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3 ARAB YOUTHS WOUNDED, 1 CRITICALLY DURING DEMONSTRATION ON WEST BANK

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, March 17 (JTA)--Three Arab youths were wounded this morning by Israeli soldiers when they attacked a car and its passengers on the Jerusalem-Jericho road near Azaria village on the West Bank. One of the youths, an 11-year-old boy, was in critical condition. The youths, part of a group of students, reportedly swarmed over the car and tried to overturn it. Soldiers inside the car fired into the air to frighten the demonstrators but the three were wounded in the fracas. Security sources said the passengers in the car--civilians and soldiers--are being investigated.

The incident was the latest in the escalation of violence in East Jerusalem and the West Bank where Arab youths have been demonstrating for the past two weeks against Jewish prayers on the Temple Mount and Jewish settlement on the West Bank.

Police used tear gas this morning against about 400 East Jerusalem Arab youths who massed on the Temple Mount and later rampaged through the Old City stoning passers-by and setting fire to rubber tires. Demonstrations also occurred today in Jericho where one high school was closed because of pupil violence and in Hebron where rioting students attacked several residents of the Jewish suburb of Kiryat Arba. The Hebron demonstrators burned tires and threw rocks at security forces, but no serious injuries were reported in those clashes.

A 24-hour curfew imposed on Ramallah Monday remained in force today. Another West Bank Arab village, Chalachul, was put under curfew this morning.

Assurances Fail To Mollify Arabs

The riots and demonstrations on the West Bank have worsened in the past few days despite assurances by Israeli authorities that the ban on Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount would be enforced. A Jerusalem magistrate had declared the ban illegal last month, a ruling that touched off Arab protests and demonstrations in East Jerusalem and a score of towns and villages on the West Bank.

The government has appealed the ruling and the Supreme Court is expected to uphold its own 1970 decree that banned Jewish religious rites in the vicinity of the Islamic shrines on the Temple Mount.

Justice Minister Haim Zadok said today that none of the regulations regarding the status of the Temple Mount have been altered. But his assurances apparently failed to mollify the Arabs. The Old City was virtually empty of tourists yesterday despite the Purim holiday and Israeli tourists are avoiding the West Bank.

EGYPT NEGOTIATING WITH FRANCE FOR ARMS SALES, ARMS CONSTRUCTION DEALS

By Edwin Ryan

PARIS, March 17 (JTA)--Egyptian Defense Minister Abdel Ghani Ghamassi is due to arrive here in a few days for negotiations on French

arms sales to Egypt and on French participation in the construction of an Arab arms industry near Cairo.

French sources say Ghamassi will put the final touches to a contract providing for the sale of an unspecified number of F-1 Mirages to Egypt. The F-1 is the most modern version of the Mirage plane in service in the French air force.

Ghamassi, a former Egyptian Chief of Staff, is also expected to approve the contract providing for the sale of 120 Alpha jet trainers and ground support planes. The basis for this contract was laid last week by the Egyptian Air Force Chief of Staff, Marshal Mohammed Shaker Abdel-Monein, during a brief visit here. The Egyptian Defense Minister will meet in Paris with French Defense Minister Yvon Bourges; representatives of the manufacturers, "Dassault-Breguet," and with top French officials.

Ghamassi is also expected to negotiate here for French participation in the joint Arab arms industry now being planned in Egypt. Egypt would like France to play an active role in this project supplying mainly technical know-how and expertise, but also money, qualified personnel and raw materials. Egypt is prepared to opt in exchange for the French "Mirage-2000" plane which will equip the French air force in the 1980s.

The Mirage-2000 is described as the equivalent of the MIG-25 and the American F-15. It is manufactured in France by the Mirage-builders, "Dassault-Breguet," Thomson-S.C.F. and Snecma, which builds the powerful M-53 engine. Egypt is also interested in this engine to replace those of the MIGs grounded by the Soviet Union's refusal to provide spare parts and new engines.

Consequence Of Rift With USSR

Ghamassi, French sources say, is also expected to negotiate for additional French-made helicopters. Egypt last year bought an unspecified number of "Gazelle" helicopters equipped with anti-tank missiles. The Egyptians are apparently highly satisfied with their performance and would like to buy additional models to bolster their infantry support.

French sources say Ghamassi's visit here is the natural consequence of Egypt's open rift with the Soviet Union. The French say Egypt will have to find new arms suppliers in the West if it is to maintain its new independence from Moscow's domination. The competition with British aircraft manufacturers is expected to be tough but France hopes to cash in on its political prestige in pushing its arms sales in the Arab world.

These sources add that the French-made Atar-9 engine is better suited to equip the Egyptian Mirage planes than the "Spey" manufactured by Britain's Rolls Royce. A first study undertaken by the British manufacturers has shown that adapting the "Spey" to the MIGs would be more expensive than buying new planes.

MOUNTING PROTESTS AGAINST EXECUTION

AMSTERDAM, March 17 (JTA)--The leaders of all Dutch political parties expressed horror and outrage today over Iraq's execution of a Dutch-born Jew, Leon Aaronson, and that country's insistence, until this week, that Aaronson

was alive although he was hanged in Baghdad three months ago. The permanent foreign affairs committee of the Dutch Parliament has submitted a number of questions on the matter to Foreign Minister Max Van Der Stoep who is currently on an official visit to Turkey.

The Iraqis, who finally admitted carrying out their death sentence against Aaronson, continued to insist that he was an Israeli spy. The Iraqi Charge d'Affaires at The Hague, Ismail al Kahdi, told newsmen, after being summoned to the Foreign Ministry yesterday, that "It has been proved that Aaronson is an Israeli citizen and as a Zionist spy who caused my country much damage and suffering, he was sentenced to death by an Iraqi court and executed."

Aaronson, a male nurse, devoted his life to helping the sick and injured in underdeveloped countries of Africa and Asia and was on a medical mission to the Kurds in northern Iraq when he was seized by Iraqi soldiers last March 24. Dutch authorities noted that even if Aaronson held dual citizenship--and there is no evidence to bear this out--he was still a subject of The Netherlands where he was born and where his wife, children and parents live.

Journalist Recalls Seeing Aaronson

Jan Beekmans, a member of Parliament of the Progressive Party, recalled that he inquired about Aaronson when he visited Iraq last January. He said he was given to understand by various Iraqi officials at the time, including the Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, that Aaronson was still alive. He said he was shocked to learn yesterday that the man had been executed three months ago. Beekmans said that in view of the "present humanitarian climate in Iraq which seeks approaches to Western countries," Aaronson's execution is astonishing.

Rienko Wilton, a Dutch journalist, was probably one of the last Westerners to see Aaronson alive. He said he met him in Kurdistan last March when Iraqi troops were advancing on the Kurds. Against all advice, Aaronson marched in the direction of the approaching Iraqi troops, Wilton said on a radio interview today. Wilton said Aaronson was in possession of a new Dutch passport but he had thrown away all of his documents and was dressed as a Kurd.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi Ambassador to the Benelux countries, Sayid Mukhlis, who resides in Brussels, claimed that he had the flu and could not come to The Hague where he had been summoned by the Dutch government in connection with Aaronson's death.

WILSON TO BE INVITED TO BECOME HEAD OF THE LABOR FRIENDS OF ISRAEL

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 17 (JTA)--Prime Minister Harold Wilson, who announced his resignation yesterday, will be invited to become the president of the Labor Friends of Israel organization, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today.

Martin Cohen, general secretary of the group to which more than 100 Labor members of Parliament belong, said the invitation would be made in view of the Prime Minister's record of friendship for the Jewish State. The presidency has been vacant since the death two years ago of Richard H.S. Crossman, the former Labor Minister. The invitation to Wilson will be extended as soon as he hands over his office to a new Prime Minister.

Although none of the main contenders for the Labor leadership has been as closely associated with Israel as Wilson, most of them are regarded as friendly toward her. James Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, believes the Palestinian Arabs should have national self-expression, but only in the context of peace with Israel. When he met Jewish communal leaders recently, he pointed out that the idea was also favored by some members of the Israeli Cabinet.

Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, was first nominated as a Parliamentary candidate in 1952 by the Leeds branch of the Poale Zion, with whom he has retained cordial links ever since. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Energy Secretary, has long been associated with Mapam in Israel and is a devotee of the late Prof. Martin Buber. Roy Jenkins, Home Secretary, and Anthony Crossland, Secretary of the Environment, have visited Israel in recent years. Michael Foot, Secretary for Employment, who is a brother of Lord Carron, Britain's former UN Ambassador, makes a point of not committing himself on Middle East matters.

SULTANIK: ARABS PLAN TO EXPEL ISRAEL FROM UN; CALLS FOR DELAY OF ELECTIONS TO WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA)--Warning of Arab intentions to maneuver the expulsion of Israel from the United Nations at the next General Assembly, Kalman Sultanik, executive vice-president of the World Confederation of United Zionists and member of the World Zionist Organization Executive, called today for prompt and vigorous action by Jewish communities throughout the world to alert the governments of their respective countries to the dangers of such a move "which would lead to the irreversible degeneration of the United Nations."

He also urged, in a statement prepared for delivery in London at a meeting of the executive board of the British General Zionists, the postponement of elections to the forthcoming World Zionist Congress to conserve the resources and energies of Zionists to meet the urgent problems arising out of the serious emergency facing Israel and the Zionist movement.

Sultanik's statement was given to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in New York where he stopped off on his way to London en route to Israel. The British General Zionists' at their meeting were scheduled to discuss vital issues affecting Israel and the Zionist movement.

In his address, the Zionist leader cautioned that "we should not be caught unaware with respect to Arab intentions in the wake of their success in securing the surrender of so many countries including those of the Third World and other newly emerged developing lands to their pressure to vote for the resolution equating Zionism with racism."

He added that all indications point to the certainty of their continuing pressure tactics to have the matter of Israel's expulsion from the United Nations placed on the agenda of the next United Nations Assembly meeting. It is now the task of every Jew wherever he resides, outside of Israel, to persuade their governments to instruct their UN representatives accordingly.

Reasons For Postponement Outlined

In calling for the postponement of elections to the forthcoming World Zionist Congress scheduled to be held in December, Sultanik emphasized that

the "holding of such elections at the present time would entail enormous financial outlays and diversion of valuable time at the expense of vital Zionist activities in the field of fund-raising, education, aliya and the mobilization of public opinion in behalf of Israel."

Moreover, he continued, "such elections would cause divisiveness among Zionists and sap human resources at the very time when the present emergency situation calls for solidarity and unified action in accordance with the decisions and manifesto issued by the Jerusalem solidarity conference."

Sultank focussed his opposition to elections on the fact that the greatest majority of Zionists are situated in the United States and that the holding of elections to the Zionist Congress would be both inconceivable and inadvisable amidst the turmoil of a Presidential election year. He felt that the representation to the World Zionist Congress be based on the same composition as the last Congress in 1972 and assume the character of a Solidarity Congress, in keeping with the precedent set during the convening of the Congress in 1957.

Sultank added that postponement is essential to afford Yosef Almog, newly elected chairman of the World Zionist Organization Executive, time and an opportunity to give undivided attention to the problems facing the Zionist movement.

JEWISH COLLEGE FACULTY MEMBERS IDENTIFYING MORE WITH JEWISH CAUSES

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA)--There has been "a 1000 percent increase in the identification of Jewish (college) faculty members with Jewish causes during the past 20 years, according to Prof. David Sidorsky of Columbia University. However, he noted, while they are now "overwhelmingly pro-Israel," Jewish faculty members are often reluctant to assume the leadership of pro-Israeli groups on campus. Dr. Allen Pollack, of Yeshiva University, disagreed and asserted that "public support for and identification with Jewish causes among this group is strong and growing."

The two were speakers at a panel discussion during the day-long annual meeting this week of the World Conference of Jewish Organizations (COJO) where Dr. Joachim Prinz, vice-president of the World Jewish Congress, was elected as chairman succeeding Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the American Section of the World Zionist Organization.

Rabbi Norman Frimer, national director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, during his address, expressed concern about the rising rate of intermarriage among Jewish college students, which he said now approached 40 percent. But he said this was "not the result of Jews seeking to leave the 'narrow confines of the Jewish community for the great world outside' but rather the result of living in an open society with the tradition of individual decision-making responsibility...."

Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, told the COJO meeting that Yugoslavia has become "one of the most violently anti-Semitic states in the United Nations, and had placed itself in the vanguard of those countries that are attacking Israel and the Jewish people in the world forum." He also warned of the "sinister design" of Syria, who he accused of conducting a "policy of expansion and annexation which seeks to take over complete control of the Palestine Liberation Organization and to rule Lebanon

through pro-consuls."

Mrs. Jacobson and David Blumberg, president of B'nai B'rith International, were elected co-chairmen of COJO. Yehuda Hellman, secretary-general of COJO, reported that the next meeting of the organization would take place in Israel in early July.

APPEAL FOR RELEASE OF WAR CRIMINALS

AMSTERDAM, March 17 (JTA)--The Netherlands government and the Justice Ministry have received a unanimous appeal from the Netherlands Council of Churches to release the last three German war criminals imprisoned in Holland on humanitarian grounds. The government has not yet responded.

The church group based its appeal on the argument that punishment should not have the character of permanent vengeance and that the three prisoners were now physical wrecks. They said that the argument made four years ago that freeing the Nazi war criminals would cause mental suffering to their surviving victims, no longer applied because there was now a psychiatric clinic headed by Prof. Johann Bastiaans which was established for the purpose of helping the victims of Nazi war crimes.

When the appeal was made on behalf of the war criminals in 1972, the government promised it would not release the prisoners without prior consultation with Parliament and with the various Dutch resistance organizations. The resistance groups, Jewish congregations and Communist spokesmen have all reacted sharply against the Council of Churches' appeal. Prof. Bastiaans has also rejected it. He observed that so far very few people have sought treatment in his clinic.

CONGRESSIONAL VIGIL ON SOVIET JEWRY

WASHINGTON, March 17 (JTA)--Fifty Congressmen have begun a four-month vigil of three speeches weekly in the House to help bring to national attention the plight of Soviet Jewish families forcibly separated by the Soviet government.

Each week three Congressmen will read messages into the Congressional Record on behalf of as many specific families. Statements are now scheduled for every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday that the House is in session through July. As the names of more families become available, additional members of Congress will be asked to participate in the vigil.

Rep. Joshua Eilberg (D.Pa.), chairman of the House subcommittee on immigration, and Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D.N.Y.), a committee member, opened the vigil yesterday with statements setting the purpose and theme of the vigil: to have the Soviet Union implement the commitment it made last year at the Helsinki conference to allow families to be reunited.

Rep. Sidney Yates (D.Ill.) made the first appeal for a family today, asking that Felix Aronovich, an engineer in Leningrad, be permitted to reunite with his mother, Mrs. Lubov Dinenzin, and his brother Viktor, who were allowed to emigrate in 1974 and now live in Chicago.

MAURICE BOLLE DEAD AT 85

BRUSSELS, March 17 (JTA)--Maurice Bolle, a war resistance figure, has died here at the aged of 85. Soon after the outbreak of World War II, Mr. Bolle organized escape routes to Britain, Spain and Switzerland. In 1942, he became one of the main leaders of the defense committee of Jews. He was rescued by U.S. troops from Buchenwald where he was sent by the Nazis in 1943.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

THE ISSUE OF "SPECIFIC ALLOWANCES"

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, March 17 (JTA)--"Specific Allowances," a euphemism for a long-standing practice that permitted certain government employees to receive higher wages than stipulated in their labor contracts without technically violating the contracts, is creating a new headache for Israel's hard-pressed Treasury and angry dissatisfaction in the ranks of the civil service--between those employees who get the "bonus" and those who do not.

The matter came to a head Sunday when the ministerial committee on wages decided to phase out "specific allowances" in compliance with the Finance Ministry's austerity economic program. The ministers acted on the recommendations of a special committee set up by Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz several months ago to examine "all aspects of the specific allowances" issue. The committee, headed by an economist, Prof. Haim Barkai, recommended that the allowances be abolished in two stages.

In a predictable reaction, the 20,000 government employees favored by the allowances, staged a four-hour protest strike Sunday morning, shutting down radio, television, post offices and the national insurance and income tax offices. Customs inspections at the airports and docks were suspended. Sunday night, Histadrut's civil servants union denounced the Barkai report and declared it "unacceptable."

The protestors made the point that as long as no detailed report exists on the wages and benefits received by employees of municipalities, state-owned companies and other public offices, the recommendations of the Barkai panel "can be implemented neither in letter nor in spirit."

Not All Are United On Issue

But the civil servants were far from united on the issue. There are some 40,000 government employees who do not get "specific allowances." Some among them are demanding equal treatment. Others are supporting the Barkai committee recommendations. The latter include Finance and Defense Ministry employees.

More than 50 Education Ministry workers in Jerusalem signed a petition urging the favored employees to forego their allowances along the lines recommended by the Barkai committee. Histadrut Secretary General Yeruham Meshel, moreover, committed himself in advance to abide by the Barkai recommendations and leaders of Histadrut's trade union department also agreed to accept it.

"Specific allowances" are described here as a typically Israeli invention. The original idea was to provide certain civil servants with increments because of the special nature of their jobs, longer working hours and other factors. Postal employees were granted a "specific allowance" and radio and television technicians, who are also employed by the Communications Ministry, demanded and got the same treatment. It was also granted to employees of the income tax department, the national insurance department and the customs service.

The end result was that 20,000 civil service workers were receiving between 3.4 and 15.5 percent higher remuneration than 40,000 of their fellow civil servants.

The situation reached an absurd dimension when the tax collectors demanded an additional

special allowance to compensate them for the "embarrassment" they allegedly suffered in carrying out their duties. In Israel, as elsewhere, nobody loves the tax collector and to be one was to wear a badge of "shame"--or so the tax people claimed. But such generosity is not possible in Israel's deteriorating economy and the Finance Ministry decided last year to take drastic measures to reduce government expenses.

Wide Open Country For A Day

The Barkai committee's recommendations do not mean an immediate cut-off of the allowances. The ministerial wages committee decided to appoint a second committee to study sectors outside civil service where special increments are paid to employees. The ministers also require that the Barkai report be brought to the attention of the Speaker of the Knesset and the State Comptroller who are answerable directly to the Knesset Finance Committee. Finally, the ministers appointed a subcommittee to examine certain supplementary recommendations made by the Barkai panel. All of this will take time.

Meanwhile, for four hours Sunday morning, Israel was a wide open country. With customs inspectors away from their posts attending protest meetings, smugglers had--or could have had--a field holiday. Whether any took advantage of the situation was not immediately known.

HERZOG DISPLAYS HIS IRISH

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA)--When thousands of Irish emigrants and descendants of Irish emigrants marched up Fifth Avenue today in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade, one of those watching from the official reviewing stand was another emigrant from the Emerald Isle, Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations.

Herzog was invited to attend the parade by its organizers, apparently because he was born in Dublin. His father, the late Rabbi Isaac Herzog, was Chief Rabbi of Ireland before he became Chief Rabbi of Israel. Rabbi Herzog was an ardent supporter of Irish independence and a close friend of the late Eamon de Valera, long-time Irish Prime Minister and later President.

NEW RABBINICAL COURT OPPOSED

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA)--The Committee for Jewish Survival (CJS), an Orthodox ad hoc committee, has charged that the Knesset is considering a proposal to create a special Rabbinical Court to consider conversions in Israel whose only purpose is to make conversions easier. "In accepting converts, there is only one unalterable procedure, conversion according to all the requirements of the Halacha," Michael Davidson, a spokesman for CJS, declared.

Davidson noted that the bill was introduced by a Labor Alignment Knesset member and has been sent to a Knesset committee with the agreement of the Minister of Religious Affairs, Yitzhak Rafael. A Rabbinical Court can only be set up by rabbis and not by the Knesset, Davidson said. "The unfortunate 'Who is a Jew' Law has already been responsible for many tragic errors," Davidson said. "Non-Jews are being registered as Jews. The chaos now reigning in Israel on the question of conversions is terrifying." The CJS seeks to have Israel's Law of Return amended so that only those converted according to Halacha can be considered Jewish.