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SETTLEMENT IN MOURNING FOR AMERICAN WOMAN KILLED DURING SYRIAN SHELLING

TEL AVIV, Feb. 12 (JTA)--Ramat Magshimim, a cooperative settlement on the Golan Heights was in mourning today for Esther Ben David, a 26-year-old mother of three, formerly of New York, who was killed instantly when Syrian long-range shells blasted the settlement at noon yesterday. She was buried today on the Mt. of Olives in Jerusalem. A second fatality in yesterday's attack was a 34-year-old Druze policeman, Fuad Abdallah, the father of five children. He was on his way to visit relatives in Buquata village on the Golan Heights when his jeep was hit by Syrian artillery fire. He was buried today at his native village of Yarka in Western Galilee.

Mrs. Ben David was the first American settler to die in the renewed Syrian shelling of settlements on the Golan Heights, described as the most ferocious since the Yom Kippur War. She was racing to a bomb shelter with her infant child when she was felled by an exploding shell. The child was snatched from her arms and taken to the shelter without suffering injuries. Mrs. Ben David came to Israel from New York two years ago with her Israeli husband.

Military sources said that about 40 Syrian shells exploded inside the perimeter of Ramat Magshimim yesterday. Three other Golan Heights settlements came under fire: Ein Zivan and El-Rom in the northern sector and Nahal Geshor in the southern sector of the Heights.

In another incident, Arab terrorist infiltrators from Lebanon fired bazooka rockets and small arms into the Upper Galilee border town of Metullah last night while the settlers were sleeping. The settlers, awakened by the explosions, took to their bomb shelters. No casualties were reported but there was some property damage. Israeli forces returned fire. The attack was the first on Metullah since the Yom Kippur War.

Shelling Stems From Policy Decision

Israeli circles said today that the Syrian shellings which have been mounting in intensity during the past week apparently stem from a policy decision in the higher echelons of the Syrian regime. The circles said they bore no relation to the situation on the cease-fire line where a few weeks ago the Syrians claimed they were shooting in order to prevent the Israelis from fortifying their positions. The fortifications were completed and the Syrians seemingly have had no further reason to start shooting, the circles said.

Some sources here suggested today that the Syrians are copying the Egyptian pattern of intensifying the shooting on the cease-fire lines preliminary to disengagement talks. But other sources said the heavy shelling of civilian settlements may have been a Syrian reaction to Premier Golda Meir's statement last weekend that the Golan Heights were part and parcel of Israel and would never be given up and to the announcement of the establishment of a new Jewish township on the Heights. (See separate story) UN observers tried in vain yesterday to arrange a cease-fire. About three hours after the shelling began the fire-exchanges subsided.

REPORT VATICAN DROPS DEMAND FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION OF JERUSALEM

NEW YORK, Feb. 12 (JTA)--A report that the press spokesman for the Vatican told a news conference at the Vatican last week that the Vatican has dropped its 1947 position calling for the internationalization of Jerusalem was confirmed today by Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, director of inter-religious affairs of the American Jewish Committee.

Rabbi Tanenbaum told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he received a telephone call over the weekend from an official of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, confirming that the press conference had been held and that the statement on the Vatican's major shift on the issue had been made by Federico Allessandrini, the press spokesman. Rabbi Tanenbaum said he had been informed that Allessandrini said that the Vatican is now interested "in pursuing some arrangement that will provide an international statute or guarantee for the holy places" in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Tanenbaum said the clarification was significant because, in the past, Allessandrini has consistently followed a pro-Arab line interpreting Vatican policy. "frequently distorting actual positions held by the Pope and the Secretariat of State." The rabbi said that "this statement makes it clear" that Allessandrini "has been called upon by higher authorities in the Vatican to make his personal position conform with the official policy of the Vatican which has informed us that they regard internationalization as unworkable and untimely." Rabbi Tanenbaum said that view had been conveyed to him in Antwerp last December at a meeting of the International Jewish Committee with Vatican officials.

QUASI-DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS RESUMED BETWEEN U.S. AND SYRIA

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12 (JTA)--Sabah Kabani, the director of information of the Syrian Foreign Ministry, arrived here yesterday to serve as Syria's chief diplomatic representative in Washington. His arrival marked another step in the resumption of quasi-diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Syria which the Syrians broke off in 1967. Two American diplomats went to Damascus last month. Each country will maintain an "interest section" in the Italian Embassy in the capital of the other. Kabani said that Haissan Kelani, Syria's ambassador to the United Nations has been U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's "channel" to Damascus.

SPECIAL TO JTA

WBAL-FM SCRAPS BROADCAST CRITICAL OF BLACK ATHLETES WHO BOYCOTTED GAME WITH ISRAELI BASKETBALL TEAM

By Murray Zuckoff, JTA News Editor

NEW YORK, Feb. 12 (JTA)--A sports broadcast that criticized Black basketball players on the Rochester University team who last week boycotted a game with Israel's National Basketball Team and contended that the Black players had bowed to Arab pressure was scrapped just hours before it was to have been aired by radio station WBAL-FM, a New York radio station sustained by listener subscriptions. This same station was the center of a controversy several years ago when it

broadcast a poem by a 15-year-old Black student which was condemned by Jewish organizations for being anti-Semitic.

The sports broadcast was taped last Friday morning for WBAI-FM by Peter Heller, a "volunteer"—unpaid—sports-caster for the radio station who is the sports producer for ABC-TV (Channel 7), for airing that evening from 7:15 to 7:30. The criticism of the Black players was a segment of the 15-minute program that included comments and views of other sports events of the week. Several hours after taping, Heller was notified that the entire broadcast was cancelled and that he was fired from his position on the radio station.

Heller, whose book about former boxing champions, "In This Corner," has just been published by Simon and Schuster, Inc., told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he had anticipated trouble with the radio station over this broadcast "in view of WBAI's traditional liberal views" which had earlier prompted it to kill another one of his broadcasts which contained an interview with Bobby Riggs. That broadcast, he said, was killed because Riggs had expressed "anti-women" views which in the opinion of WBAI was not sufficiently balanced with pro-women views.

Last Friday, Heller said, he was told that the latest broadcast had injected politics. "But," he told the JTA, "I didn't introduce the politics. It had been introduced when the Black players decided to boycott the game. All I did was to report it."

Larry Cox, news director for WBAI-FM, told the JTA that last Friday's broadcast was cancelled because Heller introduced the segment as "a personal commentary, and we are not allowed under Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules to present personal commentaries" under the radio station's current operating guidelines. Asked by JTA if the decision to dismiss Heller, who had been hired several weeks ago and had broadcast several programs, came before or after last Friday's taping, Cox hesitated for a few moments then replied: "We didn't like his work, generally." Heller, however, noted that he had been hired "to present an over-all commentary rather than a rehash or spot reporting about the week's sports events, and that's what I tried to do."

Moral Spines Of Jellyfish

In the cancelled broadcast, a transcript of which was obtained by the JTA, Heller noted that the decision of one Black player to boycott the entire game and the decision of two other Black players to boycott the second half was "a serious misguided action...bowing to anti-Semitic Arab propaganda out of apparent ignorance of the facts on their part."

He noted that the Black players bowed to Arab propaganda "because it's the 'in' thing among some Blacks to align themselves with Arab guerrilla groups, and against Israel. In doing so, they conveniently closed their minds to some very cogent facts, like, for instance, the decimation of the Israeli Olympic team by Arab terrorists in Munich." Heller stated that the Israeli basketball team's U.S. tour was part due to an effort to raise funds that "will be used to help rebuild a viable Israeli Olympic team for Montreal in two years."

Continuing, Heller observed that the Black players also "chose to ignore the incalculable financial help and technological assistance and training Israel has provided to many of the merging Black African nations, and they apparently forgot that it's the Arabs who were the slave

traders who sold Blacks into slavery in the past and who still carry on a slave trade in some parts of the Arab world." He furthermore stated that "it's apparently the radical-chic, leftist-chic, revolutionary-chic among a lot of misguided people who think they're being liberal to support Arab terrorists instead of the progressive, democratic government of Israel. I think it's a bunch of hogwash. These people have the moral spines of jellyfish."

In Dec. 1968, during the struggle for community control of schools in New York between the Black community and the United Federation of Teachers, WBAI-FM became the center of a controversy when it broadcast a poem titled "Anti-Semitism." The poem was written by a 15-year-old Black student and dedicated to Albert Shanker, UFT president. Leslie Campbell, the student's teacher in Ocean Hill-Brownsville school district which was the focal point in the community control controversy, read the poem on Julius Lester's WBAI-FM program.

The poem began: "Hey, Jew boy with that yarmulka on your head/ You pale face Jew boy, I wish you were dead." The last two lines of the poem were: "I hated you Jew boy because your hang up was the Torah/ And my only hang up was my color." The tumultuous aftermath of the reading was the filing of a complaint to the FCC by the UFT and demands by numerous Jewish organizations that the station's license be revoked or suspended.

GOVERNMENT, HAKIBBUTZ HAARTZI TO BUILD NEW GOLAN HEIGHTS SETTLEMENTS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 12 (JTA)—Officials announced today that groundbreaking for a new Jewish township on the Golan Heights will begin within a few weeks. The announcement was apparently intended to underline Israel's determination not to return any of the Golan Heights territory captured in the 1967 Six-Day War. Premier Golda Meir had made that clear over the weekend in a speech to settlers from the Golan Heights and other regions.

The new township will be populated by regular army soldiers and by civilian employees of army installations in its initial stages, the announcement said. The army's manpower division will award concessions and subsidies to the settlers, to be announced shortly. Plans call for specially constructed houses of re-enforced concrete, public utilities, a service center and industrial area. The new town, which has not yet been named, will be located on the Kunetra-Benot Yaacob bridge road about 16 kilometers from the 1967 cease-fire lines. It is expected to have a population eventually of between 5-8000.

In a separate action, Hakibbutz Haartzi, the Mapam-sponsored kibbutz movement, announced last night that it would build two new settlements—one on the Golan Heights and one in the Arava region of the Negev—as "our contribution to the strengthening of our future borders." The announcement was made by the movement's secretary, Shimon Avidan, after a two-day meeting of the Hakibbutz Haartzi Executive at Givat Haviva.

LEBANON ACCUSED OF AIDING TERRORISTS

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 12 (JTA)—Ambassador Jacob Doron, Israel's acting permanent representative to the United Nations, reiterated yesterday Israel's position that Lebanon must be held responsible for terrorist acts from its territory. In a letter to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, Doron noted that the general command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Beirut

declared it carried out the bazooka attack Saturday night on the Kiryat Shemona-Banias road north of Kibbutz Dan in the Upper Galilee in which a young Israeli woman was killed and a soldier injured.

Doron declared that "this criminal act and the announcement made in Beirut by the murderous organization which had perpetrated it, highlight the responsibility of the government of Lebanon for these grave crimes." The Israeli diplomat further asserted that the terror organizations, including the PFLP, "continue to enjoy full freedom of movement and action in Lebanese territory, including the establishment and maintenance of their headquarters there, as well as of their training bases and camps and the freedom to publish newspapers, statements and declarations."

FAMILIES OF MIAs DEMAND HALT OF ISRAELI PULL-BACK ON EGYPTIAN FRONT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 12 (JTA)--The families of soldiers missing in action demanded today that the pull-back of Israeli forces on the Egyptian front be halted until all missing soldiers in that sector are accounted for. The demand was voiced at a press conference here by the parents and relatives of MIAs who charged that the Egyptians were evading the provisions of the disengagement agreement on the search for the remains of missing soldiers.

They claimed that about 370 Israeli soldiers are missing on the Egyptian front but so far only 67 bodies have been returned by the Egyptians. Once the Israeli withdrawal from the west bank of the Suez Canal is completed and Israeli forces retire to their new lines on the Gidi and Mitla passes, it will be impossible to recover the remaining bodies, the families argued. They urged the government to appoint a special team of experts to undertake a thorough search of the area and to delay withdrawal of Israeli forces until the search is completed.

3rd Phase Of Withdrawal Completed

Israeli forces meanwhile have completed the third phase of their withdrawal from the west bank of the canal. They have taken up a line snaking through sand dunes to the central portion of the Great Bitter Lake. The Israelis so far have evacuated two-thirds of the west bank salient they occupied in the Yom Kippur War. Indonesian and Canadian units of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) took over the evacuated area today and will hand it over to the Egyptians tonight. The fourth and final phase of the withdrawal is expected to be completed by Feb. 21 when the last Israeli units cross the Suez Canal into Sinai.

JOURNALIST REPORTS FOUL-UPS IN EXCHANGE OF ISRAELI DEAD

JERUSALEM, Feb. 12 (JTA)--An American journalist who recently witnessed the Egyptian army's exhumation and exchange of Israeli bodies near Kantara reported that while the Egyptians show a sincere desire to abide by the terms of the disengagement agreement, there are nevertheless delays and foul-ups in the exhumation efforts. The journalist's story appeared to account, to some extent, for the complaints voiced by the Israeli Parents Committee in their press conference in Tel Aviv today.

Moses Schonfeld, a broadcaster for U.S. and Canadian radio at the United Nations in New York is in Israel after visiting Egypt and Lebanon. Schonfeld told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

today that his visits to the Arab states were arranged by their delegations to the UN with whom he is in constant professional contact. In Lebanon he was a guest of the government. Schonfeld and five other journalists witnessed the exhumation and repatriation of three Israeli bodies Feb. 4.

He said that in fact the plan was to exhume and return 18 bodies but the truck carrying the coffins for the bodies strayed to Suez town instead of Kantara. Many hours were spent--to the obvious discomfort of Brig. Gen. Sherif, the Egyptian officer in charge of manpower--tracing the truck. In this incident only three bodies were exhumed. The Egyptians had not identified them--so they told the Red Cross official supervising the procedures. But Sherif said he was sure the Israelis had the means to identify them.

Two aged Alexandria Jewish officials, Hazanim Moise Aron Yona, 73, and Menashe Avraham Meri, 62, said the prayers for the dead while the Egyptians stood respectfully at attention. Schonfeld said the Egyptians are patently doing their best--and for that reason the Red Cross officials do not complain at the delays, but privately the Red Cross men say the exhumation is not proceeding entirely according to plans at the desirable pace.

ALIYA MONTH LAUNCHED IN CANADA

MONTREAL, Feb. 12 (JTA)--Aliya Month--a concentrated effort to persuade Canadian Jews to emigrate to Israel--was opened officially here Sunday by Israel's Minister of Absorption, Natan Peled. "It is a strange fact that Jews crash out of the gates of countries from which they are forbidden to leave while very few leave countries like the U.S., Canada or Europe where they are free to go at any time," Peled told an audience at Shaarei Zion Synagogue. The Israeli Cabinet member also addressed the congregation at the Spanish-Portuguese Synagogue and met with students at the Hillel foundations on the campuses of McGill and Sir George Williams Universities. He was accompanied by leaders of the Canadian Zionist Federation.

Peled contended that Jews who leave Israel have no serious reasons for doing so. He observed that "the 142 Jews from Russia now in Vienna left Israel over trifling objections." He said he spoke to them and suspected that some had from the beginning intended to play into the hands of the Soviets. "They came only for that purpose," he said. Insisting to his audience that "Israel needs you as much as you need Israel," Peled asked, "How long will Soviet Jews prefer Israel to Canada and the United States if Canadian and American Jews are hesitant to make their aliya to Israel?"

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--Hakibbutz Haartzai, the Mapam-sponsored kibbutz movement, lashed out last night against the extreme left-wing in Israeli politics. A resolution adopted at the close of a two-day meeting of the movement's Executive at Givat Haviva warned affiliated kibbutzim to be on guard against the activities of Moked, a new leftist coalition headed by Meir Payil and followers of Communist Shmuel Mikunis. The attack on the left came after speakers castigated the growing right-wing as the main enemy on the political front. But Moked is apparently regarded as at least an equal menace. It polled an unexpectedly large number of votes at Mapam kibbutzim in the Dec. 31 elections and received one Knesset seat. Last night's resolution branded it a "harmful, non-Zionist oriented movement."

PARENTS OF MIAs PLEAD FOR WORLD OPINION TO FORCE RELEASE OF POWs

NEW YORK, Feb. 12 (JTA)--Two Israeli parents, each of whom has a son missing in action on the Syrian front since the first day of the Yom Kippur War, pleaded yesterday for world public opinion to force Syria to release the names of POWs it holds and allow the International Red Cross to visit the POWs. Identified only as Elias, a father, and Achsa, a mother, for fear of reprisals against their sons, the two parents said the only reason they thought their sons were captured by the Syrians is that they saw their picture in a group of 32 Israeli POWs that appeared in Time and other periodicals.

The parents appeared at a press conference held by the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League's newly-formed Ad Hoc Humanitarian Law Committee made up of lawyers and judges. Judge Jack Rosenberg, acting Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, who is the committee chairman, said the group has sent a petition to the United Nations Human Rights Commission asking it to take "appropriate action" to end Syria's violations of the Geneva Convention. Copies of the petition were also sent to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, Syrian UN Ambassador Haissan Kelani, the IRC and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

Urge Speed, Appropriate Action

In response to a question, Elias said he would not want Israel to enter into negotiations with Syria before Syria complies with two basic demands: providing a list of POWs and allowing the Red Cross to visit them. Achsa said the prisoners cannot be used for political bargaining. The two parents, who will tour the U.S., were sent here by the Israeli Committee of Relatives of POWs, which is sending other parents to other countries to plead for help.

The ADL's special committee's petition said: "We appeal to the recipients of this letter of protest to take speedy and appropriate action to end these violations of the law of nations and elementary human rights. Each day these violations continue prolongs the agony of the prisoners' families and of the prisoners themselves."

The petition also noted that "except for the Syrian authorities themselves nothing is known of the status of the said POWs. Neither their parents, nor the Israeli government, nor the rest of the world knows how many prisoners are being held or who they are. Of the approximately 150 prisoners believed to have been captured, information as to how many are still alive has been unlawfully withheld."

The parents were introduced at the press conference by Seymour Graubard, ADL's national chairman, and Benjamin Abileah, Israel's Deputy Consul General in New York.

Syrian Violations Should Go Before World Court

Rep. Edward Koch (D,NY), a member of the committee, said the U.S. government was doing everything it could behind the scenes to get the Syrians to comply but he believed this effort had failed. He suggested the U.S. or some other country should take the Syrian violation of the Geneva Conventions before the World Court. He said if Syria is held up to world contempt it will be forced to comply.

Elias, whose son's wife is pregnant, said that some 50 parents of Israeli MIAs have seen their sons pictures in newspapers or on television. "We at least know that our sons were at one time with the Syrians against those parents who have

no idea whatsoever." He noted that "all Americans who went through the same position in the Vietnam war can appreciate what we are going through." He said that even Nazi Germany complied with the Geneva Convention on prisoners during World War II.

Elias stressed that from past experience, in which Israeli POWs returned after years of captivity "broken in body and spirit" because of torture, the Israeli parents "expect the worst." He said the Syrians have a "lack of understanding of human decency" and even seem to have no interest in the 350 Syrians held by the Israelis.

EL AL EXEC PREDICTS ISRAEL IS ON VERGE OF GREAT TOURIST BOOM

NEW YORK, Feb. 12 (JTA)--Mordechai Ben-Ari, president of El Al, Israel Airlines, reported here yesterday that tourism and air traffic to Israel had recovered almost completely since the Yom Kippur War and predicted that Israel is "on the verge of a great tourism boom." He forecast a 15-20 percent increase in Israel's tourist traffic in 1974. Addressing a press conference at El Al's New York headquarters, Ben-Ari said the "tremendous upsurge of tourism" would come from the U.S. and Canada as well as Europe.

He said that "tourists have become interested in Israel again on the assumption that a re-occurrence of hostilities is very unlikely," especially after the disengagement accord with Egypt. He reported that air traffic and tourism began to recover as soon as the Yom Kippur War ended and at a faster pace than after the 1967 Six-Day War. In Oct. 1973, air traffic to Israel was only 30 percent of what it was in Oct. 1972. But by Nov. 1973 it reached 80 percent of the Nov. 1972 figure and by Dec. 1973 was 92 percent of the figure for Dec. 1972, Ben-Ari said.

According to Ben-Ari, the two major sources of the anticipated tourist boom are "groups and individuals of Jewish organizations who come to Israel to demonstrate their solidarity" and Christian pilgrims who "have an attachment to the Holy Land" and "believe in Israel" and its liberal policy with regard to the holy places of all faiths. Ben-Ari said the increase from the second group has so far exceeded expectations.

The airline executive observed that El Al was the only airline operating to the Middle East during the Oct. war. He noted that El Al was in fact Israel's only link with the world and had "met all requirements" by "maximum utilization" of its aircraft. In view of the recent war, "Israel must design a policy to strengthen El Al," Ben-Ari said. (By Yitzhak Rabi)

KURBEL FAMILY TOLD THEY CAN LEAVE USSR

NEW YORK, Feb. 12 (JTA)--A leading Jewish activist in Kharkov, Mikhael Kurbel, 38, his son and his dying wife have been given permission to leave for Israel, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported today. Kurbel is an engineer. The SSSJ said his wife, Adelle, is dying from multiple sclerosis, and before becoming completely paralyzed had repeatedly indicated a wish to die in Israel. For that reason, the SSSJ said, it and similar groups throughout the world have been conducting a special campaign to obtain permission for the family to leave. The SSSJ said the family is expected to leave for Israel this weekend.

BONN (JTA)--The European community has shown itself incapable of effective action in an international crisis situation and after the Oct. war, said Heinz Galinski, head of the Jewish community in West Berlin.