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JEWISH AGENCY BUILDING BOMBED IN PRE-DAWN EXPLOSION; NO ONE INJURED Police Have No Clues; No Connection Seen Between Explosion And Mrs. Meir's Visit

By Edwin Eytan, JTA European Bureau Chief

PARIS, Jan. 9 (JTA)--The Jewish Agency building was seriously damaged in a pre-dawn bomb explosion today. The blast shattered windows in a 60-yard radius, wrecked parked cars, twisted iron window bars and blew out garage doors all along the block. No injuries were reported. The building was empty at the time except for the night watchman who slept in the rear and was not hurt.

This correspondent visited the scene shortly after the explosion occurred at 5 a.m. local time. The street resembled an area hit by an air raid. People from neighboring buildings stood in their pajamas along the street amid debris and splintered glass.

Police investigating the blast reported they had no clues regarding the perpetrators. Several local newspapers said they received letters today purporting to come from the Black September, an Arab terrorist organization, claiming responsibility for the bombing. Neither the police nor Jewish Agency circles believe there is any connection between the blast and the forthcoming visit of Premier Golda Meir of Israel, due here Friday to attend a meeting of the Socialist International.

The blast occurred one month after a bomb seriously wounded Mahmoud el-Hamshari, the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Paris. Hamshari is still hospitalized. His left leg was amputated last Saturday and he reportedly has blood poisoning.

Police Ignored Requests For Extra Security

This morning's bombing was the first attack on any Jewish institution in France. Michel Topiol, Jewish Agency chairman in this country, charged today that the local police had ignored requests by the Agency for extra security measures. Topiol said suspicious persons had been seen in the neighborhood during the last few days, but that when the police were informed they said there was no sign of danger and pleaded lack of manpower.

A Jewish Agency spokesman recalled that Premier Pierre Messmer had assured Prof. Ady Steg, president of the Representative Council of the French Jews (CRIF) last March that "Jewish organizations have nothing to fear on French territory and that their protection will be ensured by French authorities." Chief Rabbi Jacob Kaplan of France told the JTA today, "It is scandalous that the Jewish Agency in Paris was not better protected." The CRIF released a statement calling on the government "to take efficient measures to ensure the adequate protection of all people and institutions now in danger."

The Jewish Students Front (FEJ), a right-wing organization, demanded that the government "close all anti-Semitic bureaus in France such as the Arab League, the Palestine Library and supporting organizations." The Liaison Committee of Socialist Students (CES) said it has called on its members "to use all legitimate means to halt the anti-Jewish terrorist campaign." Protest meetings have been called by various Jewish and Zionist organizations here. The four-story Jewish Ag-

ency building also housed the offices of the Franco-Israeli Alliance.

FOIL PLOT BY TERRORISTS TO SEIZE ISRAEL EMBASSY IN BUCHAREST

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9 (JTA)--Arab terrorists planned to attack the Israeli Embassy in Bucharest last month but the plot was foiled by Rumanian secret police, it was learned here today. According to newspaper reports, the attack was to have been made simultaneously with the seizure of the Israeli Embassy in Bangkok by four armed terrorists on Dec. 28. Foreign Ministry sources confirmed today that the Bucharest Embassy took special precautions before and during the Bangkok incident on the basis of a tip. The sources declined to comment on the Rumanian role but hinted that it had been very effective. According to reports, the terrorists in Bangkok boasted to their six Israeli hostages that "at this very moment" the Embassy in Bucharest was under attack.

POMPIDOU: NO CONTACTS WILL BE MADE WITH PREMIERS ATTENDING CONFERENCE

PARIS, Jan. 9 (JTA)--President Georges Pompidou said here today that French officials will have no contact whatsoever with the five heads of government who are due to attend the Socialist International conference here. Speaking at a press conference, the French President said: "By their own admission, these Premiers come as members of their political parties and not as statesmen or representatives of their countries. We shall treat them as such and have no contact with them."

The five Premiers due to attend the International Socialist meeting here next Saturday and Sunday are Israeli Premier Golda Meir, and the Premiers of Sweden, Austria, Denmark and Norway. It was Mrs. Meir's announced presence which precipitated a violent controversy in political circles here. Pompidou, who spoke in apparent irritation, stated, "We consider their presence in Paris in a pre-electoral period as inopportune, with everything which this word implies...interference in internal French political affairs."

The French President at no point actually mentioned Mrs. Meir by name. When a French reporter mentioned her by name, Pompidou said: "I did not specifically refer to Mrs. Meir, but to all five. It seems to me that you are obsessed with the Israeli Premier." Pompidou bitterly attacked the five saying they all knew that French legislative elections were to be held next March. "Some people say that the date of the conference was actually moved up in an apparent attempt to boost Mr. Mitterand's (French Socialist Party leader Francois Mitterand who leads the anti-government opposition) prestige," he said.

When asked about the Middle East, Pompidou said that "the coming months, after Vietnam is settled, might bring forth new attempts to reach a settlement." Noting that these attempts would probably be limited to obtaining a partial settlement, he stated that "the important thing is not to sacrifice the chance of a total settlement for the sake of a partial one."

MRS. MEIR IN EFFORT TO SMOOTH DISSENSION IN RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir addressed herself to the current dissension within the Orthodox community here and abroad last night when she urged Jews and Israelis to live together in "Ahavat Israel" (Love of Israel) and to be tolerant of one another. Mrs. Meir, addressing the opening session of the 22nd World Conference of Mizrahi-Hapoel Hamizrachi which opened yesterday and continues through Sunday, said she did not want her grandchildren to grow up in an atmosphere of "war among Jews" where it was impossible to have honorable differences of opinion, where protagonists were intolerant of each other and branded each other heretics.

Mrs. Meir urged the Religious Zionist movement to "strengthen the hands of the brave who have Ahavat Israel." Her reference was to Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren who has come under bitter attack from right-wing Orthodox circles for his controversial ruling in the Langer case.

Goren Proposes World Halachic Council

Rabbi Goren, who shared the dias with the Premier, delivered the keynote address at the convention, apparently because leaders of the National Religious Party which is part of the World Mizrahi Movement could not agree on one of their own members to receive the honor. He said Israel was in dire need of a strong Mizrahi movement and a strong chief rabbinite.

Rabbi Goren identified the Israeli rabbinate's tasks as "bridging with love the gaps within society," upholding halacha (religious law) as "the law of life" and serving as a world halachic authority. He proposed the creation of a world halachic council in Jerusalem to decide difficult problems. He noted that just as religious Zionism was attacked in its early days by the Orthodox right-wing, so he too was now under attack. But, he said, he would persevere.

The loudest and longest applause of the evening went to Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovaqla Yosef whose open feud with Rabbi Goren is symptomatic of the current turmoil in Orthodox circles. The two chief rabbis sat apart on the dias and did not speak to each other although each referred to the other respectfully in his speech. Rabbi Yosef urged the Mizrahi to draw closer to Torah study circles in Israel.

Lubavitcher Rebbe Under Fire

Mrs. Meir's plea for unity and tolerance notwithstanding, Rabbi Louis Bernstein, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, lashed out in his address at the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Schneersohn, and by implication criticized Israel's President Zalman Shazar for paying court to the leader of the hasidic sect. He assailed the phenomenon of "Israeli leaders streaming to a hasidic court in New York which 45 years ago opposed Zionism."

Rabbi Bernstein also denounced the Lubavitcher Rebbe's followers in Israel, the Habad Hasidim, for fettering Mayor John V. Lindsay of New York when he visited Israel recently. Lindsay, claimed Bernstein, was responsible for the wholesale destruction of Jewish neighborhoods in New York. The convention is attended by over 500 delegates from 30 countries.

ISRAEL AGREES TO RETURN BODIES OF TWO TERRORISTS KILLED LAST MAY

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9 (JTA)--Israel has agreed

to a request from the Thai government to return the bodies of two Arab terrorists killed in a gun battle with Israeli security forces after they seized a Sabena airliner at Lod Airport last May 8. Officials here said the Thai request was relayed to Premier Golda Meir by her security advisor, Gen. Aharon Yariv, who flew to Bangkok after Arab terrorists seized the Israeli Embassy there a week ago and held six Israelis hostage for 19 hours.

The return of the two bodies was one of the demands made by the terrorists. They also demanded the release of 36 terrorists imprisoned in Israel but were persuaded by the Thai authorities, and by the Egyptian Ambassador in Bangkok, to release their hostages unharmed. "The Israeli announcement yesterday said Israel accepted Thailand's request 'in appreciation of the stand adopted by the Thai government in the case of the Bangkok hostages.'"

SHAZAR MEETS WITH UJA LEADERS

NEW YORK, Jan. 9 (JTA)--Israeli President Zalman Shazar, before his departure yesterday for Israel, appealed to the American Jewish community to work in partnership with the people of Israel in the task of absorbing the increasing influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants. In a meeting with United Jewish Appeal officials, Shazar stressed that "the historic role of integrating Soviet Jewish immigrants is one which must be shared by the people of Israel and the Jewish community of the United States."

The UJA leaders, Herbert Tenzer, president of the UJA of Greater New York, Irving Bernstein, executive vice-chairman of the national UJA, and Ernest Michel, executive director of New York UJA, told Shazar that the final results of the 1972 campaign indicate it was the most successful campaign in American Jewry's history, and that current projections indicate even further increases in the 1973 campaign now underway. Some 60,000 immigrants arrived in Israel during 1972, a substantial number of which were from the Soviet Union. Current projections are for a total of 70,000 additional new immigrants in 1973.

ORTHODOX COMMUNITY SPLIT ON WOMEN'S ROLE IN CONGREGATIONAL COUNCILS

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 9 (JTA)--Holland's Orthodox rabbis and congregations are split over whether women should be allowed to be elected to congregational councils. Although, until recently, all Orthodox rabbis in the Netherlands ruled that women could not serve, Chief Rabbi Eliezer Berlinger recently permitted a woman to serve on the congregational council of the town of Bussum, about 25 kilometers east of Amsterdam, and another to serve on the council of Dordrecht, near Rotterdam.

Berlinger's rabbinical jurisdiction covers all of the Netherlands except Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam and their suburbs. Rabbis Moshe Just and Hans Rodriguez Pereira of the Ashkenazi Congregation of Amsterdam, however, have ruled that no women can be candidates since halacha forbids it. The new quadrennial elections for the Amsterdam congregational council are to be held in March. The two Amsterdam rabbis refer to a similar decision made in 1950, to rulings laid down by Orthodox Chief Rabbi Dr. Benjamin Rittter and by German Orthodox rabbis before World War II. They also refer to a similar stand taken by the Religious Council in Israel. The congregational councils of Holland's Jewish congregations do not deal with religious matters, which are left to the rabbis, but with organizational matters.

U.S. REGRETS SADAT'S VIEWS ON MIDEAST PEACE INITIATIVES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9 (JTA)--State Department spokesman Charles Bray said today that reported complaints by President Anwar Sadat of Egypt about the failure of U.S. efforts to effect a peace settlement in the Middle East were "a matter of regret." Bray qualified his remark by indicating that the U.S. Special Interests Section in Cairo has not yet confirmed the content of Sadat's remarks published yesterday in the Beirut newspaper Al Baitaq.

According to the newspaper, Sadat told its publisher, Milhem Karam, who was in Cairo, that he has given up all hope in U.S. efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. Sadat was said to have recalled his contacts with Washington in 1971 on the problem of Arab-Israeli peace and declared, "It was a test of peace and Washington flunked the test." The Beirut newspaper also reported that Sadat chastized other Arab governments for their failure to arrive at a joint plan to pressure the U.S. to revise its policy of supporting Israel.

Bray declined to comment when he was asked by a reporter if the State Department thought the tone of Sadat's alleged statement differed significantly from comments received from Egypt in the past. The Department spokesman reiterated the U.S. position which, he said, consisted of attempts to get negotiations started with a view toward reaching an interim Suez Canal agreement.

Situation Characterized As Fluid

At the moment, Bray stated, American attempts to bring about a peaceful settlement are largely confined to bringing influence to bear through the course of "regular" communications with all the governments concerned. He would not speculate as to the course future peace efforts might take, emphasizing that the situation was "fluid."

Bray stressed the sincerity of U.S. intentions in this area by noting that "both the President and the Secretary of State" continue to "give priority to the Middle East and its problems and their intention to be active in attempts to get a negotiating process started." Bray added, "I doubt that there can be any serious misunderstanding with respect to these intentions."

Asked to comment on United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim's statement at a press conference yesterday that he was ready to take a personal initiative in Middle East peace negotiations, including a possible trip to that region, Bray said "We are not aware of any decision on his part in this matter." He added, however, that the U.S. "Would not exclude this possibility." He said it was "clearly a matter for the Secretary General to decide in consultation with the parties concerned." Asked if the U.S. was one of the parties, Bray replied affirmatively.

SOVIET JEW FACES TRIAL

NEW YORK, Jan. 9 (JTA)--Isak Skolnik, a 36-year-old engineer from Vinnitsa, arrested in July 1972 for being a "traitor to the state" and of having "contacts with Englishmen," is expected to be brought to trial soon, according to Jewish sources in Kiev, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported today. The sources said he could receive a maximum sentence of up to 15 years imprisonment.

The Kiev sources also reported that there have been "many" Kiev Jewish families who have recently received permission to emigrate to Israel, but are waiting for the new head tax regulations to be posted before paying the old rates. Last week,

Soviet Deputy Interior Minister Boris Shumlin said the head tax was being waived for older emigrants and scaled down substantially for others on the basis of the number of years worked. The Kiev Jews said they have not yet seen the new regulations posted in the exit offices.

VOLUNTEERS REPAIR BATTLE DAMAGES

TEL AVIV, Jan. 9 (JTA)--Volunteers from neighboring settlements flocked to Merom Hagolan and Nahal Snir in the Golan Heights today to help repair the damage caused by yesterday's Syrian shelling. Merom Hagolan, where the damage was heaviest, was also visited by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan yesterday while the shelling was still going on. Two buildings and a cowshed were hit and the settlement's electric power grid was damaged.

The damage at Nahal Snir was slight. One shell exploded at Kibbutz Dan in Upper Galilee causing a fire which was put out before serious damage occurred. The border region was quiet today but tension was evidently still high on the Syrian side. Syrian soldiers did not leave their posts. The usual sheep flocks were not put out for grazing. Syrian crash units were seen trying to extricate tanks damaged by Israeli return fire.

Gen. David Elazar, Israel's Army Chief of Staff, described yesterday's retaliatory attacks as the most massive and intense in recent months. He said that if the Syrians seal their borders to terrorist incursions against Israel, Israel will observe the cease-fire. But Israel will retaliate any time a civilian settlement is hit, he warned. Elazar spoke to journalists during a tour of Army positions and settlements in the battle area.

He said the Syrians suffered serious losses and damage, not the least of which was the damaged morale of the Syrian Army which was never very high. He said if there was any Syrian-Egyptian military cooperation, as reported from some quarters, it was not felt on the battlefield.

DOCK WORKERS END SLOWDOWN; POSTAL WORKERS, TELEX EMPLOYEES SLOW DOWN

TEL AVIV, Jan. 9 (JTA)--Dockworkers ended a crippling work slowdown at Israel's three seaports today. They accepted a government offer of a 42 percent wage hike, originally proffered Sunday, after a meeting with Histadrut representatives this morning. The agreement followed an ultimatum issued at an emergency session of the Cabinet yesterday which ordered the longshoremen to end their slowdown by Wednesday or face serious consequences.

While officials were trying to assess the losses incurred by the week-long dock slowdown, another slowdown was begun today by 6000 postal workers and cable and telex employees. The issue is a demand for "special allowances" for postmen along the lines of the bonuses paid aviation workers. The slowdown was begun in the midst of negotiations and caught postal officials by surprise. Baruch Rohald, Tel Aviv Postmaster, said the slowdown was worse than a strike because it created complete chaos in mail handling.

Another development on the docks today was a decision by security authorities to allow Arab workers from the West Bank to unload a cargo of Turkish cement from a ship at Haifa port. The cargo was consigned to a merchant in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip but was diverted to Haifa when the ship's captain refused to anchor in Gaza's open roadstead. The slowdown at Haifa created a further delay and the consignee claims he has already lost IL 40,000.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

LONDON (JTA)--Jewish sources in the Soviet Union claimed Sunday that the Soviet propaganda machine was responsible for recent press reports from Vienna that Russian Jewish emigrants were petitioning for permission to return to the USSR because they were misled by Zionists about conditions in Israel. According to the sources, none of the Jews reportedly seeking to return are known to have applied for exit visas. All seem to have gotten their visas without the slightest difficulty, and the conclusion to be drawn, the sources said, is that these Jews are being "used" by the KGB.

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COPENHAGEN (JTA)--A special combat force, for fighting airline hijackers has been created here, a government spokesman said Sunday. Special units containing large numbers of sharpshooters can be dispatched to all Danish airports in record time.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has been granted a permanent injunction against the use of the phrase "Anti-Defamation League" by the so-called "Arab Anti-Defamation League." State Supreme Court Justice George C. Mantzoros, who issued the injunction, also ruled Friday that the Arab group may not refer to itself as the "formerly Arab Anti-Defamation League," or the abbreviation, ADL, "or any imitation thereof such as AADL." The ADL took the matter to court after the Arab group, whose executive director is Mohammed T. Mehdi, adopted as its symbol "AADL" when it was established last Jan.

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--About 500 former Ikrit-Baram residents assembled Saturday outside the Baram church, the only structure still intact in that one-time border village, to protest military orders closing the area. The demonstration was peaceful and Israeli authorities did not intervene even though the assembly violated security regulations. A spokesman for the villagers, noting that Israel was established on the principles of liberty, justice and equality, said the villagers would continue to struggle for those principles until they are permitted to return to their former homes.

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--Army medical researchers claimed Sunday that the impaired hearing of some soldiers was due to the noise in the discotheques they frequented while off duty. This theory was presented by the director of the Army Noise Prevention Institute to the Knesset ecology committee which is drafting legislation to reduce the noise level around airports.

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PHILADELPHIA (JTA)--The campaign to free Soviet Jews from the burden of oppressive exit taxes has been carried to giant outdoor advertising billboards by the Jewish Community Relations Council. Rabbi Sidney Greenberg, chairman of JCRC's Committee of 1000 for Soviet Jewry, said the billboards were donated by Mrs. Helen Steen, president of H.A. Steen Industries, an outdoor advertising firm. The signs on the billboards facing two expressways read: "Soviet Jews are still being held for ransom. Write, Wire President Nixon." Rabbi Greenberg said additional boards are planned soon.

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RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA)--A "Brazilian House" will be erected on the campus of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot at a cost of \$500,000. The house, destined for use by professors and students, will bear the name of the late Ambassador Osvaldo Aranha, the Brazilian statesman who was president of the United Nations General Assembly in 1947 when the historic partition plan establishing Israel was adopted. The first contributions by Rio de Janeiro's Jewish and non-Jewish businessmen and industrialists were announced at a dinner last week. The event was hosted by Rio's weekly, *Manchete*, in honor of Prof. Albert Sabin, outgoing president of the Weizmann Institute, who came here for a visit.

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AMSTERDAM (JTA)--According to freelance journalist Hans Hoffman, Israel periodically tests the effectiveness of European security measures against Arab terrorism by asking Europeans to "smuggle" weapons into their respective countries. In a feature article last week in the left-wing daily, *Het Vrije Volk*, Hoffman said that an unloaded gun which Israeli security men asked him to smuggle into Holland was immediately detected at Amsterdam Airport by Dutch police. His "revelations" have been severely criticized by certain Dutch officials who say he violated the pledge of secrecy given to the Israelis.

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--The World Zionist Organization is considering the establishment of a special department to coordinate the activities of the "young generation." In this context the age group is between 25-50. The plan has already been approved by the "young generation" groups of the various Zionist parties and has been forwarded to WZO Executive Chairman Louis Pincus. He will be in direct charge of the new department which would function independently of the corresponding party groups. Detailed plans are expected to be submitted shortly for approval to the WZO Executive.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--Due to the growing interest and desire of American Jews to establish their "Home Away From Home" in Israel, Israelom - Israel Homes & Real Estate Corp. Ltd., which was established by six principal building and financing organizations with the backing of the government of Israel has established its new office in the southeast part of the country. Israelom's office in Miami Beach is headed by Howard Brill, a former sales manager of the Dizengoff Center project in Tel Aviv. Israelom will begin an intensive campaign in cooperation with local hotels in Miami Beach.

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MONTREAL (JTA)--A Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University has been organized here under the interim leadership of Lawrence Bessner, Dean of Faculty of Commerce at Loyola University of Montreal. Yoine Goldstein, an attorney and Meier Segals, a business executive, are members of the board. Dr. J.B. Lightman, director of the Jewish Public Library and a member of the staff at Sir George Williams University here, is executive director of the Canadian Friends.