



ISRAEL'S DILEMMA: HOW TO RESPOND TO TERRORIST MURDER OF 3 YESHIVA STUDENTS IN GOLAN SETTLEMENT

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Nov. 23 (JTA)--Israel faced a serious dilemma today over how to respond to last Thursday night's murder of three 19-year-old yeshiva students--all of them soldiers--and the wounding of two others by Arab terrorists who infiltrated the religious movement settlement of Ramat Maghshimim on the Golan Heights. The terrorists entered Israel-held territory and escaped through the heavily-manned Syrian lines on the Golan with the obvious complicity of the Syrian army and probably the knowledge and endorsement by Damascus of what an Israeli spokesman described as a "kill-and-run" mission.

Although tension is running high on the Golan and Israelis are infuriated over the latest outrage, military retaliation by Israeli forces is not feasible at this time; circles here acknowledged. The government has a specific request from the United States to exercise maximum restraint in face of Syrian provocation, especially as the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observers Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights expires Nov. 30 and Syria has not yet indicated whether it will agree to a renewal.

(State Department spokesman Robert Funseth said in Washington Friday that the U.S. is taking the killings "very seriously" and reiterated U.S. "opposition to terrorist acts" which "work against the calm necessary for progress in search of a settlement." However, Funseth would not say at the time whether the State Department believed Syria was involved and would not comment on the possible motivation of the murders.)

Brig. Gen. Dov Sion, an army spokesman, said Friday that Israel holds Syria fully responsible for the murders which he termed a violation of the letter and spirit of the separation of forces agreement and the specific undertaking by President Hafez Assad of Syria to U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger that he would not permit terrorist activity through Syrian lines.

Victims Identified

The victims, who were buried Friday, were identified as Nahum Fenigstein, Michael Nadler and Benzion Leibowitz. All were members of the Hesder Yeshiva program which permits religious youth to serve half of their required three years of military service on active duty and complete the balance while continuing their religious studies. All held the rank of sergeant.

Fenigstein, the son of a Mitzrachi Bank branch manager in Jerusalem, and Nadler, who came to Israel from the United States five years ago and was the son of a lecturer on social work at Bar Ilan University, were buried in Jerusalem. Leibowitz was buried in the Ponewezh cemetery in the religious settlement of B'nai Brag.

The two wounded students were reported today in satisfactory condition in hospitals. One of them, Yehuda Cohen, was left for dead by the terrorists. The other, Shalom Mocha, of Jerusalem, was abducted by the killers but managed to break away and sustained slight wounds from shots fired at him. According to security sources, the five youths

were spending the night at Ramat Maghshimim, a Golan settlement sponsored by the Orthodox Bnei Akiva youth movement. They were carrying bedclothes in one of the settlement buildings when the terrorists broke in and opened fire with small arms and grenades.

A subsequent search by Israeli military patrols aided by helicopters failed to find the killers but footprints were found leading to and from the Syrian lines. Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur told newsmen here Friday night that the infiltration and murders would not have been possible without full knowledge and coordination between the Syrian army and the terrorists.

Number Of Questions Pondered

Israelis, meanwhile, pondered whether it was in Israel's interest to continue the UN presence on the Golan Heights. Sources noted that the UN troops were no hindrance to terrorist infiltrators but effectively prevented Israeli retaliatory action. Israelis were also questioning whether Thursday's tragedy was the beginning of a new campaign of terror on the Golan Heights, aided and abetted by the Syrian army whether or not Damascus agrees to renew the UNDOF mandate.

The killers were originally identified as El Fatah members. The Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine subsequently claimed credit for the murders in a statement issued at its Beirut headquarters.

POSSIBLE 4 NEW GOLAN SETTLEMENTS SEEN AS REACTION TO TERRORIST ACT

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23 (JTA)--Reports leaked out today from government circles that the establishment of four new settlements on the Golan Heights was being contemplated. The issue, it is understood, came up at the Cabinet meeting; but no full discussion was held and no decision taken. Tourism Minister Moshe Kol of the Independent Liberal Party, usually a dove, favored the four settlements, and it was understood that he raised the issue in the Cabinet. He is said to have argued that a decision on the settlements would be the appropriate reaction to the Ramat Maghshimim attack.

WAITING FOR WALDHEIM

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23 (JTA)--Officials here expect UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to bring news of a Syrian decision to renew the UNDOF mandate when he arrives here tomorrow. Waldheim's one-day stay in Israel is part of his Mideast swing occasioned by the UNDOF mandate expiration Nov. 30. But no one here was making a firm forecast today--and there was certainly no knowledge of how long the Syrians would renew the mandate for this time.

Some observers believed they would extend it only for two or three months in order to keep up the general atmosphere of tension engendered whenever the mandate expiration is imminent. Officials indicated that Waldheim would be told--for transmission to Syria--that violations of the disengagement accord such as the Ramat Maghshimim attack last Thursday--would not be tolerated. Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister

Yigal Allon, who are both to meet with Waldheim, are expected to emphasize that the attack, and an earlier one that was foiled a week ago, could not have been carried out without Syrian government consent and active help. Rabin told the Cabinet session today that the terrorist attack could not have been carried out without Syrian army assistance or, at least, knowledge. This act, and similar actions on the Golan Heights, were in complete contradiction to the Syrian undertaking in the separation of forces agreement, he said.

Most observers here saw the attack as connected with a Syrian decision to renew the mandate, and intended as a show of strength and hostility to counterbalance the actual act of renewal. These observers did not believe that Syria is intent on creating a process of deterioration that would lead to war.

They pointed out that Syria is not thought to be militarily prepared for war. Moreover, the Soviets are understood to be counselling caution and restraint. Some observers here added that the Syrian encouragement of the terror raids, and the brinkmanship over the UNDOF renewal, might be a prelude to a Damascus decision to enter into interim talks. These observers recalled how Syria engineered a mini-war of attrition during the winter and spring of 1974—in advance of the disengagement talks and as a way of toughening its stance in those talks.

Not Optimistic On Talks With Syria

But the general consensus of opinion in government circles was not optimistic on the prospect of interim talks with Syria. Most observers tended to take at face value the repeated Syrian assertions that Damascus will not move ahead without some concomitant progress on the Palestinian issue.

It was to pave the way for such progress, some observers here felt, that the "Saunders Paper" was issued—as an invitation to the PLO to moderate its formula, with an implied undertaking by the U.S. to treat with it if it does so. United States-PLO contacts could be seen by Syria as a sufficient pretext to move ahead, under American auspices, into interim talks with Israel. There was also some speculation that the U.S. might try to revive Israel-Jordan contacts, with a view to an interim accord between the two states.

KISSINGER, U.S. ENVOYS TO MIDEAST TO CONFER ON WHAT IS SEEN AS A REASSESSMENT OF MIDEAST POLICY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23 (JTA)—U.S. Ambassador Malcolm Toon flew to Washington today for a general Middle East policy conference that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has been conducting with several U.S. ambassadors to Middle East countries during the past few days.

Israeli officials refer to the series of conferences on the ambassadorial level as a reassessment but say that this time it appears to be a genuine reassessment of policy rather than a "policy of reassessment" such as President Ford ordered after the collapse of interim talks between Israel and Egypt last March and which Israelis regarded as a direct pressure tactic to extract additional concessions from Jerusalem.

The current talks at the State Department are viewed here as the prelude to a new American diplomatic initiative, possibly a revival of Kissinger's proposal, which he made in his address

before the UN General Assembly last September, for an "informal" conference involving all parties to the Middle East dispute.

Kissinger got non-committal responses from Israel, the Arabs and the Soviet Union at the time. But in view of recent actions at the UN, notably the General Assembly's resolution inviting the PLO to participate in all UN-sponsored peace-making forums on the Middle East, the informal conference idea appears to be an attempt to skirt the dangerous Palestinian issue at this time.

Observers here pointed out that any move to reconvene the Geneva conference, as is being urged by the Soviet Union and Egypt, would lead to a head-on clash over the PLO. On one hand, there is the UN resolution, and on the other Israel's determination, presumably shared by the U.S., to have no contacts whatever with the PLO.

Talks May Exclude The PLO

According to tentative reports out of Washington, the informal conference would be held in New York on the UN ambassadorial level. That would seem to exclude the PLO which, though it has observer status in the General Assembly, represents no government and has no UN ambassador.

These speculations could not be confirmed here. Israeli officials are reluctant to make any predictions until they have a general outline of Kissinger's plans, presumably from Toon when he returns from Washington, and until Syria decides whether or not it will agree to extend the mandate of UNDOF.

As Toon departed for Washington, it was learned that the U.S. Ambassador to Syria, Richard Murphy, has returned to his Damascus post following meetings with Kissinger over the weekend. The U.S. Ambassador to Jordan, Thomas Pickering, is believed to have flown to Washington yesterday. The American envoy to Saudi Arabia is also believed to be participating in the policy conferences.

HERZOG TO PARTICIPATE IN TALKS WITH WALDHEIM; UN CHIEF MEETS WITH ARAFAT

TEL AVIV, Nov. 23 (JTA)—Ambassador Chaim Herzog, Israel's envoy to the United Nations, arrived here today to participate in talks between Israeli officials and UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, due in Jerusalem tomorrow from Damascus. The talks will be concerned mainly with renewal of the mandate of UNDOF.

Herzog, who met for 40 minutes Friday morning with the Soviet Union Ambassador to the UN, Yakov Malik, this month's president of the Security Council, told newsmen here that he had discussed the matter of the UNDOF renewal with the Russian envoy. He said he met with Malik in the latter's capacity as Security Council president but would give no details of their talk.

Waldheim conferred with Syrian President Hafez Assad in Damascus but would not say tonight whether or not the Syrian leader had agreed to renew the UNDOF mandate. Waldheim also met with PLO chieftain Yasser Arafat while he was in Damascus. The UN official will go to Egypt and Lebanon after his meetings with Israeli officials here tomorrow.

Allon Raps Waldheim's Meeting With Arafat

Waldheim's meeting with Arafat was criticized by Foreign Minister Yigal Allon at today's Cabinet meeting. He noted pointedly that the Secretary General's current mission has to do with renewal of the UNDOF mandate which is solely the responsibility of the Security Council and in no way con-

neoted with the pro-PLO resolutions adopted by the General Assembly Nov. 10.

7000 IN CHICAGO RALLY, INCLUDING NON-JEWISH ETHNIC MINORITY LEADERS, CONDEMN ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLUTION

CHICAGO, Nov. 23 (JTA)--A crowd estimated at between 5000-7000 persons representing Jews and virtually every other ethnic and religious group in Chicago jammed Civic Center Plaza despite intermittent heavy rainfalls to condemn the UN anti-Zionist resolution as a blatant piece of racism and insult to the American people. The rally, last Thursday, was organized by the Jewish United Fund of Chicago and presided over by Maynard Wishner, chairman of its Public Affairs Committee.

Gov. Daniel Walker of Illinois, addressing the rally, branded the resolution that identified Zionism as a form of racism as "an outrageous lie and an insult to Americans." He said, "We must continue to raise our voices all over the U.S. to let the world know where Americans stand on this issue. We may be forced to import Arab oil but no one should force us to import Arab hatred."

Canon David N. Harris, Pastor of the Cathedral of St. James of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, warned that the UN action would "foster ill will and negate its goals of peace, international good will and universal respect for humanity." The Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Church here, adopted a resolution expressing "shock and dismay over the deplorable actions" of the General Assembly in condemning Zionism as a form of racism.

The rally was attended by leaders and representatives of the city's Greek, Polish, Italian, Ukrainian, Japanese, Lithuanian, Latin, Swedish, Black, Irish, Belgian, Vietnamese and Mexican-American communities. A statement signed by the "ethnic and minority community leaders" said in part: "To equate Zionism, a humanitarian movement, with racism is both a blatant lie and an insult to millions of Americans whose ethnic and racial backgrounds make them sensitive to all forms of bigotry." The statement expressed "solidarity with the democratic nation of Israel."

CATHOLIC BISHOPS HAIL RESULTS OF VATICAN COUNCIL 2, ACKNOWLEDGE HISTORIC BOND OF JEWS TO ISRAEL

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23 (JTA)--The National Conference of Catholic Bishops voted 190-6 to adopt a 12-page statement hailing the results of the historic changes in Jewish-Catholic relations effected by the Second Vatican Council 10 years ago and calling for further Catholic action to advance "the fruitful" communication.

The statement also contained an acknowledgment of the Jewish peoples' historic "bond" to the land of Israel and called on Catholics "to understand this link" without denying "the legitimate rights of other concerned parties" in the Middle East.

The statement, amended in discussion on the floor at the closing session last Thursday, from the original report drafted in committee, declared "We reaffirm our wholehearted commitment to the principles" of the Second Vatican Council's "Nostra Aetate" declaration "as well as the directives of the guidelines" issued last year by the Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews recently established by the Holy See to implement its principles.

All diocese in America were urged by the Bishops, who met at the Statler-Hilton Hotel, that "special attention" be given to "create and support whatever instrument or agency is appropriate for carrying out the recommendations of 'Nostra Aetate.'"

Strive To Understand The Link

The statement declared: "In dialogue with Christians, Jews have explained that they do not consider themselves a church, a sect or a denomination as is the case among Christian communities, but rather as a peoplehood that is not solely racial, ethnic or religious but in a sense a composite of all these. It is for such reasons that an overwhelming majority of Jews see themselves bound in one way or another to their traditional land of Israel."

"Most Jews see this tie to the land as essential to their Jewishness. Whatever difficulties Christians may experience in sharing this vision, they should strive to understand this link between land and people which Jews have expressed in their writing and worship throughout two millennia as a longing for their Holy Zion."

"Appreciation of this link is not to give assent to any particular religious interpretation of this bond nor to deny the legitimate rights of other concerned parties in the region. Nor is it to adopt any political stance in the controversy over the Middle East which is beyond the purview of this statement."

The phrase "nor to deny the legitimate rights of other concerned parties in the region" was inserted in that section of the statement on the floor at the instance of Archbishop Joseph Tawil of West Newton, Mass., a Melchite Rite prelate, who observed that the current fighting in Lebanon is of concern to all of the Middle East.

HERZL IN COMIC STRIP

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov. 23 (JTA)--The life of Theodor Herzl and the purpose of Zionism will be known to half a million Brazilians through a serial comic strip being published by "O Globo" from Rio de Janeiro, one of the three largest newspapers in Brazil, with a circulation of about 250,000.

"O Globo," like the other two large circulation and influential newspapers, "Jornal do Brasil," and "O Estado de Sao Paulo," has condemned the Brazilian vote for the anti-Zionist resolution. On the other hand, "Manchete" from Rio de Janeiro, the largest illustrated weekly in Latin America with a circulation of over 220,000, has published the contents of Herzl's "Der Judenstaat" in an article signed by one of the editors, Zevi Givelder.

DULZIN PRAISES 'KOACH MISSION'

NEW YORK, Nov. 23 (JTA)--Leon Dulzin, acting chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, praised the United Jewish Appeal "Koach Mission" to Israel as "unquestionably one of the most significant contributions ever made to Israel by the American Jewish community." Dulzin's praise was sent in a telex message to the national UJA leadership here, including R. Alan Rudy, chairman of the UJA Young Leadership Cabinet and leader of the mission which comprised 1000 people. Dulzin said that "all Israel was taken by storm" by the mission which succeeded "in strengthening even further the bonds between us and showing the world that we are indeed one." Dulzin added that Israel received a "tremendous boost in morale" by the 1000 UJA leaders.

LAUTENBERG TELLS CJF ASSEMBLY THAT U.S. GRANTS TO ISRAEL DO NOT LESSEN FUND-RAISING NEEDS

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Nov. 23 (JTA)--Declaring that United States government grants of even as high as \$2.24 billion do not diminish the need for unprecedented fund-raising for Israel in 1976, Frank R. Lautenberg, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, told 3000 community delegates from the U.S. and Canada attending the 44th General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds that Israel desperately needs \$600 million of UJA funds next year.

The UJA leader, declaring that "Israel is the heart of the Jewish people," and that "anti-Zionism is truly anti-Semitic," said that "the battle for Eretz Israel is being waged internationally through politics--oil--economics--morality--and in the hearts and minds of man."

Lautenberg sought to dispel any thoughts that "American government assistance obviates the need for Jewish giving." This, he said, "is just as pernicious as the illusion of peace. American aid is military--security-related tools to deter aggression--necessary to keep Israel strong. Warplanes and missiles can only protect; they cannot create."

"This American aid will not improve Israel's standard of living one bit. Not a penny of the proposed \$2.24 billion is for humanitarian aid or to raise living conditions for the people of Israel. Remember, only Jewish giving builds life," he said.

UJA Must Raise \$600 Million in 1976

Lautenberg pointed out that Israel this year will have to repay \$230 million in interest and principal for loans already made. Pointing out the high tax rate in Israel, he said that "Israeli taxes--not our dollars--are repaying the U.S. loans. Israel's foreign currency debt per capita is \$2000, almost four times that of any other country. Their balance of payments deficit will soar to \$4.1 billion next year. The debt service will reach \$1.3 billion."

Lautenberg also said "if Congress votes every penny being proposed, Israel will still need another \$500 million to cover defense spending in 1976." As a result of this, Lautenberg said, the UJA must raise \$600 million in the 1976 campaign for Israel. "Our goal--if achieved--will only help cover a bare-bones budget," he said.

The delegates adopted today a resolution on U.S. aid to Israel which declared that inasmuch as "Israel has demonstrated her readiness to make substantial sacrifices in the pursuit of peace by yielding strategically important territory and economic resources to reach a limited agreement with Egypt," therefore "the United States should now fulfill the commitments undertaken in the course of negotiating that agreement to provide Israel with \$2.3 billion in economic and military aid."

This aid, the resolution continued, "is urgently needed to enable Israel to interpose a credible defense capacity against the threat of further aggression by a hostile Arab world that continues to avow its determination to seek Israel's destruction." The resolution also urged Congress "to act affirmatively in 1975 on such economic aid, security supporting assistance and military credits for Israel."

HOFFBERGER NEW CJF PRESIDENT

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Nov. 23 (JTA)--Jerold C.

Hoffberger, of Baltimore, has been elected president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, the national body of more than 200 federations, welfare funds, and community councils serving over 800 communities in the United States and Canada. A former vice-president of the CJF and chairman of its advisory committee on community relations in the Middle East, he was elected to succeed Raymond Epstein of Chicago at the organization's 44th General Assembly.

A prominent communal leader, both nationally and in Baltimore, in non-sectarian as well as Jewish organizational life, Hoffberger is currently a national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal and chairman of the Distribution Committee of the Community Foundation of Baltimore.

Hoffberger, who lives in Riderwood, Maryland, is president of the Carling National Breweries, Inc., chairman of the Baltimore (Orioles) Baseball Club, and is an officer and director of numerous other business interests. In Baltimore, he is a member of the boards of Johns Hopkins and Sinai Hospitals, the Associated Jewish Charities and Welfare Fund and the Greater Baltimore Committee. He was named "Man of the Year" in 1966 by the Advertising Club of Baltimore and "Outstanding Man of Industry" in 1971 by the Baltimore Jaycees.

Prior to his elevation to the presidency of CJF, Hoffberger was chairman of its Institute for Jewish Life and a member and formerly founding chairman of the Boris Smolar Award Committee for excellence in North American Jewish journalism. Nationally he is a member of the board of governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel, a director of the United Israel Appeal and a member of the national committee of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. Married, the father of four children, Hoffberger was educated at the University of Virginia and was a captain in the U.S. Army during World War II.

13 TORAH SCROLLS DAMAGED, DESTROYED IN FIRE; HISPANIC YOUTH HELD

NEW YORK, Nov. 23 (JTA)--Jewish residents on the Lower East Side, upset by recent violence and the burning of a synagogue Friday, have been assured by city officials and the police department that tactical patrol units and decoy cops would be ordered into the area. The latest act of violence Friday caused widespread anger and charges by some Jewish community leaders that there is a growing anti-Semitic conspiracy. A fire, reported as suspicious, caused extensive damage to a building on Henry Street which houses three Orthodox congregations.

Police managed to save four Torahs and one candleabrum from the building but reportedly as many as 13 other scrolls were damaged or destroyed in the two alarm fire that raged for close to two hours before it was brought under control. Raymond Rivera, 16, of The Bronx, was arrested near the fire by police and after questioning was charged with arson and burglary.

Representatives of various Jewish community groups, many of them rabbis, met Friday with outgoing Deputy Mayor James Cavanagh and other city officials and afterwards met at police headquarters where they were assured that no efforts would be spared to make certain that such acts were prevented in the future. Referring to the damage and destruction to the Torah scrolls, one Jewish leader said, "This is perhaps one of the most heinous crimes that ever faces the Jewish community."