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3 ISRAELI PWs TELL OF TORTURE SUFFERED IN SYRIAN CAPTIVITY

Returned Home In Exchange For
46 Syrian, 10 Lebanese PWs In Israel

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA)--Three Israeli prisoners of war who returned home today after three years of captivity in Syria related grim tales of torture at the hands of their captors who told them at one point that there is a Geneva Convention "but not for you." The three, all fighter pilots who bailed out over Syrian territory in 1970 after their planes were shot down by ground fire, were exchanged for 46 Syrian and 10 Lebanese PWs held by Israel. The exchange, which took place this morning at Amadiyah Junction on the Golan Heights, culminated top secret negotiations which involved the International Red Cross, Israel and Syria.

The freed Israelis are Captains, Gideon Magen and Pinhas Nahmani, both married and each the father of two children, and Lt. Boaz Eitan, who is unmarried. The three were briefly reunited with their families at Kuneitra after their release and then taken to an Air Force base for debriefing. Later they were luncheon guests of Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, Chief of Staff Gen. David Elazar and Air Force Commander Benjamin Peled. Premier Golda Meir interrupted a Cabinet meeting to greet them by telephone.

Speaking to reporters at the Air Force base, the fliers said the Syrians had subjected them to the same methods of torture used by the Turks before World War I with some modern refinements including electric shock. They said their captors used wet branches to beat the soles of their feet and their fingertips. Lt. Eitan said the Syrians admitted there was a Geneva Convention barring the mistreatment of PWs but said, "That is not for you. You are Israelis." He said the statement was accompanied by repeated blows to his head and body.

Repeatedly Beaten By Captors

According to the returned prisoners, broken limbs and fractured ribs were a daily occurrence during the first few months of their captivity. They said they were examined by a doctor but only to see if their hearts were strong enough to bear further torture.

Capt. Nahmani, who broke a leg when he bailed out, said he received no medical treatment for five days but was repeatedly beaten by his captors during that interval on his fractured leg and on his head. He said that as a result of his head injuries he permanently lost the hearing of one ear.

Capt. Magen gave a similar account of his treatment. He said they were not visited by Red Cross representatives for 4-1/2 months after their capture, and that period was the worst. But even later, when their treatment had improved, it was still far from what the Geneva Convention required. Nevertheless, Capt. Magen said that while a prisoner he was able to take a correspondence course in mechanical engineering from the Haifa Technion. He said textbooks in Hebrew and English were supplied to him through the facilities of the Red Cross.

Possible Future Exchange With Egypt

Dayan, who was on the Golan Heights this morning to witness the PW exchange, told reporters that it might pave the way for a similar exchange with Egypt but that he didn't want to raise too much hope for that prospect. There are 10 Israeli-PWs in Egypt, most of them downed pilots, and 56 Egyptian PWs in Israel.

The Syrian PWs, returned by Israel included five senior Army officers captured by Israeli forces during a raid into southern Lebanon on June 21, 1972. They are: Brig. Gen. Arham Amwani, Col. Ranabu Alouch, and Col. Nazir Jerah, all of the Operations Branch of Syrian General Headquarters; and Lt. Cols. Rafiq Syrbag and Walid Abbasi, of Air Force intelligence. The other Syrian soldiers were captured by Israel during a raid on June 26, 1970. The 10 Lebanese soldiers exchanged today at the Ras el Nakura border post included two officers captured with the Syrian officers. The others were captured on June 21 and Sept. 16, 1972.

Dayan said he assumed that the capture of the five Syrian senior officers played a major role in persuading Damascus to agree to the PW exchange. Two of the Israeli pilots, Capt. Pinhas and Magen, bailed out on April 4, 1970. Lt. Eitan bailed out on June 26 of that year. All three were on undisclosed missions over Syria.

DRUZE SPY RELEASED, REPRIEVED

TEL AVIV, June 3 (JTA)--In a surprise move today, Israel announced the reprieve and release of Amal Kanj, a prominent Druze leader on the Golan Heights who was sentenced last year to 23 years' imprisonment for spying on behalf of Syria. Kanj, who was once a member of the Syrian parliament, returned to his home at Majdal-Shams on the slopes of Mt. Hermon in Israel-administered territory. There was no indication that his release was connected with the POW exchange. The Druze leader had been convicted of sheltering Syrian agents, providing Syria with Israeli intelligence data and illegally crossing the border into Syria to contact Syrian agents.

WEST BANK STRIKE URGED FOR JUNE 5

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA)--Leaflets urging residents of the West Bank to go on strike June 5, the sixth anniversary of the start of the Six-Day War, were distributed today throughout the Judea-Samaria regions. The leaflets were signed by "The Front of Popular Resistance." They exhorted the West Bankers to demonstrate unity "against the Israeli conquerors." Inscriptions with similar slogans were daubed on walls in various West Bank towns. A Palestinian flag was hoisted today at the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem. Police promptly removed it.

ICAO REPORT COMPLETELY EXONERATES ISRAEL ON DOWNING OF LIBYAN PLANE Notes Cairo Airport Was At Fault

LONDON, June 3 (JTA)--The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has reportedly exonerated Israel for the Libyan airliner disaster that occurred Feb. 21 over the Sinai. According to a report in Friday's "Daily Express," in advance of

the ICAO report's official release date tomorrow, the civil aviation group stated that the Israeli pilots "complied with the accepted procedures" to warn the Libyan airliner pilot that he should land his craft, "pointed to the airfield where the airliner could have landed safely," and fired harmlessly at the airliner. (See separate story on ICAO meeting tomorrow in Montreal.)

According to the Express story, the ICAO report "also exonerates the Israelis from the false charge that they had tampered with the black box of the Libyan aircraft." Libyan and Egyptian officials charged after the tragedy that Israel had tampered with the plane's recording mechanism to bring it in line with Israel's report that the pilot had been given all acceptable warnings before firing on the plane.

Many Countries Will Have To Apologize

The Express science editor, Chapman Pincher, commenting on the ICAO report, stated: "This report exonerates the Israelis to such an extent that many countries and organizations which criticized the Israelis for an unprovoked act of 'barbarism' will have to do some swift apologizing." The Express story on the report provided the following information:

The weather forecast provided in Libya before takeoff was below standard. Unusually high winds in the Cairo area which put the plane off course were not even mentioned in the weather forecast. The beacon at Cairo was not working properly and the Cairo approach control surveillance radar was unserviceable. About 18 minutes after the pilot had deviated from his route and began to get lost he requested a radar fix from Cairo but never got it. He asked again, and though his message was acknowledged, he was never given the fix.

About this time a shift change of the air traffic controllers at Cairo Airport was taking place. When the Cairo controllers eventually cleared the airliner to descend for landing, believing it was 15 miles away, the plane was actually crossing the Gulf of Suez in good visibility and entering Israeli-occupied Sinai some 100 miles away. When Cairo instructed it to descend to 4000 feet, it was 105 miles away and only 15 miles from an important Israeli defense base and military airfield. Even when the pilot saw the airfield he was still in touch with Cairo and was so convinced that he was near Cairo that he mistook Israeli Phantoms for Egyptian MIGs.

Israelis Complied With Accepted Procedure

The Israelis picked up the plane by radar before it crossed the Gulf of Suez. Phantoms with the Israeli Air Force Magen David clearly marked on them went up. Thus, they complied with the accepted procedure. The leading Israeli pilot rocked his Phantom's wings which is an order for a suspected aircraft to land. The Libyan Boeing pilot did not comply and he was still talking to Cairo Airport about landing there. The Israelis repeatedly pointed to the airfield where the airliner could have landed safely. But the Boeing co-pilot, a Libyan, indicated that he wanted to fly straight ahead. The Israelis then fired tracer bullets harmlessly in front of the Boeing.

These were seen by both pilots of the Boeing. The Israelis then fired at the Libyan airliner's starboard wing tip without doing serious damage. When the Boeing still failed to comply they fired at its starboard wing root and this forced the

plane to descend, but still under control. The pilot then tried to land in the desert and crashed. The map attached to the report not only confirms the Israeli version but shows that the plane was even further into Sinai. The report also exonerates the Israelis from the false charge that they had tampered with the black box of the Libyan aircraft.

EGYPT WANTS CLOSED ICAO MEETING

MONTREAL, June 3 (JTA)--The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is scheduled to meet here tomorrow to discuss the report of its special committee that investigated the downing of the Libyan airliner. According to well informed sources, Egypt has requested that the meeting be closed to the news media because the report exonerates Israel and refers to the improper functions of the radar equipment and beacon at the Cairo Airport. A resolution submitted to the ICAO meeting by Egypt, Indonesia, Lebanon and Tunisia calls for a strong condemnation of Israel for downing the airliner and for Israel's air raid in 1968 on the Beirut Airport. The Israeli delegation to the ICAO meeting, which arrived here this weekend, is headed by Meir Rosen.

BRANDT WILLING TO MEDIATE BETWEEN ISRAEL, USSR, TO RESTORE RELATIONS

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA)--West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, on the eve of his visit to Israel, has indicated that he would be willing to mediate between Israel and the Soviet Union toward restoring diplomatic relations between the two countries. Brandt made his remarks Friday to an Israeli television reporter in Bonn. He said that he might, if asked, use his good offices to that end.

Brandt said that the absence of relations between Israel and the USSR was unfortunate and "if anyone asks me to bring this opinion to the notice of others, I see no difficulties in making the attempt." Describing his attitude toward the Middle East conflict as "balanced without being neutral," Brandt said he would not convey any messages from Arab leaders to their Israeli counterparts but would give Israeli leaders his impression of the Arab attitude.

He noted that he had discussed the Middle East problem during his recent meetings with President Nixon in Washington and Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev in Bonn.

Brandt said his talks with Israeli leaders, scheduled to start here Thursday, would deal with German-Israeli relations, the Common Market and the Middle East crisis.

SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE POSTPONED FOR TWO DAYS; EGYPT SEEN LAUNCHING OFFENSIVE TO CHANGE RESOLUTION 242

UNITED NATIONS, June 3 (JTA)--Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring was due to arrive here this afternoon for the Security Council debate on the Middle East to open Wednesday morning. The debate was originally due to start tomorrow but was postponed following the arrival in New York of Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr. Mohammed H. El-Zayyat who asked Security Council President Yakov Malik of the Soviet Union, for additional time for consultation.

The JTA learned that Zayyat is going to consult with a number of Arab and pro-Arab foreign ministers who reportedly will attend the Security Council debate. The Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia and those of Syria and Jordan are very likely to attend the debate, and their expected appearance here has already attracted a great deal of attention. Unconfirmed reports note that Zayyat is also to consult with the Foreign Ministers of Morocco,

Algeria, Tunisia, Nigeria, and Chad.

Observers at the UN as well as reports from Cairo confirm that Egypt is ready to launch a major diplomatic campaign at the debate in an effort to force Israel's withdrawal from the territories taken in the Six-Day War. Egypt seeks to have the Security Council go beyond mere condemnation of Israel. It wants the UN to take practical steps to break the deadlock in the Middle East—a situation that already caused Egyptian President Anwar Sadat serious "troubles" at home.

Reports from Cairo indicate that Egypt will push for the implementation of Resolution 242 in the way she interprets it, that is, total withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied territories. Israel rejects this interpretation of Resolution 242. The Resolution calls for withdrawal "from territories," not all territories.

RABBI CHARGES POLICE ACTION AGAINST HASIDIM WAS ANTI-SEMITIC ASSAULT; 3 ARRESTED, 15 POLICE INJURED

NEW YORK, June 3 (JTA)--A Lubavitcher spokesman charged today that police action taken yesterday over alleged damage to a car in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn constituted an anti-Semitic assault on a crowd of Hasidic Jews who, he alleged, were indiscriminately beaten by police with billy clubs. According to Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky, the car was stopped because it had been driven "recklessly" on a street that is blocked to through traffic during certain hours of Saturday to protect overflow crowds attending synagogue services at the United Lubavitcher Yeshiva.

Three persons were booked at a nearby police station after a melee in which, according to police, one officer, Ronald Brown, was beaten unconscious, and 14 other police officers were injured by a crowd of several hundred Hasidic Jews. Brown and two others were hospitalized, police reported. The three arrested were identified as Frederick Coren, 29, and Yossi Duchman, 17, who were released on their own recognizance, and Howard Scheiner, 34, who was released on \$2500 bail. All are to appear in court tomorrow.

Scheiner was charged with second degree assault, robbery, possession of a dangerous weapon (a blackjack), criminal mischief, resisting arrest, inciting to riot, disorderly conduct and obstructing justice. Coren was charged with third degree assault and disorderly conduct. Duchman was charged with criminal mischief.

Rabbi Krinsky told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that members of the Hasidic community planned to bring charges against individual police officers before the police review board. He said it was "totally untrue" that any policeman was beaten unconscious or otherwise injured. He claimed that the Hasidic Jews were "completely defenseless" against the alleged assault because as Orthodox Jews they are forbidden to carrying anything on the Sabbath.

Charge Police Used Force

The incident flared at about one pm when two cars driven along the blocked-off street were stopped by a crowd. Some of them kicked and pounded on the doors and windows. One car was driven by Dr. Rufus Nichols who lives on the block, and the other by a patient of Dr. Nichols whom he was reportedly escorting from the block. Both Dr. Nichols and his patient are black.

One of the drivers complained to two policemen stationed at the end of the block that his car was damaged and pointed to three youths who allegedly caused the damage. Police said the youths fled and that the policemen who followed them into an alley were set upon and pummeled by Hasidim.

According to Rabbi Krinsky, the youths did not flee, or resist arrest but refused to enter a police car because of Sabbath. A large crowd gathered, according to Krinsky, and at that point the policemen sent out a 1013 (distress call) which, Rabbi Krinsky claimed, brought about 40 police cars and at least 100 police to the scene within minutes. He alleged that the police tore into the crowd with billy clubs, shoved people against walls and beat them while shouting curses and anti-Semitic epithets. Rabbi Krinsky claimed that one policeman entered a women's synagogue with revolver in hand.

Rabbi Krinsky conceded that he was an eyewitness to only part of the incident. He said his wife had witnessed the cars being driven recklessly through the street. Rabbi Krinsky told the JTA that four young children have been hit by cars on the same block on four separate Saturdays during the past year. The most recent accident occurred May 26, he said. The block is a feeder road on the south side of Eastern Parkway between Brooklyn and Kingston Avenues, a neighborhood inhabited mainly by Hasidic Jews and blacks. The 71st precinct which covers the area was unable to immediately confirm the accidents.

Following the incident, several hundred Hasidic Jews demonstrated outside 71st precinct headquarters. Their leader, Rabbi Samuel Schrage, charged that the police "acted like Nazis" and told his followers to take their badge numbers.

KAHANE HELD FOR INVESTIGATION

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA)--Jewish Defense League leader Rabbi Meir Kahane was detained this morning for investigation, a police spokesman said. The spokesman said that Rabbi Kahane was picked up at his home in Jerusalem, his apartment was searched and he was held for investigation in connection with letters he sent to Arab residents of Israel in which he suggested they leave the country.

Rabbi Kahane is awaiting trial on charges of racial incitement in connection with similar letters he sent in the past. The spokesman said that despite the pending trial, Rabbi Kahane continued sending those letters and thereby caused the present investigation.

Earlier Rabbi Kahane announced that he would engage in a hunger strike at the center of Jerusalem in protest at the State's Attorney General's refusal to return his passport. The passport was taken from him eight months ago when he was first charged with trying to smuggle arms out of Israel to fight Arab terror in Europe.

RABBINATE MAKES SHORT SHIRT OF MINISKIRTS

TEL AVIV, June 3 (JTA)--The Rabbinate Supreme Court made short shrift of miniskirts and issued a ruling that a woman's dress should be below the knees both when standing and sitting. "Covering the knees by socks is not sufficient," the ruling declared. It also expressed the hope that Jewish girls and women will follow the modesty of their mothers. The ruling against miniskirts was issued upon the request of the Jerusalem-based "Committee for the Defense of Sacred Jewish Values." The ruling was signed by Chief Rabbi Joseph Ovadia in his capacity as chairman of the court, Rabbi Josef Shalom Eliashiv, and Rabbi Shlomo Salman Auerbach who is the head of the Kol Torah Yeshiva in Jerusalem.

