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TERRORIST ATTEMPT FOILED AT AIRPORT

ROME, March 20 (JTA)--Reepled-up security measures at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci International Airport apparently have succeeded in foiling a terrorist attempt for the second time in four months. Police yesterday found four briefcases, each containing submachine guns, ammunition, a grenade and a smoke bomb, during a routine search of the transit lounge. In one of the briefcases was a bunch of newspaper clippings referring to Israeli actions against Palestinian terrorist bases. References to last month's raid in northern Lebanon were underlined in red.

Police have advanced two theories. One is that the cases were taken to the airport for pickup by a terrorist gang that never arrived. The other is that the gang itself abandoned the weapons in view of heavy security measures at the airport. Whoever brought the cases, a spokesman said, evidently came from another airport with less stringent security, or somehow managed to avoid control measures at the ticket counters. The first suitcase of arms was spotted by a plainclothesman at Gate 14 and its weight immediately aroused his suspicions. An intensive search then turned up the other briefcases at Gates 7 and 8.

For several months, transit passengers as well as departing passengers have had to go through metal detectors and other controls before boarding aircraft. Leonardo da Vinci Airport is a major transfer point for flights to and from the Middle East, and several acts of air terrorism have originated here. The latest discovery was almost identical to one last Nov., when police found four briefcases--also in the transit lounge--each containing a Sten gun with 16 clips, eight grenades and four incendiary bombs.

The weapons held by police today are Sterling submachine guns, each with four clips of 9mm bullets, 48 rounds to a clip. Serial numbers have been brazed off. The guns have folding stocks and were neatly taped into the identical briefcases. Police said they were all in perfect working order.

The Lod Airport massacre in Tel Aviv last May originated in Rome, where the three Japanese terrorists boarded an Air France flight. Later last year two Arabs allegedly gave to two English girls who boarded in Rome a booby-trapped record player. Although the booby trap exploded, it failed to pierce the aircraft's specially-reinforced baggage compartment, and the plane was able to make it back to Rome without casualties.

The two Arabs recently were released from custody while awaiting trial and slipped out of the country to Italy's tacit relief and Israel's indignation. In both the Lod massacre and the booby-trap cases, Israel assailed Rome airport authorities for alleged lax security.

AUTOMATIC ASSAULT RIFLE AROUSES INTEREST OF SEVERAL NATIONS

TEL AVIV, March 20 (JTA)--Israel's newly unveiled automatic assault rifle, named the "Galil," has aroused the interest of many foreign armies, it was learned today. Spokesmen for

Israel's military industry, whose engineers developed the new weapon, said that requests to examine it have already been received from a number of European, African, Asian and Latin American countries. They predicted that the "Galil" would have the same international success as Israel's Uzi submachinegun which was developed in the 1950s and has since had millions of dollars in foreign sales.

The "Galil" was described as similar in appearance to the Russian Kalachnikov assault rifle but superior to it in performance. A report published recently in the Military Review of the U.S. Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., said that in tests against the Kalachnikov, the Belgian FN rifle, the American M-16, the Italian Beretta and the Japanese Har 18, the Israeli weapon took first place with a score of 98 out of 100 points. It was designed by Col. Uzi Gal, designer of the famed Uzi submachinegun.

The new Israeli rifle weighs four kilograms without ammunition and can fire 650 rounds per minute at ranges of 60-200 yards. It fires 5.56 mm. calibre ammunition, the same as the American M-16. It also fires grenades and can be used with a bayonet. The weapon has reportedly been issued to some of Israel's crack paratroop units and may eventually replace the Uzi, the Belgian FN and the Browning light machinegun in Israel's arsenal.

USSR WAIVES TAX FOR 35 JEWS Shifrin Only Known Activist; 'Hard Core' Activists Refused Visas

NEW YORK, March 20 (JTA)--Thirty-five Moscow Jews were told today that they may emigrate without paying the education tax, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported. Yesterday the Soviet authorities waived the education tax for at least five Jewish scientists and technicians seeking to emigrate to Israel. (See separate story on reaction by Congressmen P. 3)

The NCSJ said that in today's group, only one member, Eduard Shifrin, is a known activist. None of the 35 had previously been denied permission to leave and some previously had been granted exit visas but were subjected to the tax based on their level of education, the NCSJ said.

At the same time, according to the NCSJ, several activists, including Viktor Berlavsky and Dina Deilina, were informed today that their applications for visas have been denied. The NCSJ described this group as "hard core" activists.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK TO SIGN ACCORDS WITH USSR TOTALING APPROXIMATELY \$202 M

WASHINGTON, March 20 (JTA)--Acting under Presidential authority, the U.S. Export-Import Bank will sign two agreements with the Soviet Union tomorrow and another on Friday giving credits totaling approximately \$202 million at an annual interest rate of six percent, to be paid in 7-10 years. Major U.S. banks are now charging a prime rate of 6 3/4 percent which is the minimum interest charge on short term loans to the largest and most credit-worthy American corporations. The World Bank charges 7 1/3 percent.

Questioned by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Miss Rosemary Mezon, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Export-Import Bank, said that the bank is not a commercial lending agency and is "not concerned" with private bank rates, although U.S. banks are those which are providing the Soviet government with the credits to buy American goods and equipment. The spokeswoman said that the Export-Import Bank has been charging six percent for the past ten years to give private American banks "a competitive mix" in the foreign markets.

Congressional sources told the JTA that the Jackson amendment, when adopted, will definitely affect Export-Import Bank operations. The amendment and its companion Mills-Vanik measure in the House have not been voted upon pending the submission to Congress by the White House of the Soviet-American Trade Agreement signed last Oct. Congress must ratify the agreement that provides tariff benefits and credits to the Soviet Union.

Trying To Get Many Deals

"The Administration is trying to get in as many deals with the Soviet Union as possible before Congress acts on the trade agreement," said an aide to Senator Henry M. Jackson (D. Wash.). The signing of the Export-Import Bank agreements scheduled for two weeks ago, was postponed for completion of legal details, according to bank spokesmen.

President Nixon authorized the Export-Import Bank to arrange credits for the Soviet Union last Oct. at the time of the signing of the Bilateral Trade Pact. These are the first such credits granted the Soviet Union since the Export-Import Bank was founded 39 years ago.

The bank, an independent U.S. agency, is forbidden by its charter to negotiate trade arrangements with a communist nation or a nation that lends aid to a communist nation unless the President proclaims it to be in the national interest. Walter C. Sauer, first vice-president, will sign the agreements for the Export-Import Bank and Viktor Alhimov, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Trade will sign the agreements for the Soviet Union.

KATCHALSKI, 'DARK HORSE' CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

JERUSALEM, March 20 (JTA)--Prof. Ephraim Katchalski, 57, a biophysicist at the Weizmann Institute of Science, emerged today as a possible candidate for the presidency of Israel. The Russian-born scientist, who is presently visiting the United States, was telephoned by members of a six-man committee of the Labor Party to find out if he would be willing to stand for the office, it was learned today. Prof. Katchalski reportedly deferred his decision for several days but did not turn the offer down.

The Labor Party's 620-member Central Committee has postponed until Sunday a meeting that had been scheduled for this Thursday at which the six-man committee assigned to select presidential candidates was to present its recommendations. The postponement was called apparently to pave the way for Dr. Katchalski's candidacy should he decide to accept. His name has been added to what up to now has been a three-man race to succeed President Zalman Shazar. The Knesset will elect Israel's next President May 25.

The leading candidates up to now have been Knesset Deputy Speaker Yitzhak Navon, Yaacov Tsur, president of the Jewish National Fund and Supreme Court Justice Eliahu Mani. All are pos-

sible choices of the ruling Labor Party and any one of them, if nominated, is virtually assured of election. Prof. Katchalski appeared to be a "dark horse" entry.

But according to some sources, Prof. Katchalski's prospects appear to be the brightest. He reportedly has the backing of two powerful figures in the Labor Party, Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir and Minister-Without-Portfolio Israel Galili. Prof. Katchalski is the brother of the late Prof. Aharon Katzir-Katchalsky, another eminent Weizmann Institute scientist who was one of the victims of the Lod Airport massacre last May 30.

... TELLS JTA HE IS NOT SURPRISED BY OFFER

NEW YORK, March 20 (JTA)--Prof. Ephraim Katchalski told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that he was "not surprised" by an offer from Israel to succeed Zalman Shazar. The 57-year-old biophysicist said he had promised the party leaders to make no further comment until he decides whether or not to accept the nomination.

Prof. Katchalski was reached by telephone at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston where he is participating in the dedication of a fellowship in the name of his late brother, Prof. Aharon Katzir-Katchalsky. He will also attend and participate in an Aharon Katchalsky Memorial Symposium at the University of California, Berkeley, March 21-24.

Prof. Katchalski was born in Kiev, Russia, came to Palestine in 1922 and received a master of science degree from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1937 and his doctorate from the same institution in 1941. He joined the Weizmann Institute in 1949 and has since been a visiting lecturer or guest scientist at such prestigious American institutions as Harvard and Yale Universities and is a member of many scientific societies in Israel, Europe and the U.S.

ISRAELI WARNING LED FRENCH TO ARREST TWO ARAB TERRORISTS

TEL AVIV, March 20 (JTA)--Israeli sources claimed today that information uncovered during Israel's raid on terrorist bases in northern Lebanon led to the arrest last Thursday in France of two Arab terrorists driving a car filled with explosives.

According to the same source, Israeli commando units discovered the plans for the planting of explosives in private cars and Israeli intelligence was able to alert French authorities in time to capture the suspects. The plan called for the use of innocent tourists to transfer the cars from Lebanon to Europe where the cars were to be handed over to other terrorists. The explosives were for terrorist activities in Europe.

BROTHERHOOD WEEK IN WEST GERMANY

BONN, March 20 (JTA)--A West German television survey taken at the opening of Christian-Jewish Brotherhood Week indicated that the 30,000 Jews living in this country feel that the security provided them by West German authorities is more than sufficient and do not feel any prejudice, even from younger Germans.

Prof. Helmut Gollwitzer, a Protestant theologian who was awarded the Buber-Rosenzweig Medal for his fight against anti-Semitism and for the rights of oppressed people, warned of new anti-Zionist currents in the younger generation. He said he hoped this anti-Zionism was merely "a fashionable and emotional current" stemming from criticism of Israel's domestic policies.

CONGRESSMEN REACT COOLY TO REPORT OF SOVIET WAIVERS

WASHINGTON, March 20 (JTA)--Congressional leaders demanding an easing of Soviet emigration policies reacted coldly today to a report from Moscow that Soviet authorities have waived the education tax for at least five Jewish scientists and technicians seeking to emigrate to Israel. Their initial concensus, gathered by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, was that selective waivers do not remove the obstacles to emigration sought by thousands and possibly hundreds of thousands of Russian Jews.

Congressional spokesmen made it clear that Soviet authorities were mistaken if they believe that waivers in a few cases will lead to the abandonment to amendments to the U.S.-Soviet trade pact, signed last Oct., which command overwhelming support in both Houses. The amendments, introduced by Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D. Wash.) in the Senate and by Reps. Wilbur Mills (D. Ark.) and Charles Vanik (D. Ohio) in the House, would withhold most favored nation trade status from the Soviet Union unless it eases its emigration policies.

According to the Moscow report, the five Jews summoned to the visa office yesterday and told they could leave without paying the exorbitant diploma tax were identified as Mr. and Mrs. Aleksandr Babchin; Mr. and Mrs. Anatoly Gokhshtein; and Valery Korenblit. The report said that other Jews were instructed to come to the visa office today and hinted that waivers may be granted in additional cases.

Babchin, described as a 34-year-old printing engineer, was exempted from paying a tax of 12,000 rubles, about \$16,000 for himself and his wife. Gokhshtein, 40, a hydraulic engineer, was reported to have been subjected to a 10,000 ruble tax, about \$13,300, and Korenblit to 4,000 rubles, about \$5,300, the report said. Sources said the salaries of the five ranged from \$75-\$200 a month.

Legislation Is Still Necessary

The waivers in their cases were announced just five days after U.S. Secretary of the Treasury George P. Shultz ended meetings with top Soviet leaders in Moscow during which he reportedly explained to them the mounting sentiment in Congress against Soviet emigration restrictions.

Mills was reported to be strongly negative. An aide told the JTA that Mills, chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, felt that the problem had to be solved for everyone, not just a select few. Vanik said: "Exemptions mean that the despicable law still exists. It is the law which must be removed while emigration must continue in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

Jackson said he was "encouraged" by the waivers but said they did not obviate the need for his proposed legislation. "These selective waivers cannot assure that the Soviets will grant exit visas to the many thousands of others who wish to emigrate," Jackson said. He noted that "at least" 100,000 Jews in the Soviet Union have written to Israel for entry documents, primarily affidavits from relatives.

A Republican Party figure in the Senate drive for the Jackson amendment who asked not to be identified, said: "The Soviet government must have its thumb in its mouth if it thinks this (the waivers) is a major effort to convince us that it is relenting on its ransom taxes." He asked

"What is five or even a hundred or a thousand exemptions when there are hundreds of thousands involved in this emigration issue?"

U.S. JEWISH LEADERS HOLD MEMORIAL SERVICE AT WARSAW GHETTO MONUMENT

By Irving Friedman, Special JTA Correspondent

WARSAW, March 20 (JTA)--The sky was starkly gray today as a group of young American Jewish leaders held a memorial service at the Warsaw Ghetto monument. The group, representing the Young Leadership Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal, placed a wreath on the steps of the monument and recalled the heroism and courage of those Jews who fought the Nazis against impossible odds.

Standing in silence, the group was overcome by the awesome acts performed in the uprising. The silence was finally broken by an intonation of the Kaddish and the El Moleh Rachamim, traditional praying for the dead. Unable to end on a note of death, the group locked arms and chanted "Ani Maamin" (I Believe) and then the Hatikvah in an act affirming the continued survival of the Jewish people.

The service was viewed by passing Poles with alternating amusement and perplexity. Polish housewives peered through their curtains. One found it difficult to conjure up the horrors of the Ghetto amid manicured lawns and trim apartment buildings. The group later visited the Mila 18 monument where small boys played games, obviously uncaring about the significance of the monument. Someone had unsuccessfully tried to remove some paint or chalk from the simple stones that mark this place.

TURK CAPTURED BY ISRAELI SOLDIERS TRANSFERRED TO CIVILIAN POLICE

TEL AVIV, March 20 (JTA)--The Israeli police were today given custody of the Turkish prisoner of war captured by Israeli soldiers last month during their attack on terrorist bases in northern Lebanon. The transfer from military to civilian authority may be a sign of the government's willingness to deport the Turkish national to his native Turkey where he will then be tried by the local authorities. He can also now be brought before an Israeli civilian court as a member of a terrorist organization.

Parallels between the case of this prisoner and that of Adolf Eichmann have already been mentioned by some legal experts who point to the capture of both men outside of Israeli territory and for crimes not committed on Israeli soil. During Eichmann's trial, the Israeli court based its decision on British precedents when trying pirates and other criminals brought from afar. The court ruled that the presence of the defendant in court was sufficient reason to try him, irrespective of the means employed to bring him to the country.

An Israeli television correspondent who was granted an interview by King Hussein of Jordan, has been barred by Israeli authorities from undertaking the assignment. Eddie Sofer reportedly had been making approaches to Jordanian authorities for the past six months. Hussein finally agreed to receive him at the Royal Palace in Amman on the understanding that the King would discuss his proposed plan for the federation of the West Bank with Jordan. At the last minute, the Israeli government intervened on grounds that the interview was not necessary. Sofer has made no comment. It is believed that the government was disturbed at the prospect of an Israeli journalist entering enemy territory for an interview.

