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EXPLOSIONS ROCK AMMO PLANT NEAR HAIFA; NO ARSON, SABOTAGE REPORTED

TEL AVIV, May 27 (JTA)—Fire brigades aided by army helicopters battled a fire today in a large ammunition factory in Yokneam southeast of Haifa. Intermittent explosions rocked the plant but a police spokesman said there were no casualties and that an initial investigation showed no signs of arson or sabotage. An Israeli police spokesman said today's fire was not the first that has broken out in the munitions plant owned by the Sultam Co., an affiliate of Histadrut's Koor Industries.

(The Palestine News Agency in Damascus said today that saboteurs had destroyed an Israeli arms factory and the country's largest plastics plant in two successful commando operations. The report claimed that an unknown number of Israelis were killed or wounded and that the commandos returned safely to their base. The news agency said the plastics plant was located in Carmail, southeast of Haifa.)

TERRORIST ATTACK FEARED ON SOCCER TEAM IN WEST GERMANY

AMSTERDAM, May 27 (JTA)—A Palestinian terrorist attack on the Dutch national soccer team is feared during the coming world cup soccer finals in West Germany next month, the Dutch daily "Het Parool," reported. At the instigation of the West German intelligence services, several staff members of the Dutch team's training camp and in hotels where the team is staying have been dismissed for security reasons following an investigation of their personal files. The team is training in Muenster, Westphalia.

Observers see the expected attack as linked to the fact that The Netherlands is considered the most Israeli-minded of the 16 countries participating in the international competition. A connection is also seen with the trial in The Netherlands at the end of this month of the two Palestinians who hijacked a British Airways plane last March and destroyed it after forcing it to land at the Schiphol Airport. Lawyers for the two terrorists have said they hope to create an understanding for the plight of the Palestinian people during the course of the trial.

LABOR PARTY SHARPLY DIVIDED OVER NEW POSTS; RABIN MAY RETURN MANDATE

JERUSALEM, May 27 (JTA)—Premier-designate Yitzhak Rabin may be forced to return his mandate to President Ephraim Katzir tomorrow unless he can persuade a sharply divided Labor Party to accept the new coalition Cabinet he presented to it over the weekend. The Party's executive committee and Knesset faction was to have voted Saturday night on Rabin's coalition but postponed the vote until after the Shavuot holiday because of a bitter dispute over the distribution of key portfolios.

Rabin's mandate to form a government expires tomorrow and while he can ask the President for another 10-day extension, he is not expected to. Rabin has hinted he will quit the Party leadership to which he was elected April 22 if he fails to win approval of his proposed Cabinet.

The Party is badly split along factional lines

and two key ministers have already given notice that they will not serve in the new Rabin government. Foreign Minister Abba Eban, who Rabin named Information Minister, declared flatly that he considered it a demotion and denounced the Party's leadership for "sucking the last drop of service" out of people "before getting rid of them." Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, re-appointed to that post by Rabin, has made it clear that he meant it when he said he wanted to leave government service.

Portfolios Assigned By Rabin

The Mapai faction has demanded that Eban be made Deputy Premier if he is removed from the Foreign Ministry. Yigal Allon, who Rabin has named Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, will not relinquish the Deputy Premiership which he has held in the outgoing Meir government to make room for Eban. His faction, Achdut Avoda, has demanded the Defense Ministry post for Allon if Eban is assigned the Deputy Premiership. But Rabin has assigned the Defense portfolio to Shimon Peres of the Rafi faction.

The Cabinet Rabin proposed is not a complete one. The ministries of interior, religious affairs and welfare, traditionally held by the National Religious Party, were left vacant in the hope that the NRP will reconsider its decision not to participate in the new government. Four of Rabin's designated ministers have been assigned no portfolios. They are Israel Galili and Aharon Yariv of Labor; Gideon Hausner of the Independent Liberal Party; and Shulamit Aloni of the Civil Rights Party. The ILP and CRP have agreed to join Rabin's coalition to form a government that would control only 61 Knesset votes, the slimmest majority in Israel's history.

The portfolios assigned by Rabin are the following: Premier Yitzhak Rabin; Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Yigal Allon; Defense Minister, Shimon Peres; Finance Minister, Pinhas Sapir; Education Minister, Aharon Yadin; Information Minister, Abba Eban; Minister of Commerce and Industry, Haim Barlev; Labor Minister, Moshe Bar-Am; Police Minister, Shlomo Hillel; Transportation Minister, Gad Yacobi; Justice Minister, Haim Zadok; Absorption Minister, Shlomo Rosen; Minister of Tourism, Moshe Kol; Housing Minister, Yehoshua Rabinowitz; Health Minister, Victor Shemtov; Minister of Agriculture, Aharon Uzzan.

10 LEADING SOVIET JEWISH ACTIVISTS DETAINED: PANOV STRIPPED OF TITLE

LONDON, May 27 (JTA)—Soviet police have arrested 10 leading Jewish activists, according to reports reaching here from Moscow. The 10 who have been denied visas to emigrate to Israel are reportedly Alexander Slepak, Vladimir Prestin, Viktor Polsky, Valery Slepak, Dmitry Romm, Pavel Abromovich, Arkady Rutman, Leonid Khorshevol, Alexander Luntz and Mikhail Polotski.

According to the reports, secret police picked up five of the activists on Saturday and detained the other five after they organized a small demonstration outside the offices of Intourist, the state travel agency, demanding permission to emigrate. Polsky and three of the other detainees have reportedly been charged with "parasitism." The names of the three were not immediately available.

Polsky, a 44-year-old physicist, was arrested

outside his Moscow home by two plain-clothesmen and driven off to an unknown destination, according to reports by his friends. He was on his way to consult with his lawyer on charges against him stemming from an incident in which a 19-year-old woman was allegedly struck by Polsky's car and injured. According to sources the charge is a frame-up. The alleged victim, Tatyana Zhukova, tried to kill herself March 25 after an argument with her parents, the sources note.

Protest Against Bolshoi Ballet

Meanwhile, Jewish sources in the Soviet Union reported that Valery Panov has been formally stripped of his title, "Honored Artist," by a decree of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet. The move was due mainly to mounting Soviet anger at the campaign against the forthcoming visit of the Bolshoi Ballet to London, according to the sources. Those close to Panov say he fears that the withdrawal of the honorary title may only be the prelude to some more serious measure, such as a court action on charges of "malingering" or "parasitism."

There has been a groundswell protest movement in London against the ballet company because of the Soviet treatment of dissidents in general and Jewish applicants for exit visas in particular. The latest development has been the disclosure to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by a spokesman at 10 Downing Street that the "Prime Minister will not attend the first night of the Bolshoi Ballet in London on June 12. He has a private dinner engagement on this night."

Although the spokesman would go no further than this explanation for Prime Minister Harold Wilson's decision to stay away, the reference to a "private dinner party" indicates that he does not want to lend luster to the first night of the ballet company's performance. Under the circumstances, no senior member of the government can possibly associate himself with the Bolshoi visit, observers here noted.

Meanwhile, the decision of Maya Plisetskaya not to accompany the Bolshoi to Britain, and her vitriolic attack against the British public as "a dreary people" who adore whatever is "cheap, empty, phony, sloppy, tasteless (and) ponderous," and against critics whom she described as "stupid, arrogant, egotistical bastards," has not done the Bolshoi any good here.

DORON: SYRIA, LEBANON IMPLICATED IN LATEST TERRORIST EFFORT IN ISRAEL

UNITED NATIONS, May 27 (JTA)--Israel charged here that the latest incursions by terrorists had provided fresh evidence that the governments of Lebanon and Syria "continue to permit terror and murder actions to be planned and carried out from their territory against Israeli citizens and localities." The charge was made by Ambassador Jacob Doron, acting permanent representative of Israel at the UN, in a letter to Charles Malin, this month's president of the Security Council.

Doron cited the tracking down of a group of eight terrorists last Thursday, in which an Israeli patrol captured two and killed the other six. Doron said that the terrorists, who belonged to the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, crossed the cease-fire line from Syria and two points north and south of a village on the Golan Heights.

The Israel envoy reported that the heavily-armed terrorists had a list of names of 30 Arab

terrorists in Israeli prisons and that initial questioning of the two captured terrorists, Abdallah Medhi, a Syrian from Aleppo, and Mahamada HillaJo, a Palestinian from Jordan, showed that the murder squad had been sent to seize two houses at Kibbutz Haon and Kibbutz Ein Gev on the Lake Kinneret eastern shore, to take a maximum number of hostages "and then demand the release of the 30 terrorists and the return of the bodies of the three murderers of Maalot."

No Interference By Syria, Lebanon

Doron said that the two terrorists had said that if the Israeli authorities had refused to yield to their demands, "the terrorists were under orders to kill all the hostages and to blow themselves up, as was also laid down in the plan for the outrage at Maalot." He quoted the two terrorists as telling their captors that they crossed the Lebanese-Syrian border without interference from Syrian border guards and were given three code words for negotiations with Israeli army officers through the ambassadors of Japan, Austria and Rumania.

Doron stressed that "the murder squad had set out from its base in Lebanon, crossed into Syria without interference of either the Lebanese or Syrian border guards and penetrated from Syria into the Golan, with the assistance of the Syrian army."

The envoy also declared that, "in addition to the bases and headquarters which the murder organization of Ahmed Jabril (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command)--responsible for the outrage at Kiryat Shmona--and the murder organization of Nayef Hawatmeh (Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine)--responsible for the Maalot outrage--have in Lebanon, they likewise have bases and headquarters in Syria." Doron asked that his letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

RABBI MAX SCHENK DEAD AT 69

NEW YORK, May 27 (JTA)--Funeral services were held yesterday at Temple Rodeph Sholem for Rabbi Max Schenk who died here Friday at the age of 69 after suffering a heart attack. A long-time leader in Reform Judaism, he was president of the American Jewish League for Israel, an officer of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, chairman of the Interreligious Committee of the American Zionist Federation and a former president of the New York Board of Rabbis.

Born in Bern, Switzerland, Rabbi Schenk came to the United States at the age of three. He was graduated from City College and was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He was religious and educational director of the YM-YWHA in Washington Heights. In 1939 he went to Australia where he was founder of Temple Emanuel in Sydney and served for 10 years as president of the Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand.

Rabbi Schenk was also director in Australia of the National Jewish Welfare Board for the American Jewish armed servicemen in the southwest Pacific area. His wife, Faye Schenk, is presently chairman of the Hadassah Medical Organization, chairman of the AZF Executive and a past president of Hadassah.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Israeli and Syrian forces continued to exchange artillery and tank fire today on the Golan Heights after a night of intermittent fighting in the Yom Kippur War enclave and the Mt. Hermon area. Three Druze civilians were killed and seven Israeli soldiers were wounded Saturday by Syrian artillery fire on the Golan Heights.

KISSINGER'S EFFORTS STYMIED BY SYRIA

JERUSALEM, May 27 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger will return to Washington tomorrow with or without a disengagement agreement signed by Israel and Syria, it was indicated here today. Kissinger flew to Damascus yesterday, spent six hours in conference with Syrian President Hafez Assad last night and met with him again for three hours this morning, according to State Department spokesman Robert Anderson.

Further meetings were to be held in the Syrian capital before Kissinger returns to Jerusalem tonight for a final round of talks with Israeli officials. Anderson said the Secretary would leave for Washington some time tomorrow. He did not say whether Kissinger would stop over in Cairo on his way home.

A disengagement accord still eluded Dr. Kissinger after four weeks of arduous personal diplomacy in the Middle East during which he shuttled 12 times between Jerusalem and Damascus. Israeli Information Minister Shimon Peres said that if no agreement is reached by tonight, Kissinger might leave some of his aides in the area to try to solve the outstanding issues and may invite Israeli and Syrian representatives to Washington for further talks.

Israeli officials seemed hopeful yesterday that a disengagement agreement or interim agreement would be signed or at least initiated by both sides by this morning. The Israeli Cabinet, after a special session yesterday, reportedly accepted compromises proposed by Kissinger on limited forces zones and the nature and functions of the United Nations presence.

But in Damascus, where Kissinger is trying to persuade the Syrians to accept the compromise, new obstacles emerged. An official statement issued by the Syrian government this morning said it refused even to discuss the question of Palestinian guerrillas in the framework of a disengagement pact. Israel's acceptance of Kissinger's compromise reportedly hinged on Syria's agreement to curb the activities of terrorists operating from its territory against Israel.

Israelis Accept Several Proposals

Kissinger spent four hours negotiating with Israeli officials yesterday. According to sources here, the Israelis accepted his proposal of two limited forces zones—one 10-12 kilometers in width in which only small forces of soldiers and light military equipment would be permitted and another, 25 kilometers away from the present lines, in which both sides would be allowed to place artillery. Israel reportedly agreed to a United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) of 1500 soldiers, a compromise between its initial demand for a 3000-man UNEF contingent and Syrian insistence on only several hundred.

According to sources here, Kissinger's proposals called for an exchange of wounded prisoners of war as soon as an agreement is initiated and an exchange of the rest of the POWs in the first stage of the disengagement timetable. Syria holds 68 Israeli POWs and Israel is holding nearly 400 Syrians.

(The White House said Saturday that President Nixon would visit the Middle East. Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler told reporters that while no precise plans have been made "the President at some point will visit the Middle East." His comment left the impression that Nixon might go to the Middle East before his Moscow summit visit scheduled to begin June 14.)

(Meanwhile, reports attributed to "informed foreign diplomats" in Cairo said that the Soviet Union has resumed limited shipments of arms and spare parts to Egypt in an effort by both countries to improve strained relations. The shipments were said to be the first in six months. Reports today from Damascus said that Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko was in the Syrian capital and might meet with Kissinger. There was also a report that Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev will visit Cairo next month to meet with Sadat in an effort to heal Soviet-Egyptian ties.)

TSUR HONORED AT UN LUNCHEON

NEW YORK, May 27 (JTA)--Ambassador Leopoldo Benitez Vinuesa of Ecuador, President of the United Nations General Assembly, was one of the speakers at a luncheon honoring his old friend and diplomatic colleague, Ambassador Jacob Tsur of Israel. Speaking at a gathering of some 40 diplomats and statesmen, among them 18 heads of delegations to the UN, Benitez Vinuesa recalled the time he had served as ambassador to the Argentine and got to know Tsur, then representing Israel.

The Ecuadorian diplomat spoke warmly of the "Israeli cause," and praised the work of the Israel-Ibero Institute, sponsors of the luncheon, for its humanitarian work, which, he said, not only brings together Israel and Lat in America, but also serves to bring the Latin American countries closer to each other.

The luncheon, chaired by Jose Maria Chavez of Colombia, drew scholars and heads of the Latin American departments of a number of universities, and included Talpley Bennett, U.S. Representative to the UN, and the former president of Columbia University Dr. Grayson Kirk. Tsur, who is also world chairman of the Jewish National Fund, commented on the efforts of the Latin American countries on behalf of Israeli independence and self-determination, and expressed his appreciation for the friendship shown Israel - by the Latin American states and the public opinion of those countries.

The luncheon last Thursday came as preparations were being made for the meeting of the First Continental Conference of the Latin American Israeli Cultural Exchange, opening in Caracas, Venezuela on June 1, over which Tsur will preside. Intellectuals, statesmen, high ranking Catholic clergy and writers from all over Latin America will attend. There will also be a delegation from the Israel-Ibero American Institute in New York, which has been active in fostering cultural exchange for the last 15 years.

EUROPEAN LAW AGAINST SHECHITA?

BASEL, May 27 (JTA)--The European Economic Community (EEC) is currently considering a law for "the protection of animals" which could lead to the prohibition of the shechita in several member nations; it was revealed here this weekend at the annual meeting of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Switzerland (SIG). Under the law, each EEC member could decide whether to allow or prohibit the shechita on its soil. In Switzerland, the shechita has been forbidden since 1893.

The SIG assembly's main discussion centered on the "identity crisis" of Judaism. To combat this, the delegates decided to intensify Jewish education programs in Switzerland. Jean Nordmann of Fribourg was elected new SIG president. He succeeds Georges Brunschvig of Bern who died in Oct. 1973.

BONN (JTA)--The governments of West Germany and Baden-Wuerttemberg are to help establish a Jewish science institute at Heidelberg University.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

BUDAPEST (JTA)—The Jewish community last week honored the memory of those who were deported to "Bergen Belsen" by the Nazis during World War II. In a special ceremony held in Budapest's second largest synagogue and with government officials on hand, Budapest Chief Rabbi Istvan Der recalled that "few of us survived the Nazi persecution," and although "in our nation there is order, we must never forget those who were murdered, no matter how painful it is to reopen old wounds." Located in downtown Budapest, the synagogue is built on the former site of the Budapest ghetto and dedicated "to the memory of the Jewish heroes." Officials from the "Religious Affairs Department" represented the government at the memorial ceremony.

NEW YORK (JTA)—Seymour Lachman, president of the city's Board of Education, has appealed on "humanitarian grounds and these alone" to Syria's Minister of Education "to use your influence on behalf of the small remnant of Syrian Jews still residing in your country." Lachman, an Orthodox Jew, asked Hafaz Al-Jamali to use his influence to allow some 4000 Jews still in Syria "to leave in peace to whatever country they choose." Lachman also stated in his letter: "I believe our educational goals are quite similar in that one of our essential concerns is to transmit to our young a respect for humanity." The Board of Education official said he wrote the letter on April 22 but did not disclose it until now because he did not want publicity to interfere with any progress. He said he disclosed it now "because a sufficient amount of time had passed with no answer."

AMSTERDAM (JTA)—Due to financial difficulties, the only remaining Dutch Jewish weekly, "Nieuw Israëlietisch Weekblad," (NIW) has applied to The Netherlands Ministry of Culture for an annual subsidy. The Culture Ministry recently undertook subsidizing a certain number of publications which could not make financial ends meet, but whose continued existence was considered important. Over the past few years, the NIW, whose subscribers number 4000, has been guaranteed a subsidy of 80,000 guilders (about \$30,000) annually by the Dutch Ashkenazi Congregation.

BONN (JTA)—The imprisonment of Rudolf Hess, formerly Hitler's deputy, in the Spandau jail cost the West German tax-payer about DM 1 million last year, State Secretary Karl Moersch (Foreign Office) has told the Bonn Parliament.

AMSTERDAM (JTA)—The large-scale celebrations of Amsterdam's 700th anniversary to be held next year will be named "Mokum 700," the Hebrew word for place. Mokum is a popular name for Amsterdam, a favorite place of Jews over the centuries. During the Nazi occupation, 70,000 Jews were deported from Amsterdam to extermination camps. A special medal with the engraving "Mokum 700" is to be struck for the celebration.

BONN (JTA)—A Jewish theological institute is to be opened in Heidelberg. It will train rabbis, Jewish religious teachers, and choir-directors for all the German-speaking and Scandinavian countries. The institute's constituent meeting is to be held soon, and courses will begin in the summer of 1975. Agreement on the new institute was reached in Jan. by the Central Council of Jews in Germany, the Baden-Wuerttemberg Ministry of Education and Heidelberg University.

NEW YORK (JTA)—The United States Maccabi Association announced that the visit to the U.S. of the Maccabi National Boxing Team of Israel has been dedicated to the memory of the "youth of Israel" massacred in the town of Maalot. In making the announcement, Sidney D. Young, president of the USMA, urged the American community to support this historic event. The Israeli team will box a selected national AAU boxing team in each of four cities: New York, June 17, Miami Beach, June 20, Dallas, Texas, June 27. A fourth city is yet to be selected. Young said, "All proceeds of the tour and international boxing matches will be directed to the Maccabi youth movement in the U.S. and to the Maccabi Tzair youth in Israel and in the name of the youngsters whose lives were so senselessly snuffed out at Maalot."

JERUSALEM (JTA)—A tree was planted Friday morning at the Yad Vashem Memorial Institute in honor of Jean and Jeanne le Cocq, a couple that endangered their lives during World War II to save Jews. Mrs. le Cocq was present at the ceremony. She survived her husband who died a few years ago. The two saved the lives of Charles Aron, a Jewish boy who together with his mother managed to escape from German captivity. The le Cocqs used to tell their neighbors that Charles was an orphan, not Jewish. Aron now resides in Ashdod. He is married and has two children.

WASHINGTON (JTA)—The Arkady Belinkov Memorial Book Collection in memory of the noted Soviet literary critic and writer has been dedicated at George Washington University. The collection will concentrate on the Jewish writer's major intellectual and literary concerns that included the suppressed writers of the Soviet Union from the time of the Soviet revolution and the dissident movements since the 1960s. Belinkov came to that university in 1968 as professor of Russian literature. Belinkov, a Soviet Jew, was persecuted in the Soviet Union both for his dissident views and his ethnic origin.

COPENHAGEN (JTA)—A contemporary history of Israel in cassette form will soon be available to Danish schools, it was announced here. The tapes will cover the period from 1947 when the United Nations called for the formation of an independent Jewish State in the Middle East up to modern times with interviews and commentaries by current Israeli personalities. Danish journalist and radio commentator Hans Vangkilde, known for his pro-Israeli sympathies, is compiling the tape collection. He also intends to begin writing a book on Israel this summer.

NEW YORK (JTA)—Two youths who allegedly tried to set fire to a Soviet attaché's car which was parked near the Soviet Mission to the United Nations were charged this weekend with malicious mischief. According to police, the youths, identified as Victor Van Cier, 17, and Stanley Spirn, 19, both of Queens, emptied a three-gallon can of gasoline over the car and were about to ignite it when police officers spotted them and arrested the duo. The car belonged to Vladimir Yezhov, a member of the mission. On May 19, a car registered to the Soviet Mission and parked in the Far Rockaway section of New York was set afire and heavily damaged. An anonymous caller to two news wire agencies in the city said the "Sternist Committee" had set fire to the car to protest the Soviet Union's campaign against Russian Jews. Police said they did not know the identity of this committee.