



# daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036

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Vol. XLI - 57th Year - Wednesday, September 4, 1974

No. 170

## 4 TERRORISTS HALTED NEAR LEBANESE BORDER; 2 KILLED BY ISRAELI PATROL

TEL AVIV, Sept. 3 (JTA)—Four terrorists on a kidnapping and sabotage mission were intercepted near the Lebanese border this morning by Israeli security forces who killed two of them in a brief exchange of fire. The other two escaped into Lebanon. The encounter took place on the Idmit plateau between the Israeli towns of Zarit and Hanita. The terrorists had managed to breach the Israeli security fence along the border but were stopped only a few hundred yards inside Israeli territory.

Documents on the bodies of the slain men identified them as members of a terrorist splinter organization known as the Popular Struggle Front which is headed by Dr. Samir Aussa and supported by Libya and Iraq. The documents included pamphlets printed in Hebrew and English demanding the release of 20 terrorists in Israeli jails.

The infiltrators planned to kidnap Israelis to hold as hostages, security sources said, but their exact target was uncertain. The terrorists' bodies also yielded Kalashnikov rifles, hand grenades, ammunition, detonating devices and civilian clothes. They were wearing khaki garb and rubber-soled shoes when they were killed.

## STATE DEPARTMENT MURKY ON MATTER OF U.S. CONTACTS WITH THE PLO

Will Not 'Rule Out' Or 'Rule In' Future Possible U.S.-PLO Talks  
By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3 (JTA)—The State Department discussed at some length today, but without offering any clear answer, the matter of U.S. contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). At this morning's briefing for newsmen, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency asked whether the U.S. and the PLO were edging toward high level talks on the Palestinian problem and its place in the Middle East settlement proceedings.

The question was prompted by press reports today in New York and Beirut. The New York report said PLO sources close to Cairo had stated that the PLO was ready to talk to U.S. officials on the Palestinian question on condition that the discussions were publicly announced. In Beirut, an unidentified PLO spokesman was said to have denied that the organization was prepared to negotiate with the U.S., or that it has had any contacts with the Americans.

Some sources here said that both reports, while manifestly contradictory, actually were accurate inasmuch as the Cairo version is unofficial and a "trial balloon," while the Beirut report is correct since no discussions have taken place as yet. In his response to the question, State Department spokesman, John King, referred specifically to the Beirut report, implying that he agreed with the denial by the anonymous PLO spokesman there. King added, however, that as "part of any Middle East settlement, the interests of the Palestinians must be taken into account."

He declined to discuss specific details and

issues in a settlement procedure in the Middle East. But he confirmed that low level contacts have taken place between the U.S. and the PLO. He also said that he would neither "rule out" nor "rule in" possible future U.S.-PLO talks.

King's remarks seemed to contradict the Beirut report of no contacts which he had earlier given some credence. But they confirmed what a senior State Department official told a group of newsmen here two months ago, namely that the U.S. would be willing to hold high level talks with the Palestinians. When reminded of that today, State Department sources said they had no information to alter that official's position.

In New York, a United Nations spokesman said today that there has been no request by any Arab states, singly or jointly, for inclusion of the Palestinian question as a separate item on the agenda of the fall session of the General Assembly scheduled to open Sept. 17. The spokesman added that the UN was aware of reports from Cairo that the Arab League had agreed that such a request should be made.

## ENTIRE TOWN ON A HUNGER STRIKE TO PROTEST AGAINST GOV'T. NEGLECT

TEL AVIV, Sept. 3 (JTA)—More than 1500 people, virtually the entire population of tiny Mitzpeh Rimon township in the central Negev, went on a hunger strike today to protest alleged government neglect which they say threatens the town with continuing decay and isolation. The townspeople rejected a last minute appeal by Premier Yitzhak Rabin to call off their demonstration. All shops, businesses and schools were shut down for the day.

The main complaint of the Mitzpeh Rimon citizens is that the government has failed to supply adequate housing, urban development and proper roads. But the town's problems apparently stem from other causes as well.

Established in the early 1950s, Mitzpeh Rimon prospered at first as a midpoint on the road between Beersheba and Eilat. But the highway was shifted eastward to pass through the Arabs district, one of Israel's new development areas. Scarcely a car now passes through Mitzpeh Rimon. There is no new industry, no workshops and little hope for the future. The town's young people are leaving the place. This morning, the hunger strikers set up a road block on the main road to dramatize their protest. By evening, not a single car had come by.

## SHAMGAR SAYS THERE IS NO BASIS FOR PROSECUTION OF MAALOT TEACHERS, HIKE LEADER, GUIDE WHO FLED FROM SCHOOL By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 3 (JTA)—Attorney General Meir Shamgar told the Cabinet yesterday he found no grounds for legal prosecution or disciplinary action against the hike leader, teachers and guides who fled from the Maalot schoolhouse when three terrorists attacked on May 15, leaving their young charges to the mercy of the assailants. The terrorists murdered 21 children, three members of the Cohen family and a soldier.

Shamgar found hike leader Yona Amrossi's actions "reasonable and without fault" since Amrossi had clearly leapt from a window in a vain effort to make for his parked car where his Uzi sub-machinegun had been left for the night.

Two teachers, Zion Cohen and Rabbi Yosef Amar, had "acted without much thought" in following Amrossi through the window and fleeing. They ought to have been among the last to flee, not among the first, Shamgar noted. But their action provided no basis for legal prosecution nor disciplinary action, though it might "throw light upon their stability to serve as teachers," he added.

The cases of two soldiers who accompanied the hike and also fled through the window were transferred to the army's Judge-Advocate who also found no grounds for legal action against them.

#### Parents Reject Report

Parents in Safed of the Maalot victims angrily rejected the report and threatened to stage a hunger strike in Jerusalem if the teachers and hike leader were not punished. Safed Mayor Aharon Nahmias promised the angry parents that he would fully report their reservations to Premier Yitzhak Rabin and relay a response from him within two days.

In his 11-page report to the Cabinet, Shamgar stressed the need to view the events not in the light of hindsight but in the light of the circumstances and considerations pertaining to the time the actions were committed.

Thus, Shamgar said, he believed Amrossi, who testified that he thought the three assailants were about to slaughter all the children and his only hope of saving them was to leap out, bring his gun, and shoot it out. Amrossi insisted that he had not lost his head but that this was the sanest course of action. He had served, he noted in evidence, in a crack regiment and had experience fighting terrorists.

Cohen and Amar had followed Amrossi through the window not knowing then that a day of anguish and blackmail was to follow, but thought that it was "every man for himself" in a frantic effort to escape death.

#### DIASPORA JEWRY MUST EXERT INFLUENCE ON ISRAEL'S BEHALF

JOHANNESBURG, Sept. 3 (JTA)--Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson warned here yesterday that American Jewry would have to risk unpopularity in order to exert all possible influence on Israel's behalf, and the same applied to all other diaspora communities. Mrs. Jacobson, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section, addressed the closing session of the 33rd South African Zionist Conference.

She said that one of the grim facts of the international situation today was the hardening of attitudes toward Israel under the threat of Arab oil blackmail and political pressure. She said she expected this to influence the Ford Administration in the U.S., notwithstanding President Ford's known sympathy for Israel.

Another speaker, Ambassador Michael Comay Israel's former envoy to Britain, told the conference that the central lesson of the Yom Kippur War was that even under conditions of their own choosing, the Arab states could not defeat Israel. This is the main factor that has produced the present condition of relative quiet in the Middle East even though there has been no formal peace settlement, Ambassador Comay said.

Julius Weinstein, who chaired the session, expressed warm appreciation to the South African government for its help and understanding during the Yom Kippur War. David Mann, president of the Board of Deputies of South African Jews, noted that all sections of the Jewish popu-

lation provided wide support for Israel. Edel Horwitz was reelected president of the United Zionist Association and Weinstein was reelected chairman.

#### RABIN: NO MORE ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT PEACE PROGRESS

JERUSALEM, Sept. 3 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin has declared on the eve of his trip to Washington that there will be no more Israeli territorial withdrawals without significant progress toward peace with Israel's Arab neighbors. Addressing a meeting of new immigrants from the Soviet Union at Beit Berl, Rabin said it was possible to reach a quick settlement with the Arabs by giving in to all of their demands--withdrawal to Israel's pre-1967 borders and the establishment of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Arabs are willing to give in return "something resembling peace, but for us such a solution constitutes the beginning of the end of the Jewish State," Rabin said. He told his audience Saturday that Israel's position was never to withdraw to the pre-1967 lines and no Palestinian state, but to confront the Arabs from a position of strength in the quest for peace. This can be achieved through negotiations with each of the Arab states for either a sharp transition from the situation of war to one of peace or a gradual transition carried out in stages, Rabin said.

Meanwhile, the Premier stressed, Israel must be prepared for any contingency and should listen carefully to the new threats of war emanating from Arab capitals, particularly Damascus. "One should not be frightened by those threats but one should be well prepared so that we are not caught by surprise," he said.

Rabin said the Yom Kippur War had proven in a brutal manner how isolated Israel was. "It demonstrated how fast the world has forgotten the holocaust that eliminated half the Jewish people. We saw how peoples, with rich cultures who were known for their humanitarian traditions, preferred oil to morality and truth," he said in an apparent reference to the countries of Western Europe. "We saw how people to whom we extended help deserted us when we were in need," he said, a reference to African countries that severed diplomatic relations with Israel. "On the other hand," Rabin added, "we saw one friend--the United States--and above all, the one true friend in time of war, the Jewish people."

#### ISRAEL READY TO HOLD TALKS WITH JORDAN

TEL AVIV, Sept. 3 (JTA)--Defense Minister Shimon Peres said today that Israel was prepared to "discuss with Jordan the settlement of problems between us" but "we are not prepared to donate territory to her so that she may strengthen her position in the Arab world." Peres addressed a rally of boy scouts preparing to join para-military Nahal units.

He said that when the Arab states spoke of solving the Palestinian problem they meant in reality solving "the Jewish problem in Israel" by eliminating the Jewish State and Zionism. He noted that in the not too distant past "the Arabs have deluded themselves into thinking that Israel was compelled to take dictates from them;" but now, he believed, "they have recovered from this illusion."

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--Security forces have recently detained a number of Druze residents of the Golan Heights on charges of security violations, it was reported. The detainees, mainly from Majdal Shams village, are accused of maintaining contact with the Syrians and in some cases to have crossed and recrossed the Syrian border.

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA****FISHER PREDICTS UPTURN IN U.S. ECONOMY WILL HELP EASE PRESENT JEWISH AGENCY'S CASH CRISIS**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 3 (JTA)--Max Fisher, chairman of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors, today predicted an upturn in the U.S. economy that would relieve the "liquidity problems" of some big American donors enabling them to redeem their pledges to the United Jewish Appeal thereby easing the Jewish Agency's present cash crisis. Fisher made his remarks in an exclusive interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency following a meeting of the full Jewish Agency Executive at which he and Jewish Agency Executive chairman Pinhas Sapir presided.

Jewish Agency Treasurer Leon Dulzin reported at that meeting that this year's budget was some \$200 million short and that the Agency needed the sum urgently in cash. He attributed the deficit to the slumping world economy which he said was slowing down the conversion of pledges into cash.

Fisher, who expressed the same view, told the JTA that while the immediate cash needs were imperative and required urgent attention, there should be no slackening of UJA efforts to obtain large pledges for next year's campaign. "It would be wrong tactics and wrong psychologically to allow a prominent giver's temporary liquidity problems to impinge upon his pledge for next year's campaign," Fisher said.

Citing the most recent Prime Ministers UJA Mission to visit Israel--the largest ever--whose 300 members pledged \$15 million, exceeding their previous donations by 20 percent, Fisher observed, "Most men who make large commitments are men of integrity." He said that having overcome their temporary financial setbacks they would fulfill both their old pledges and their new ones. Fisher recalled similar situations in the 1960s and 1970 which he said bore out his thesis.

**Confident In Ford's Administration**

The Detroit industrialist, a friend of President Ford, said he was confident that the Ford Administration's economic measures would restore "buoyancy" to the American economy within a period of months.

Fisher expressed satisfaction at Ford's ascent to the Presidency and his choice of Nelson A. Rockefeller as Vice-President, whom he described as a good friend of Israel. Fisher observed that Ford's pro-Israel record was well known and, although he was now President and not just a Congressman, Israel could be confident, in view of Ford's record, Congressional bipartisan support, and widespread public sympathy for Israel's case. He thought all these elements would result in favorable treatment for Israel's aid requests despite U.S. economic difficulties.

But for all the Israel-U.S. understanding, Fisher foresaw tough negotiating ahead. He said it was correct for Israel's leaders to state firmly now that they would not succumb to "salami" tactics which in the end would leave Israel denuded of her bargaining positions and none the richer peace-wise.

**Deal On Jackson Amendment Close**

Turning to other matters, Fisher told the JTA that he believed a deal on the Jackson Amendment was "pretty close." He firmly denied that he had ever opposed the Jackson Amendment. Reports

that he had were "without foundation," he declared. But he said he had felt all along that Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D, Wash.) and the Administration would reach a "reformulation" of the initial legislation mutually agreed upon.

**Ford's Intervention Aided Soviet Jews**

Concerning Sylvia Zalmanson's release, Fisher recalled his own intercession with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger on her behalf last summer. He said he could not know if this had been instrumental in her release but thought it possible. He attributed progress on the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration to Ford's personal intervention immediately on assuming office last month. Fisher said he was confident that if harassment ended inside the Soviet Union and Jews were allowed to leave without difficulty, the present downward trend in Soviet aliya would be reversed.

Fisher stressed that this did not mean that inadequate and unsatisfactory absorption facilities in Israel had no adverse effect on the decisions of Russian Jews to emigrate. He said it was up to the Jewish Agency, with the government's help, to solve these problems and assure smoother absorption. A great deal has been done, Fisher said. He predicted that the housing bottleneck would soon be cleared and said the Agency was making great efforts to create job openings and suitable training programs for the newcomers.

**Mrs. Meir Will Visit U.S. In Dec.**

Fisher announced that former Premier Golda Meir will visit the U.S. in Dec. on behalf of the UJA, one of a number of top Israeli leaders enlisted in the forthcoming UJA campaign. He said the UJA hoped to raise as much or more money next year than in last year's record-breaking post-Yom Kippur War campaign. He said that as part of the effort, 65 UJA missions from the U.S. would be brought to Israel during Oct. and Nov. comprising some 2000 American Jewish leaders who would study the country's present needs at first hand.

Fisher indicated that in expressing these views he spoke in his name alone. He nevertheless felt that this represented a consensus of the UJA key lay and professional thinking.

**'BUY ISRAEL' CAMPAIGN EXTENDED**

TEL AVIV, Sept. 3 (JTA)--Yehoshua Meshulah, the Israeli journalist who originated the "Jewish Common Market" plan and won the support of Miami Beach merchants after the Yom Kippur War, left for Florida yesterday to extend his "Buy Israel" campaign to other cities in that state. According to Meshulah, the sale of Israeli goods in Miami has doubled since the campaign started and is expected to reach \$10 million annually.

The "Buy Israel" motto is intended to persuade every customer to spend at least \$1 a week on Israel-made products. The campaign was introduced to major supermarket chains such as Food Fair, Publix and Vin Dixie which now carry signs saying "We Sell Israeli Goods." Meshulah came up with the "Jewish Common Market" project in 1968. It was later approved by the Zionist Congress and the Knesset's finance committee. But it didn't get off the ground until after the war last Oct. when Meshulah suggested heavily Jewish populated Miami Beach as a "pilot city." \* \* \*

LONDON (JTA)--Some 50 prominent jurists from 19 countries will meet here Sept. 21-22 to discuss "Soviet Jewry and the rule of law," the first inquiry into Soviet Jewry's efforts to assert their rights under the Soviet constitution to emigrate to Israel.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES****ISRAELI CONSULATE-GENERAL AIDS****ISRAELI WAR VETERANS SENT TO****THE U.S. FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT**

By Sue Macy

NEW YORK, Sept. 3 (JTA)--Although Israel has developed a remarkable network of medical services in her short history, the continual strains of war occasionally leave the country with soldiers whose medical needs can be met best abroad. Ever since 1948 Israel has sent wounded war veterans for medical help in other countries, including the United States, and as the diagnoses of Yom Kippur War veterans were made these past few months, those who could not obtain adequate help in Israel were sent overseas for care.

Israeli war veterans in the U.S. are sent here by Israel's Department for Rehabilitation in the Ministry of Defense, which pays medical and hospital bills, plane fare, and living expenses for the veteran and his escort (usually a wife, brother, or other family member). When they reach the U.S., the veterans and their companions are met by representatives of the Israeli Consulate in New York, who take them to a hotel, register them, and help arrange medical--and social--activities.

Rivka Sivan, the head of the Consulate Section in the Consulate-General of Israel in New York, coordinates the activities of the veterans and their escorts, many of whom do not speak English and have never before left their homeland. Consulate staff members often take the veterans to dinner, help their companions shop and arrange visits to the hospital if the veteran must stay in one while his companion waits for the rehabilitation process to end.

**Some Stay For As Long As One Year**

While some veterans are in the U.S. for as little as four weeks, others must stay as long as one year, said Mrs. Sivan. "They will not leave the U.S. until everything possible is done for them," she said. "Many have children at home and don't like to stay away too long, but when they come here the boys are willing to get as much care as they can."

Mrs. Sivan said that although the veterans' medical problems are far-ranging, a great many come for treatments on their eyes, including the removal of foreign bodies from the eye and training in the use of seeing-eye dogs. Israel once had a seeing-eye dog institute, but when the head of it died some years ago, the country found that it was too expensive to maintain such an institute. Now Israelis in need of guide dogs must come to the U.S. for a four-week training period.

On the day the Jewish Telegraphic Agency interviewed Mrs. Sivan, a veteran who had received a guide dog in San Raphael, outside San Francisco, came to the Consulate offices with his wife to confirm arrangements for his trip home that evening. The man had been in Germany for two weeks, during which he was fitted with glass eyes, and then flew to San Francisco to the guide dog institute. His wife could only see him on weekends during his four weeks of training, and as soon as the training was finished, the couple came to New York for a two-day visit.

"They are anxious to get back to Israel," Mrs. Sivan said after the couple had gone. "They have two children--girls, three--and five-years-old--who they left on their kibbutz." The man had not been with his children for a long time, she said, for after his Yom Kippur War injury he had been in the hospital for quite a while, and then he had

been abroad for six weeks.

While in New York, the man and his wife purchased a tandem bicycle so that he could peddle as his wife did the steering. He also bought a basketball with a ring inside, so that he could follow the ball's travel by ear. When the veteran and his wife return to Israel, he will work on his kibbutz.

**Doctors; Hotels; Sometimes Forego Charges**

In New York City the couple stayed at the Hotel Wellington, and while the hotel expense would be paid in part from the per diem allowance the couple received from the Israeli government, it would be subsidized by the couple's personal funds. However, the Hotel Wellington refused payment from the veteran, declaring, "It would be a pleasure to have them as our guests."

Mrs. Sivan said very often hotels and doctors forego payment from Israeli veterans, or charge them only a nominal fee. She said that hospitals always take full payment, but both Jewish and non-Jewish doctors are often very willing to charge less. "One non-Jew said he didn't want to take the full fee from the State of Israel," she said. "He said it was a privilege to treat an Israeli boy."

Local Jewish organizations also do their best to help visiting Israelis adjust to the United States, said Mrs. Sivan. Women in the U.S. working for the welfare of Israeli soldiers, and the Jewish War Veterans in America have been especially helpful, she said. Also, some Jews who own hotels in the Catskills, including the Concord and Grossingers, invite the veterans for weekends as their guests.

Israeli veterans in New York usually number about 15, with more coming in the summer. Work with wounded Israeli veterans comprises only about five percent of the Israeli Consulate's work, yet it is a very important part. "It is a service whose needs arise in Israel," said Mrs. Sivan. "We are confronted with a fact and the Consulate meets it the best way we know how."

**ZALMANSON MUST LEAVE USSR BY SEPT. 15**

NEW YORK, Sept. 3 (JTA)--Sylvia Zalmanson has been told that she must leave the Soviet Union for Israel by Sept. 15, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry said today. The NCSJ said that Ms. Zalmanson, who was freed last month after serving four years of her 10-year sentence for allegedly attempting to hijack a Soviet airliner, is demanding to see her two brothers, Israel and Vulf, who were also sentenced in the hijacking attempt. Ms. Zalmanson has just completed a five-day visit with her husband, Edward Kuznetsov, in a Moscow jail. He is serving a 15-year sentence on the same charge. She is also asking for permission to go to Riga to see her grandmother and to visit her mother's grave, the NCJS said.

**N.Y. JEWISH YOUTHS EXPELLED FROM ISRAEL**

JERUSALEM, Sept. 3 (JTA)--Two New York Jewish youths were ordered expelled from Israel by the Interior Ministry today for disrespectful and indecent behavior toward the Christian community. The youths, Abraham Lenny Wacholder, 20, and Albert Joel Benjamin also received six-month jail sentences, with three-months suspended sentences, for stripping naked and using obscene language in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre last July.

The two, who came to Israel as tourists last June, will be ousted Oct. 10 after completing three-month jail terms. An Interior Ministry spokesman said the government considered their conduct a serious breach of Israel's policy of freedom of worship for all faiths.