



daily news bulletin

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

© 1975, Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc.

Vol. XLII - 58th Year

Tuesday, April 29, 1975

No. 82

SIX TERRORISTS SEIZE ISRAELI CONSULATE GENERAL IN JOHANNESBURG

**Hold 9 Hostages; 2 Residents Killed
And At Least 32 Others Are Wounded
By Adele Bernstein**

JOHANNESBURG, April 28 (JTA)--Six heavily armed terrorists who seized the Israeli Consulate General here earlier today continued late this evening to hold nine hostages including women and children, reportedly wired with hand grenades, in the sixth floor Consular offices. South African police and combat troops surrounded the building.

The terrorists, tentatively identified as three Lebanese and three Japanese, opened fire with automatic weapons from the Consular windows at 1:14 p.m. local time killing two people and wounding at least 32 others as panic-stricken lunch-time crowds scattered for cover. At least one of the hostages was reportedly injured.

The terrorists' demands were not immediately known although they apparently involved the presence of Israel's Ambassador to South Africa, Yitzhak Unna. South African Prime Minister John Vorster declared in a nationwide broadcast tonight that he would not negotiate with the terrorists under any circumstances.

Unna, who was in Cape Town this morning, flew to Johannesburg--a two-hour flight--on instructions from Jerusalem and was reportedly on the scene this evening. The terrorists reportedly threatened to blow up the building unless they were allowed to talk with the Israeli Ambassador.

Hostages Tentatively Identified

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from reliable sources that the hostages probably include Consul Shlomo Hover and his 14-year-old son; Vice-Consul Shemir Zur and his wife; a Mrs. Y. Chelouche and possibly her son; Gad Dror of El-Al; Giora Raviv, a security officer; David Potter, who was reportedly wounded; and an African messenger identified as Edward. The Israeli Consul General, Arie Bustan, was not in the building when his offices were seized. Earlier reports identified the hostages only as four white women, three white men and two Black men.

According to a late report, three local Japanese were escorted through the police cordon to serve as interpreters for the terrorists. But, according to an earlier report, the gunmen made their demands in Hebrew which were relayed to police through a window by two men, apparently hostages, who wore skull caps. The use of Hebrew was an indication that the terrorists may be Palestinians although they could also be Hebrew-speaking Lebanese.

A police source said it was not certain whether they were foreigners or members of Johannesburg's fairly large Lebanese community. The JTA learned that about two months ago terrorists carrying Lebanese passports managed to infiltrate the country but their trail was "lost" by security authorities.

Israel's Military Attache in Pretoria flew to Johannesburg today and he and Unna reportedly were in constant contact with Jerusalem where Premier Yitzhak Rabin summoned an emergency meeting of his Cabinet and later spent the day conferring with Defense Minister Shimon Peres.

(See separate story.)

Terrorists' Entry A Mystery

The raid on the Consulate was the first of its kind in South Africa's history. It remained a mystery tonight how the gunmen got into the building, a modest grey-brown six-story structure housing offices, a furniture store and a travel agency, and how they managed to enter the strongly guarded Consular premises.

Armed guards are stationed on the floor outside the offices and others are in the passage. All visitors must pass across an electronic eye device that scans them for metal. Would-be visitors must pass through three bullet-proof security chambers before they can enter the office area.

According to an unconfirmed report, the terrorists entered the building over the weekend while it was closed and began to seize hostages this morning as employees reported for work. If that was the case, however, there was no explanation why they began shooting from the windows at midday.

One unconfirmed report said the terrorists threatened to shoot the hostages at 15-minute intervals unless their demands were met but the nature of the demands were not immediately known. At one point, a woman in a brown shirt, speaking Hebrew, relayed demands from a window for medical supplies, food and water to be sent up by a rope.

A call was also made for a doctor. An army doctor who approached the building was ordered to strip to his underclothes to ensure that he was not carrying any weapons. The doctor was not admitted to the building. Meanwhile, police cleared 30,000 persons from the Rand Show, an annual commercial and trade fair in Johannesburg where, according to an unconfirmed report, the terrorists had planted explosives.

Almost nine hours after their attack began, the terrorists demanded a helicopter capable of carrying 20 persons, according to police sources here. They were told that a helicopter of that size was not available, the sources said.

Preparation For Assault Mounted

Meanwhile, steel-helmeted troop reinforcements were rushed to the area and an emergency hospital was set up in Carlton Center near the Consulate building in apparent preparation for an assault late tonight. Crowds thronged the area despite broadcasts urging them to stay away. A difficulty in mounting an assault to free the hostages was that the electronically controlled doors at the Consulate had jammed during the day. South African papers, reporting the day's drama, carried the biggest headlines since World War II events. The population solidly support Vorster's adamant stand of not negotiating with the terrorists.

Following the terrorist attack on the Consulate, Jewish and Israeli institutions in Johannesburg and other South African cities were given special protection. The El Al offices near the Consulate building were placed under heavy guard. Local Jews kept watch over synagogues and Hebrew schools. Jewish community leaders gathered in the offices of the Zionist Federation and then went as near to the besieged Consulate as police would permit to find out what was happening. But police gave out no information or details.

ISRAELI OFFICIALS WORK FEVERISHLY TO CLARIFY THE JOHANNESBURG SITUATION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 28 (JTA)--After 10 p.m. tonight the Israeli government was still attempting to piece together a clear picture of ongoing events in Johannesburg as piecemeal and sometimes contradictory reports flowed in from news media. A team headed by Premier Yitzhak Rabin centralized the information-collating and digesting process in the Prime Minister's office and ministers were periodically updated by telephone.

The Cabinet broke up its special session at 6:30 p.m.--after only half-an-hour--when it became clear that the full facts were not yet in. Working with Rabin were his top aide, Mordechai Gazit, his military adviser, Col. Poran and other officials. The Foreign Ministry Director General served as liaison with his ministry, which kept an open line to the Israeli representatives in Johannesburg. Foreign Minister Yigal Allon who was in Paris was hourly kept informed.

The impression of informed observers here was that the Israeli government was leaving the situation very much in the hands of the South African security authorities. No Israeli official, it was understood had been sent to Johannesburg from here. Contacts with the authorities, it was further learned, were confined to providing information--Israel was not attempting to provide advice and certainly not directives to the South African military and police chiefs. Officials here were fairly tight-lipped on these contacts and on whether there was any top-level contact between Rabin and John Vorster, Prime Minister of South Africa.

The officials here refused to say whether Yitzhak Unna, Israel's Ambassador to South Africa, had been instructed to enter the building or not. Informed observers believed, however, that Unna had been ordered to keep out, the consideration being that in a show-down (which, to judge by Vorster's statement to Parliament was to be expected), his life along with those of the other hostages would be in grave danger and his presence inside the Consulate would have achieved little practical gain.

Addressing the opening of the Seventh International Book Fair here this evening, Rabin said the attack was perpetrated by "enemies of human culture whom the enlightened, civilized world must condemn and extirpate." He said the assassins' aim was murder and their method was murder. At 11 p.m. the Cabinet was again called into session for an updated report from the Premier.

SPARKMAN SAYS RISK OF MIDEAST CONFLICT INCREASES IF U.S. FALTERS IN GIVING CONTINUED AID TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, April 28 (JTA)--The United States increases "the risk of open conflict" in the Middle East if it falters in giving continued aid to Israel, Sen. John Sparkman (D, Ala.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said today. Sparkman told the annual meeting of B'nai B'rith's commission on community volunteer services that any uncertainty about U.S. assistance "will invite uncertainty and indecision in the Arab states. We would create a psychological and material vacuum that will be filled by the Soviet Union," he said.

Sparkman and Sen. Richard Stone (D, Fla.), who addressed the meeting earlier, agreed that Congressional support for Israel remains strong. Stone, however, said he detected "a possible

weakening in support by the White House." He added: "Congress will approve any request for assistance to Israel President Ford asks. The problem is to get a decent request out of the White House." Stone called the Administration's current reassessment of its Middle East policies as an "indication that U.S. foreign policy is bankrupt."

But Sparkman saw "no conflict" in the Administration's "examining the options" following the failure of the Kissinger shuttle and simultaneously assuring "as much as we can that Israel's security and economic needs are satisfied." Continuing, he said, "It may well be that Israel, Egypt and the State Department erred in judging what was possible" and that "the time is not ripe" for Egypt to sign a non-belligerency agreement, or for Israel to withdraw from strategic territory."

Sparkman added: "There is time to try again and even to refocus the effort. Perhaps both states will have to live in the context of a balance of power in the area for the time being." A Middle East peace settlement "will take a long time," he observed. "What the United States can do, or hope to do as a friend of Israel, is to make the passage to a real and lasting peace less painful," he added.

AND THEN THERE WAS ONE

BOSTON, April 28 (JTA)--Rabbi Richard Israel, the 46-year-old Boston area director for B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, has described himself as a "non-athlete." But when several of his friends died from heart attacks he began to jog 10 miles daily, toned his muscles and "got into great shape," good enough to be one of this year's 2041 men and women marathon entries.

The 26-mile race last week from rural Hopkinton to downtown Boston included a segment through Newton Centre where Rabbi Israel lives, 20 miles from the starting line. There the rabbi collapsed. "I felt like I was wearing sandpaper socks," he said later. "I was about to drop out. But another competitor, an elderly Japanese man, grasped the rabbi's hand to encourage him. Together they plodded up the remaining tortuous six-mile road.

By the time the rabbi got to the finishing line he was more than two hours behind the record time (2 hours, 9 minutes, 55 seconds) of graduate student Will Rodgers, winner of this year's race. "The exhilaration, the camaraderies--they're all worth the torture and pain," Rabbi Israel reflected.

MAJORITY OF ISRAELIS SUPPORT GOVERNMENT'S SUSPENSION OF TALKS

JERUSALEM, April 28 (JTA)--The majority of Israelis support the government's stand on the suspension of the Kissinger talks, a recent survey, conducted by the Institute of Applied Social Science and by the Communications Institute of the Hebrew University, shows. Some 80 percent of the respondents interviewed by the institutions said they were in complete agreement, or "agreement" with the government's stand. Some 14 percent said they were not altogether in agreement, and six percent said they did not agree with the government. Despite the suspension of the talks, most Israelis expressed confidence in continued American political assistance to Israel. Some 77 percent of the interviewees said the U.S. would help Israel "greatly" or "somewhat." However, 24 percent expressed pessimism, fearing that the U.S. would harm Israel, "somewhat," or "greatly."

ALLON, FRENCH OFFICIALS CONFER; COMMON AIM IS PEACE IN MIDEAST

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 28 (JTA)--Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon and French Foreign Minister Jean Sauvagnargues conferred for several hours today on Middle Eastern matters and bilateral Franco-Israeli relations. They told reporters after their morning session at the Quai d'Orsay that they had touched on several points where their views diverged but held one aim in common--peace in the Middle East.

Allon's visit, the first official visit by an Israeli Foreign Minister to France, was complicated on its first day by the armed terrorists' seizure of the Israeli Consulate General in Johannesburg, South Africa. By late afternoon, reports from Johannesburg said the terrorists, who killed two persons and wounded 32 others, were still holding nine hostages in the Consulate.

According to reliable sources here, Allon is considering cutting short his scheduled three-day stay in Paris if the events in South Africa do not end by tomorrow. Allon has cancelled all social engagements here and is attending only official meetings and those events required by diplomatic protocol.

The Israeli Foreign Minister was in constant touch with Jerusalem by phone to keep abreast of developments in Johannesburg. When news of the terrorist attack reached here, security measures were dramatically increased at the hotel where the Foreign Minister, his wife and aides are staying. Additional French and Israeli bodyguards were posted in the hotel lobby and on the floor occupied by Allon and his party.

Palestinian Issue Discussed

The Israeli Foreign Minister arrived at Orly Airport from Tel Aviv at 10 a.m. local time. He was greeted by Sauvagnargues with all of the ceremonial pomp reserved for top diplomatic visitors and then drove to Paris in a 16-car motorcade. There were no crowds along the way or at the hotel. Allon and Sauvagnargues went almost immediately into a working session at the French Foreign Ministry where they talked for more than an hour. They resumed their sessions this afternoon.

According to reliable sources, Allon told the French Foreign Minister that Israel was prepared to discuss peace with the Palestinians but "not with adventurers," an apparent reference to the Palestine Liberation Organization, although he did not mention the PLO by name. Allon also reportedly explained to Sauvagnargues the reasons for the failure of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's mediation efforts in the Middle East last month and placed the blame entirely on Egypt for the collapse of Kissinger's step-by-step approach.

The two ministers reportedly disagreed over how peace in the Middle East can be achieved. Sauvagnargues mentioned the possibility of international guarantees for Israel but stressed that peace would come only if Israel withdraws from most of the Arab territory it occupies. Allon made it clear that Israeli territories and peace were a single issue that must be discussed together, not separately. He also stressed that Israel could count only on its own strength regardless of any international guarantees.

The Israeli diplomat was reported to have referred to the terrorist attack in Johannesburg as an example of the methods used by the PLO and to have criticized the international community for failing to respond more energetically to pre-

vious terrorist attacks.

No Dramatic Results Expected

During his visit here, Allon is scheduled to meet with President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac. (Before leaving Ben Gurion Airport for Paris this morning, Allon told reporters that no immediate or dramatic results should be expected from his visit to France. However, the fact that this is the first visit of an Israeli Foreign Minister as the official guest of the French government was regarded as significant in itself.)

Two Paris newspapers, Le Figaro and France Soir, published interviews with Allon today that had been conducted last week at the Foreign Minister's home in Kibbutz Glinnosar. The newspaper, Le Monde, published a front page editorial on Allon's arrival here suggesting that the time has come for a normalization of Franco-Israeli relations. Israel commands a large capital of sympathy in French public opinion, Le Monde said.

SECURITY FORCES DEPLOYED IN GALILEE VILLAGES AS THOUSANDS

ARRIVE TO CELEBRATE LAG B'OMER

By Yitzhak Shagil

TEL AVIV, April 28 (JTA)--About 400 policemen re-enforced by army units and squads of border police were deployed around Safad and nearby Miron in Galilee today to protect tens of thousands of Israelis coming to celebrate Lag B'Omer eve at the gravesite of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai. The pilgrimage is mainly by the Sephardic community but many Ashkenazic religious groups have already arrived and set up tents, cities where vendors are hawking special foods and drinks.

The ceremonies began this afternoon with a procession carrying Torah scrolls from Safad to Miron. A huge bonfire will be lighted tonight at the gravesite on a mountain top. The proximity of the area to the Lebanese border prompted the heavy security precautions against possible terrorist assaults on the throngs of pilgrims.

A warning that terrorist activities may be resumed from Jordanian territory as a result of the recent accord between Jordan and Syria was issued today by Gen. Raphael Eytan, commander of the northern front.

Addressing youths of the Moshavim (cooperative settlement) Movement at Nahalal in the Jezreel Valley, Eytan said, however, that the Palestinian terrorists did not pose a serious military problem. The Israeli army, he said, must be prepared to battle large Arab regular forces in another war which will be fought on three fronts since Jordan has reportedly pledged to participate in the next Arab war against Israel.

ISRAEL, BRAZIL DIAMOND ACCORD SIGNED

TEL AVIV, April 28 (JTA)--Israel and Brazil have signed an agreement opening the way for the export of Israeli-polished diamonds to Brazil and other Latin American countries. The deal was disclosed here today by Moshe Schnitzer, president of the Israeli Diamond Exchange, who just returned from Rio de Janeiro where he signed the agreement with the Brazilian Minister of Finance, H. Simonson. Under the agreement, Israel will help set up the first diamond exchange in Brazil and the latter country will exempt Israeli finished diamonds from customs duties. Schnitzer said the agreement had far-reaching consequences for Israel's diamond industry which has been seeking new markets in Latin America because of its difficulties in the Far Eastern market.

LIBERTY BELL PARK FOR JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, April 28 (JTA)--A replica of the American Liberty Bell is to be erected in a new park in Jerusalem to be known as "Liberty Bell Garden." The municipality announced the project last night "as an expression of the esteem in which we hold the American people and for their great assistance in the renaissance of the Jewish people in its land."

The garden will cover 29 dunams of the "Omariya" plot, a waste patch in the south of the capital, between Keren Hayesod Street and the railway station. It will be part of the national park being landscaped around the Old City walls. Its designer, architect Ulrik Plesner, said the park would provide room for fairs and circuses--and perhaps a weekly market--as well as for strolling and playing on the lawns. It will be opened in time for July 4, 1976. Its IL 6 million cost will be met by the "Jerusalem Foundation" from collections here and abroad.

7TH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR OPENS IN JERUSALEM; JERUSALEM PRIZE AWARDED TO SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR

JERUSALEM, April 28 (JTA)--The Seventh International Book Fair opened today in Jerusalem, with the presentation of the Jerusalem Prize to French writer Simone de Beauvoir. The author arrived at Ben Gurion Airport last night, announcing she had come to demonstrate her solidarity with Israel in view of UNESCO's discrimination against Israel. The Jerusalem Prize is the first literary prize de Beauvoir is accepting since she had won France's prestigious Prix Goncourt.

The Jerusalem Book Fair, considered second in importance after the Frankfurt Book Fair, has already turned into a demonstration of Jerusalem's cultural importance. Some 80,000 books were displayed on 1000 stands--representing 43 countries and some 750 of the most noted publishers in the world. Some 150 of them will personally attend the fair.

The Jerusalem International Book Fair, the first of which took place in 1963, is the only such fair also open to the public and not merely to publishers. The organizers thus intended to make the event not merely one of a business nature, but also of a cultural one. Thousands of Israelis were expected to be in Jerusalem this week to enjoy the literary display.

Among the special displays were that of ancient Hebrew Jews--celebrating 500 years for the first Hebrew printed book--a 600-book stand of the Habad movement, displaying the Tanya Book, written by Habad's founder, Rabbi Schneur Zalman Miladi, which was the first Hebrew book printed by Habad on the west bank of the Suez Canal, after the Israeli forces crossed the canal in the Yom Kippur War--and a display of German children's books.

A series of literary events is scheduled to take place alongside the book fair. Among them, an international convention for print and publishing, which will feature a special discussion of the status of the Jewish book in the international book market.

MILLER; CONFIDENT CONGRESS WILL EXAMINE RUMANIAN JEWISH EMIGRATION BEFORE ACTING ON TRADE ACCORD

NEW YORK, April 28 (JTA)--Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said yesterday the Conference was confident that Con-

gress would examine closely the record of the Rumanian government on Jewish emigration before acting on a trade agreement submitted to Congress last Thursday.

The agreement was expected to provide an initial legislative test of the restrictions in the 1974 trade act which link U.S. trade benefits to freer emigration from Communist countries. That law contains amendments from Sen. Henry Jackson (D.Wash.) and Rep. Charles Vanik (D.O.) providing such a linkage and aimed at compelling the Soviet Union to allow more Jews and other nationals to emigrate.

In the negotiations in Bucharest earlier this month, the Rumanian government rejected such a linkage but Rumanian officials cited Rumania's relatively liberal emigration policy, under which nearly 400,000 Rumanian Jews emigrated since the end of World War II, mostly to Israel.

Current Performance Is The Standard

Rabbi Miller said it was true that "in the past" Rumania had followed "a liberal policy in permitting its Jewish citizens to emigrate to Israel." But, he added, "it is current performance--not past history--which the 1974 trade act establishes as the standard by which the Congress is to judge whether to extend most favored nation status." He added that "we have underscored this point in our discussions with Rumanian government representatives in this country, with the State Department and with various members of Congress."

Rabbi Miller noted that, under the law, the Congress has 60 days to approve or deny the trade agreement with Rumania. He added that "we are confident that, during this period, the Congress will take careful note of the Rumanian government's actions with regard to the many Jews who have applied to emigrate and are still awaiting permission to do so. Only if the Bucharest government lives up to the free emigration requirement of the trade act can the Congress approve preferential terms of trade to Rumania."

DEPORTATION DAY MARKED IN FRANCE

PARIS, April 28 (JTA)--The nation commemorated yesterday the thousands of Frenchmen, Jews and non-Jews, who were deported during World War II. Deportation Day was marked by a number of private and official ceremonies. In addition, the government ordered that school teachers hold special classes to inform their students, and the day's sporting meets were to be marked by one minute of silence in the stadiums.

French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing attended a special mass held this morning in Notre Dame Cathedral, honoring the memory of French deportees. Alain de Rothschild, president of the French Consistory, attended a memorial ceremony organized by the Representative Council of French Jewish Institutions (CRIF) at the Drancy monument.

A ceremony at the unknown Jewish martyr monument was attended by Israeli Ambassador to France, Asher Ben Natan; the French Minister of Health, Mrs. Simone Veil; the president of the Society of Jewish Deportees of France, Henry Bulawko; and the president of the Association of Jewish Journalists and Writers, Leon Leneman. The El Mole Rahamim and the Kaddish were recited by Rabbi Attia, and the French Republican Guard rang the death toll. * * *

BRUSSELS (JTA)--Two thousand persons marched through the streets here Sunday in a massive Belgian solidarity for Soviet Jews. The rally was coordinated by the Committee of Belgian Jewish Organizations.