



daily news bulletin

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

© 1975, Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc.

Vol. XLII - 56th Year

Monday, February 3, 1975

No. 23

BOMB ON JERUSALEM BUS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Two passengers were slightly hurt when a small explosive charge went off on a bus in Jerusalem this morning. The passengers and driver escaped more serious injuries because a larger bomb failed to explode. This second bomb, a bazooka shell attached to a time device, was defused safely by police sappers. The incident occurred on a Number 4 bus, one of the capital's most widely used north-to-south routes. The bus had left its depot at French Hill, a new suburb in the north of the city on formerly Jordanian land, shortly before 8 a.m.

RABINOWITZ DUE IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS ISRAEL'S AID REQUEST

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz will come to Washington within the next few weeks for talks on Israel's latest request for military and economic aid, official sources said today. No date for the visit has yet been set. Israel has asked the United States for \$2.5 billion worth of aid. There has been some speculation here that given the economic difficulties in the U.S., Washington might be reluctant to provide the full sum. Other speculation is that part of the aid may be withheld until Israel shows a willingness to offer substantive concessions to Egypt in a second-stage peace settlement.

Delay In Shipments Denied

(In Washington, State Department sources said this weekend they had no information about reports credited to Israel Radio that the United States was delaying shipments of warplanes to Israel pending the arrival of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger during his upcoming Middle East visit. The sources denied there was any delay in shipping of F 4 and F 15 fighter planes. According to Israel Radio, the withholding of the weapons was designed to give Kissinger leverage for obtaining concessions from Israel for negotiations on new withdrawal agreements.)

RE-TRIAL TREATY APPROVED

BONN, Feb. 2 (JTA)--The West German Bundestag approved late Thursday night the 1971 Franco-German treaty on the re-trial in German courts of Nazi criminals sentenced in absentia by French courts after World War II. The treaty now goes to the Bundesrat (Upper House). No formal count was taken, but ratification was approved with the votes of the Socialist Party (SPD) and Free Democratic Party (FDP) against those of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the Christian Socialist Union (CSU).

The opposition parties approved of the treaty in principle, but objected to the fact that French prosecuting authorities have up to now refused to allow German courts to examine files on the Nazi criminals concerned. The opposition's main objection, however, was that the treaty applies only to murder, but without this being stated specifically in the treaty text. The government argued that all war crimes, with the exception of murder, have now become obsolete under the statute of limitations.

Beate Klarsfeld, whose attempted kidnapping of former Paris Gestapo leader Kurt Lischka and subsequent trial in Cologne last summer helped speed up ratification, was refused entry to the Bundestag Thursday night. The Speaker's office feared disturbances. Klarsfeld has been banned from the Bundehaus since 1968.

CABINET MINISTERS STUDYING REPORT BY AGRANAT COMMITTEE

By David Landau and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA)--The full 1500-page final report of the Agranat Committee on the Yom Kippur War was under intensive study by Cabinet Ministers who were given individual access to it today under security guard, at the Prime Minister's Office. The report was submitted to Premier Yitzhak Rabin Thursday. Only 42 pages have been made public.

The Cabinet is expected to devote one or more special sessions to the report once all Ministers have digested its contents and determined their views on it. As far as can be guessed from the tiny segment released for publication, the final Agranat report deals almost entirely with the military conduct of the war during the first three days following the surprise attacks by Egypt and Syria on Oct. 6, 1973. The question of responsibility on the ministerial level was apparently left undressed. The Agranat panel was unable to find any law, regulation or other instructions covering ministerial responsibility.

But the Cabinet will have to deal with various recommendations contained in the committee's interim report, published last April, which propose means of streamlining the government's decision-making processes in the interests of greater efficiency, especially in national emergencies. These recommendations are under study by a special ministerial committee headed by Justice Minister Haim Zadok.

The final report apparently made no reference to former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. The interim report absolved him of any responsibility for Israel's preparedness shortcomings on the eve of the war. But he, nevertheless, bore the brunt of public criticism and resigned from the government. Dayan was reported to be "relieved" by the committee's final report. Some sources believe it may have opened the way for him to resume his political career.

Dealt Too Harshly With Gonen

The public portions of the final report devoted considerable space to alleged inadequacies of Gen. Shmuel Gonen who commanded Israeli forces in Sinai when the Egyptian attacked. Today, many Israelis, including Gen. Ariel Sharon, who had disputed some of Gonen's orders during the battle, indicated that the Agranat report dealt too harshly with the former-commander. Gonen himself has reportedly decided to remain in the army although the Agranat report recommends that he be barred from any post higher than a divisional command.

PERCY FAILS TO CONVINCe CHICAGO POLISH LEADERS

By Joseph Jawakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (JTA)--After his two meetings with Jewish leaders in Chicago last Thurs-

day, Illinois Republican Senator Charles Percy recognized that he had failed to convince them of his latest views regarding the Israeli-Arab conflict, particularly that the Palestine Liberation Organization's leader Yasir Arafat is now "a relatively moderate" antagonist.

His advice and warnings in Chicago and in Jerusalem earlier proved unacceptable both to the dozen leaders of the Public Affairs Committee of the Jewish United Fund of Chicago who had asked to meet with him at his office in the Federal Building and to the approximately 150 persons who gathered later in the same building at a session that Percy himself had organized to explain his comments. Some at the larger session left well before it adjourned.

Later at a news conference, Percy observed that "some of my many lifelong friends were deeply, deeply troubled," and "I could well have lost their votes and their support." The Senator appeared deeply troubled, too. His Senate office in Washington the next day was completely closed to business. A recorded message informed callers they should phone the following business day because the staff was in a day-long meeting. Surprised Capitol personnel said such shutdowns rarely happen.

In Jerusalem, Washington and Chicago, Percy contended that Israel should deal with Arafat even though not even a peep of remorse or conciliation came from the would-be destroyer of Israel as a nation and the architect of the killings of defenseless innocents in cold blood in Israel and abroad. And although none of the rulers of the Arab world has even informally pledged respect for Israel's sovereignty--for which Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger himself is the authority--Percy advised Israel to make further withdrawals to those vulnerable old borders that helped bring about the Six-Day War.

More Moderate Than Fulbright

He also warned Israel not to engage in any pre-emptive war because America no longer will back her "right or wrong" and he indicated that he would not be among those in Congress who traditionally have overridden the Administration in granting funds and credits for Israel's defense.

But Percy did not engage in terms used by former Sen. J. William Fulbright against Zionists and alleging they "dominate" Congress. Rather, he reiterated several times that his support for Israel's "legitimate aspirations for peace and security is irreversible" although "changed circumstances in the Middle East require changes in Israel's policy" to avoid "imminent war."

Maynard Wishner, chairman of the Chicago Public Affairs Committee of the JUF, representing 36 major Jewish groups, took cognizance of Percy's expression of continued fidelity to Israel's sovereignty "with all my heart." He pointed out that the Senator's statement following the original reports "contained matter pleasing to us. They seemed more even-handed than in the first reports."

Percy took pains to mitigate the anger of his constituents. In Chicago, the Senator asked Wishner to chair the larger meeting which, all accounts agree, was heated. Percy, who only seven weeks previously was one of 71 Senators who addressed a letter to President Ford asking him to have no dealings with the PLO, exclaimed to the group: "You all know I have been a devoted, conscientious, unreserved friend of Israel. I still am but it is my sincere opinion that by re-

maintaining silent I would have done great harm to the future of Israel."

Audience Presses Percy

But from the Chicago audience came statements like, "If you stand for nothing, you will fall for anything." His remarks were "irreversibly" undercutting Israel's position, "ill-timed, calculated to undermine Israel," "ignorant of Jewish history," and "a trial balloon for the Administration's shift away from Israel." Gen. Julius Klein, a top official in the Eisenhower Administration, said the Senator was "pouring oil on the Middle East fire."

Regarding Arafat, Wishner himself recalled to Percy British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's experience with Hitler. After their Munich meeting, Chamberlain proclaimed to Britain, "I bring you peace in our time." On his death bed, Chamberlain remarked, "Everything would have been all right if Hitler had only not lied to me."

When Percy emphasized to newsmen that Arafat was "relatively" more moderate than other Palestinian leaders, a reporter asked the Senator sharply: "Relative to what? Like Himmler to Hitler?"

The impact of the Percy episode cannot be immediately measured. The Administration says that Percy was speaking for himself, but the Senator had indicated that American Ambassadors had accompanied him in all his Arab meetings and that Kissinger did not challenge his views last Monday, the night before he had met the media in Washington.

At the Capitol, most of the key sources passed it off as a personal matter for Percy. Among the true tests, they indicated, will be how the Congressmen vote on the foreign aid budget the Administration presents. This may come in early March after the State Department submits its requests to the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees.

FLU SWEEPS JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Despite the Health Ministry's insistent denials, an epidemic of influenza seems to be sweeping the nation's capital. Thousands are bed-ridden, running high fevers and suffering the torments of aching limbs and heavy heads. Government offices and private firms are all feeling the pinch as the highly communicable disease rages through departments. Health officials deny the "epidemic," but local doctors are unanimous in their assessment that there is indeed a bug on the loose in the capital. Said one overworked medic: "If this isn't a flu epidemic, I don't know what is. I've been making house calls since early morning and I won't be through till late tonight."

FINAL PREPARATIONS BEING MADE

FOR WJC SIXTH PLENARY ASSEMBLY

By Yitzhak Shargil and David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA)--The Binyanei ha-Ooma, Jerusalem's big convention hall, hummed with activity today as final preparations were made for the Sixth Plenary Assembly of the World Jewish Congress which opens here tomorrow evening. It will be the first Plenary Assembly of the WJC ever held in Israel and the largest and "most representative," according to Gerhart M. Riegner, secretary general of the WJC.

Some 600 delegates from 65 countries are expected to attend. The largest single delegation will be from the United States, numbering 109 members. They represent 17 major American secular, religious and Zionist organizations with a

combined membership of about three million American Jews, Riegner said. The Plenary Assembly will continue through Feb. 10.

It will undertake a major re-organization of the WJC's leadership set-up and the event has been generating sparks well in advance of its opening. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, the WJC president, has become a figure of controversy in Israel because of his outspoken views that are often at variance with official government policy. Dr. Goldmann will open the Plenary Assembly tomorrow night with an address on "The Jewish People Among the Nations." His re-election to the WJC presidency seemed virtually assured on the eve of the opening despite a vigorous drive to unseat him conducted by Likud and some elements of Labor and other factions.

Rosenbaum Offers To Resign

A potential convention floor battle may have been averted, however, when Swiss-Jewish financier Tibor Rosenbaum offered to resign from the post of WJC treasurer which he has held for nine years and said he would not participate in the Assembly. Dr. Goldmann released a letter from Rosenbaum, dated Jan. 21, in which the banker and leader of the world Mizrahi movement said he would "rather not stand as a candidate unless the Congress sets up an inquiry commission to investigate my conduct in the light of the atrocious press campaign against me."

Rosenbaum has become a figure of bitter controversy because of the scandals surrounding the loss of large sums of Israeli money invested in certain of his enterprises in Vaduz, Lichtenstein and the partial failure of his International Credit Bank in Geneva. The National Religious Party had supported Rosenbaum's re-election to the treasury post and allegedly offered to support Dr. Goldmann's re-election to the WJC presidency if he agreed to back Rosenbaum. That was vigorously denied by the NRP leadership and by Dr. Goldmann. He said he would submit Rosenbaum's request for an inquiry to the new WJC Executive which would "decide how to act with regard to his future position in the Congress."

Another Controversy Emerging

Another area of pre-Assembly controversy was a proposal by the World Zionist Organization Executive last week to establish a six-member executive to run the WJC. Leon Dulzín, WZO treasurer, stressed that the plan had nothing to do with the WJC presidency which will be a matter for the Plenary Assembly to decide. But Yosef Klarman, head of the WZO's youth department and a leader of Likud, threatened to resign from the Executive if the plan was approved on grounds that it opened the way for Dr. Goldmann to continue in office.

The WZO Executive, nevertheless, approved the proposal in principle. It provides for a WJC Executive consisting of five elected members plus the secretary general--the post now held by Riegner. Two of the members would be WZO representatives. WZO Executive chairman Pinhas Sapir would be an ex-officio member and one other WZO representative would serve as chairman of the WJC's General Council.

Dr. Goldmann, who is 80, has said that if re-elected he would not serve out a full term. It is widely believed here that his personal choice of a successor to the WJC presidency is Philip M. Klutzniok, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and a former president of B'nai B'rith. Klutzniok is scheduled to lead off a general debate at the

Plenary Assembly Tuesday on the theme of "World Jewry in a Changing World."

DISCUSS ROLE OF JEWISH, GENERAL PRESS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Forty Jewish journalists from 12 countries, joined by several hundred of their Israeli colleagues, discussed their role in the Jewish and general press at the opening here today of a two-day international conference of Jewish journalists sponsored by the World Federation of Jewish Journalists.

They were addressed by retiring Information Minister Aharon Yariv who urged them not to hide the true difficulties of life in Israel, not to stress imaginary hardships and to emphasize the huge potential strength of Israel and its ability to overcome and solve its problems. Yariv has resigned from the government, effective this Tuesday.

Pinhas Sapir, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, also called on the journalists to report the good as well as the bad. He said, for example, that the absorption program faced many difficulties. "But it would be wrong to say that nothing has changed.... The fact is the number of complaints has dropped, not only because aliyah figures dropped but because we have no acute housing problem any longer," Sapir said.

The newsmen were also addressed by Avraham Shenker, head of the Jewish Agency's information department, who said it was the duty of the World Federation of Jewish Journalists to deepen its members' knowledge of Jewish problems and to raise the level of the Jewish press to attract the younger generation and thereby help combat assimilation.

WZO EXECUTIVE APPROVES \$4 M LATIN AMERICAN EDUCATION PLAN

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA)--The World Zionist Organization Executive has approved a Jewish education plan for Latin America under which it is hoped to increase the number of children attending Jewish schools on that continent by 12,000 in three years. At present it is estimated that some 36,000 Jewish children attend Jewish schools in South America. The plan will cost \$4 million and will be implemented jointly by the WZO's education, Torah education, and youth departments.

Outlined by education department chairman Haim Finkelstein and Torah education chairman Moshe Kroner, the plan calls for establishment of 40 new schools, mostly in the smaller communities, and expansion of existing Jewish schools--with WZO and the local communities joining to help meet the increased costs. Special attention will be given to the social and economic status of school teachers with the aim of attracting top talent to the profession.

Finkelstein reported on the success of WZO's "Year-in-Israel" program for high schoolers. Many of the South American participants in this program, still in its infancy stage, had struck roots in Israel and decided to remain here. Those who had returned had continued to be closely attached to Israel and Zionist youth work. Finkelstein and Kroner said that some 600 teachers were operating in diaspora schools on behalf of their two departments.

WZO chairman Pinhas Sapir stressed the urgency--and cost--of action in the field of Jewish education. He said the situation was gravely worsening, and added that world Jewry would have to get used to the fact that education costs money, just as it was now well understood that defense of Israel costs money.

