



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036

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Vol. XL - Fifty-Sixth Year

Friday, March 9, 1973

No. 48

LETTER BOMB FROM ATHENS SENT TO PROMINENT JEWISH JOURNALIST Police, FBI, Investigating Attempts To Bomb Two Israeli Installations

NEW YORK, March 8 (JTA)--A prominent New York Jewish journalist was the recipient yesterday of a letter bomb, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today. According to a well-informed source, the letter bomb was post-marked Athens, Greece. The return address was the King George Hotel in that city and the sender's name was a Rabbi Zombrowski. The source said this was apparently a fictitious name. The recipient, known to the JTA, said the letter was turned over to postal authorities in New York. The FBI, which was investigating the incident, declined to comment on any aspect of the case.

At the same time, the police department and its bomb squad division and the FBI were maintaining strict silence today about the two cars found yesterday with explosive devices near two Israeli installations. Full-scale investigations, however, are being conducted. One car was found near the El Al freight terminal at Kennedy Airport. The second car was in front of the Israel Discount Bank on Fifth Avenue. Both cars had been rented from car rental agencies, but the identity of the agencies and the persons renting the cars has not been released officially.

The car in front of the bank was towed away by the city's police department because it was parked illegally in a tow-away zone. The car agency discovered the explosives when it sought to retrieve the automobile from the police pound where it had been towed on Monday. Police officials declined to describe what was in it. The FBI said only that there is "no comment at this time." A spokesman for the police department's bomb squad division said information concerning both cars was "classified information." The same answers were given by police and FBI spokesmen when the JTA sought to find out how much damage would have been caused had the devices exploded.

Other sources, however, noted that the combination of propane gas and explosives found in the car near the El Al Terminal and similar material in the second car would have caused extensive damage had the devices detonated. One source replied: "Only God knows what would have happened. To the best of my knowledge, the combination of the materials found was very dangerous." The explosive devices in both cars were dismantled by police.

Meanwhile, it was reported that no extra security measures were being taken at any Jewish or Israeli installations in the city in the wake of yesterday's incidents. "Regular security is continuing," one spokesman told the JTA. "There are no special increases in security. The security we have now is quite adequate." Police officials and Jewish sources declined to speculate on who might be responsible for the bombing attempts. Both incidents took place while Israeli Premier Golda Meir was visiting the city and two weeks after a Libyan commercial airliner was downed by Israeli jets over the Sinai.

NAHAL SETTLEMENT ABANDONED

JERUSALEM, March 8 (JTA)--Nahal Yam, a

para-military settlement on the northern Sinai coast mid-way between El Arish and the Suez Canal, will be abandoned in favor of a civilian fishing village, the Jewish Agency settlement department announced today. The announcement raised immediate speculation that the region was being excluded from Israel's future borders. Questions to that effect drew an angry response from Minister-Without-Portfolio Israel Galili, chairman of the Cabinet's settlement committee, who claimed that economic factors alone prompted the decision.

A spokesman for the Jewish Agency said the decision to abandon the settlement grew out of its failure to develop a profitable fishing industry. He said the Nahal youngsters worked only eight hours a day and averaged 30 tons of fish per annum, about 1.5 percent of the potential catch in Lake Bardawill where the settlement is located. The settlers claimed, however, that they were not given the same support received by other settlements in the administered territories. Nahal Yam, established in 1968, was one of the first settlements outside Israel's borders after the Six-Day War.

BEN AHAIRON SAYS ISRAEL'S ECONOMY IS GEARED TO HELP THE RICH GET RICHER

TEL AVIV, March 8 (JTA)--Yitzhak Ben Aharon, secretary general of Histadrut, delivered a slashing attack on Israel's economic policies last night which he charged were polarizing the nation between rich and poor. The Histadrut leader, a controversial figure in the Labor Party leadership because of his outspoken dovish views on the matter of future borders, claimed that the current economic policy, "guided by one or two persons" had produced "socialism in reverse" by expropriating public funds for the enrichment of a few.

Ben Aharon addressed a Labor Party faction known as "Etgar" (Challenge) which includes many former senior Army officers. One of his main targets was Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, the acknowledged architect of Israel's economic policies. Sapir later refused to comment on Ben Aharon's remarks.

The union leader claimed that the government's economic policies "endanger our very existence." He said: "We are living in an unreal situation created out of Hollywood. Our living standards are based on funds mobilized to buy Phantoms and to absorb immigrants and those close to the coffers get rich. Public money gets wasted and the nouveau riche wax fatter, like cancer in the national bloodstream."

Socialism And Capitalism Cannot Co-Exist

Ben Aharon said it was a "disgrace to the nation" that 60-70,000 families live in poverty and 30-40,000 boys and girls are "wasting away on the fringe of our society in Musrara (a Jerusalem slum) and in Beisan and Hafzar (two new immigrant townships)." He demanded that his party decide whether it wants a capitalist, acquisitive society or socialism. "There can be no co-existence," he declared.

He conceded that there must be a pluralistic economy. But what we have today is the reverse of socialist Zionism, he contended. "We need a

planned and guided economy with a ceiling on what people may earn," he said. Ben Aharon also conceded that the living standards of Israeli workers have been raised significantly, but, he added, "If there is to be a controlled wage policy there must be a controlled income policy." He criticized the Bank of Israel for publishing a yearly study of the increased purchasing power of wages in Israel but never an annual report on profit margins. He warned that Israel would cease to attract immigrants if it became "only a provincial copy of American or European society."

Asked by a questioner why he stressed the dark spots, Ben Aharon replied, referring to Sapir, "There is a man who produces his black notebook and reads out interesting numbers on achievements which are not to be underestimated. But I came here to focus attention on those dark spots that I think must be remedied." Ben Aharon said that "if my views are not those of our movement, then I should not represent it."

SURVIVOR OF AIRLINER DISASTER DIES; TWO DISCHARGED, RETURN TO EGYPT

TEL AVIV, March 8 (JTA)--The death toll in the Feb. 21 Libyan airliner disaster rose to 107 today when one of the seven survivors died at Beersheba Hospital. The victim was Mahmoud Abu Baker, 33, a Libyan national who was being treated for severe burns and fractures. He had only brief periods of consciousness while at the hospital but was able to identify himself before he died.

Two other survivors were discharged from Beersheba Hospital today and were flown by helicopter to Kantara on the Suez Canal where they were transferred to Egyptian territory under Red Cross auspices. They are Feisal Mahmoud, an Egyptian, and Fathi Jabaleh, a citizen of Libya. Both were in high spirits as they prepared to leave the hospital. They embraced members of the medical staff and thanked them for the treatment they received. Each was given a fresh set of clothing. They expressed appreciation for the Israeli offer of compensation.

Two Libyans and a Jordanian remain at Beersheba Hospital. Their condition is still described as serious. But the Libyan co-pilot of the downed airliner was reported very much improved at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem today. He was moved from an intensive care unit to a regular ward.

SOVIET WOMEN'S DELEGATION IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, March 8 (JTA)--A three-woman delegation from the Soviet Union arrived here yesterday to participate in International Women's Day, an event sponsored by the Israel Democratic Women's Organization which had invited the Russians. Vera Shukhanova, a history lecturer at Moscow University who heads the delegation, told reporters that Soviet and Israeli women were "fighting the same battle."

The other members of the delegation, which represents the Soviet Women's Committee, are Dr. Zenov Ykobova, a lecturer in gynecology at the Kazan Medical School, and Eluytra Yakoshena of the Moscow Committee of Solidarity for Women. The number of Soviet visitors to Israel since Moscow broke diplomatic ties with Jerusalem during the Six-Day War has dwindled to such an extent that the presence of the Soviet women drew more than passing attention. Miss Shukhanova said she and her colleagues were pleased with the opportunity to study at first hand the "struggle" of Israeli women because Soviet women can iden-

tify with it.

She said her country was interested in peace in the Middle East but was opposed to the conquest of Arab territories by Israel which it considered an obstacle to peace. Miss Shukhanova reminded the reporters that the USSR supported Israel's existence and was the first state to recognize Israel when it gained independence 25 years ago. She said that most of her Jewish friends in Moscow liked the Soviet Union. "None of my Jewish friends have emigrated to Israel yet," she quipped.

MENACHEM BARLEV DEAD AT AGE 77

JERUSALEM, March 8 (JTA)--Funeral services were held yesterday for Menachem Barlev, father of the Minister of Commerce and Industry Gen. Haim Barlev, who died Tuesday at the age of 77. Menachem Barlev came to Israel from Poland in 1940. Acting Premier Yigal Alon and other Cabinet ministers and Chief of Staff Gen. David Elazar attended the services.

HOW TO CLEAN UP IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 8 (JTA)--The life-style of Israelis and especially that of tourists in the Jewish State will soon be revolutionized. No longer will there be the endless wait for clothes to come back from laundries. No longer will tourists have to wash out their drip dry outerwear in the hotel wash basins. And no more chasing around for "quick-wash" laundries which turn out to be quick wash but extremely slow dry.

It was announced today that the first chain of franchised automatic coin-operated laundries will be set up in Israel. Each store will be a turn-key operation which will be owned by a family of olim from the Anglo-Saxon countries. The announcement was issued by Howard E. Katz, president of the Israel International Corporation which is sponsoring this project.

Katz explained that it is contemplated to open a chain of at least 30 automatic laundries in various parts of Israel. Joint cooperation has been established with the Tour Ve-aleh Israel organization and the Israel aliyah department of the Jewish Agency. These two groups will offer the plan to the thousands of applicants who are interested in immigrating to Israel.

The new units will be known as "machbesa-matik"--a take-off of "macabesah" which means "laundry" in Hebrew. Each operation will be completely equipped with the latest washing machines and dryers and dry-cleaning automatic service. The concepts of the automatic laundry franchise is to provide a ready-made business for each immigrant family. "It is planned that the revenue from each operation will provide an income for each family according to western Anglo-Saxon standards.

RABBINICAL ALLIANCE RAPS NRP

NEW YORK, March 8 (JTA)--Israel's National Religious Party was sharply attacked here today for a resolution adopted by a large majority at its national convention in Tel Aviv last week advocating the removal of yeshiva students' exemption from military service. Rabbi Abraham Gross, president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, said the NRP's action further divided the Orthodox Jewish community and calls into question whether the NRP really speaks on behalf of Torah Jewry. He said this "insensitivity to the inner feelings of the yeshiva world" raised the question "of the sincerity of the NRP's claim to back the Chief Rabbinate of Israel when both Chief Rabbis had urged the resolution's defeat."

MRS. MEIR URGES JEWISH YOUTH TO COME TO ISRAEL TO HELP BUILD NATION

NEW YORK, March 8 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir of Israel received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Yeshiva University this morning and was visibly overwhelmed by the warm, enthusiastic welcome she received. Speaking in Hebrew to an audience of 2000, mostly young people, she told the youths in effect that the future survival of the Jewish people and Judaism was in their hands and urged them, and Jewish youth all over the world, to come to Israel and participate in its creative activities and development.

Mrs. Meir stressed that one of her greatest concerns was assimilation. "It will be a disaster, now that we have a sovereign Jewish State, if we lose part of the young Jewish generation," she said. The old generations that sacrificed their lives for Jewishness believed that "you, the youth, would not forget, would not run away from your Jewishness," Mrs. Meir declared. "The young Jewish people must know who they are. People who know who they are don't run away."

The degree was presented to the Premier by Dr. Samuel Belkin, president of Yeshiva University. Mrs. Meir did not conceal her emotions. Tears ran down her face as she accepted it. She received a prolonged standing ovation when she was introduced and an even longer one when she finished her remarks. For nearly 10 minutes the audience and Mrs. Meir stood, clapped rhythmically and sang, "Am Yisroel Chai"--the nation of Israel lives.

Praises Israel's Armed Forces

Mrs. Meir's references to the Middle East situation were comparatively brief and she repeated what she has told many other audiences during her American visit. She said that Israel did not hate its Arab neighbors but they refused to accept Israel and, therefore, "our youth must still guard our borders to assure the future of Israel and the Jewish nation."

She voiced high praise for Israel's armed forces. "It is not that we have better equipment," she said, "We have better pilots and better tank men." She said she hoped that Israel is not just a remote symbol for Jews but "a center of the Jewish people who will bind their lives with the State."

Presenting the citation, Dr. Belkin said to Mrs. Meir: "We convey through you our deepest affections for our co-religionists in the State of Israel and express the eternal hope that the Torah may come forth from Zion and the word of God from Jerusalem." In his general remarks, Dr. Belkin expressed the hope that Mrs. Meir "will see in her lifetime the implements of war converted into ploughshares, and rejoice in the knowledge that Israel and her Arab neighbors will plant their vineyards and olive trees in the harmonious atmosphere of peace and tranquility."

ISRAELI PREMIER'S VISIT ENDS; APPEARS GRATIFIED WITH U.S. JEWISH RESPONSE

NEW YORK, March 8 (JTA)--Observers here following Premier Golda Meir's American visit indicated today that its outcome seemed gratifying from Israel's point of view. They said it was apparent from Mrs. Meir's talks with President Nixon and other top U.S. officials that there has been no change in the American position toward Israel. American military and economic aid to Israel will continue and Israel has not been offered any formulations by the U.S.

It also appeared that the Rogers Plan of 1969,

to which Israel objects, was not once raised during the Premier's meetings in Washington nor was there any insinuation that the energy crisis, especially as regards oil from the Middle East, will in any way influence U.S. policy toward Israel.

Observers cautioned, however, that there can be no guarantees that changes will not occur in the future. There has been no change in Israel's position and, from Israel's point of view, no change or sign of flexibility on the Arab side.

Observers believe Premier Meir discussed the problems of Soviet Jewry with Nixon, is aware that the U.S. is following its own course on this subject and seems satisfied with that course. Observers got the impression that the Israeli leader was delighted with the warm reception she received from the American Jewish community and the profound feelings of American Jews have toward Israel. Mrs. Meir's visit has officially ended. The date of her departure for Israel has not been disclosed.

RABBI WARNS OF NEW ANTI-ISRAEL BLOC

TORONTO, March 8 (JTA)--Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, addressing 1000 persons at his Friday night services at Holy Blossom Temple, predicted that the combined forces of the various segments of the new and old left, and those who have been "professionally" involved in the fight against the Vietnam War, will, now that the war has ended, combine forces to find a new target. That new target, he warned, will be Israel.

Dr. Plaut, who has been among those opposed to the American intervention in Vietnam, said that a "professional cadre came to dominate a formidable army of political moralists who suddenly found themselves out of employment. They have no real target, but they need to continue their marching momentum.... It is my belief that unless something entirely new happens on the international scene, Israel will likely become the focus for their unused energies."

Among the various symptoms that Dr. Plaut mentioned was the recent address at the National Council of Churches in the U.S. delivered by Leroy Jones (Imamu Amiri Baraka) who made "vituperative attacks on Israel and its Jewish function in the world - an attack that went largely unopposed from the assemblage of the Protestant churches." He also included in this category the First Unitarian Church in Toronto which invited as its speaker John Nicholls Booth, an anti-Israel activist whose material had appeared in Gerald L.K. Smith's hate sheet, "The Cross and the Flag."

ARCHBISHOP CONDEMNNS EXIT FEES

BOSTON, March 8 (JTA)--Rabbi Samuel Kenner, chairman of the Soviet Jewry Committee of the Jewish-Community Council of Metropolitan Boston and chairman of the Committee on Catholic-Jewish Relations of the Archdiocesan Ecumenical Commission, commended Cardinal-Elect Archbishop Humberto S. Medeiros of Boston for his recent statement criticizing the Soviet government for exacting exit fees from Jews seeking to emigrate.

Archbishop Medeiros said the exit fees are nothing more than "a mere pretext designed to obscure the despicable blackmail demanded for the free and legitimate exercise of the basic human right to leave one country for another." Over the decades, he added, the Soviet Union has created and manipulated anti-Semitism as a "potent weapon of social control. Therefore, today, our Jewish brothers in the Soviet Union remain a special target of this demand for ransom."