, so must it be regarding the integrity of the Land of Israel — the physical act is necessary: to settle the entire Land of Israel!