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SPECIAL TO JTA

9 IRAQI JEWS KILLED

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA)--The recent murder of nine Iraqi Jews who had been in prison for some months was reported today by Jacob Stein, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Declaring he had received this information from unimpeachable sources, Stein urged the governments of the world to protest this latest atrocity inflicted upon the small Jewish community in Iraq, now numbering less than 500, compared to some 150,000 in the 1940s.

The chairman of the Presidents Conference called upon "the nations of the world to make formal protest to the government of Iraq against this latest report of the murder of nine Jews and the virtually complete disenfranchisement of the remaining Jews in the country."

Stein expressed "great concern over the worsening of the situation that threatens the total extinction of the Jews residing in Iraq. My information is that the government of Iraq has seized the property of all its Jews through newly enacted regulations. The situation of the Jews in Iraq has tragically deteriorated in the past few months to a point where life there for Jews is completely intolerable. Their only hope for life is immediate emigration."

15 MEMBERS OF DRUZE CLAN ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF SPY RING ACTIVITIES

Involved In Sending Letter Bombs To Nixon, Laird and Rogers Last Year

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (JTA)--Fifteen members of a Druze clan living on the Golan Heights have been arrested on suspicion of membership in a Syrian spy ring which included in its activities the mailing of letter bombs from Israeli territory to American officials; it was disclosed today. They are expected to go on trial before a military court shortly on charges of espionage and attempted murder.

The suspects all come from Majdal Shams, on the slopes of Mt. Hermon, and belong to a family headed by Abu Jamal, 51, a wealthy Druze who is believed to be the ring leader. Israeli authorities said the ring was responsible for three letter bombs discovered in the Kiryat She-mona post office last Oct. addressed to President Nixon, Secretary of State William P. Rogers, and Defense Secretary Melvin Laird.

They are also accused of mailing letter bombs from a Tel Aviv post office, one of which injured a school teacher at Kiryat-Gat. Israeli authorities said the letter bombs were supplied by Syrian intelligence agents who wanted them posted from Israel in order to focus blame in the wrong direction.

The primary mission of the spy ring was espionage. Intelligence relating to Israeli military deployment and other security matters was left at a pre-arranged "drop" on Israeli territory to be picked up by Syrian agents who relayed their instructions to the spy ring in a similar manner. The ring was exposed after several of its members were surprised by an Israeli patrol on the way to the drop.

Two of them ignored an order to halt and were

killed. One of the dead men turned out to be a son of Abu Jamal. He was carrying Israeli newspapers and periodicals and information of a military nature. An investigation led to Majdal Shamas village where Abu Jamal and the others were arrested.

RABBI GOREN: NON-ORTHODOX RABBIS CAN JOIN WORLD RABBINICAL COUNCIL

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (JTA)--Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren said last night that he would not bar non-Orthodox rabbis from the World Rabbinical Council he proposes to set up in Jerusalem to deal with halachic problems arising in Israel and the diaspora.

"There is one Jewish nation and whoever accepts the ruling of the Bible and accepts the halacha and shulchan aruch (code of religious law) will be welcomed to join the Rabbinical Council I am setting up," Goren said at a press conference here. He said the sole criteria for inviting rabbis and Torah scholars was adherence to halacha--religious law.

Rabbi Goren made his remarks when asked by newsmen if non-Orthodox rabbis from abroad would be eligible. The Orthodox religious establishment in Israel refuses to recognize Reform and Conservative rabbis and they are prohibited from performing rabbinical functions in Israel.

The Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi said he planned to press vigorously for the adoption of an amendment to Israel's law of return that would define a Jew as a person born of a Jewish mother or converted according to halacha. The law as it stands omits the words "according to halacha" and permits the recognition of conversions performed by non-Orthodox rabbis abroad.

Rabbi Goren said he wanted the controversial issue kept out of this year's election campaign. He said he would suggest that the amendment be proposed as a private bill by representatives of all the large Knesset factions which will be asked to waive coalition or party discipline. According to Rabbi Goren, if MKs are allowed to "vote their conscience," the amendment will pass.

LUBARSKY TRIAL OPENS UNDER LID OF SECRECY

LONDON, Feb. 1 (JTA)--The trial of Lazar Lubarsky opened in Rostov yesterday under a tight lid of secrecy. All spectators were barred and 16 defense witnesses, including Lubarsky's wife, Galina Pevzner, were kept out of the courtroom during the opening session which lasted 11 hours. Mrs. Lubarsky and nine other witnesses were permitted to enter the court and give evidence today, Jewish sources in the Soviet Union reported.

Lubarsky, a 46-year-old engineer who was chief engineer of the high tension networks institute in Rostov, has been charged with violating paragraph 190-1 of the Soviet penal code pertaining to "slandering" the Soviet system. He is also charged under Art. 75.1 with "revealing State secrets."

Lubarsky had applied for a visa to go to Israel. He was arrested on July 18, 1972 after an extensive search of his home during which documents were confiscated. Prior to his arrest he was subjected to harassment and interrogation by the KGB (secret police), Jewish sources said. They reported that his 20-year-old daughter, Nellie, received threatening letters at her school and was asked to denounce her father because he wanted to go to Israel.

Lubarsky's defense lawyer, a woman, has called two well-known Moscow Jewish activists, Viktor

Polskt and Vladimir Prestin, to testify on his behalf. But they were not permitted to enter the courtroom today. All other trials scheduled to take place in the building were cancelled.

Meanwhile, 32 Jews from Vilna cabled the chairman of the Rostov District Court announcing that they were holding a 24-hour hunger strike beginning today as a demonstration of solidarity with Lubarsky. Jewish sources said Lubarsky was vulnerable to Soviet authorities because he was isolated in a city where there are no Western newspaper correspondents or tourists and few other Jewish activists. The sources said there was evidence that Soviet authorities would try to link Lubarsky with certain other Jewish activists in Moscow with reference to initiating and signing "slanderous" petitions.

Congressmen Protest Trial Of Lubarsky

(In Washington, Congressmen called on Soviet leaders to free Lubarsky. Addressing the House, Rep. Edward Koch (R, NY) said Lubarsky's case is further evidence of the continuing harassment by the Soviet government of its Jewish citizens. He called on Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin to intercede on behalf of Lubarsky and asked him further to urge the Soviet government to allow Lubarsky to emigrate. In a letter to Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev, Congressman Norman Lent (R, NY) stated, "We are appalled by the violation of human rights apparent in this case. We appeal to you and your colleagues to intercede on behalf of the defendant...")

(The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry reported that thousands of telegrams and communications have been sent by political, religious and legal personalities and other concerned New Yorkers in an effort to gain Lubarsky's release.)

EFFORTS TO CONVINCe ARABS TO CONDUCT DIRECT TALKS WOULD BE APPRECIATED

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir said last night that Israel would be grateful if the United States could convince the Arab states that direct negotiations with Israel was the way to peace in the Middle East. In a farewell speech to 160 Jewish leaders from the U.S. and Canada who attended the Israel Bonds conference convened by the Prime Minister, Mrs. Meir said: "The United States believes that the only hopeful way of solving the problem in the Middle East is for the Arabs and us to do it ourselves."

Asked if she saw a possible role for President Nixon's national security advisor Dr. Henry Kissinger in promoting a Middle East settlement, Mrs. Meir replied: "If Dr. Kissinger or anybody else can help convince our neighbors that this (negotiations) is the thing to do, we shall be very grateful."

UN APPROVES \$15 M FOR ISRAELI PROGRAM

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 1 (JTA)--The Governing Council of the UN Development Program (UNDP) today approved Israel's Country Program and granted her assistance of \$5 million. The approval was given despite strong Arab insistence that Israel was not entitled to UNDP funds because it holds Arab territories and because the Israeli project would be implemented in the Arab territories seized in the Six-Day War. The Country Program consists of aid for industrial and agricultural development.

Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah said today

that the Arab opposition to UNDP aid for Israel "springs from Israel's success in repelling Arab aggression and thwarting Arab designs on Israel's independence." Referring to the "absurdity" of the Arabs' arguments Tekoah cited the fact that "the Arab governments are engaged in a campaign of terror and savage atrocities which constitutes an international menace."

According to Tekoah the Arab governments are receiving a total of \$172.5 million as UNDP assistance for the period of 1972-1976 but "at the same time spend more than twice as much on their terrorist organization."

MOSCOW MAYOR URGED TO AID SOVIET JEWS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (JTA)--A letter from the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington was given to the Mayor of Moscow, Vladimir F. Promyslov, before he left here for San Francisco today in a continuation of his nine-day tour of four American cities. The letter was delivered by Mayor Walter Washington. Ben Gilbert, an aide to Mayor Washington, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that there was "a discussion" between them about Soviet Jews but he declined to report it, saying the conversation was "privileged."

Dr. Isaac Franck, executive vice-president of the JCC said the letter asked Promyslov to intercede on behalf of Jewish prisoners in the Soviet Union and help persuade Soviet leaders to grant Jews amnesty, to permit them to emigrate to Israel, and to rescind the emigration tax. Dr. Franck and the Council's president, Dr. Harvey Ammerman, signed the letter.

Mayor and Mrs. Promyslov came here to repay a visit by Mayor and Mrs. Washington to the Soviet Union two years ago. Ben Eastman, an aide to the Black Mayor, said the trip is sponsored by the State Department and the mayors of the four American cities are serving as the hosts. During President Nixon's visit to Moscow last May for the summit meeting, Promyslov declared at a news conference for foreign correspondents, including the Americans, that Soviet Jews were well treated.

Immanuel Galbar, the former Israeli Ambassador to Cambodia, was named yesterday as Israel's first Consul General to Hong Kong. He is 55 years old and a former Army officer. The primary purpose of opening a Consulate General in Hong Kong is to boost trade between Israel and the bustling British Colony.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, who played a major role in the negotiations that led to West Germany's payment of reparations to Israel and compensation to other Jewish victims of Nazism, may soon try to get the East German regime to meet its reparations obligations. The president of the World Jewish Congress said during a radio interview several days ago in Jerusalem that he will visit West Germany shortly in order to determine East Germany's intentions. But Dr. Goldmann said he was not optimistic over reaching an accord with the East German regime.

Bernt Engelmann, vice-president of the PEN club in Bonn said that the club has evidence that neo-Nazism is tolerated and, to a degree, even encouraged in West Germany. Engelmann is the author of "Germany Without Jews." Meanwhile, the Nazi crimes investigation center in Ludwigsburg reported that it had brought about 10,000 Nazi war criminals to justice since it was set up 15 years ago and investigated many thousands more cases. A spokesman for the center said that evidence is still being collected in about 400 Nazi war crimes cases.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

AFTERMATH OF GOLDA'S TRIP

By Edwin Eytan, JTA European Bureau Chief

PARIS, Feb. 1 (JTA)--Three European capitals are slowly recovering from Premier Golda Meir's recent whirlwind European tour. The presence of Socialist leaders from 18 countries in Paris while France is in the throes of a heated election campaign, a lively and sometimes bitter exchange with the Pope in Rome, and a suspense-laden luncheon with Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, all in the course of six days, have prompted observers here to term her voyage "shock diplomacy."

As the smoke of passion and tempers slowly subsides, political observers in Europe are starting to analyze the consequences of the Israeli Premier's trip. To most of these, the trip was a major attempt to break out of the increasing political and diplomatic isolation in which Israel finds herself. The more cynical among these observers bluntly say that "the world has never loved a winner" and that Israel's uncontested victories in 1967 and her determination not to give up the fruits of victory, have deprived her of three basic fields of popular support: the Socialists, the Africans and the more liberal and humanitarian elements in the Christian world.

Slowly, but surely, Israel is seen as backed and sustained by a single country, the United States, which in the eyes of many European and African eyes is seen as the Vietnamese aggressor and the backer of the Greek and Portuguese regimes. It was apparently to break out of this gradually narrowing field of popular and even political support, that the Israeli Premier undertook her trip, dared risk French President Georges Pompidou's wrath, a possible clash with the Pope, and a possible snub by Houphouet-Boigny.

Three capitals, three attempts, three different results. In Paris, in the plush Luxembourg Palace, Mrs. Meir met with the leaders of Socialist Parties from 18 countries including four Prime Ministers. Most of Europe's Socialist Parties can be divided into those like West Germany and Austria and even Britain, where Socialist policy has lost its ideological basis and coincides with national interests. On the other hand, some of the Scandinavian countries, such as Sweden and Denmark, aim at applying Socialist principles in international affairs.

Dogma vs. Flexibility

While contact was immediately established with the Austrian, West German and British delegates, Mrs. Meir reportedly found herself somewhat at a loss when confronted with the dogmatic determination of the Scandinavians, Sweden's Olaf Palme and Denmark's Anker Jorgensen. The first difficulties appeared on the day the conference opened, when the two Scandinavian Premiers called for the Socialist-International to openly and publicly condemn the U.S. for her continued bombing in North Vietnam and for responsibility in the breakdown of the Paris talks.

Mrs. Meir, while associating Israel with the general disapproval of the Vietnam war, stressed that the guilt was not "all one-sided" and asked the conference to wait for the talks to resume. History luckily proved her right, but her supple attitude on what the northern Socialist considered a "burning and vital issue," did not help to endear Israel to their hearts.

As for Franco-Israeli relations, Mrs. Meir managed to improve her ties with the Socialists but she openly antagonized the current Gaullist regime. As for the Socialists, friendly as they may be to Israel while in the opposition, their outlook may drastically change should they eventually form a government with the Communist Party.

History Made In Rome

The every-day drab aspect of the Socialist conference was rapidly overshadowed by Mrs. Meir's trip to Rome: for the first time in a long, complex, and often inimical history, the Premier of the Jewish State was being received by the head of the Catholic Church.

All those who stood in St. Peter's Square, overshadowed by the huge statues of the 140 Saints who look down from the cathedral wall, felt they were living a historic moment as Mrs. Meir, in a small round fur hat, drove across the Vatican border. Two Swiss guards stood at attention, raising their 16th century halberds as the Israelis drove through the Santa Lucia gate. On the second floor of the Papal Palace, a red three-story palace of typical Roman design, the Pope was waiting. His first word was in Hebrew: "Shalom," his first gesture a blessing and a present, a small white porcelain dove representing eternal peace.

The shock came, however, a few minutes after the end of the audience when Vatican spokesman Prof. Federico Alessandrini issued a written "verbal" statement saying "nothing has changed in the Vatican's relations with Israel and there is no ground for such a change."

In spite of the Vatican statement and its special insistence on "the most helpless and destitute among human beings--the refugees from Palestine," Mrs. Meir's meeting with the Pope is considered by observers here as an important success for Israel--not because of what was said or its tangible results, but because the meeting had actually taken place. Throughout the Roman Catholic world, whether in Europe, Africa or Latin America, 630 million Catholics can only interpret this meeting, and probably rightly so, as a de facto recognition of Israel by the Vatican and a fundamental change in Catholic-Jewish relations.

Impact On Meir-Nixon Talks

The end of Mrs. Meir's six-day tour came in Geneva, with an old and trusted friend, Houphouet-Boigny. The meeting was considered by Israeli circles as of the utmost importance. In spite of Israel's technical, diplomatic and financial efforts in Africa, five countries (Uganda, Chad, Mali, Congo-Brazzaville and Niger) had broken off diplomatic relations during the last few months.

Many diplomats and observers believed that Libya's money and pressure were not sufficient to explain this process which, were it to spread, could isolate Israel from a large sector of the Third World. Houphouet-Boigny, as President of Africa's richest and stablest country, enjoys a unique prestige amongst the continent's leaders. A meeting between him and the Israeli Premier could serve to put matters right and stop what could turn out to be a general trend.

Geneva too, proved, however, laden with suspense. Minutes before the meeting, Ivory Coast officials including the Ambassador himself, continued to deny that the meeting would be held. It took place and lasted three-and-a-half hours, but all concerned, at Houphouet-Boigny's insistence, tried to give it a personal and private character. The African President has reportedly promised to try and help Israel in his "personal capacity." Will he succeed? This is the question many ask but practically no one can answer. In one month's time, Mrs. Meir will be in

