



DAYAN ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INTERCEPTION OF ARAB PLANE

Cabinet Says Israel Had No Choice In Face Of World Inaction Against Terrorist Activities

By Yitzhak Shargil, JTA Tel Aviv Correspondent

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan assumed full responsibility today for the Israeli Air Force intercepting an Arab-owned jetliner and forcing it to land in Israel. Speaking at a midnight press conference at his home, Dayan said Friday night's action was part of Israel's struggle against terrorism, a struggle which he said other nations were reluctant to wage.

The Cabinet, meeting today in the wake of world criticism and a scheduled Security Council meeting tomorrow, reiterated its stand "to fight terrorists whenever possible before they are able to act. Cabinet ministers stressed that Israel had no choice but to act on its own because of the lack of action by other nations against terrorism.

However, the Israeli Pilots Association issued a statement deploring the interception. Itzhak Shaked, Association chairman, said here the Lebanese plane was a civilian aircraft and on a civilian flight and Israeli military planes interfered with it. "As an association fighting terror in the air the Israeli group could not condone such an action even if it was to capture the world's number one criminal against civil aviation, Shaked said.

Fearing More Terrorist Atrocities

Two Israeli jets intercepted a Middle East Airlines Caravelle jet Friday night with 81 persons aboard minutes after it left Beirut and forced it to land at an air base in Israel. It was allowed to return to Beirut after two hours during which the Israelis checked the identities of the 74 passengers and seven crew members. It had been learned by Israeli intelligence sources that four terrorist leaders, including Dr. George Habash, chief of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, were aboard. Israel feared that the terrorists might be preparing for another terrorist act such as the one Israel said the PFLP had committed last Sunday in Athens and the earlier hijacking of a Japan Air Line jumbo jet.

It is believed that Israel was planning to intercept Iraqi Airways flight 006 which stops in Beirut on its London-Baghdad run. But the flight was delayed in Vienna for three hours Friday and Iraqi Airways chartered the Caravelle making it flight 006A. The Israelis seized the wrong plane. According to a PFLP spokesman, the four Palestinian leaders "smelled something fishy" and decided not to board the 006 flight the last minute.

In Beirut, a Palestinian spokesman admitted that several guerrilla leaders were scheduled to take the Lebanese Middle East Airlines Caravelle airliner chartered by Iraqi Airways but because of a last minute delay in departure they changed their minds. "The spokesman refused to confirm or deny that among those who had been scheduled to take the Baghdad flight were Dr. Habash and one of his chief aides, Salah Salah. However, Beirut Airport sources said both men were originally booked for the flight.

Will Continue To Battle Terrorism

The Israeli public seemed disappointed at the failure of the mission although a small number of Israelis were dismayed at the tactics used. However, observers in Israel saw the action as justified following the failure of the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee on International Terrorism to reach any agreement on the problem. (See separate story). Dayan said in a television interview yesterday that the aim of the interception was to capture a number of terrorist leaders including Dr. Habash. He said terrorist leaders would now be more frightened.

The Defense Minister said Israel would not be satisfied with a purely defensive struggle against terrorism. "We cannot act as they do in the films about the wild west where the hero waits and keeps ready to draw his gun and hits first only when the other tries to shoot or hurl a grenade," Dayan said. "We have to fight the terrorists who are fighting us," he said. He explained that this meant hitting the terrorists whenever Israel has the opportunity and information enabling it to strike at their centers and where it would do the most harm to their operations.

Dayan said that Israel will continue to battle terrorism and noted that "Israel will miss no opportunity to hit the terrorist organizations." He added that anything that prevents these groups from carrying out their acts of murder must be done. He noted that no one was injured in the action.

In considering the expected denunciations for the action, Dayan said, "The direct way to end the terror is to fight it everywhere and the whole world should give a hand in this war." Dayan noted that up to now 110 terrorists have been captured and 70 of them were released. "This is what we know" he said. "What we do not know is the ransom, the money and the agreement on and under the table that respectable states are concluding with the terrorists. It is not we who are conducting this war. But this war is directed against us."

Criticism Does Not End Terrorism

The Cabinet reiterated today its stand "to fight the terrorists wherever possible before they are able to act," said Health Minister Victor Shemtov following the Cabinet meeting. Both Shemtov and Transportation Minister Shimon Peres stressed that with the lack of action on the part of other nations and the U.N., Israel had no choice but to act on her own to fight terrorism.

Peres said in that respect there was no change in the Israeli policy. He rejected criticism that the Israeli interception act might jeopardize Israeli efforts against terrorism in the world. "Before criticizing the interception," Peres said, "one must do something to prevent terrorism." Shemtov added that Israel was not going to make interception "a method."

This is the line Israel is expected to adopt in its diplomatic contacts and in the Security

Council meeting tomorrow. Israeli delegates to the Council were instructed to warn friendly members of the Council against Arab attempts to take advantage of the Israeli action and to divert public opinion from the recent Arab terrorist acts.

LEBANON CALLS FOR SPECIAL SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 12 (JTA)--An urgent session of the Security Council will be held tomorrow afternoon to take up a complaint by Lebanon against Israel for diverting an Arab airliner. A formal request for the session was issued by Lebanon's Ambassador Edouard Ghorra. Lebanon's request was approved after informal consultations among the 15 members of the Security Council showed yesterday that there was great indignation among the members over the incident. United States Ambassador John Scali, this month's Council President, and the U.S. UN Mission began informal consultations even before Ghorra's request was received. This evening Lebanon began to canvas support for its position at tomorrow's Council meeting.

Meanwhile, in Washington the U.S. government deplored Israel's action. The State Department issued a strongly-worded statement that was conveyed by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton to the acting chief of the Israeli Embassy, Moshe Raviv. Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz was out of Washington. A spokesman for the State Department said Israel's action was viewed as violation of Lebanese sovereignty and a violation of international civil aviation law. He said that the U.S. was making its views known to Israel and that the Israeli government had been in contact with the State Department shortly after the incident took place.

Observers both in the United Nations and in Washington expressed the feeling that the U.S. was extremely angered over the incident especially since it occurred so soon after the U.S. vetoed a one-sided resolution in the Security Council that would have condemned Israel.

Dinitz, who returned to Washington this afternoon, called on Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. The two diplomats discussed the incident in preparation for the Security Council meeting. There were also meetings in New York between Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah and U.S. representatives to the United Nations.

ISRAEL DOES NOT EXPECT U.S. VETO IN SECURITY COUNCIL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12 (JTA)--Israeli political circles expressed serious doubt about the possibility of an American veto of a possible anti-Israel Security Council resolution on the interception affair. They added, however, that in view of the failure of the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee on International Terrorism to come up with any concrete actions, the U.S. and other countries may at least exert their influence for a balanced Council resolution that will condemn countries responsible for Arab terrorism, as well as Israel's act of interception.

Circles here expressed the view that nothing positive could be expected to emerge from the Council deliberations. "What can we expect from the Security Council?" one official asked noting Israel's past experience in that body. The official flatly rejected the word "hijack" in connection with the plane incident. He insisted that it

was an act of self defense. There were no contacts with American diplomats in Israel this weekend. All contacts were taking place in Washington and in New York.

FRANCE, BRITAIN RAP ISRAEL

PARIS, Aug. 12 (JTA)--The French Government last night released a communique branding the interception of a Middle East Airline jetliner by Israeli fighters "as an act to be condemned." The official statement also stressed that such actions will "worsen Middle East tension" and moreover present a danger to international civil aviation.

French diplomats in Western capitals have been instructed to consult with the local governments in order to present a united stand during the Security Council debate. French diplomats in Washington are expected to meet Monday morning with Department of State officials to inform them of "the gravity with which France views Israel's overt air piracy." French sources said that similar contacts will take place in London, Bonn, Rome and Brussels.

In London, the Foreign Office also condemned the Israeli action saying that Britain has been working with other governments at the United Nations for an international agreement to combat terrorism in international aviation and "it does not help those efforts if any of these governments undertake acts of this kind."

Arab nations called the act "air piracy" and lodged complaints with the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Air Transport Association and the Arab Aviation Council. The International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations condemned the action and its executive secretary, Capt. Charles Jackson, said in London that member organizations in 64 countries "are being consulted as to whether any further action by the federation would assist in preventing further incidents of this nature."

MAURICE BISGYER, RETIRED B'NAI B'RITH OFFICIAL, DIES AT 75

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12--Maurice Bisgyer, who as executive vice-president of B'nai B'rith for 27 years had helped direct the worldwide Jewish service organization during its era of greatest growth, died this morning at the age of 75. He had been hospitalized for six weeks following a stroke.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday afternoon at Adas Israel Congregation here. The eulogy will be by Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz, spiritual leader of the congregation. Interment will be at the Congregation cemetery.

Mr. Bisgyer was a pioneer in Jewish social service work beginning his 45-year career in 1919. He was one of a then handful of specialists that has since expanded into a large and widespread Jewish community "civil service." He became B'nai B'rith's chief administrative officer in 1937.

David M. Blumberg, international president of B'nai B'rith, said today that Mr. Bisgyer's career, "spanning the era of both Jewish cataclysm and triumph--the Holocaust and the rebirth of Jewish statehood--and the maturing of a native-born American Jewry, was a close-up seat to Jewish history in the making. He helped make much of that history too."

Mr. Bisgyer's assignments took him to all parts of the world. He participated in meetings with many leaders of government and with Pope John XXIII and Pope Paul VI on issues affecting the Jewish community. He was a member of the Ad Hoc Jewish delegation in 1945 at San Francisco where the United Nations Charter was prepared and ratified.

'DISMAL FAILURE' FOR UN COMMITTEE ON TERRORISM

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 12 (JTA)--The problem of international terrorism has been tossed back to the General Assembly after the Ad Hoc Committee on International Terrorism failed to reach any agreement on the definition, cause and ways to deal with this problem. Three subcommittees of the ad hoc committee which had been meeting since Aug. 1 behind closed doors ended its work last night and agreed only that there were widely differing views on the issue.

The Israeli delegation, which was not a member of the 35-member ad hoc committee but sat in on the deliberations in the capacity of an observer, issued a sharp criticism of the group after it concluded its work. The delegation termed the work of the committee a "dismal failure" and said that all efforts to examine the problem in a serious manner were "swamped by the demagoguery of Arab representatives and their friends."

The statement by the Israeli delegation also noted that "it is evident, as confirmed by this latest exercise in futility, that unless Arab states cease to support international terrorism, the United Nations will remain virtually incapable of taking effective action against the scourge of terrorism, and the struggle against it will have to be pursued by responsible governments, acting by themselves and in cooperation with each other."

During the meetings the United States, Great Britain and other western nations urged measures against international terrorism, including an international commission calling for punishment or extradition of offenders. Arab, African and Communist bloc members rejected proposals which would have implied action or condemnation against what they termed liberation movements. They focused on what they called "state terrorism" practiced by racist and colonial regimes.

The three subcommittees were formed after several weeks of fruitless attempts by the ad hoc committee to reach agreement on the issue of terrorism. One subcommittee worked on defining international terrorism, the second studied its underlying causes, and the third dealt with measures to eliminate the problem. The issue of international terrorism was added to last year's General Assembly agenda by Secretary General Kurt Waldheim after the massacre of 11 Israeli athletes in Munich by Arab terrorists.

THE INTERCEPTION STORY

By Yitzhak Shargil, JTA Tel Aviv Correspondent

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12 (JTA)--Something unusual was to take place. That was the feeling at the Israeli airbase as the red lights were put on and the interceptor pilots were called for action and the mission was explained. The target - a Lebanese Middle East Airline Caravelle was to be intercepted and brought to an Israeli airbase.

As the Israeli interceptors took off, the Caravelle made its final preparations to leave for the rather short trip to Baghdad. The Caravelle became airborne and the Israeli interceptors closed in at rather low levels. The instruction was clear: Follow us. The pilot of the Caravelle, a Palestinian, followed the Israeli interceptors. It was not a long flight and the plane was brought to what the pilot later said was somewhere near Haifa.

When the Caravelle touched down a number of army cars followed it and as the plane stopped the soldiers burst into the plane and asked in Arabic and French that all remain seated quietly. The men were first taken down and then the women and

children. It was almost a red carpet treatment for the women and children as women soldiers and women officers, all speaking French or Arabic, gave them refreshments and sweets.

Meanwhile Israeli officers inspected the male passengers. One by one the screening was carried out. Even the Iraqi Minister of Planning and the Iraqi Ambassador to Qatar were passed quickly. It was not them. The Iraqi VIP's seemed somewhat disappointed that their status made no impression on the Israelis. The Israelis were looking for terrorists, but they were not there.

A feeling of disappointment engulfed the Israelis. The screening ended and the passengers were taken back to the plane, the crew was asked if it needed any help, fuel or navigational advice. The captain said he would proceed to Haifa and from there to Beirut along the coast. Two hours after touch down the Caravelle took off again and this time it was not followed by Israeli interceptors. The operation was a success but the aim was not achieved.

U.S. TO GIVE ARABS GREATER INCENTIVES FOR OIL PRODUCTION

NEW YORK, Aug. 12 (JTA)--The United States will have to give Arab countries greater incentive to increase oil production, John Love, director of President Nixon's Office of Energy Policy, said today during an interview on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press." He added, however, that the U.S. would not change its policy toward Israel.

Love contended that the U.S. will require more in the way of oil imports "or of major increases, at least into the mid-80s. As far as we know, the only countries that can produce that kind of increase are the countries around the Persian Gulf." He focused on Iran, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as the countries that have to be induced to increase oil production.

Love said that the U.S. must find ways to help these countries, especially Saudi Arabia, to find "beneficial ways to invest the tremendous number of dollars generated by their export of petroleum." He noted that the U.S. cannot simply rely on pumping more dollars into these countries since they already have too many dollars.

Arabs Hail SOCAL's Letter

Meanwhile, the letter sent out by Standard Oil Company board chairman, Otto N. Miller, urging the U.S. to show greater understanding of the Arabs, has prompted Arab pressure on foreign oil companies operating in the Arab world. The (London) Financial Times reported Friday from Beirut that the Federation of Arab Petroleum Workers sent letters to the presidents of foreign oil companies noting that the energy crisis is directly linked with the Middle East crisis.

The letter, according to the Financial Times, also urged the oil company presidents to point out to their governments that the Arabs "will not permit the United States to continue to benefit from Arab oil wealth while it backed their enemy," presumably Israel. The Federation also praised SOCAL for its action. Fuad Mattar, a prominent columnist for the Lebanese daily, Al Nahay, suggested several days ago that SOCAL's advice to its employees and stockholders was more effective than all the calls for the use of Arab oil as a political action.

Twenty nine Black Hebrews living in Dimona will ask for an order nisi against the government to show cause why they should not be allowed to stay in Israel.

