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WEEKEND OF TERRORIST INCIDENTS ON WEST BANK AND ISRAEL BEING INVESTIGATED BY POLICE

By Yitzhak Shargil and Gili Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 18 (JTA) -- The explosion of a booby-trapped picnic basket that injured 20 persons on a crowded public beach on the shores of the Dead Sea yesterday was one of several terrorist incidents on the West Bank and in Israel under investigation by police today at the close of the long Shavuot weekend.

Four of the people injured on the beach were still hospitalized this morning. The other injured, rushed to two Jerusalem hospitals, have been discharged. The explosion occurred at about 2 p.m. local time at Ein Feshoha, one of several public beaches on the Dead Sea where both Jews and Arabs congregate on holidays.

Faris Issa Awad, 25, was killed by a hand grenade this morning while he was tarring the roof of a school building near Aere on Haifa Bay. Police said that Awad, a school employee, was carrying the grenade when it exploded. Its pin, found near the body, identified the grenade of Dutch make.

Shortly before noon yesterday, explosive charges detonated under Arab-owned trucks in Ramallah, 15 miles north of Jerusalem and in the neighboring village of Albitrah. One person was slightly injured. Police believe that all of the weekend incidents were the work of local terrorists. Terrorist infiltration from outside is believed to have been prevented by the heavy security measures taken in all border areas last week to forestall assaults on civilians during May 15, the 27th anniversary of Israel's independence and the Shavuot holiday that followed.

Arabs Detained For Questioning

A number of Arabs were detained for questioning after the beach explosion but most of them were released this morning. According to eye-witnesses, an explosive charge with a timing device was apparently concealed in a picnic hamper the fragments of which were found scattered over a wide area of the beach.

The explosion created panic among the hundreds of bathers from all parts of the country who came to Ein Fashoha yesterday because it is still too chilly to bathe. In other areas, Jews and Arabs frequent the Dead Sea beaches in almost equal numbers and no disturbances have ever been reported between them.

An explosive charge was discovered near the Rockefeller Museum in East Jerusalem this morning and was dismantled by police without causing injuries or damage.

Terrorist Cell-Uncovered

Israeli security forces, meanwhile, uncovered a terrorist cell in the process of organization inside Israel and arrested suspected members from Nazareth and nearby Yafia village, it was announced today. One of the suspects was identified as Mahmoud Gazzalin, 32, deputy chairman of the Yafia town council, who is reported to have had a number of detonators in his possession.

The gang is believed to have been preparing for acts of sabotage on May 15 when they were

apprehended. Gazzalin was elected to the council on a non-partisan ticket associated with Rakah, one of Israel's two Communist parties.

U.S. DESALINATION EXPERTS DUE IN ISRAEL ON TUESDAY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 18 (JTA) -- A team of American desalination experts are due in Israel Tuesday to examine prospects for erecting a sea-water-sweetening plant at Ashdod. The team is being sent under the terms of the new economic agreement signed by U.S. Treasury Secretary William Simon and Israel Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz in Washington last Tuesday. The U.S. undertook in that accord to contribute \$20 million to a desalination plant at Ashdod with the Israeli government putting up an equivalent sum.

Finance Ministry Director General, Avraham Agmon, who announced today the team's imminent arrival, said that Simon and Rabinowitz would meet again in Jerusalem in October as part of their intention to hold regular annual meetings in the wake of the economic accord.

Describing some other important elements of the accord, Agmon said it had been agreed that Israel could buy strategic raw materials directly from U.S. government stockpiles at favorable credit terms. Also, Israel would present a long-range order for basic foodstuffs -- such as soya -- which would protect her against any possible recurrence of food embargoes, such as that imposed by America on soya exports two years ago.

Agmon said the U.S. had not yet arranged for 10 top businessmen to join a joint panel designed to promote trade with and investment in Israel. But Simon had promised Rabinowitz that he personally would undertake to expedite this matter. (There have been reports that Arab pressures have dissuaded certain possible members of such a joint panel from putting forward their names.)

ISRAELI DIPLOMAT SAYS HE HAS NO DOUBTS ABOUT GHORBAL INTERVIEW IN MARCHAR WHICH ADVOCATED THE EXTERMINATION OF JUDAISM

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 18 (JTA) -- A senior Israeli diplomat told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he has no doubts that Ashraf Ghorbal, Egypt's Ambassador to the United States, did advocate the extermination of all traces of Judaism in the Mideast in an interview published earlier this year in Marchar, a right-wing periodical published in Buenos Aires. Aba Gefen, a former Consul in Argentina and presently the director of cultural affairs at the Israel Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, said that "Ghorbal was only echoing the view of his boss, President Anwar Sadat."

According to Gefen, Sadat declared last year in Al Hassin mosque in Cairo, on the occasion of Mohammed's birthday, views basically similar to that which Ghorbal expressed in Marchar. Sadat's remarks, Gefen said, included the

statement: "The most splendid thing that the Prophet Mohammed did was to drive the Jews out of the Arabian peninsula...Jerusalem is our property. We shall retrieve it from the hands of those of whom it is written in the Koran: They will be brought low and made wretched..."

The Ghorbal interview in Marchar, which was conducted by the magazine's editor, Patricio Kelly, has been repudiated by the Egyptian Ambassador and by Alejandro Orfilla, the Argentine Ambassador to the United States who introduced Ghorbal to Kelly in Washington where the interview took place. Ghorbal has asserted that no interview occurred and that he and Kelly met for only two minutes. Kelly, in his article, maintained that the two men met for 90 minutes.

(See full stories concerning Ghorbal's statements and interview in the Daily News-Bulletin's April 2, April 21 and April 24.)

Interview Cannot Be Denied

Gefen contended that the interview is a "fact which cannot be denied." He said that he had read the interview in Spanish and said he knows Kelly personally from the days he served as an official in Argentina between 1963-1967. According to Gefen, Kelly was in those years in close contact with the Egyptian Embassy in Argentina and with Hussein Triki, the Arab League representative who was later expelled from Argentina for fomenting public disorder with his anti-Jewish activities.

Gefen, who was one of the leaders of Brichah and came to Palestine a few months before the creation of the Jewish State, and is currently in the U.S. on a lecture tour as part of Israel's effort to gain public support for its policies, said that collaboration between Arabs and local anti-Semites in Argentina is presently very much under way. He identified Kelly as one of the local anti-Semites.

"I believe that the Egyptian Embassy in Buenos Aires had arranged the Kelly-Ghorbal interview," Gefen said, adding: "This sort of interview is very good stuff for Argentina; a place where anti-Semitism is on the rise. As long as the content of this interview was kept within Argentina no denial was issued. But at the moment the Jewish Telegraphic Agency published it in the United States and elsewhere, Ghorbal probably realized that his remarks would be seen in the broad context of Arab propaganda which has adopted the Nazi propaganda style and other methods of Nazism as demonstrated by the nefarious acts of the Palestinian murderers."

Gefen also had harsh words to say about the nationally syndicated columnists, Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, who charged last month that the JTA and the world Jewish press was engaged in what amounted to a conspiracy to defame Ghorbal. "Evans' and Novak's charges are part of Arab propaganda," Gefen said. "There is no doubt in my mind that they distorted the facts deliberately. Their attack on JTA put them in line with all those elements, diverse as can be, held together by their hatred of Jews under the guise of anti-Zionism."

SECURITY FORCES RULE OUT SABOTAGE IN MUNITIONS PLANT EXPLOSION

TEL AVIV, May 18 (JTA) -- Israeli security sources have ruled out sabotage as the cause of an explosion that destroyed a Defense Ministry munitions plant and warehouse northeast of Tel Aviv Friday night. Twenty-five people were

slightly injured by glass splinters and two were treated for shock and concussion.

The blast, which sent a black mushroom cloud soaring thousands of feet over the Sharon Valley, shattered windows and cracked walls in nearby buildings and broke windows in the towns of Hod Hasharon, Herzlia and Ramat Hasharon. The blast was heard as far north as Nathanya and as far south as Jaffa.

A preliminary investigation indicated that the explosion was the result of spontaneous combustion of chemicals stored in the plant or an electrical malfunction that caused a short circuit. The factory was closed at the time because of the Shavuot holiday and no employees were hurt. The terrorist news agency, Wafa, in Beirut, disregarded the fact in a report yesterday claiming that Palestinian guerrillas blew up a heavy rocket fuel factory killing and injuring hundreds of Israeli troops and technicians.

The identity of the plant and the nature of the material manufactured and stored there was not disclosed. Crowds who converged on the scene minutes after the explosion were blocked by police. Ambulances and fire engines arrived but were not needed, as no fire resulted from the blast.

RABIN SAYS GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO COMPLETE 200 CIVILIAN HOUSING UNITS IN OPHIRA BY APRIL, 1977

JERUSALEM, May 18 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Rabin declared today that the government fully intended to complete 200 civilian housing units at Ophira, the Israeli name given to Sharm el-Sheikh, the strategic outpost on the southeastern tip of the Sinai peninsula. He told the Cabinet that the project would be completed by April, 1977 and would be implemented by the Housing Ministry. Housing Minister Avraham Ofer said his Ministry would execute the building plans.

The question was raised after Ofer made a statement in a radio interview from Sharm el-Sheikh 10 days ago questioning the wisdom of establishing a civilian settlement there. Ofer observed that Moses had striven to take the Jewish people away from the Sinai wilderness. His remarks aroused the wrath of the Likud opposition as well as "hawks" and middle-rollers inside his own Labor Party.

Minister-Without-Portfolio Israel Galili, who is chairman of the ministerial committee for new settlements, said Friday that he was surprised by Ofer's statement that the development of Sharm el-Sheikh was at the bottom of his ministry's priorities list because the government has not yet drawn up a master plan for the region. Galili, a veteran Labor Party leader of "hawkish" views who was a close confidant of former President Golda Meir, insisted that the government would carry out its housing plan at Ophira. He said his committee decided in December, 1972 to build 1000 units at the outpost and that decision was still valid.

Potential Obstacle To Peace Settlement

Sharm el-Sheikh nevertheless remains a potential obstacle to an eventual peace settlement with Egypt. The Egyptians are not considered likely to renounce their claim to the spot and the Israelis are expected to insist on retaining a military presence there because it

commands the Straits of Tiran linking the Gulf of Aqaba with the Red Sea. Some observers point out, however, that from a purely military standpoint there are strong arguments against a civilian settlement there because it would pose defense problems for the army.

Canal Reopening Welcomed

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Shimon Peres assured the Egyptians yesterday that they had nothing to fear from Israel when the Suez Canal is reopened officially next month. In a radio interview, Peres said the reopening of the waterway was assumed at the time of the first separation of forces agreement with Egypt in November, 1973, immediately after the Yom Kippur War. He said the January, 1974 disengagement agreement with Egypt contained clauses guaranteeing the safety of the canal.

"Once the canal is opened, Israel will surely do whatever it can to ensure that navigation will be free without any disturbances or threats," Peres said. He stated that Israel in fact welcomed the move to improve Egypt's economy which would indicate a retreat from the war option. Peres said Israel's only demand was "the right of a client to go through the canal. We shall behave like a most responsible neighbor. If I were an Egyptian, I wouldn't be worried about it."

ABZUG URGES AID FOR ISRAEL

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, May 18 (JTA) -- Rep. Bella Abzug (D, NY) urged today that before President Ford meets Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Salzburg, Austria, Ford should announce his support for the \$2.5 billion in aid Israel has requested from the United States. She told the annual meeting of the New York Chapter of the American Jewish Committee at the Plaza Hotel that this must be done to convince Egypt that the U.S. is not wavering in its support for Israel.

Noting news reports that Sadat plans to ask Ford for funds to pay off Egypt's \$47 billion debt to the Soviet Union, Ms. Abzug said if this was true it would be "a new definition ofchutzpah." She said before the American people will provide any aid for Egypt that country must "make serious concessions for the state of peace."

Ms. Abzug charged that the Ford Administration has labeled Israel as intransigent and declared that it is time the Administration began pressuring Egypt to take steps toward peace. She said support for Israel is strong in the Congress and among the American people but an educational campaign must continue.

Some 200 people attended the luncheon at which the AJ Committee chapter presented its Stanley M. Isaacs Human Relations Award to Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton and Irving M. Engel, the AJ Committee's honorary president. Peter J. Strauss, a New York attorney, was elected chapter president succeeding Daniel S. Shapiro.

ZEEVI TO BE INTELLIGENCE ADVISOR

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 18 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Rabin told the Cabinet today that he would appoint Gen. (Res.) Rehavam Zeevi as his intelligence advisor -- following a recommendation by the Agranat Commission calling for the establishment of such a post. Rabin said Zeevi would continue in his present role as advisor on

"special" affairs, understood to mean coordinator of anti-terrorist activities. Zeevi's new appointment takes effect May 25.

The Premier's announcement came in response to a question from Tourism Minister Moshe Kol regarding the disposition of this recommendation by the Agranat commission. Last Friday, in an interview in Maariv, commission member Yigael Yadin sharply criticized the government for not having implemented the recommendation. But the official Cabinet communiqué today pointedly noted that Kol had raised the point last week before the Yadin interview.

Rabin has in the past expressed reservations over the recommendation, but has now apparently reconciled himself to it. Cabinet Secretary Gershon Avner said there was no discussion today of the precise functions of Zeevi in his new post but recalled that the Agranat Commission itself had delineated the functions it thought necessary. Avner volunteered a rundown of the other Agranat recommendations and a checklist of their implementation.

They include a clearer definition of the roles of the Cabinet, the Premier, the Defense Minister and the Chief of Staff. Avner said that had been the subject of an extensive report by a ministerial committee under Justice Minister Haim Zadok and the report was "on the Cabinet's agenda."

Ministerial Defense Committee Approved

Avner said the Zadok committee also approved the Agranat recommendation to establish a special Ministerial Defense Committee. He said the Cabinet approved it in principle and agreed to a membership of 11 out of the 20 Cabinet ministers. Hitherto, the entire Cabinet has functioned, when required, as a ministerial security committee whose deliberations were conducted in closed session and classified secret. Avner said the problem still remained of selecting the ministers for the Defense Committee because each political faction in the government demands representation.

Avner said that the establishment of a small "war cabinet" to function in the event of war was also under consideration. He stated that the strengthening of the Foreign Ministry's research department, recommended by the Agranat panel, has been implemented by the creation of a new "center for political research and planning" which now operates within the Ministry.

Avner said Rabin reported that improved methods of disseminating raw intelligence data have been put into effect along with changes in the structure of the military intelligence corps and the establishment of a unit for assessing information within the "Mossad", the secret service.

During today's Cabinet meeting the ministers were briefed on security matters by Defense Minister Shimon Peres and Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur. No details were released.

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- Leonard Garment of New York, who was President Nixon's special consultant on minority affairs and later White House counsel before he resigned last year, was named by President Ford last Friday to be the U.S. representative on the U.N. ECOSOC Human Rights Commission.

89 'SURVIVAL CENTERS', 4-HOUR TELETHON MARK SURVIVAL SUNDAY' IN EFFORT TO RAISE \$10 MILLION

NEW YORK, May 18 (JTA) -- Ninety-three "survival centers" strategically located in synagogues and communal institutions throughout New York City, Westchester and Long Island became the focus this morning and afternoon of Jewish community life in the metropolitan area. It marked "Survival Sunday," a massive philanthropic drive on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal and Federation of Jewish Philanthropies Joint Campaign.

The goal of the day's activities, which culminated in the evening when more than 1200 house parties were held in conjunction with a four-hour television special on WPIX-TV (Channel 11), in which nationally famed stage, motion picture and television stars participated, was to raise \$10 million contributions to the UJA-FJP joint campaign. This was the largest single day's achievement in more than 50 years of community-wide fund-raising in New York for Jewish needs.

In Temple Emanu-El, 100 volunteer canvassers met for a briefing session before going out on their neighborhood rounds. With them was Howard Samuels and Elaine Siris Winik, "Mobilization for Survival" chairman and co-chairman, who created the "survival center" network, and Manhattan Chairman Robin Farkas.

A partial schedule of the many other "survival Sunday" activities included: in the Bronx, aged residents of Kittay House, solicited on the contributions of relatives making Sunday afternoon visits to the Jewish home and hospital for the aged; on Long Island, major "survival centers" were located at the Shelter Rock Jewish Center where some 200 canvassers began gathering early in the morning, and at Congregation Beth Shalom in Long Beach, where 200 more gathered.

Queens canvassers gathered at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, and Brooklynites gathered at the East Midwood Jewish Center. In Westchester, a "survival center" was located at Saks Fifth Avenue, White Plains, where an art sale was held. A young married group in Harrison traveled through the town in a bicycle caravan to the grounds of the Pleasant Ridge School, where they held a picnic featuring Israeli folk dancing, singing and fund-raising.

3-DAY UJA-FJP COMBINED APPEALS TOTAL MOBILIZATION PROGRAM BEGUN

NEW YORK, May 18 (JTA) -- A massive telephone solicitation program designed to reach more than 10,000 contributors in the New York area was launched tonight by 125 United Jewish Appeal leaders who were described by Frank R. Lautenberg, UJA general chairman, as an elite solicitation corps from key communities throughout the country. The three-day appeal ending Wednesday is part of the New York UJA-Jewish Philanthropies Combined Appeal's Total Mobilization Program. Lautenberg said this marks the greatest cooperative effort in history between the national UJA leadership and the NYC campaign.

"Thousands of individuals, who contributed an estimated \$30 million to the UJA during the Yom Kippur War campaign could not be resolicited this year because of a lack of manpower in New York," Lautenberg stated. "But the cam-

paign leadership recognized that the economic situation in Israel is so critical that it was imperative to reach every member of New York's Jewish community." Continuing he said:

"The Total Mobilization of American Jewry means that every man and woman must understand not only what the current needs are in Israel but also what are the consequences of our failure to provide for these needs. The solicitors involved in this joint effort represent the most sophisticated and knowledgeable men and women involved in the work of the UJA, and they are prepared to answer the most complex questions dealing with the humanitarian situation in Israel today."

The national leaders, representing the Young Leadership Cabinet, Campaign Cabinet, Women's Division and Operation Upgrade, are working with an equal number of New York City solicitors during the three-day appeal. The joint solicitation program is coordinated by Donald H. Benjamin, a member of the UJA Executive Committee and former National Chairman of its Young Leadership Cabinet, and William M. Landau.

ROCKEFELLER HEADS ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE FETE COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, May 18 (JTA) -- Vice President Nelson Rockefeller is chairman of the honorary committee for the Israeli Independence Ball in celebration of Israel's 27th anniversary to be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel, June 18.

The committee for the black tie affair also includes Speaker of the House Carl Albert, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, six Cabinet members led by Treasury Secretary William Simon, the leaders of the Democratic and Republican Parties in the House and Senate, Maryland Governor Marvin Mandel, District of Columbia delegate in the Congress, Walter E. Fauntroy, and Washington's Mayor Walter E. Washington.

The celebration will take place two days after Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin meets with President Ford on June 11-12 at the White House.

5000 IN DEMONSTRATION

PARIS, May 18 (JTA) -- About 5000 people demonstrated last Thursday on the Champs Elysees against President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's decision to stop all French celebrations of the World War II Allied victory over Nazi Germany. The marchers were led by four former deportees, wearing the striped uniforms of the Nazi camps. A number of deputies and political leaders were among the demonstrators. French Jewish organizations protested the presidential decision early last week.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- A meeting of representatives from the world's major faith groups will take place May 26-30 in Bellagio, Italy, to develop and recommend guidelines and action programs for religious groups to assist in dealing with the international food crisis, according to the Synagogue Council of America.
