



daily news bulletin

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BOMB TOSSED INTO BANK HAPOALIM Employee Injured; Police Seeking Suspect

LONDON, Jan. 24 (JTA)--A bomb was thrown into the Israeli Hapoalim Bank here this morning injuring one employee and causing some interior damage. Police cordoned off the area and are looking for a suspect described as a dark-haired man about six feet tall wearing horn-rimmed glasses who "looks like a European."

According to witnesses, the suspect appeared in the doorway at 11 a.m. and threw the bomb behind a counter. The injured employee, identified as Janet Kipling, in her early twenties, was taken to a hospital with minor injuries. The explosion blew a hole in the wooden floor and flying debris caused other damage. No customers were in the bank at the time. Police said the bomb was a plastic grenade wrapped in a brown colored package measuring 9x4 inches. The special bomb squad was called in to aid in the investigation.

British troops meanwhile stepped up their three-week security patrols around London's Heathrow Airport against possible terrorist attacks. Airport workers reported that soldiers were checking their credentials well outside the airport's boundaries for the first time since the security alert was called. The troops also manned a 50-foot tower owned by a private company a mile from the airport but under the main flight path.

FIRST PHASE OF WITHDRAWAL BEGINS

KILOMETER 101, Jan. 24 (JTA)--The Israeli and Egyptian army chiefs of staff met here today as Israeli forces began the first phase of their withdrawal from the west bank of the Suez Canal. Gen. David Elazar, of Israel, and his Egyptian counterpart, Gen. Mohammed Gemassy, reportedly summed up the details of the withdrawal operation worked out at a series of daily meetings between their respective aides this week. Other Egyptian and Israeli officers met separately here today on the matter of retrieving Israeli war dead from Egyptian-held areas.

The initial Israeli pullback from the southern sector of the west bank salient was officially scheduled to start tomorrow and to end Sunday. But advance units have already started to move out and convoys of trucks and cars are hauling Israeli equipment to the east bank. Israeli naval units are assisting in the evacuation from the Israel-held ports of Ataka and Abadiyeh on the Gulf of Suez.

Israeli soldiers waiting for their units to move out, took the opportunity for last minute sight-seeing and picture-taking on African soil. Six wounded Egyptian soldiers were released today from the Beer Yaacob Hospital and returned to Egypt.

KISSINGER SENDING ISRAELI SYRIAN PROPOSALS FOR DISENGAGEMENT

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said today the United States is sending Israel some proposals made by Syria this week which he hopes will lead to Syrian-Israeli negotiations on disengagement of forces. Kissinger's remarks were made after he briefed the House Foreign Affairs Committee

behind closed doors on the Middle East situation. There was no immediate information as to what these proposals were.

During his stopover in Israel on Sunday returning from Damascus Kissinger said that he had brought with him "constructive suggestions" from President Hafez Assad about possible ways of getting disengagement talks started, but these suggestions were not disclosed publicly. During his briefing today he gave the House committee members assurance that the U.S. had not made commitments that could lead to a formal involvement in the Middle East, according to a senior committee member.

JEWISH JOURNALIST BARRED FROM ACCOMPANYING JOBERT TO SAUDI ARABIA

PARIS, Jan. 24 (JTA)--A French journalist, Le Monde's Eric Rouleau, was prevented from accompanying French Foreign Minister Michel Jobert to Saudi Arabia because of his "Jewish origin." Rouleau, who on his Saudi Arabian visa application had given "Jewish" as his religion, was refused an entry visa in spite of his reputed pro-Arab stand and the intervention of the Quai d'Orsay.

Le Monde foreign editor, Michel Tatu, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the French Foreign Ministry had approved Rouleau's application to join the press party traveling on Jobert's plane and had forwarded his name to the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Paris. Tatu said that the Saudis refused the visa after Rouleau described himself as Jewish.

The JTA learned that four other Jewish journalists accompanying Jobert were granted visas when they either claimed to be Christian or said in their applications to be "non-practising." The four other known Jews are: Edwin Forte of the Agence France Press; Edouard Sablier of the French Broadcasting Corporation; Mrs. Hubert Rodier of the Gaullist paper, "La Nation"; and Roger Pinto of the French Radio. Two of these newsmen are reported to have presented the Saudi Embassy here with forged baptism certificates.

Two French publications, Le Nouvel Observateur, usually critical of Israeli policy, and the Paris Central News Agency (ACP), announced that they are no longer covering Jobert's visit out of solidarity with Rouleau. Tatu said that other papers, including some known for their traditional pro-Israeli stands, such as "Le Figaro" and "France Soir," have refused to take similar action.

In a written protest, Le Monde indicated that though the French Foreign Ministry approached the Saudis and asked them to change their decision, Jobert did not personally intervene. A Socialist member of Parliament, Georges Frêche, has lodged a parliamentary question with Jobert asking him to investigate the matter and submit to Parliament a full report.

DOCUMENT SMUGGLED OUT OF USSR: RUSSIAN LAWYER SAYS SOVIET JEWISH ACTIVIST RAILROADED BY KIEV COURT

NEW YORK, Jan. 24 (JTA)--A Soviet lawyer indicted the Soviet government for railroading Aleksandr Feldman to jail and requested that the verdict "be repealed from the stage of the preliminary investigation." The document was released

today by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry at a press conference here. Stanley H. Lowell, Conference chairman, noted that the document "is the first of its kind ever made public outside the Soviet Union." It is a stinging indictment of the Soviet legal system in the case of Feldman but indicates to us that the same method of railroadng is used in the cases of other Jews who wish to emigrate."

The document, smuggled out of the USSR by City Council President Paul O'Dwyer and Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton when they were there last month, is the court brief presented by I.S. Ezhov, who was Feldman's lawyer during the trial last Nov. when the 26-year-old Jewish engineer was sentenced to 3 1/2 years at hard labor for allegedly hitting a woman and injuring her in the process. The six-page brief was written by Ezhov and just translated here.

According to the verdict, Ezhov states, Feldman was found guilty of assaulting Tellakova Valentina by hitting her with his briefcase, knocking a cake out of her hand and using obscene language. He was also charged with resisting two men who tried to help her and engaging in altercations with both persons. The one-day trial was held in a Kiev factory and Feldman's family was not allowed to attend.

Violation of Criminal Code

Ezhov, in his brief, states, "I considered the verdict as incorrect and subject to being repealed for the following reasons: In violation of the demands of Statute 22 of the Criminal Code of the Ukrainian SSR the court investigation was conducted solely one-sidedly, superficially and not objectively. During the court session only three persons who supported the version presented in the charge sheet were questioned (and) only the version of the prosecution." In addition, Ezhov states, the explanation of Feldman, his proofs that he was innocent, and the testimony of the prosecution witnesses "who had been questioned during the preliminary investigation remained unchecked even though the testimony of the (witnesses) were of great importance for the decision of the question as to whether Feldman was guilty or not."

Furthermore, Ezhov states, Valentina's identity "was not clarified sufficiently at the court session" that "all attempts to clarify the identity of the victim (Valentina) were stopped at the court session" and the identity of the man for whom she had bought the cake and to whom she was supposed to be delivering it was not established." Ezhov also notes that "Feldman's explanations are not groundless, while the testimony of his opponents arouse doubts concerning their truthfulness."

Commenting on the brief, Lowell declared that "as an attorney for more than 30 years I find this document, by an objective, non-biased source, to be a devastating analysis that exposes the spurious charges used by the Soviets to convict Feldman" who had sought for two years to emigrate to Israel.

Malcolm Hoelenstein, Conference executive director, told the press conference, "Harassment of Jews seeking to leave, including imprisonment, beatings, forced unemployment, induction into the armed forces, and commitment to mental institutions, has intensified. Appeal after appeal was brought to us on behalf of friends and relatives who are being subjected to unconscionable suffering. The anti-Jewish campaign in the Soviet press has steadily increased during the past year, and particularly since the Yom

Kippur War."

SEAMEN'S UNION THREATENS ACTION

TEL AVIV, Jan. 24 (JTA)--The seamen's union threatened yesterday to block the sale abroad of the government-owned passenger motorships Dan and Nili until all crew members are provided with some other jobs. The union said that if the vessels are sold, the seamen will prevent their departure from Israeli waters.

The government announced recently that it was winding up the money-losing Zim Passenger Lines, a subsidiary of the Zim lines which has been operating the two former car ferries since 1967 between Israel and European Mediterranean ports. Zim sold off its other passenger ships several years ago.

In other labor-related news, an agreement for higher cost of living allowances was signed between Histadrut and the employers organization which includes government agencies. The COL rose by 14.8 percent and an average of IL 100 per month will be added to the pay-checks of wage earners under the agreement.

SNOW-TRAPPED ISRAEL THAWING OUT

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24 (JTA)--Sunshine broke through the clouds this morning, swiftly melting the blanket of snow that virtually paralyzed Jerusalem yesterday and kept all but emergency vehicles off the roads. But a new freeze-up was predicted for tonight and motorists were warned again to keep their cars at home.

Yesterday's inundation of snow forced schools and government offices to close and the Knesset to cancel its morning session. Snow plows cleared the blocked Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road by noon yesterday but travellers were advised to take the train and most did, putting a severe strain on the single track line. Many offices remained closed today despite the thaw and some factories worked at half strength because employees stayed home.

Safad, in the Galilean hills, was worse off than Jerusalem. It was isolated by snow drifts for two days and began to dig itself out only yesterday. Tel Aviv, which normally enjoys a moderate maritime climate, shivered in sub-zero temperatures yesterday but had no snow. The Negev was plagued by floods. One truck driver was reported missing and others had to be rescued from stalled vehicles by army units.

The severe cold wave, more typical of northern Europe than the Middle East, reportedly caused the death of two Arab infants. Many other children suffered frostbite. There was 20 feet of snow on Mt. Hermon and nearly the same on the Golan Heights. Meteorologists said the abnormal weather was due to a vast barometric low over central Russia.

ENERGY OFFICIALS THANK ARABS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24 (JTA)--Top U.S. energy officials today said, in effect, "thank you, Arabs, for your oil embargo." Federal energy administrator William E. Simon told the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Energy that "the Arabs did us a favor with their embargo" because "it took the embargo to wake us up" from lethargy in exploring alternate sources of petroleum. John Massikas of the Federal Power Commission testified in a similar vein. He said "The Arab nations serve the American people well by shocking them into the realization" that the U.S. must look to itself for its basic resources.

ORT TO RESTRUCTURE ISRAEL OPERATION

NEW YORK, Jan. 24 (JTA)--A restructuring of the ORT operation in Israel to accommodate and

better serve about 4000 soon to be demobilized veterans of the Yom Kippur War was announced by Dr. William Haber, president of American-ORT, in his report to the 52nd annual conference of the organization opening tomorrow at the Americana Hotel and continuing through Sunday.

About 750 delegates are expected to attend. The major address will be delivered by Gen. Chaim Herzog, president of ORT Israel, and military commentator on the Yom Kippur War.

In remarks prepared for the convention, Dr. Haber said: "The Yom Kippur War, and the influx of technically trained Russian immigrants has radically changed the priorities of the ORT operation in Israel. The human fallout of the war requires considerable rethinking. Facilities for veterans at the engineer-technical level will have to prepare themselves for a large influx and all ORT schools in Israel will have to re-order studies and training to conform to the new economic realities."

Dr. Haber, a former Dean of the University of Michigan and one-time consultant on manpower for the U.S. Secretary of Labor, noted that the war and the "subsequent isolation of Israel from much of the world has pointed up the fact that a country such as Israel, practically devoid of natural resources, must have a highly modern industry to survive. It cannot be too strongly underscored that such economic viability is contingent on the skilled people to run it."

He pointed out ORT's role in the retraining of a large segment of the 40,000 Soviet immigrants who have settled in Israel during each of the past two years. "Many of these Russian olim have come to Israel with professional backgrounds, and many are university graduates in engineering," he said. As a result there has come into being a special need for a new kind of ulpan which will give them the vocabulary and knowledge of Israeli technical and industrial practices that will make for their more efficient and speedier absorption into the country's economic life.

These ulpan, located in 24 absorption centers, conducted by the Institute of Adult Training and operated under the joint auspices of ORT and the Labor Ministry were utilized by 800 new Russian olim in 1973. By mid-1974, they will have a registration of some 2000, Dr. Haber said. He also reported on the new ORT College of Engineering, being built on the Hebrew University campus which will contain schools for nuclear engineering and environmental technology.

DINITZ: ISRAEL-EGYPT DISENGAGEMENT ACCORD NOT MODEL FOR SYRIA, JORDAN AGREEMENTS--By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 24 (JTA)--An Israeli official declared here today that the Israeli-Egyptian disengagement agreement could not serve as a model for disengagement agreements that may eventually be negotiated with Syria and Jordan. Ambassador Simcha Dinitz, addressing a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said that if talks between Israel and Syria materialize, it has to be clear that the situation on the Syrian front is "not identical" with that on the Egyptian front because the military and political situations are utterly different and demand different considerations.

Dinitz said the same attitude applied to negotiations with Jordan. But he stressed that it was Israel's unequivocal position that no negotiations will be undertaken with Syria until that country

provides a list of Israeli POWs in its hands and permits representatives of the International Red Cross to visit the POWs. He said Syria's refusal to comply with those basic requirements governing the treatment of POWs created an "unbelievable situation" that went "against the grain of humanity."

He said the disengagement agreement between Israel and Egypt contained good elements for both sides and which Israel recognized as a phase toward a general peace agreement. He said he hoped the disengagement accord will create a new atmosphere in the region but added that Israel was being "very watchful and diligent" to see that its terms are scrupulously observed.

New Lines Defensible

Dinitz insisted that there was no pressure whatsoever from the U.S. government on Israel with regard to the agreement. "We were not coerced or squeezed or pressured," he said. He said that Israel's feeling with respect to the U.S. was that "we were dealing with a friendly government" that shared the same goals. The envoy said that the overriding principle behind Israel's pullback from the Suez Canal was that the new lines were defensible and did not pose a risk in the event of a new war.

Another principle, he said, was the limitation of weapons in the zones occupied by both sides which precluded the threat of SAM missiles in the skies over the Israeli zone. He noted that the agreement provided for inspection of the limited weapons zones by the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in liaison with the party concerned. Dinitz said that Israel had received assurances of two kinds--those from Egypt conveyed by the U.S. and those implicit in the U.S. interpretation of the agreement's provisions.

He said that from talks with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger it appeared that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat does not intend a new attack on Israel. However, Dinitz said, should the Egyptians renege, their intentions would become apparent well before they were able to launch a new war. He said that Israel wanted enough time to elapse to assure that the agreement is being carried out by Egypt "before we are asked to take a new risk."

The Ambassador insisted that the flow of U.S. arms to Israel must continue as a deterrent against the massive arms flow to the Arabs from the Soviet Union. He said the obscure Russian role in the disengagement accord was "still a puzzle for all of us" but he didn't exclude a more active role by Moscow at the Geneva peace conference.

SPECIAL LATE NEWS BULLETIN: ATHENS, Jan. 24 (JTA)--Two young Palestinians were sentenced to death in criminal court today for the machine-gun and grenade massacre at Athens Airport last Aug. Shafik Arid and Talal Khantouran, both 22, admitted in court yesterday that they staged the attack in which five people were killed and 55 wounded. They claimed it was a "political act" aimed at "liberating" Palestine and preventing Jewish immigrants from going to Israel.

The death sentence was pronounced at the end of the second day of the trial during which 13 witnesses testified for the prosecution. There were none for the defense. The pair, who claimed to be members of the Black September gang, told the court they had "carried out a political act in conformity with political orders" because they were "determined to liberate Palestine at any cost and spare no efforts to achieve this aim."

AJCONGRESS SURVEY FINDS MOST BLACK PRESS FAVORABLE TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 24 (JTA)--A survey of leading Black newspapers across the country indicates that the overwhelming majority were either favorable to Israel or evenhanded in the news reports and editorials they published on the Yom Kippur War, the American Jewish Congress reported at a meeting of its national governing council. A sampling of the Black press for a seven-week period beginning with the outbreak of the war on Oct. 6 showed only one of 15 Black newspapers studied to be opposed to Israel.

Commenting on the findings, Naomi Levine, executive director of the AJCongress, declared: "The results of this study challenge the frequently-expressed view that the Black community is at best indifferent to Israel and at worst hostile to the Jewish state. At the same time, however, the survey demonstrates that there remains much work to be done by Jewish organizations in pointing out to the Black community that Israel is a democratic movement of national liberation and that the United States has a compelling interest in her survival."

According to the survey of newspapers (circulation included), those favorable to Israel were: Atlanta Inquirer, 32,000; Chicago Daily Defender, 22,102; Los Angeles Sentinel, 47,084; Minneapolis Spokesman, 13,000; and the St. Louis Argus, 25,000. Those that were "neutral" or "mixed" in their coverage were: Atlanta Daily World, 22,500; Baltimore Afro-American, 34,174; New York Amsterdam News, 75,198; Norfolk Journal and Guide, 23,000; and the Philadelphia Tribune, 38,909.

Showing no significant coverage of the war were: Cleveland Call and Post, 22,020; Detroit Michigan Chronicle, 51,222; Durham Times, 6000; and the Kansas City Call, 13,960. The Los Angeles Herald-Dispatch (34,500) was described in the survey as anti-Israel.

Two newspapers--Muhammed Speaks, published in Chicago by the Black Muslim movement, and the Oakland (Cal.) Black Panther--were not included in the survey because they are regarded as ideological journals, published by organizations, rather than newspapers. Both were "strongly anti-Israel" according to the survey which was conducted by Martin Hochbaum of the AJCongress Commission on Law, Social Action and Urban Affairs.

The survey examined news coverage, editorials and columns of opinion in assessing the newspapers' attitude toward Israel. By and large, the study showed, news coverage of the war tended to be straightforward. In the "favorable to Israel" newspapers, both editorials and columnists supported Israel's cause. In the "mixed" publications, editorials and columnists were frequently on opposite sides of the issue. The anti-Israel newspaper carried feature articles and news that were also vehemently opposed to American foreign policy. The Chicago Defender, which appears five times weekly, published comprehensive news items of the war and had the most favorable editorial comments, according to the study.

TAU BOARD OF GOVERNORS RESCHEDULES MEETING POSTPONED BY YOM KIPPUR WAR

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 24 (JTA)--The International Board of Governors of the Tel Aviv University, whose annual meeting at the university was postponed because of the Yom Kippur War,

will meet instead Feb. 4-6, it was announced this week by Victor M. Carter, chairman of the board and president of the American Friends of the TAU. Carter said the rescheduled board meeting was set when he met in Israel recently with TAU officials. In a letter to board members throughout the world, he wrote:

"The present situation of Tel Aviv University closely reflects that of Israel as a whole. While mourning our heavy casualties in the Yom Kippur War, we are resolved to get on with our lives. Since most of our male students and many of our faculty members are still mobilized, we plan to open the academic year with a flexible program designed to cater to one and all.

Among other things, we have made arrangements for the text of lectures to reach our students in uniform wherever they may be." Contingency plans have been agreed upon to meet the special conditions resulting from the war, including the fact that the largest part of the male student body remains on active military duty.

CONSERVATIVE RABBI SAYS HALACHA NOT REAL ISSUE IN CONVERSIONS

NEW YORK, Jan. 24 (JTA)--A leading American Conservative rabbi asserted today that the opposition of the Orthodox rabbinate, inside and outside of Israel, to conversions performed by non-Orthodox rabbis applied to such conversions even when performed fully in accordance with halacha, Jewish Religious Law.

Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis, said he favored a change in Israel's Law of Return, now being demanded by Israel's National Religious Party and backed by Orthodox rabbis generally, in current negotiations for a new Israeli coalition government, but only if the change specified simply conversions had to be in accordance with halacha. The RA was one of six Conservative and Reform organizations which joined in a cable to Premier Golda Meir on Jan. 10 opposing the NRP demand for a change in the Law of Return.

Rabbi Kelman said that if a Conservative rabbi performed in Israel a conversion fully in accord with halachic requirements, it would not be recognized in Israel by the Orthodox rabbinate, which controls registration of Jews. He added "this is what we are fighting." He said the joint statement to Mrs. Meir had been misinterpreted. "We are not against halacha," he said.

HADASSAH PLANS NEW PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24 (JTA)--The Yom Kippur War revealed that Israel has neglected to utilize half of its manpower because of its inadequate training of women, according to Dr. Helen Kittner, director of the Hadassah Israel Education Services. Addressing Hadassah's mid-winter conference here, she said: "Our women do not have the education or the technological training to replace the men in their jobs. Many of them cannot even balance the family checkbooks."

Dr. Kittner stressed that the Hadassah Seligberg/Brandeis Comprehensive High School has "finally broken the educational and vocational stereotype about male-female careers." She added: "This non-sexist approach really hasn't spread far enough in Israel. Even in Hadassah, we shall have to take a long look at what and how we are teaching to widen the horizons of our young women, so as to fit them for today's world." Women are currently enrolled in printing classes, computer technology courses and management courses at the Hadassah Community College.