



daily news bulletin

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

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Vol. XLIII - 59th Year

Thursday, February 5, 1976

No. 25

SHELLING OF TARGET IN LEBANON TERMED PREVENTIVE FIRE ACTION

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 4 (JTA)--Israeli units fired a number of 120 mm. mortar shells at a hillside target between two villages across the Lebanese border today. The incident was witnessed by a group of foreign journalists who were being escorted on a tour of the border region at the time.

The local commander described it as a preventive fire strike ordered because of suspicious movements on the hillside which indicated that terrorists might have been preparing an ambush or infiltration of Israeli territory. The officer said Israeli troops are under strict orders not to fire at villages or other population centers across the Lebanese lines.

The absence of Lebanese regular army troops from positions along the Israeli border came as a surprise to the journalists and to some of their officer hosts in view of Defense Minister Shimon Peres' statement on an Army Radio broadcast Monday that Lebanese units had returned to the border region which they evacuated at the height of the civil war last month.

It was obvious today that large stretches of the border region are empty of troops, creating a vacuum that the terrorists might easily fill. The discrepancy between Peres' statement and the deserted Lebanese army posts was explained later by the fact that the Defense Minister was misunderstood when he said that two of the three Lebanese battalions formerly stationed in the south had returned. According to Ministry sources, Peres reported that the Lebanese troops had returned only to their main camps south of the Litani River but not to the border outposts.

Increased Alertness Required

Gen. Raphael Eytan, commander of the northern front, told a meeting of regional commanders today that the vacuum along the Lebanese side of the border created a military imbalance that required increased alertness by Israeli forces. The visiting journalists were told that the absence of Lebanese troops in the region gave the terrorists a free hand.

The Lebanese soldiers, at least theoretically, were supposed to keep a rein on the terrorists although that was not always the case even when the soldiers were at their posts. At the moment, tens of kilometers of border are un-manned on the Lebanese side and even the border check point at Rosh Hanikra on the Mediterranean coast remains deserted by Lebanese troops, the journalists were informed.

The visiting newsmen were also told how Israeli soldiers can distinguish between Lebanese regulars and Palestinian terrorists. The latter carry Russian-made Kalachnikov assault rifles while the Lebanese army is equipped with American M-16s.

BAN CONTINUES ON JEWISH RELIGIOUS SERVICES ON THE TEMPLE MOUNT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA)--Police Minister Shlomo Hillel said today that police would continue to enforce the ban on Jewish religious services on the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem, site of

the Mosque of Omar and the El Aksa Mosque, two of the holiest shrines of Islam.

The ban stems from a Supreme Court decision of five years ago. The issue was raised in the Jerusalem City Council by Councilman Gershon Solomon of Herut who noted that a Jerusalem magistrate had ruled recently that the police acted wrongly when they broke up a prayer meeting being held on the Temple Mount by a group of Herut youths.

The Temple Mount, which rises above the Western Wall, is forbidden to Orthodox Jews by halachic law. But right-wing nationalist groups have periodically attempted to hold prayer meetings on the site where the Second Temple stood more than 1900 years ago.

FOUR MOSCOW JEWS GET VISAS

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 (JTA)--The National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry reported today that four Moscow Jews have received exit visas. They are: Leonid Koshovoy, 44; Isaac Dimshits, 50; Lev Karp, 38, and Grigory Knizhnik, 37.

Koshovoy, who first applied to leave in September 1970 and Dimshits, who originally applied to leave in May 1969, have long been involved in the Soviet Jewry movement within the USSR and are among the oldest refuseniks in Moscow. Karp, whose application had been pending for more than one year, was a professor in the field of technical cybernetics and in charge of research and practice of automation systems in computers for health and forestry programs for the USSR. Knizhnik, a lecturer in radio electronics, first applied more than one year ago.

NO JEWISH CASUALTIES IN GUATEMALA QUAKE By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 (JTA)--Reports reaching the State Department and the Guatemalan Embassy here today indicated that the Jewish community and Jewish institutions in Guatemala City did not suffer casualties or any serious damage from the severe earthquake that struck that city this morning. According to initial reports, 30 persons were killed and 500 injured in the quake.

Most of Guatemala's 1500 Jews live in Guatemala City, the capital of the Central American country. The Jewish structure closest to the area of most severe damage is the Sephardic synagogue located less than a half mile from the National Palace and the National Cathedral.

According to the Guatemalan Embassy, neither of those structures was damaged and it is presumed that the synagogue remained unscathed. The Ashkenazic synagogue and a Reform congregation along with a Jewish school are located in the northern part of the city which was not affected by the earthquake. It was recalled here that the 120-member Jewish community of Managua, Nicaragua was hard hit when an earthquake struck there three years ago.

RABIN FETED IN LOS ANGELES...

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 4 (JTA)--Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin was feted by 1000 members of the entertainment industry last night while about 200 pro-Arab demonstrators called for a "Free Palestine" outside of the Beverly Hilton Hotel. The

front and foyer of the hotel were heavily guarded and the demonstration was peaceful. Among those attending the star-studded dinner was Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger who reportedly met privately with Rabin later in the evening. Frank Sinatra headed the list on the entertainment program.

Earlier, at a press conference here, Rabin said he did not believe a statement by President Anwar Sadat of Egypt in a Lebanese magazine that Kissinger made "something more than a promise" to Sadat that the U.S. would recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"I doubt it," Rabin said, "because I can't see that a private understanding with Egypt which Israel has not agreed to can help the cause of negotiations or more important the task of closing negotiations in any positive way." The Premier added, "I believe it is clear that without Israel agreeing, there will be no amendment."

Rabin repeated his criticism of the UN General Assembly for ignoring the 10-month long civil strife in Lebanon while calling for an immediate Security Council meeting over a single Israeli act of retaliation against terrorist bases in Lebanon. "Israel cannot expect any justice in the General Assembly," Rabin stressed, "I believe that the UN has lost its moral strength and validity by its biased way of dealing with the problems of our region."

Rabin, who came to Los Angeles from Chicago where he had been welcomed by Mayor Richard Daley and had met with local Jewish leaders, met here today with Jewish and non-Jewish groups. His schedule included a visit to the Rand Corporation, a luncheon given by the Israel Bonds Prime Minister's Club and a dinner launching the 1976 campaign of the United Jewish Welfare Fund here. Rabin was also scheduled to meet with Los Angeles high school and college students and young adults at a meeting under the auspices of the Jewish Youth Council, the Youth Division and the Young Adults Council of the Jewish Federation-Council.

STIRS DIGNITARIES IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, Feb. 4 (JTA)--Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin's touching story of his father's life in Chicago stirred a host of dignitaries and officials gathered to honor him Monday at the most elaborate state dinner ever given by the city of Chicago. At the dinner, following a mass rally of Jewish community leaders expressing solidarity with Israel, Rabin received the medal of the city of Chicago from Mayor Richard Daley, who expressed his personal support as an Irish-American for the cause of Israel.

The kosher dinner for Rabin packed the Palmer House grand ballroom with 700 Chicago business and political leaders, including 200 members of the Jewish community invited by the Mayor and the City Council, sponsors of the event. When Daley toasted Rabin with Israeli champagne, the Premier's responded by saying, "Seventy years ago, a poor young refugee ran away from Russia, and came to this city where he was allowed to get an education...and learned the meaning of freedom and democracy and the rights of individuals."

Rabin told how this refugee later joined the Jewish Legion of the British Army in World War I to help free Palestine from Turkey. When Rabin revealed that the refugee had been his father, the audience was visibly moved.

The glittering dais included Philip M. Klutznick, dinner chairman and former UN Ambassa-

dor; Gov. Daniel Walker; Sen. Charles H. Percy; Undersecretary of State Joseph J. Sisco; Israeli Ambassador Simcha Diniz; Ehud Avriel, Israel's Consul General for the Midwest; and John Cardinal Cody, Archbishop of Chicago, who delivered a benediction praising Rabin and expressing hope for peace in the Middle East and the permanence of the State of Israel.

3000 AT Rally

Earlier, Rabin had told the rally of 3000 Chicago Jewish leaders that peace will come to the Middle East only when Arab leaders "change their policy of ignoring our right to exist." This will only happen if Israel can maintain a strong military and economic posture, Rabin said. The rally was co-sponsored by the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago and State of Israel Bonds. Maynard I. Wishner, chairman of the JUF public affairs committee, extended the Jewish community's welcome to the Premier. Sol Goldstein, a long-time JUF and Jewish Federation leader, and 1976 chairman for Chicago's State of Israel Bond drive, introduced Rabin.

FAIR PLAY FOR ARAB SOCCER PLAYERS ON ISRAELI TEAMS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA)--A public committee has been organized here aimed at inculcating a sense of fair play towards Arab soccer players on Israeli teams. The move followed recent incidents involving the two Arab players on National League teams.

One, Rafat Tork, of the Tel Aviv Hapoel team, was the subject of ethnic abuse by members of the opposing Ramat Amidar Maccabi team when he scored a goal three weeks ago. Tork told an interviewer afterwards that he was prepared for such abuse from people in the crowd but not from fellow players. The other Arab player, Ali Hussein Otman of the Jerusalem Hapoel team, accused a referee of being ethnically abusive last Saturday when he objected to a ruling.

A founding member of the public committee, Yehuda Leish, said its object was to launch an information campaign aimed at fans and players with the object of removing the explosive element of ethnic differences from the already heated atmosphere of the soccer match. Other members of the committee include the former director general of the Finance Ministry Yaacov Arnon and the writer Haim Guri.

SELECTIVE MORALITY RAPPELLED BY GARMENT

GENEVA, Feb. 4 (JTA)--A battle shaped up in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights meeting here yesterday over the issue of "selective morality" in focussing on alleged violations of human rights in certain countries while ignoring them in others. The Commission opened a five-week session with an agenda topped by "human rights violations" in Arab territories occupied by Israel and in Chile.

The U.S. representative, Leonard Garment, declared, "If we care only about some human rights violations in some countries, then we do not care about human rights anywhere." He said "We must reject the temptation to submit to one political bias or another in expressing concern for human rights....The way this commission addresses the question of torture and the issue of political prisoners is a central test of selective morality."

Garment, an advisor to Daniel P. Moynihan who submitted his resignation Monday as U.S.

Ambassador to the UN, was addressing his remarks primarily to the Arab and Third World voting blocs. They had been the target of Moynihan's criticism of voting blocs in the world organization in connection with last November's anti-Zionist resolution and other issues.

Garment urged top priority for a declaration against religious intolerance which, he said, would prove the Commission's concern with all aspects of human rights rather than those "which serve the interests or satisfy the aims of disparate voting coalitions." Garment is expected to try to bloc any condemnation of alleged Israeli violations of the rights of persons in the occupied territories.

REVEAL ISRAEL HAS LANCE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 4 (JTA)--The American surface-to-surface short range missile, the "Lance," has been incorporated into Israel's artillery corps. This was learned today when Defense Minister Shimon Peres and senior army officers visited an artillery corps base and watched soldiers training with the new weapon. Israeli soldiers also trained with the 100-kilometer range missile in the United States and won the top marks at the American training center. The Lance, which is mounted on a launcher, is the American answer to the Russian "Frog" missile which was used by the Syrians and Egyptians during the Yom Kippur War.

CONGRESS URGED TO CURB SALES OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS BY U.S. MANUFACTURERS TO MIDEAST, OTHER AREAS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 (JTA)--Sen. Clifford P. Case (R,NJ) opened Senate debate today on the new Foreign Aid Authorization Bill for the countries of the Middle East and other areas by requesting Congress to "put some shackles" on sales of conventional arms by U.S. manufacturers.

Amendments in the bill approved last week by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee are designed, he said, to give Congress as well as the Executive Branch the opportunity to veto or alter proposed military assistance and commercial sales projects which could adversely affect local balances of power.

At least 15 transactions worth more than \$25 million each, Case said, were handled by commercial arms manufacturers and dealers in 1975. These included a complete "Hawk" anti-aircraft missile system for Saudi Arabia for \$266 million; C-130 transport planes to Saudi Arabia for \$68 million; and helicopters to Israel for \$63 million. A proposed \$300-million "Hawk" missile system for Jordan is a government, not a commercial transaction.

Under the amendments, any transaction worth more than \$25 million would be channeled through the U.S. government's Foreign Military Sales Program where, under amendments to the Nelson-Bingham legislation passed in 1974, such sales would be subject to Congressional review and possible veto if Congress disapproved within 30 days.

No Arms Sales To Nations With Bias

Another amendment sponsored by Sen. Case, Hubert H. Humphrey (D, Minn.), and Jacob K. Javits (R,NY)--all members of the foreign relations subcommittee on foreign assistance--would terminate military equipment transactions or training if American citizens are barred from

participating in the projects because of their race, religion, sex or national origin.

"The American government cannot acquiesce in discrimination against its own citizens. We cannot sell out our own people because of the prejudices of kings and sheikhs," Case said. The proposed supervision of weapons sales will not damage the American economy which is so large. Case said, that military equipment last year was only 2.6 percent of the U.S. exports.

"Indeed, the arms supervision amendments may help keep the economy from being hurt by the fallout of costly wars which could touch off another oil embargo or interfere with supplies of other raw materials and trade," Case said.

Under the bill, Israel would receive \$2.810 billion for military credits and economic supporting assistance for fiscal year 1976 that ends June 30 and the ensuing three months--the transitional quarter--that precedes the opening of the new fiscal year 1977 on Oct. 1.

EL AL FREEBIES FOR THOSE WITH / PROTEKTZIA IS ISSUE IN THE KNESSET

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA)--The issue of free airline tickets for privileged persons was raised in the Knesset today. Likud MK Gideon Patt questioned Transport Minister Gad Yaacobi about an allegation by Haaretz reporter Yair Kotler that the national airline, El Al, gave out 5000 free tickets annually to persons with "protektzia" (political pull). Patt demanded a list of all MKs; government ministers and senior officials who have received free transportation.

An El Al spokesman said today that the 5000 figure was "a gross exaggeration." Yesterday, a spokesman for the Transport Ministry acknowledged that El Al had issued free tickets to 3305 persons last year at the government's request, but denied that government employees were abusing their privilege of free air transportation.

The spokesman said the requests were recognized by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and noted that all governments frequently made such requests of their national carriers. He said that unlike the situation in many other countries, all requests for free airline tickets in Israel were subject to scrutiny by the State Comptroller.

ZIONISM--BRAZILIAN STYLE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA)--A group of 25 potential immigrants from Brazil arrived in Israel this week on a study tour, arranged by the World Zionist Organization. The group, organized by the Brazilian Zionist Federation, consists of academicians and professionally trained people. The intention is that they ultimately settle in Beersheba within the framework of a broader scheme for the settlement of some 500 Latin American immigrant families there.

During their tour the group will visit development areas, suburbs and absorption centers around the country. Meanwhile the Jewish National Fund planted a grove of trees at Kibbutz Bror Hayil--a largely Latin American settlement--in the name of "Brazil Zionism."

A large sign--"Brazilian Jewry is Zionist; Bror Hayil is proof of that"--greeted the hundreds of invited guests at the planting ceremony. They included members of the Brazilian Zionist Federation visiting Israel, members of the Brazilian Immigrants Society, and Jewish students from Brazil currently working here as volunteers under the "Tappuz" orange-picking program.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES EXPOSING THE EXTORTION RACKET

By Uzi Benziman

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA)--The Israeli public is currently up in arms over daily newspaper revelations concerning the extortion and protection rackets which, it would seem from these press reports, are well-nigh riddling the country. Such phenomena had been rumored for several years, and were the subject of several media investigations. Until now, the authorities had always denied the existence of "organized crime" in Israel.

Recently, however, the official position shifted: the Inspector General of Police, Chief Superintendent Shaul Rosolio publicly admitted that several areas of commerce and retail trade are threatened by the extortion racket. Rosolio firmly promised to root out this evil. He urged the public to cooperate with the police. Public fear and reticence in the past, he asserted, had made the police's task almost impossible.

The present wave of exposures and articles about the extortion racket can be explained, in part, by the accumulation of information by two young Knesseters, Labor's Moshe Shachal and Likud's Ehud Olmert. Shachal, 41, one of Labor's promising young leaders, is a Haifa lawyer and consumer protectionist who has extensively investigated the extortion racket in the area of fruit and vegetable marketing.

He discovered that the prices of vegetables and fruits are artificially high because of a lengthy and intricate chain of middlemen--between the farmer and the consumer--that has evolved over the years. The middleman network is controlled by a small number of "bosses" who according to Shachal, use criminal methods to assure their profits as exclusive marketing channels.

Racket Concentrated In Big Cities

Ehud Olmert, 30, the youngest Knesseter, has exposed criminal activities allegedly controlled by one family--in Jerusalem's run-down Masrara quarter. The police, while aware of the facts (drugs, protection, strong-arm methods), could never gather sufficient evidence to bring the miscreants to court. Olmert was able to convince some 15 Masrara residents to testify to the police about their suffering at the hands of the local bosses. Several arrests followed.

Olmert's activities have forced the police to admit that extortion--the English word "protection" has now entered the Hebrew language--is a widespread phenomenon concentrated mainly in the big cities. Olmert claims that some 30 major retail businesses in Tel Aviv are run by underworld criminals who allegedly have personal connections with what Olmert defines as "some respectable public elements"--the text-book recipe for nascent organized crime.

Most of the extortion money paid by the merchants is believed to be black market money on which no income tax was paid. This fact--along with fear of reprisals--accounts for the failure of the victims to take their complaints to the police. Markets, transportation services, illegal card and dice clubs and some big stores are the main commercial branches in which the extortion racket is believed to be prevalent. Most of the racketeering gangs are members of families.

Prof. Menahem Amir, of the Hebrew University criminology department, recently predicted that the extortion racket may be on the decline.

The very fact that merchants who have suffered blackmail in silence for a long time are now ready to testify may indicate that they have summoned up the courage to resist extortion. The immediate reaction may be increased acts of violence by the extortion racketeers. But in the long run a firm and resolute front adopted by the merchants, and effective protection of witnesses by the police, should still be able to check and eventually defeat the underworld.

The big question is whether the police can, in fact, provide the necessary protection. Police prestige has declined as a result of the successes of Olmert and Shachal. People wonder why the police--with their large budget and sophisticated facilities--have failed, where two young Knesseters have succeeded so impressively.

SOME 50 CANADIAN JEWISH OFFICIALS, LEGISLATORS TO ATTEND BRUSSELS CONFAB

TORONTO, Feb. 4 (JTA)--More than 50 Canadian officials will go to Brussels as delegates to the Second World Conference on Soviet Jewry Feb. 17-19, headed by David Satok, chairman of the Canadian Committee for Soviet Jewry. Other leaders in the delegation are Sidney Harris, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress; Alan Rose, executive director of the CJC; and David Shanoff, director of the Canadian Committee for Soviet Jews.

Three members of the Canadian Parliament plan to attend. They are Serge Royal of Maison-neuve-Rosemount; Robert Kaplan of York Centre, and John Roberts of Toronto-St. Pauls.

Other Canadian Jewish organizations to be represented at the Brussels conference include the Montreal Committee for Soviet Jewry; the Canadian Zionist Federation; B'nai B'rith; Hadassah-WIZO; the Montreal Group of Thirty-Five; the Toronto Group of Thirty-Five; the Toronto Action Committee for Jews in the USSR; the United Organizations for Histadrut of Toronto; the Ottawa Committee for Soviet Jewry; the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry; the Warshaver-Lodzer Society of Toronto; and the Jewish Communities of Hamilton, Winnipeg and Newfoundland.

ELIAS GILNER DEAD AT 87

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 (JTA)--Elias Gilner, an author on Jewish subjects and one of the founders of the Haganah, died Monday at the age of 87. Born in Russia as Elihu Ginsburg, he adopted Elias Gilner as his pen name. He and his wife came to the United States in 1922.

A frequent contributor to the Yiddish and Anglo-Jewish press, Mr. Gilner was the author of several Yiddish plays, including "The Voice of Israel" and "Backlane Center," and several novels including "Prince of Israel," and "In a Sinful World." His non-fiction work included "War and Hope," the history of the Jewish Legion and the Zion Mule Corps in World War I. During the British Mandate, Mr. Gilner was a leader of many protest demonstrations against the various Arab riots against Jews in Palestine.

CAMBRIDGE, England (JTA)--"Israel Week" is being held at this ancient university town by the Cambridge University Israel Society. A special event is scheduled for each evening this week, including lectures, a forum on the kibbutz, a session of Israeli songs and dances, and an Israeli wine-tasting session. The entire event is organized by student volunteers who are paying for the expenses out of their own pockets. They have also seen to it that the many book shops in the town are displaying material on Israel and Zionism.