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KILLERS OF EPHRAIM ELROM GIVEN JAIL TERMS OF UP TO 30 YEARS BY A MARTIAL LAW COURT IN ISTANBUL

PARIS, April 9 (JTA)--Five members of a Turkish extremist group were today sentenced to jail for up to 30 years for their part in the 1971 murder of Ephraim Elrom, the Israeli Consul General in Istanbul, and the fatal shooting of three Western radar technicians in 1972, according to reports reaching here from Istanbul.

The sentence was imposed on the five, all said to be members of the Turkish People's Liberation Army, by a Martial Law Court in Istanbul. The underground organization had claimed responsibility for the killings. Two of the five were first sentenced to death in the trial which began in 1972 but last year the sentence was commuted under an amnesty for political prisoners. At the same time, 86 other people who were charged with being members of the group were set free.

Elrom was killed after being kidnapped from his home in May 1971. In March 1972, the three technicians, who had been working at a station on the Black Sea, died during a gunbattle between their kidnappers and security forces.

SCANDAL INVOLVING DEFENSE MINISTRY, OFFICERS CORPS, SHOCKS ISRAEL By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 9 (JTA)--Israel was shocked today by a new scandal involving officials of the Defense Ministry and members of the officers corps hitherto considered the most impeccable and loyally served branches of the government. Three senior Defense Ministry officials have been suspended from their jobs and are under investigation for allegedly accepting bribes, it was announced here. Officers of one army corps are also under investigation and two Defense Ministry officials attached to the Ministry's purchasing mission in New York have been recalled for questioning over alleged corruption.

The three suspended officials are alleged to have worked in collusion with the director of Hamegader, a metal works that supplies the Defense Ministry with barbed wire, to cheat the army. According to the allegations, the plant supplied wire of a lighter weight than that specified and paid for by the Defense Ministry with the knowledge of at least one of the officials under investigation. The managing director of Hamegader was also detained for questioning in the investigation that has spread to the officers corps.

The two officials recalled from New York allegedly favored certain suppliers in return for personal advantages. They are also alleged to have set up their own supply firm which rendered bids to the supply mission of which they were employees.

Bitterness Over Alleged Fraud Charges

Today's revelations sent shock waves through Israel, coming on the heels of the multiple indictments handed down yesterday against Michael Tzur, one-time protégé of former Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir and the late Premier Levi Eshkol, who has been remanded to jail pending trial for bribery, embezzlement and fraud. (See separate story)

The thousands of Defense Ministry employees who are among Israel's most dedicated and hard-working public servants, expressed bitterness today over the alleged fraud involving some of their superiors. They feel that the entire Ministry has been tainted by the possible criminal violations of a few persons.

Meanwhile, the Likud opposition has not been spared by the wave of burgeoning scandal. Police today notified the State List, a Likud constituent faction, that its executive-secretary, Mrs. Bath-Sheva Tuvia, is suspected of embezzlement of IL 250,000 of the faction's funds. According to a bill of particulars given the Attorney General and the State Comptroller, Mrs. Tuvia, who was suspended, has returned part of the money and is seeking ways to return the rest.

ALLON, DUE IN THE U.S. NEXT WEEK TO ATTEND UJA FUND-RAISING MEETINGS, WILL MEET WITH KISSINGER

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 9 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Yigal Allon will visit the United States next week to attend major fund-raising meetings of the United Jewish Appeal and has been invited by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger to meet with him in Washington, informed sources disclosed here today. According to the sources, Kissinger, when informed that Allon would be in the U.S., immediately responded by asking him to set aside a day for a meeting with him in Washington.

(The State Department confirmed today that Allon would meet with Kissinger but did not announce the date of the meeting. Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz met with the Secretary of State three times in the past week in a move to ease the strains between Washington and Jerusalem that grew out of the failure of Kissinger's Middle East mission last month.)

Sources here said that Allon would not be bringing any new ideas to Washington and noted that the Cabinet made no new decisions at its meeting here Sunday and that Israel stands firm on the offers it made to Egypt during the recent second-stage negotiations--all of which Cairo has rejected.

Allon's visit to the U.S. and meeting with Kissinger follows a week of reports that American authorities had indicated to Jerusalem that it would not be opportune for top Israeli officials--Allon or Defense Minister Shimon Peres--to come to Washington at this time while the Administration was engaged in the reassessment of its Middle East policy, ordered by President Ford last month.

Importance Attached To Allon's Visit

Sources here said that Allon had been invited some time ago to attend the UJA rallies but hesitated to accept because of the state of relations between Washington and Jerusalem. They said the Minister did not want to "impose" himself upon Washington if he were not welcome there. But Dinitz's reports of his latest meetings with Kissinger apparently indicated that Allon's visit would not be unwelcome, and after consultation with Premier Yitzhak Rabin both decided that he should go to the U.S.

The fact that the Foreign Minister will be away from Israel when it celebrates its 27th Independence Day next Wednesday was an indication of the

importance attached to Allon's trip. While it was stressed here that Allon will bring no new Israeli proposals, the sources said he was expected to express certain new approaches that would test Egypt's willingness to resume negotiations for an interim bilateral agreement with Israel.

Informed sources here noted that the unofficial campaign of some senior American officials blaming Israel for the breakdown of last month's talks has been waning in recent days. The sources said that vigorous protests by Israel ultimately helped stem the flow of hints and leaks that the U.S. held Israel rather than Egypt responsible for the collapse of the talks that were suspended March 22.

Allon himself will doubtlessly ignore the unofficial campaign and will take cognizance only of the official public statements of Administration leaders disclaiming any intention to apportion blame for Kissinger's failed mission.

Israel's Present Position

Israel's present position includes an offer to resume the bilateral negotiation at the point where they were broken off--with an Israeli offer to withdraw from the western half of the Mittle and Gidi Passes in Sinai in return for a limited Egyptian undertaking to forego the use of war to settle its dispute with Israel. There are presently no indications that Egypt is any more willing to consider this option now than it was last month--but this could change in time, sources here said.

Israel is also leaving open the option of a "broader" settlement in which Israel would make a major--though as yet undefined--territorial withdrawal in Sinai in exchange for a formal declaration of non-belligerency from Egypt.

The alternative to these options is resumption of the Geneva peace conference. But Israeli sources predict that Geneva almost certainly would end in deadlock unless it was preceded by a successful round of bilateral talks leading to a second-stage Israeli-Egyptian agreement. The sources note that there appears to be little enthusiasm in Cairo or Washington for a resumption of the Geneva talks now and that even the Soviet Union and Syria have not been pressing for Geneva quite as energetically as might have been expected.

In addition to addressing UJA rallies, Allon will address a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations while he is in the U.S., it was reported heretoday.

U.S. DENIES PORTUGAL WARNED AZORES CANNOT BE USED AS BASE TO RE-FUEL PLANES IN EVENT OF NEW MIDEAST WAR

WASHINGTON, April 9 (JTA)--The State Department denied today that it has been informed by Portugal that the United States could not use the Azores island air base to re-fuel planes bringing supplies to Israel in the event of a new Middle East war. The denial followed reports that Portugal had informally informed the United States of this new policy.

In addition, Portuguese Prime Minister Vasco des Santos Concalves told a press conference in Lisbon yesterday that Portugal would not allow the Azores air base to be used against the Arabs but that Portugal would honor its treaties and agreements until an elected government takes office. The elections are April 25.

State Department spokesman Robert Anderson said today that "We were not informed (by Portugal) before or after the Prime Minister's statement." He said that "this subject (supplies for Israel) has never arisen in the discussion so far."

Anderson said the last time the principal negotiators for the U.S. and Portugal met was in January and "at that time the Portuguese informed us they preferred to wait until after the elections to resume negotiations."

Asked about the U.S. government's reaction to Concalves' statement, Anderson replied, "We have no particular reaction to it at this time." He said that presumably the subject would be discussed when negotiations resume. The agreement for using the Azores base as a re-fueling stop for American airplanes was signed in 1946 and expired in February 1974.

Portuguese permission to U.S. planes to re-fuel at Lajes base enroute to Israel during the Yom Kippur War brought a total embargo of Arab oil to Portugal. After the coup that installed a new regime in Portugal a year ago, the new leadership indicated it regarded such use of the base as an obstacle to better relations with the Arab countries. Since the coup, Portugal has exchanged ambassadors with Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Kuwait, Mauritania, Algeria and Iraq.

TZUR HIT WITH 18-COUNT INDICTMENT

TEL AVIV, April 9 (JTA)--An 18-count indictment, including charges of bribery, embezzlement, fraud and theft of IL 112 million, including personal bribery of IL 12 million, was presented yesterday in Tel Aviv district court against Michael Tzur, a leading Israeli industrialist. He faces a possible sentence of up to 10 years. His trial, for which the date was not set, will be held before a panel of three district judges. Tzur has been general director of the Israel Corporation, chairman of the board of the Zim Shipping Co. and chairman of the board of the Haifa refineries.

The charges, covering the period of 1970-1974, are listed in legal terms as theft by a public servant, receiving bribes, violating confidence and embezzlement, and receiving money under false pretenses in grave circumstances. Tzur also was accused of violating foreign currency regulations. According to the charge sheet, Tzur accepted a \$1.5 million bribe in one case and the equivalent of \$1.4 million in German Marks from an investors group that invested in the Israel Corporation, allegedly to get inexpensive financing from Tzur for their investments.

Tzur was charged with using the bribe funds to form a Vaduzian corporation which in turn invested funds in the Israel Corporation then headed by Tzur. He also was charged with having received a bribe of \$130,000 from an Israeli agent of an Italian shipyard. According to the indictment, Tzur so manipulated matters in his capacity as Zim chairman, that Zim ordered two container ships in the Italian shipyards represented by the agent who allegedly bribed Tzur.

Tzur also was accused of receiving a bribe of \$15,000 from Tibor Rosenbaum of Switzerland allegedly to persuade a foreign firm to invest \$6 million in one of Rosenbaum's Vaduzian corporations. The prosecution charged that the listing of the capital invested by Tzur for the Zim and the refineries by the Rosenbaum corporation was to produce interest which allegedly was registered as lower than the actual interest payments, with the difference deposited in Tzur accounts allegedly kept in foreign banks.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT CHARGES ISRAEL, SYRIA WITH VIOLATING GENEVA CONVENTION ON TREATMENT OF POWs

LONDON, April 9 (JTA)--Both Syria and Israel are accused of violating the Geneva Convention on the treatment of prisoners of war in a report by

Amnesty International to be released here tomorrow. A special three-man investigating commission that visited the two countries and interviewed former prisoners of the Yom Kippur War, state in their report that they found corroborative evidence that "both countries were guilty of certain abuses" but had not been able to obtain "absolute proof" because of the scarcity of medical documents.

The 34-page report was prepared by Ashbjorn Eide, of Norway, director of the International Peace Research Institute in Oslo; Peter Nobel, a lawyer of Uppsala, Sweden; and Dr. Kees van Vuuren, of Rotterdam, a Dutch physician. Amnesty International is a private world-wide organization based in London that seeks to preserve the rights of political prisoners or obtain their release.

The report cited the Syrian authorities' refusal for nearly five months to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit captured Israeli POWs as a major breach of an international safeguard that would have lessened the opportunity for torture and poor detention conditions. The report said that both countries had failed to observe fully the safeguards contained in the Third Geneva Convention on the treatment of POWs. "These violations... are extremely serious in that they created circumstances under which ill-treatment and torture could more easily occur," the report said.

The investigating commission visited Israel and Syria during a two-week period last October and interviewed 25 former Israeli and 21 former Syrian POWs as well as three Syrian civilians who claimed they were kidnapped by withdrawing Israeli forces in the summer of 1974 when Israel pulled back from parts of the Golan Heights under the disengagement agreement with Syria. The investigators also met with officials of both governments.

Absolute Proof Not-Obtainable

The report noted that, among other things, the length of time that elapsed between the occurrence of the alleged abuses and the examination of the former POWs, and because of the scarcity of medical documents, "absolute proof" could not be obtained that ill treatment and torture had indeed taken place. But the commission found reasonable ground to reach certain conclusions, the report said.

"At least some of the former prisoners of war from both sides were subjected to brutality in the form of beating, kicking and threats, especially during transportation," the report said. "Most of the former Israeli POWs in Syria stated that they had suffered systematic torture during interrogation, especially in the form of falaka (beating on the soles of the feet) or electric shocks. The commission found the individual testimonies to be consistent in themselves and among one another. In some cases, the findings of the medical examination appear to corroborate complaints by Israeli POWs of certain kinds of beatings."

The report continued: "The commission notes the allegations of torture made by former Syrian POWs in Israel and finds that the testimonies given by the commando soldiers describe the more brutal treatment, which in one case appears to be corroborated by the findings of the medical commission. The testimonies given by three Syrian civilians captured by Israeli forces contained allegations of a very serious nature. One complaint of burning with cigarettes appears

to be corroborated by the findings of the medical examination."

The report concluded that the commission found that the complaints made by former Israeli POWs in Syria of certain deprivations, including lack of food, water, hygienic facilities and complaints made by former Syrian POWs in Israel about overcrowding and otherwise "unsatisfactory conditions of detention" appear to be mostly corroborated by the reports of the visits to the POWs held in both countries by the delegations of the International Red Cross Committee."

Martin Ennals, secretary general of Amnesty International, stated in letters to Premier Yitzhak Rabin of Israel and President Hafez Assad of Syria and in his introduction to the commission's report, that "The purpose of this report is not to condemn and seek retribution for what happened in the past, but to create awareness of the need to prevent similar abuses from occurring in the future."

DISCLOSE ASSAD OFFERED 'UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE' CONDITIONS FOR THE EMIGRATION OF SYRIAN JEWS

NEW YORK, April 9 (JTA)--Sen. George McGovern (D-SD) raised the possibility of the emigration of Syrian Jews to the United States at his recent meeting with President Hafez Assad in Damascus but found Assad's conditions "utterly impossible." Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson disclosed here today at a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Mrs. Jacobson, chairman of the American Section of the World Zionist Organization, said that she and McGovern were both in Israel at the same time last week. The Senator, winding up a fact-finding tour of the Middle East in his capacity as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's subcommittee on Middle Eastern Affairs, disclosed his conversation with President Assad in which he brought up the question of Syrian Jews and the possibility of their emigration from Syria.

McGovern said that Assad told him he could not allow Syrian Jews to go to Israel and thereby strengthen a nation with which Syria is in a state of war. McGovern said he told the Syrian President that arrangements could be made to admit Syrian Jews to the U.S. Assad replied that he would permit such emigration on condition that the U.S. enacted a law forbidding these Jews from ever going to Israel. McGovern told Assad that that was "utterly impossible," Mrs. Jacobson said.

EL AL HIT BY 24-HOUR STRIKE

TEL AVIV, April 9 (JTA)--A 24-hour strike by some 120 technical foremen grounded all El Al flights as of 2 p.m. local time today. The airline's management, meanwhile, is attempting to work out alternate flights for its passengers on foreign carriers. The walk-out is the latest in a series of labor troubles that has buffeted Israel's national airline, in the past year causing losses estimated at millions of dollars.

The El Al management branded the strike an unwarranted and illegal violation of labor contracts. The foremen, whose signatures must be appended to documents attesting to an aircraft's flight-worthiness before it can take off, are demanding an adjustment of their wages and fringe benefits in line with improvements recently won by other El Al employees. The foremen charge specifically that their authority is undermined because the gap has been narrowed between their wages and those of their subordinates. Three scheduled flights were cancelled today as a result of the strike, and seven more may be cancelled tomorrow unless work is resumed before early afternoon.

ABZUG COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON ARAB BOYCOTT AGAINST JEWS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 9 (JTA)--The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith advised Congress yesterday that both Congressional oversight of present U.S. laws against discrimination and new federal legislation are necessary to counter the Arab boycott's abuse of the rights of American citizens. "Both are needed to make it unlawful for American businessmen to comply with discriminatory requests" from Arab countries and "to permit those hurt by discrimination to sue for damages," David Brody, the ADL's Washington director, testified before the House Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights headed by Rep. Bella Abzug (D,NY).

"If a little country like The Netherlands can do it," he added, "a great country like ours certainly can do it." Brody referred specifically to the Dutch Ministry of Justice making it a criminal offense to comply with discrimination against Dutch Jews and the cancellation by the Dutch Foreign Minister of a visit to Saudi Arabia because a Dutch Jewish journalist was denied entry.

Brody's views came extemporaneously in response to a request for suggestions on how to meet the boycott measures by Rep. Robert W. Kasten Jr. (R, Wis.), who himself only minutes earlier had attacked the discrimination being practiced against Jews through the boycott and called for national measures to remedy the situation. Kasten, a freshman Congressman, had testified as a witness before the subcommittee and then was invited by Rep. Abzug to join the panel in questioning others testifying.

The Abzug panel opened hearings on governmental policies and practices relating to the assignment of personnel both by the agencies or their contractors to overseas areas. State Department and Treasury officials testified they were committed to a federal policy of non-discrimination. Assistant Treasury Secretary Warren F. Brecht said that Treasury procurement offices must include in their formal contract documents the appropriate equal opportunity clauses to assure contractor compliance with executive orders.

Defense Department Violations Cited

Kasten testified that he had "a number of indications that the Department of Defense had abdicated its responsibility not to violate either the letter or the spirit of our anti-discrimination laws," and pointed to "the recent admission" by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that it "had agreed to demands from foreign nations in the foreign assignments of personnel."

Rep. Sam Steiger (R, Ariz.), the ranking Republican on the subcommittee and a B'nai B'rith member himself, agreed with the opposition to the Arab blacklist of business concerns identified with Israeli trade or Jewish management and also expressed opposition to discrimination within the United States. But he said that seeking to "impose your will and customs on others" is "not the proper role for us." He said that "a fair equation is trying to impose democracy in Vietnam."

Pointing out that his views might be interpreted as anti-Semitic, Steiger pointed out that he himself is a Jew. He said that it would be "counter-productive" to attempt "to force our will on others," with regard to the laws of that country. "It would be ludicrous for Vinnell to employ Jewish combat instructors to instruct the Saudis to oppose the Israelis," he said. The Vinnell Corporation of California has a defense contract to

train Saudi troops.

In opening his extemporaneous testimony, Brody told Steiger that the Congressman was not taking "an anti-Semitic stance but an ill-advised and misguided stance." Brody noted that ARAMCO Services, advertising itself as an "equal opportunity employer," sought medical personnel with the qualification that an applicant had to be successful in attaining a visa to Saudi Arabia. ARAMCO previously owned and now operates Saudi Arabia's oil fields and markets the oil. Saudi Arabia, with few exceptions, bars Jews from entering.

Start Enforcing The Law

Rep. Abzug charged that federal agencies which assign personnel overseas were in clear violation of the 1965 Civil Rights Act and of Executive Order 11478, both of which require government agencies to adopt a strong affirmative action program to assure equal opportunity. "Acquiescence to religious or racial discrimination by foreign countries is a 'negative action' program, not an affirmative action program," she said. The Arab boycott "is a most repugnant example of this kind of policy which is alien to American principles," Rep. Abzug stated.

She also charged that the State Department's so-called quiet diplomacy on this issue has been a complete failure. "In the last 20 years," she noted, "there has not been a single indication of a change in policy by any of those countries which the State Department insists will be receptive to diplomatic overtures. It is time we started enforcing the law instead of exchanging diplomatic niceties."

UZZI FEINERMAN DEAD AT 51

TEL AVIV, April 9 (JTA)--Funeral services were held today for Uzzi Feinerman, a Labor Party member of Knesset, who died suddenly last night on his way to a Knesset Finance Committee hearing. He was pronounced dead on arrival at a hospital from a heart attack. He was 51. Burial was at Kfar Yehezkel, his birthplace.

Mr. Feinerman, who had served as general secretary of the Moshavim movement, was an ardent disciple of the late David Ben Gurion but he remained within the Labor Party after a Ben-Gurion-led Rafi faction split-away. As a Lieutenant Colonel in the Reserves, he served on the Golan Heights during the Yom Kippur War. Mr. Feinerman's place in the Knesset will be filled by Amos Horowitz of Nahajatz, a former Rafi member, and brother of Yigal Horowitz, head of the State List and Knesset member.

PROTEST AGAINST ANTI-ISRAEL FILMS

PARIS, April 9 (JTA)--Israel has protested to the municipality of Royan against the anti-Israel films shown at last week's film festival. The protest was conveyed by Israeli Ambassador to France Asher Ben Natan in a letter to the city's Mayor, Jean de Lipkovsky, a former Gaullist deputy minister for foreign affairs.

Town Hall opposition sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the protest was conveyed to Lipkovsky even before the festival opened and when its program became known. According to these sources Lipkovsky replied saying the festival will try to maintain an "objective" attitude. In spite of these promises violently anti-Israeli films were shown throughout its seven days duration.

PARIS (JTA)--A north Paris synagogue-cultural center was broken into last weekend, the center revealed Wednesday.