



# daily news bulletin

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## ARAB TERRORISTS TRAINING AS FIGHTER

### PILOTS AT CHINESE AIR BASES

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 22 (JTA) -- Reliable sources said here today that Palestinian Arab terrorists are being trained at air force bases in the People's Republic of China to pilot fighter planes and helicopters. The terrorists are undergoing similar training at bases in Iraq and Libya but not in any Arab countries with borders contiguous to Israel, the sources said. They said it was assumed that once their training is completed, the terrorist flyers would be absorbed into air force units of Arab countries and would not form a separate formation of their own.

Pilot training is the newest addition to the increasingly sophisticated military training being given to members of terrorist organizations. Their armament already includes anti-aircraft guns, missiles, and artillery. It was learned, in addition, that terrorist groups are making use of students in the administered territories. A Bethlehem student who was killed over the week-end while assembling a bomb is believed to have been working at the instructions of a terrorist organization.

The latter are said to use threats, blackmail and offers of money to coerce students into their service and to come to neighboring Arab countries during their summer vacations for training in terrorist techniques and sabotage.

## ISRAEL WILL EXCHANGE 20 JAILED

### TERRORISTS FOR REMAINS OF STERNISTS HANGED IN CAIRO IN 1945

TEL AVIV, June 22 (JTA) -- Israel will exchange 20 live Arab terrorists for the bodies of two Jews hanged in Egypt 30 years ago, it was announced today. The terrorists, former residents and the Gaza Strip and Sinai, are all serving prison terms. They will be released to Egypt later this week under the terms of an agreement reached through the offices of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger during his "shuttle" diplomacy last March.

Egypt will return to Israeli authorities the remains of Eliyahu Hakim and Eliyahu Bet-Tzuri, members of the underground Stern group of the pre-Statehood era, who were sent to Cairo in 1945 to assassinate Lord Moyne, the then British Resident Minister in the Middle East. They were captured, sentenced to death and executed in Cairo. They will be re-buried on Mt. Herzl in Jerusalem later this week with full military honors.

## SUPREME COURT MAY REVIEW CONTROVERSIAL RULING ON DIVORCE DECREE

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA) -- The Israeli Supreme Court indicated today that it might review a controversial ruling by one of its members which Deputy Attorney General Michael Cheshin claims is an infringement on the authority of Israel's rabbinical courts.

Dr. Shimon Agranat, president of the Supreme Court, said he would announce his decision within two weeks. Because of the delicate matter of

principle involved, a panel of five justices instead of the usual three, would conduct the review if the Court decides to undertake it. Cheshin asked the court to re-examine the ruling rendered by Justice Yoel Sussman in the case of a divorcee who was branded an adulteress in a religious divorce decree handed down by a Beersheba rabbinical court a year ago. The decree forbade the woman to have relations with her lover, whom she hoped to marry, or with her former husband. Justice Sussman ruled that the divorce decree was not a religious but a civil document and that the woman should not be stigmatized. He did not challenge the rabbinical court's right to ban her re-marriage on halachic grounds.

The ruling created a furor in religious circles and the rabbinical authorities said they would defy it, opening the possibility of a serious confrontation between the secular and religious courts in Israel.

## YESHIVA YOUTH DETAINED FOR INCITING VIOLENCE AGAINST ARABS

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA) -- A 17-year old yeshiva student was remanded in custody for ten days by a magistrates court here today on suspicion of incitement to violence against Arabs. He was one of four youths brought before the court in connection with an illegal organization known as "Terror-Anti-Terror" which advocates reprisals against Arab terrorist acts.

Shimon Lerner, the apparent leader of the group, admitted that he was a member of the Jewish Defense League in the past but claimed that he was no longer connected with that organization. He also claimed that he has nothing against Arabs and was opposed in principle to counter-terrorism as an act of vengeance. Lerner was convicted two years ago in a case of arson against a missionary institution. He conveyed an impression of innocence in the court but police described him as "a cunning fox" who refused to cooperate with them and refused to give the name of his father. The police requested that he be detained because they believe him to be a key figure behind the organization that sends young Jews into East Jerusalem for reprisal acts of violence and sabotage against Arab residents.

## NUCLEAR DESALINATOR COULD MAKE NEGEV REGION BLOOM, WEITZ SAYS

TEL AVIV, June 22 (JTA) -- An investment of \$800 for a nuclear reactor in the Negev region could provide in 10 years both desalinated water and enough electric power to turn the Negev into a green pasture. That was the forecast Raanan Weitz, head of the Jewish Agency's settlement department, presented to the Engineers Club here over the weekend. He said a reactor could provide 120,000 cubic meters of desalinated water annually which combined with another 100,000 cubic meters of water from treated sewage from the Tel Aviv region could make fertile a million dunams of parched land, he said.

## JEWISH AGENCY ASSEMBLY ENDS, BUDGET ADOPTED, JEWRY'S UNITY WITH ISRAEL PLEDGED

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA) -- The 300 delegates to the Jewish Agency's fourth annual Assembly were returning to their homes all around the world today after adopting resolutions expressing world Jewry's unity with Israel, concern for the plight of Soviet Jewry and pledging to intensify the fight against the Arab boycott, to promote aliyah and to work to build a model Jewish society in Israel. The Assembly concluded with a declaration that "We pray for a just and lasting peace in the Mideast. We go forward with the traditional Jewish blessing: 'Ufross aleinu sucat shlomecha' (Spread over us the tabernacle of your peace)."

Max Fisher of Detroit, chairman of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency, told the closing session of the Assembly Thursday night, that in the past difficult year, "We saw and learned some great and heartwarming truths, first and foremost that Israel is here to stay." Fisher said the people of Israel have remained "strong in heart, and will and vision."

### Israel Has Many Friends

The difficult period through which the Jewish people is going has tested the partnership in the reconstituted Jewish Agency, Fisher said. "It is my firm belief that we have passed the test -- that this Agency has proved itself to be united, viable and forward looking," he declared. Fisher asserted that the future appears better than most people think since Israel has many friends, especially in the United States, but also elsewhere. He said the Jewish Agency, after completing first the reconstitution, then the understanding of it; and now has entered the third stage, that of planning. He said the goal for the next five years is to bring an increase in immigration, close the social gap, create a permanent solution to the housing problem, and strengthen the ties between Israel and "its only true ally -- the Jews of the world."

### Budget Adopted

Noting that 30 years after the Holocaust the Jewish Agency was meeting in Jerusalem concerned about the quality of life in Israel and the need for spiritual enrichment in the diaspora, Fisher declared: "We have certainly come a long way, and it may take another generation to attain all our objectives. For even 50 years of Jewish history is a short span of time," he concluded.

The delegates to the Assembly adopted a \$541.9-million budget for the fiscal year which began April 1, a budget \$150 million below that presented last year. Jewish Agency treasurer Leon Dulzin said earlier that the budget was based on expected income rather than on need which would have required another \$160 million. However, the resolution by the budget committee led off with a pointed demand that the Board of Governors' standing committee on budget and finance be presented with the budget "at least two months prior to the beginning of each fiscal year." There was also reportedly some grumbling by budget committee members who felt they were presented at the assembly with a fait accompli in the form of a large and complex budget which they hardly had time to digest and analyze intelligently.

The Assembly adopted a resolution stressing

the primacy of the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel Appeal as the fund-raising instrument for Israel and emphasized the importance of cash contributions. The resolution stated that the UJA and UIA "are the only instruments authorized to raise funds for the basic human needs of Israel and must not be eroded by diversion or competition for funds, times and energies of other drives... All other fund-raising activities must be worked out in each country under the auspices of the UJA or UIA...with the exception of the women's organizations," the resolution stated.

### Arab Boycott Condemned

The Assembly resolution on Jewish unity declared admiration for the "superb courage of the people of Israel. Jewry throughout the world stands firmly with the State of Israel and Israel's struggle for peace and security," it said. Expressing concern over the continuing harassment and persecution of Soviet Jews, the Assembly declared that "We say to our brothers and sisters in the Soviet Union that the Jews of the free world will intensify their efforts to open the gates, so that they will be permitted to join their brothers and sisters in Israel. We in the Assembly of the Jewish Agency pledge ourselves that all those who come to Israel will be fully absorbed." To Jews in Arab countries, the delegates said, "We pray that soon we will be able to greet them here, in freedom."

The Assembly called on Jews throughout the world to combat the Arab boycott and to condemn those who yield to blackmail and place economic and political expediency above international morality. The Assembly also condemned terrorism and those who "have condoned this savagery" in the councils of the world. Before leaving Israel today, Fisher told newsmen at Ben Gurion Airport that American Jewry will be called upon to intensify the effort against the Arab boycott. He noted that both the Ford Administration and the American public opposed the boycott.

### JEWISH AGENCY ASSEMBLY BRIEFS

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency Assembly adopted a surprise resolution supporting charter flights to Israel before it wound up its fourth annual session here Thursday. The resolution was proposed from the floor by an American delegate, Merrill Hasselfield, a member of the Assembly's fund-raising committee, who argued that the more Jews who come to Israel as tourists, the more are prompted to increase their donations to the United Jewish Appeal of the Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal.

The Israeli government is sharply split on the issue of charter flights. The Ministry of Tourism, worried about the severe decline in tourism this year, has been urging that the charter ban be lifted. But the Transport Ministry, under pressure from El Al, Israel's national air carrier, has gone on record in opposition to charter flights.

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Gideon Vitkon, of the government's planning center, told the Jewish Agency Assembly that the Jewish rural population in Galilee was expected to grow by some 4500 persons by 1980.

# **BEHIND THE HEADLINES** **A VISIT TO THE LEBANESE** **AND SYRIAN FRONTS** **Is It A Calm Before The Storm?** By Jack Siegel

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA) -- At 6:20 in the morning, with the sun just beginning to illuminate the hills of Jerusalem, the driver, a stocky Jew who once bodyguarded a President, came and we went north towards Tel Aviv. The sharp clear air heightened the clarity and color of the atmosphere so that the road ahead, still uncrowded by traffic, seemed both near and far. In back of us was the Dead Sea -- the part of it you can glimpse on a clear day from Jerusalem.

Tall trees planted by the Jewish National Fund line either side of the road and exude a grassy scent. Pretty soon we came into the valley of Ayalon where Joshua bade the sun to halt in the sky that he might have more daylight to punish the Givonim for lying to him. It was hard to believe that a mighty historical event took place in that serene and green valley -- or that at nearby Emmaus, Jesus was seen for the first time after his death by two people who had witnessed his crucifixion.

In Tel Aviv, we picked up the army officer, a young lieutenant of the reserves whose American-oriented English came from Yale where he said he had studied; the son of parents who had survived World War II in Poland with forged Aryan papers. He carried a "uzzi" submachine-gun and maps. He showed us the areas we would be seeing -- our objective in the Golan at two p.m.

The choice was between going direct or via the northern Lebanese border, opposite "Fatahland." I chose the latter so I could see both critical areas, although not without some trepidation. Surprises were constantly happening. We went up the coastal road, the shining Mediterranean on our left, past Nahariya which had been shelled a few days earlier with Katyusha rockets.

## **The Sands of Time**

The unprotected coast seemed inviting for an attack by sea such as had occurred in Tel Aviv several months ago and I asked whether anything was being done to prevent such actions. The lieutenant said the coast was patrolled and pointed to a small ship that looked like a "painted boat upon a painted ocean." He said that was an Israeli navy coastal defense craft. It looked innocent.

In Kiryat Shemona, the town bustled with people, very much abroad and in movement. Nobody seemed about to duck for cover. They seemed undaunted in the face of the past and possible future attacks and it was nothing, later, to see a lone man working the fields. But, closer to the Lebanese border fieldworkers were covered by an armed soldier. The road was fenced with barbed wire on the left side and from the road to the fence a five- or six-foot wide stretch of sand ran parallel to the road. The sand was there to preserve footprints and every so often a vehicle, towing a rake, runs up and down the sandy stretch. This erases any footprints and so determines the time of any previous infiltration.

The other side of the border which gave domicile to "Fatahland," seemed peaceful. The naked eye saw hills and some houses. Farm animals dotted the hillsides. We discussed the

problems here. One was the Palestine Liberation Organization with a choice of breakthrough anywhere along a lonely and winding road of about 25-30 miles, against civilians and army units operationally dispersed. To the east, on the Syrian border, it was an army against an army.

Moving along the border there were supposed to be patrols -- but we didn't see any. Troops were in distant redoubts, not visible but seeing. Once I thought I saw footprints in the sand and I called it to the attention of the lieutenant. But both he and the driver seemed unconcerned. Finally at the top of a winding road we saw a square and in it a stationary army vehicle. Four soldiers were on top of it, exposed; one bent forward to the Israel side. His rear was to Lebanon. I asked if we could talk to them and the lieutenant inquired. There seemed no problem. Four guys, reservists, three in their twenties, the other 32 -- bearded, swarthy, bulky -- married and father of three. The vehicle was fully equipped with fire-power, weapons at the ready. The electronic communications equipment jabbered away.

They all had a smattering of English and the lieutenant identified me as representing the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. I asked why they were where they were, and so exposed. I was told the danger was from all sides. They kept ignoring the radio and it made me anxious: maybe they were being warned about something. The older man was a Turkish Jew with a beaming smile and an image of what in a movie would be a combat soldier who had rattled around in the field for months. The four men were all calm and seemed to be glad of the diversion.

## **Israel Knows PLO Moves**

I asked how they felt about what they were doing and the answer simply was that it was their job. They asked where I was from and when I said New York they all laughed. New York seemed to mean something familiar and funny. We left with an exchange of shaloms and moved on towards the Syrian border, now occasionally passing an army vehicle. The lieutenant said once a PLO breakthrough was detected, the area was scoured. We talked about the Kamikazi efforts of the PLO who knew that if trapped they faced death. There was no answer as to why the PLO found a future in dead heroes. Was it in the Arab psyche? Further on there was a road sign saying "Even Menahem -- UJA" and that reality from 6,000 miles away -- secure and stable (never mind the crime statistics) -- even affluent, came crashing in against the backdrop of an area of land nurturing not peace -- but violence. History of another kind was memorialized in the Taggart (British police) forts, now in the possession of the Israelis, built on promontaries with an all-embracing view against either enemy or marauder.

Israel has its way of knowing specifically where the PLO is in Lebanon and who gives them shelter and cover. Israeli reprisals are not haphazard, nor are all the PLO incursions successful to any degree. Many are stopped and the assailants caught. But Israel does not publicize many of these incidents and for its own good reasons. Just as there is sense -- once explained -- in the fact that below and around us in farming areas there are paved roads between patches of cultivation to allow

easy and secure access. Also, it is difficult to plant mines under pavement.

How refreshing it was suddenly to see below and in the approaching distance the JNF-reclaimed Huleh marshes which I first saw in 1952, now lush and green and productive. A brief stop in what the driver called a guest-house, owned and run by Hungarian Jews who came here in 1957. The entrance was under armed guard and quite near a caged and camouflaged play area with children and their teacher. The kids seemed happy as were the two Israelis whose appetites were not diminished by any concern for the future. As we proceeded, Mt. Hermon became visible with patches of snow on its bald top. The landscape is bare of people although occasional farm animals dot the scene. We pass a pipeline which carried oil from Saudi Arabia to Lebanon -- with Israel's permission -- and here is evidence that economic cooperation is possible even in the midst of intense hostility. Now anti-tank trenches become more frequent, deep creases in the earth to halt and upend a tank and make it a vulnerable target.

### The 'Valley of Despair'

We are now on the Syrian front and pretty soon we climb up a winding road to the observation post. It is a contained area -- sandbagged and concreted in a circular fashion. The commander is brought out wearing a uniform, but with sandalled feet. We shake hands and go back to the barracks while he puts socks and boots on and picks up his "uzzi" to escort us. He is young -- 25 -- a veteran of the same battlefield in '73 and in civilian life he sells chemicals. He shows us around. The area is built like a World War I trench compound with underground living quarters. There are two sets of everything -- one for relaxing and one for critical hours; sleeping areas, kitchens, food, weapons, ammo, communications.

The soldiers (all reservists) come and go without apparent supervision. The commander says as long as they do their jobs it doesn't matter. The conditions are not the best but the army is not required to provide hotels. Nor is it field conditions as I remember them. But that was another kind of war, another time, and the terrain is different as well as the politics.

The commander takes us to the top of a sandbagged area. From there we can see 360 degrees, half of it in Syria. Below us are sheep and the commander explains that frequently "shepherds" come right up to the post. They are yelled at to go away and when they don't the commander orders firing practice -- on the other side -- and the "shepherds" go away.

To the right is a despond called Ernek Habaoh (Valley of Despair) where many were killed. It is dominated by a small hill. There, in 1973, the Syrians massed 440 tanks against Israel's 40. From there Israeli units, including this commander's, advanced to Sassa, on the road to Damascus.

I asked the commander if it is the same road Paul took and he laughs. The outfit here is isolated and I ask some military-type questions. They seem satisfied with the plans, but I feel isolated and scared. The commander shows me some of his weapons: a MAG-7.62 which can shoot 800 rounds a minute -- every fifth a tracer, the trajectory visible so they can determine their accuracy. At that rate, I ask, doesn't the barrel get overheated? The commander says no matter, they have other barrels handy. I tell him that in

World War II when rifle barrels became too hot to handle, soldiers would relieve themselves on them, thus cooling them. He appreciates the reminiscence, but seems to consider it irrelevant. Yes, he knows his business. He leads us to a small cubby-hole fitted with communications paraphernalia and a view from a binocular.

### Syrians Observe Cease Fire

He selects spots for me. I lose them in focusing because his eyes are better than mine. But in the corner of the inverted "L" slot I can see a vehicle, human silhouettes, something he calls a ramp. All these have special significance to his trained eye; to mine they are just sights. Where are their troops? I ask. He points. Out there he says. I ask: do the Syrians observe the ceasefire? He says yes, they observe it very well. While we are there the phone rings. Somebody is asking for the commander. He talks in rapid Hebrew (which I don't understand except for the 500 words used in Yiddish) and the people with me as well as the soldiers on duty listen intently. I ask my guys what goes on, and they don't answer. They listen to the conversation. I repeat my question and get no answer -- and I begin to suspect danger. Finally the commander hangs up and I ask again. The lieutenant with me says: it's Motti -- he wants to know if he can go home early.

### There Is No Peace...

We go out towards the vehicle and the view north and east is land with spots of green. I think if all the hostility were converted into ploughshares, bridges built, people and produce moving to and fro, how truly the total area could become one of milk and honey. The commander is looking into the distance, a slight glaze over his eyes. What? -- A memory? We shake. I say: let's hope there will be peace soon.

From that distance is he on this clear day -- seeing forever forwards? He says: yes, let us hope there is peace. And if not, I ask? Then we have no choice, he says. We take off for Jerusalem, silent for a long while.

### LABOR ZIONIST LEADER WARNS U.S. AGAINST PRESSURING ISRAEL

NEW YORK, June 22 (JTA) -- A warning that the U.S. cannot hope for the friendly relationship it seeks with Israel if it appears to dictate terms to Israel was voiced here yesterday by Dr. Judah J. Shapiro, president of the Labor Zionist Alliance. Dr. Shapiro, addressing the LZA executive committee meeting, said that the U.S. has traditionally wanted a relationship with Israel based on mutually agreed positions.

"But when the U.S. moves to impose conditions, as there are indications that it is doing, the relationship is altered. The constant references to overcoming stagnation in the Middle East negotiations refer to the expectation of further concessions from Israel," Dr. Shapiro told more than 100 Labor Zionist leaders from the U.S. and Canada. He also referred to Premier Yitzhak Rabin's comment that the U.S. is a large democracy while Israel is only a small one and that the two nations must act like partners rather than to have the big power dominate the little one.

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COPENHAGEN, (JTA) -- The synagogue of Dresden has celebrated the 25th anniversary of its restoration according to an East German broadcast monitored here Sunday.