



HOREV COMMITTEE ABSOLVES ARMY, POLICE, SCHOOL OFFICIALS OF BLAME FOR DEATHS OF MAALOT CHILDREN By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, July 10 (JTA)--The Horev Committee report on the Maalot massacre, released today, absolved the army, police and school authorities of blame for the deaths of 21 Israeli high school students, three members of the Cohen family and a soldier at the hands of terrorists in the Maalot schoolhouse last May 15. The report, submitted to the Knesset this morning, found that the Cabinet in Jerusalem was not in possession of all the facts when it was called on to make fateful decisions during the 12-hour ordeal.

But the report's conclusion was that the decision to storm the building in an attempt to save the young hostages' lives was, based on information subsequently obtained, the only decision that could have been taken under the circumstances.

The committee's report offered a series of recommendations for dealing with similar incidents in the future. Premier Yitzhak Rabin told the Knesset today that his government has already implemented some of them and would implement others. Moshe Dayan told the Knesset that there must never be any surrender to terrorists holding hostages. (See separate stories.)

The report's only serious criticism was of the behavior of adults--teachers and guides--who escaped from the Maalot school building when the armed terrorists burst in, leaving their charges to their fate. The Education Ministry announced later that it would decide whether to bring those involved before a disciplinary court.

The report disclosed that the leader of the three-day Independence Day camping trip that ended in tragedy possessed arms but left them in a car outside the Maalot school building because of regulations prohibiting carrying arms in populated areas. As a result, the children and their guides had no weapons when they were surprised by the terrorists.

Deemed Letter Irrelevant

Public interest in the report focussed on the role of former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan who flew to Maalot in the early hours of May 15 and remained on the scene throughout the day. It was Dayan who fed information back to the Cabinet room in Jerusalem. But he and Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur never saw a letter from the terrorists spelling out their conditions for release of the hostages. Both, however, acknowledged that they knew of the letter, if not its contents, but deemed it irrelevant because it had been prepared days before in Beirut.

The Horev Committee found that if the contents of the letter had been made available to the Cabinet, the latter could have only come to the conclusion that it was hopeless to try to negotiate a deal with the terrorists. The demands were totally unacceptable, did not guarantee the safety of all the hostages and the only alternative was to revert to the military option which was eventually done, the 50-page Horev report said. But it might have been done earlier had the government been in possession of the terrorists' demands, the committee found. Whether earlier action

would have saved lives remains moot.

The report was prepared by a three-man panel appointed by former Premier Golda Meir consisting of Gen. (Ret.) Amos Horev, president of the Haifa Technion, and two distinguished jurists, Moshe Onna and Erwin E. Shitron. It found that the terrorist infiltrators had not planned to seize the Maalot schoolhouse but came upon it and the sleeping youngsters by sheer accident before dawn on May 15 while searching for a vehicle to steal.

Poor Security in Maalot

The report found that the army had knowledge of terrorists in the vicinity and was adequately re-enforced but could not seal off the Lebanese border totally. The police, too, were alerted but lacked manpower and were not sufficiently re-enforced by the local civil guard. The nearest police commander had no telephone in his home.

The report found that despite its proximity to the Lebanese border, security in Maalot was poor and the town was "open" to infiltration. It found that the school authorities had fulfilled their instructions with regard to camping trips. The police were informed and a police permit was issued. But the police in Safad, where most of the youngsters came from, did not notify police stations along the route of the hike.

The Horev report devoted considerable space to negotiations during May 15 with the French and Rumanian authorities. The terrorists had demanded that negotiations be conducted through the French and Rumanian ambassadors. But the Horev Committee concluded that even if all of the terrorist demands had been accepted, it would have been impossible to implement them by the 6 p.m. deadline the terrorists set. The committee concluded that medical services set up to deal with the emergency were appropriate.

RABIN: GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN TO IMPLEMENT SOME RECOMMENDATIONS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 10 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin told the Knesset today that his government has already begun to implement some of the recommendations in the Horev Committee's report on the Maalot massacre. He said the government saw its main task "not to discuss the past but to draw all the lessons implied by the committee's work and its recommendations for the future."

He indicated that since his government had not appointed the committee and that none of its actions or decisions had been examined by the panel, it was unnecessary to discuss or dispute the committee's findings or its criticism of ministers or others involved in the Maalot episode.

Rabin, making his statement at the opening of a three-hour Knesset debate on the Horev Committee's report, noted that the recommendations are largely of a technical nature pertaining to procedures inside the Cabinet, standing orders to school authorities with regard to student outings, division of responsibility between the army and police and coordination between police districts.

Some Accepted Recommendations Outlined

The committee recommended that a small ministerial body be set up to deal with such emergencies in the future rather than the entire Cabinet. Rabin announced that in compliance with that sug-

gestion, a three-man ministerial team has been established consisting of the Premier, the Minister of Defense and the Minister of Police. They will function as a standing committee when an emergency arises but it will be up to the Premier to decide when to convene the group and whether to co-opt any other ministers or officials, Rabin said.

Rabin also stated that the committee's recommendation that police manpower be increased to cope with terrorist acts and that civil defense, volunteer groups and other auxiliary bodies that help the police have their roles more clearly defined, would be incorporated in the Police Minister's plan to increase police manpower. He said the Police Minister and Defense Minister would jointly submit proposals to the Cabinet for a re-division of authority between the police and army on matters of internal security.

Rabin said the Education Ministry was preparing new guidelines for school outings which define in detail the obligations of adults accompanying the students. He said that new standing rules for security on school outings would soon be issued in coordination with the army and police.

The Horev Committee recommended that media coverage of incidents such as the Maalot episode be restricted, particularly with regard to security actions against the terrorists, to prevent the latter from knowing what the authorities are about. Rabin said the Cabinet had taken note of that recommendation and asked the army and the Information Ministry to implement it.

DAYAN: NO SURRENDER TO TERRORISTS HOLDING HOSTAGES OF ANY AGE

JERUSALEM, July 10 (JTA)—Former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan told the Knesset today that there must never be any surrender to terrorists holding hostages, regardless of age or condition of the hostages, and this must be a cardinal precept which the Knesset should determine once and for all. The alternative would mean "abandoning the lives of our children" to the terrorists, he said.

Dayan replied to criticism, implicit in the Horev Committee report, that he had not provided the Cabinet in Jerusalem with adequate information on which to base their decisions during that fateful day. Dayan insisted that the demands of the terrorists, and all of the variations thereof, were presented to the Cabinet. The difference between what Israel was prepared to agree to and what the terrorists were demanding was the key to the whole episode, he said.

According to Dayan, the Cabinet never agreed to accede to the terrorists' demands. Their decision, which he said he opposed, was to agree to a simultaneous exchange of prisoners for hostages, but that is not what the Maalot terrorists were offering, Dayan said. The terrorists wanted safe passage for 20 prisoners to Damascus while the hostages remained in their hands, and that, basically, was their position throughout the negotiations, Dayan said.

He criticized the Horev Committee for omitting what he considered a vital assertion by him in its report, "I hope unintentionally," he said. According to Dayan, he had told the Cabinet that the Maalot school building could be stormed, but stressed that he could not guarantee there would be no casualties among the hostages. That cautionary assertion does not appear in the

report.

Dayan said that while he disagreed with the Cabinet's decision to attempt negotiations with the terrorists, he would never have ordered the use of force without the full authorization of the Cabinet. Likud and other opposition speakers criticized instances of poor organization and other shortcomings disclosed in the report. There was no Knesset vote. (By David Landau)

SUPPORT MOUNTS FOR RATIFICATION OF TREATY TO TRY NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

BONN, July 10 (JTA)—West German political parties indicated today that they would approve ratification of a 1971 Franco-German treaty under which Nazi war criminals convicted by French courts could be re-tried in German courts. Support for the measure, which has languished in Parliament for the last three years, followed the two-month jail sentence imposed by a Cologne court yesterday on Nazi hunter Beate Klarsfeld.

Mrs. Klarsfeld was convicted of a 1971 attempt to kidnap Kurt Lischka, the Gestapo chief in Paris during World War II, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in absentia by a French court 24 years ago and now lives in West Germany. He is typical of the Nazi war criminals still at large who became the focus of attention during the Klarsfeld trial.

Social Democrat Justice Minister Jochen Vogel is putting strong pressure on his party, the Foreign Office, and the competent Bundestag committee to get the treaty through as early as possible after the summer recess, which ends in mid-Sept. Earlier this week, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt promised French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing that he "would do his utmost" to get the treaty ratified before the end of the year. He is apparently concerned about the effects non-ratification would have on relations with France and Israel.

The Free Democrats, in coalition with the SPD, agreed at a meeting today that the treaty should be dealt with after the summer recess. Up to now, they have had little interest in the treaty, as one of their members, Ernst Achenbach, allegedly involved with Lischka in the deportation of Jews from France, has been the key man in blocking deliberations on the treaty. He is in charge of the handling of the treaty draft in the Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee.

Achenbach said today in a radio interview that he was in favor of an amnesty for all Nazis who could be punished under the new treaty. Thirty years after the war, he said, no just verdict could possibly be passed by West German courts. The idea of mercy should prevail over punishment. Achenbach also rejected as "infamous" allegations in the press that, as a German diplomat in Paris during the war, he had recommended the deportation of Jews for the murder of two German officers.

Klarsfeld To Appeal Sentence

Meanwhile, Mrs. Klarsfeld plans to appeal her sentence and will not follow the Cologne court's recommendation that she seek a clemency decree cancelling the sentence. This was revealed by her Israeli lawyer, Arie Marinsky. Mrs. Klarsfeld is still free since Judge Viktor de Moskoekoey in sentencing her yesterday held up her arrest warrant pending her decision to appeal.

AMSTERDAM (JTA)—Arab oil ministers meeting in Cairo decided to lift the nine-month-old boycott on oil supply to The Netherlands, it was announced here Wednesday. It is felt that Arab interest in an Arab-European dialogue may have prompted this unanimous decision.

BANK SCANDAL HITS ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 10 (JTA)--An emerging bank scandal took on political ramifications today and reactivated a long-standing feud between former Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir and Moshe Zanbar, Governor of the Bank of Israel. Sapir, who has retired from the government and was elected chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives last month, insisted on appearing before the Knesset Finance Committee which is looking into the failure of the Israel British Bank.

The Bank of Israel announced Monday that it was taking over Israel British and planned to close it down in 10 days to protect its depositors. The government is also probing possible criminal acts by the bank's owners and has taken legal action to prevent them from leaving the country until the investigation is completed.

But the government was criticized in opposition quarters today for seizing the bank and preventing its purchase by two larger Israel banks, the Bank Hapoalim and Bank Hamizrachi. The deal fell through, however, when the two purchasers discovered obligations involving millions of dollars that the Israel British owners had failed to report.

Sapir Rejects Claims

Sapir appeared before the Finance Committee to refute allegations that he was partly responsible for the deterioration of the Israel British Bank. He conceded that the bank's owners, the Williams group, were large contributors to the so-called Sapir Foundation, a charitable fund run by ex-Finance Minister Sapir when he was in office.

But he rejected claims that he might have been privy to the bank's difficulties because of that relationship. At the same time, Sapir criticized Zanbar and the Bank of Israel for investing 30 million Deutsch marks of Israel's foreign currency in the Israel British Bank's London branch instead of in larger institutions such as the Bundesbank, the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank or Chase Manhattan.

Sapir said he had written to Zanbar early in the year asking him to coordinate investments of Israel's foreign currency with the Finance Ministry. "I did not receive an answer to that letter until my last day as Finance Minister," Sapir said.

Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz and Justice Minister Haim Zadok told the Finance Committee that the government had no choice but to allow the Bank of Israel, Israel's national bank, to take over Israel British. Zadok indicated that the bank still may be sold to Bank Hapoalim, Israel's second largest bank and Bank Hamizrachi which ranks fifth. The Bank of Israel has assured Israel British depositors that they can withdraw their money up to IL 50,000. But larger customers were told they would have to prove non-involvement in the bank's tangled affairs.

Rabinowitz and Zadok met with Zanbar later today to determine whether the Bank of Israel will honor the failed bank's overseas obligations. Banking sources believe they will be honored if only to preserve Israel's credibility on the international banking market.

Checking Several Possible Offenses

Meanwhile, the government is checking several possible offenses by the Israel British own-

ers; inaccurate reports to the Controller of Banking; funneling customers' deposits to companies owned by their bank; mortgaging bank deposits with a Swiss bank while declaring itself free of mortgages; and the establishment of fictitious companies registered in Vaduz, Lichtenstein, in violation of Israel's foreign currency laws.

The Israel British Bank was founded in the 1930s by Polish Jewish immigrants as the Immigrant Bank. It was purchased in 1938 by the late Nahum Zeev Williams and on his death passed into the hands of a group headed by members of his family. The group is closely associated with the Mizrahi movement--religious Zionists--which may account for the sharp criticism of its takeover today by members of the National Religious Party.

NIXON'S VIEW ON NUMBER OF SOVIET JEWISH VISA APPLICATIONS DISPUTED

WASHINGTON, July 10 (JTA)--President Nixon was reported today to have "again indicated the importance of a trade agreement (with the Soviet Union) and the fact that the Soviet government has received less (visa) applications recently than before, and his view that without an agreement the Soviet Union has the right to refuse applications." That position by the President was relayed to reporters by Sen. Hugh Scott (R, Pa.) the Senate Minority Leader, after he emerged from a White House briefing for Congressional leaders of both parties on the recent Moscow summit conference.

The President's reported assertion that visa applications have declined was promptly refuted by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry in New York. According to the NCSJ, visa applications have been running at an average of 4000 per month during the first six months of 1974, despite a 40 percent cut-back on emigration and despite increasing harassments, arrests and threats of trial to visa applicants. The NCSJ conceded that visa applications were slightly higher during the same period last year--about 4500 a month--but said that under the circumstances the drop was negligible.

Regarding Nixon's reported assertion that without a trade agreement that includes most favored nation status for the Soviet Union the Soviet authorities could rightly deny visa applications, NCSJ chairman Stanley Lowell said, in a statement given to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today:

"The Administration is again fueling a dangerous situation for the cause of Soviet Jewry by putting the cart before the horse. It is true that freedom of emigration for Soviet Jews and the ending of harassment remains in the control of the Soviet government. The NCSJ supports trade and detente, but the burden of ending the ordeal for Soviet Jews ends in Moscow. Then, I am sure, they will find a greater sympathy and understanding amongst the American people and especially in Congress."

Scott reported the President's views when he was asked if a discussion had ensued at the briefing on possible compromise at the summit talks on the emigration issue. The Republican leader replied that the President "realizes that the matter is entirely for Congress, but he hopes they can work out a trade bill that would be generally acceptable." Replying to a question on whether Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger brought back from Moscow "something new" on the emigration matter, Scott said, "That's better handled by quiet talk." (By Joseph Polakoff)

LONDON (JTA)--The governing body of the World Union for Progressive Judaism has unanimously approved the proposal to affiliate with the World Zionist Organization.

GOVERNMENT TO CONSULT WITH JEWISH, BLACK, SPANISH GROUPS ON ISSUES RAISED IN THE DE FUNIS CASE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, July 10 (JTA)—The federal government has moved to consult with leaders of Black, Spanish and Jewish organizations to consider guidelines on issues in higher education raised by the De Funis case. The government's action was prompted by a letter on May 17 to Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, jointly signed by the executive directors of the three largest Jewish human rights groups and three major civil rights organizations after conferring with Eleanor Holmes Norton, head of New York City's Commission on Human Rights.

Their letter called on the department to issue guidelines for use by colleges and universities in the development of programs to expand educational opportunities for those historically excluded from full use of the opportunities. In his response, addressed to Roy Wilkins, executive director of the NAACP, Weinberger said that a meeting will be convened "to discuss and weigh the various proposals available for treating this most complex issue."

"Just as you," Weinberger wrote to Wilkins, "we wish to see the mechanisms of affirmative action work to eliminate the vestiges of past discrimination, as well as to open fully the doors of higher education to all persons; regardless of race, sex or ethnicity." Weinberger announced in his letter that Terrel R. Bell, U.S. Commissioner of Education, and Peter R. Holmes, director of HEW's Office for Civil Rights, will communicate with the signers of the New York letter "in the near future." Copies of the Weinberger and New York letters were made available here to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Wilkins was one of the New York letter signers. Others were Benjamin R. Epstein of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; Bertram H. Gold, American Jewish Committee; Vernon Jordan, National Urban League; Naomi Levine, American Jewish Congress; and Cesare Porales, Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund.

Areas Of Disagreement Are Minor

Marco De Funis of Seattle had complained in 1971 that he was the victim of "reverse discrimination" at the University of Washington Law School in that he was barred from admission to the school while 37 others, mostly Blacks, were allowed to enter despite lesser qualifications. The Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision last April that his case was moot since De Funis, under previous rulings pending a Supreme Court test, was allowed to enter the school and was about to be graduated.

In disclosing the action taken by the six organizations in New York, Commissioner Norton said that "despite varying positions" they held on the De Funis case, the groups involved wished to avoid polarization and were in agreement on the goal of "the elimination of all forms of discrimination and the establishment of affirmative actions that will provide equal opportunity within our constitutional framework."

Commissioner Norton said that the New York Commission had undertaken the joint action because virtually all the major Jewish and minority civil rights organizations are headquartered in New York and are concerned over the view that disagreement on specific issues

threatens the civil rights coalition. However, she said, strains in the coalition have been exaggerated and the areas of disagreement are "minor indeed, particularly when compared with the continuing large areas of mutual agreement and cooperation."

SAPIR: SOUTH AMERICAN JEWRY IS POTENTIAL FOR LARGE-SCALE ALIYA

JERUSALEM, July 10 (JTA)—Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Chairman Pinhas Sapir said here this week that he regarded South American Jewry as "the main potential for large-scale aliya." Sapir was addressing a WZO Executive session devoted to South America's problems. Sapir warned against illusions, however. There would be no aliya from South America without educational and informational efforts designed to foster and encourage it. Sapir is due to visit South America during Aug. to consult with communities there.

The aliya department's director, Uzi Narkiss, said that the Argentinian "aliya movement" encompassed 4000 members all of whom had pledged to make aliya within three years.

Also speaking of the challenge of aliya this week, Jewish Agency Director Moshe Rivlin expressed the view that the tightened bonds between Israel and the diaspora since the Yom Kippur War would quickly be loosened unless there was wide-scale aliya—encouraged by Israel and by Israelis --and unless Israelis did not determinedly develop those bonds.

Rivlin called for the establishment of a mass movement in Israel which would foster ties with the diaspora, help welcome immigrants and forge contacts with tourists and visitors. Israel's ties with the diaspora must no longer be the concern only of those few professionals paid to care about them, Rivlin declared.

MORRIS MAUERBERGER DEAD AT 84

JOHANNESBURG, July 10 (JTA)—Morris Mauerberger, one of South Africa's leading industrialists and well-known Jewish philanthropist died in Cape Town at the age of 84. He played a big part in developing the local textile industry and also had other extensive business interests. He established the Mauerberger Foundation in Israel to sponsor higher studies and also a chair at the Haifa Technion. Mr. Mauerberger donated R100,000 to establish a School of Dentistry at the University of Cape Town in 1965 and R105,000 to establish a Chair of Ophthalmology at the same university in 1968. He was also a generous donor to all Jewish causes.

MORE HARASSMENT, PROTEST IN USSR

LONDON, July 10 (JTA)—Jewish sources in the Soviet Union report that Jewish visa applicant Vladimir Kishlik from Kiev was again beaten up Sunday night by four unidentified persons, and later taken to a hospital. Kishlik, a night watchman at a Kiev boat pier, had suffered at the hands of hooligans some three weeks ago.

Sources also reported that prisoners of Zion at the notorious Perm camps have started a chain of hunger strikes, with each prisoner fasting for one day. They are demanding an improvement of their appalling conditions, as well as the release of all prisoners serving jail terms solely for their desire to go to Israel. Perm prisoners had staged a hunger strike during President Nixon's visit to Moscow.

TEL AVIV (JTA)—Israel's police department has purchased light arms to equip Israel's civil defense guards now in formation.