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BOMB BLAST SEVERELY DAMAGES ROTHSCHILD BANK, POLICE SEEK POSSIBLE ARAB LINK

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 31 (JTA) -- A powerful bomb exploded last night outside a branch of the Rothschild Bank injuring two people and causing extensive damage to the bank and to adjacent buildings on the fashionable Rue du Faubourg St. Honore. Police Chief Pierre Sommeville said there were no clues as to the perpetrators yet. But police investigators are considering the possibility that the bombing was the work of an Arab group in retaliation for a pro-Israel rally held at the Paris fair grounds yesterday. (See story on page 2). A 24-hour police guard has been placed around other branches of the Rothschild Bank and at buildings housing Jewish organizations as a precautionary measure.

The newspaper Le Monde reported that it received an anonymous telephone call last night from a man who said the bombing was directed "against those who support Zionism." The caller claimed to represent a hitherto unknown group calling itself "The International Revolutionary Front." Police say the bombers could be a leftist anarchist group, possibly working with the Arabs.

The explosion occurred at 10:30 p.m. The bank was empty at the time. It is owned by Guy, Elie and Alain de Rothschild, all active in Jewish affairs. Baron Guy de Rothschild is president of the Central Jewish Welfare Funds (FSJU) and Baron Alain de Rothschild is president of the Council of Jewish Organizations of France (CRIF). Baron Elie de Rothschild is chairman of the French United Jewish Appeal.

The bank is located only a few blocks from the Elysee Palace, the official residence of French Presidents. The neighborhood is normally patrolled around the clock by police cars and plain clothes detectives.

FORD PROMISES NO CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL AFTER ELECTIONS

JERUSALEM, May 31 (JTA) -- President Ford told an Israeli newspaper editor that there will be no changes in his policy toward Israel after the American Presidential elections next November. He made that pledge in an otherwise "off the record" interview with Moshe Zak, deputy editor of Maariv, in the Oval Office of the White House late last week. The interview was published here yesterday.

Asked by Zak for an "on-the-record" message to his readers, the President said: "After the election there will be no change in the direction of my policy. There will be no change in my devotion to the aims I have several times defined -- momentum, good relations with Israel, my own friendly relations with Premier Rabin. There will be no shift from the fundamentals of my present policy."

Zak wrote that he was particularly impressed by Ford's detailed knowledge of the debate on the West Bank and renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights, both of which were occupying the UN Security Council when the interview took place.

KISSINGER, MRS. MEIR MEET IN N.Y. "EXCHANGED IDEAS" ON MIDEAST

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 31 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said today that the United States is waiting for replies from the Arab governments to its proposal some months ago that they enter into non-belligerency agreements with Israel. He made the disclosure to reporters when asked if the U.S. is planning a major initiative in the Middle East before the Presidential elections in November. Kissinger said the U.S. view was that the non-belligerency proposal was a major initiative.

He made his remarks following a 90-minute meeting with Israel's former Premier Golda Meir at her Waldorf Astoria Hotel suite here. Mrs. Meir is currently on a speaking tour of the U.S. Kissinger told reporters that they had "exchanged ideas" on the Middle East situation but nothing specific was discussed. Israel's Ambassador to Washington, Simcha Diniz, was present for part of the meeting. Later, it was learned, Kissinger and Mrs. Meir had a private talk.

ISRAELI GOVT. SATISFIED WITH RENEWAL OF UNDOF MANDATE WITHOUT POLITICAL STRINGS

JERUSALEM, May 31 (JTA) -- The Cabinet expressed satisfaction yesterday over renewal of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) mandate for another six months which was voted by the Security Council Friday night. Foreign Minister Yigal Allon formally reported the renewal to the Cabinet at its weekly session. Israeli leaders were particularly gratified that the extension of the peace-keeping force on the Golan Heights had no "political strings" attached.

Thirteen of the Council's 15 members voted the extension. China and Libya did not participate in the vote. Israel and Syria, neither of which is a member of the Security Council, did not ask to take part in the discussion which was conducted in a routine atmosphere free of tension. This was markedly different from the situation six months ago when Syria agreed to an extension at the 11th hour only after extracting a political price in the form of a Security Council debate on the Middle East with the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The debate, held in January, was boycotted by Israel.

Waldheim Warns Mideast Still Danger Spot

This time, Secretary General Kurt Waldheim apparently had little trouble gaining President Hafez Assad's assent to a renewal of the UNDOF mandate during a brief visit to Damascus last week. Before Friday's vote Waldheim told the Security Council that Assad had stressed he would not permit UNDOF to become "a permanent institution" in Syria. He said the Syrian leader explained that he was agreeing to a fourth renewal of UNDOF to provide more time for negotiations toward a Middle East settlement. Waldheim added that the situation in the Middle East "as a whole remains tense and unstable." He warned

that it would become "increasingly dangerous unless progress can be made." toward peace negotiations.

Waldheim went to Damascus with Israel's prior agreement to the extension of UNDOF provided there were no conditions. There were reports here today that the Secretary-General did in fact write a letter to Assad stating that renewal of the mandate would facilitate Security Council discussions on various Middle East problems including the Palestinian problem. But neither Waldheim nor the Syrians made any official references to such a letter. The Israeli view is that as long as the letter remains in the form of a private communication between Waldheim and Assad, without political or diplomatic consequences, Israel need not take official cognizance of it.

DAYAN DRAWS CHEERS AT GIANT SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL RALLY IN LONDON

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, May 31 (JTA) -- Israel's former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan electrified a crowd of nearly 20,000 who gathered at Earl's Court amphitheater yesterday in a powerful demonstration of solidarity with Israel. The rally, the largest of its kind ever held in Britain, was preceded by a parade of Jewish and Zionist youth groups from Albert Hall in West London where Dayan had released a flock of pigeons as a symbol of Israel's quest for peace.

The audience cheered and stamped when the former defense chief declared, "We shall go in establishing ourselves in Jerusalem, Hebron, Shiloh and on the River Jordan. We shall not betray the vision of Herzl, Weizmann and Ben Gurion by helping to establish a Palestinian state or an Arab kingdom in part of Jerusalem. Nor will Arafat and the PLO be allowed to come back and destroy Israel from within."

Dayan told the assemblage that their display of solidarity was gratifying. But, he added, "You are here not in solidarity with Israel but in solidarity with yourselves as members of the Jewish people and their 2,000 years-old prayers for the return to Israel and the creation of their own Jewish State." He said that above all, Jewish solidarity meant settling in Israel, learning the Hebrew language and serving in Israel's armed forces.

Critical Of Rabin Government

Dayan was more circumspect in his remarks at a press conference here Friday. He said that Israel should maintain a low profile on the West Bank, denounced the Gush Emunim squatters and acknowledged that he disagreed on almost everything with the leaders of Israel's government. He suggested that Israel keep its troops out of the Arab population centers such as Nablus and not intrude on West Bank Arabs.

Dayan supported Jewish settlements in the occupied territories but only in areas authorized by the government. He urged the Israeli government to be more assertive against militant, illegal settlement movements like the Gush.

According to Dayan, the recent disturbances on the West Bank did not herald the start of an Arab uprising. He reiterated his view that there is no room for a Palestine state and that the future of the West Bank must be settled in negotiations between Israel and Jordan. He dismissed PLO chieftain Yassir Arafat who, he said, did not speak for the people of the West Bank.

Replying to questions about his own political views, Dayan said he was not in agreement with Yitzhak Rabin as Premier, Yehoshua Rabinowitz as Finance Minister or Yigal Allon as Foreign Minister. He did not mention Defense Minister Shimon Peres, a leader of Dayan's own Rafi wing of the Labor Party. Dayan charged that the Rabin government had made a mistake in agreeing to the second disengagement accord with Egypt last September without gaining an explicit Egyptian commitment to end the state of war. But he said he was cautiously hopeful that Egypt and Jordan would not become embroiled in war with Israel in the near future. He thought both of those countries preferred to deal with Israel in the political arena.

50,000 FRENCH JEWS CAN'T BE WRONG, HOLD MARATHON RALLY FOR ISRAEL

PARIS, May 31 (JTA) -- More than 50,000 Jews and others from all over France attended a marathon "Twelve Hours For Israel" fair and rally at the central fair grounds here yesterday. The event, organized by the French United Jewish Appeal and the French Jewish Central Welfare Fund (FSJU), was described as the largest demonstration of solidarity with Israel ever held in this country at a time when Israel was not at war.

Jewish organizations chartered trains and buses to bring thousands from places as distant as Lyons and Marseilles. Popular entertainers performed, choirs sang and political figures lectured and held round-table discussions of the Middle East situation and Franco-Israeli ties. Former Premier Pierre Mendes-France was among the participants. The fair's organizers said they were gratified by the turn-out, especially the large participation of teen-agers and young adults.

ARAB AND DRUZE MKs ANNOUNCE BREAK WITH LABOR ALIGNMENT

By Gil Sedan and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, May 31 (JTA) -- An Israeli Arab and a Druze leader who comprise the "Progress and Development" Knesset faction closely linked to the Labor Alignment here announced that they were breaking their ties with Labor and forming an independent faction of their own. A formal notification of their intentions was sent to the Alignment's Knesset whip, Moshe Wertman, by Druze Sheikh Jaber Muadi and the former Mayor of Nazareth, Seif-A-Din Zuabi.

Muadi occupies the post of Deputy Minister of Agriculture. He did not say in the letter that he intended to relinquish it. But he and Zuabi complained that they were consistently overlooked by the Labor Alignment Leadership and never consulted. They noted that when Premier Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Yigal Allon and former Foreign Minister Abba Eban held meetings with Israeli Arab leaders, "We were not invited and were left outside. Things are done without our being asked, as if we do not exist," they wrote.

The two MKs said their move was precipitated by the recent disturbances in Israel's Arab sector which resulted in the deaths of six Arabs in clashes with security forces last March 30. They stated, in fact, that it was only the tense situations that prevented them from announcing their break-away earlier. Muadi and Zuabi reportedly were piqued over a meeting

Rabin and Allon held last week with another Arab group calling itself "Change and Co-existence." The latter group, which works within the Labor Alignment, claims to represent Israeli Arabs in the Knesset and is viewed as a rival by Muadi and Zuabi.

ISRAELI ARABS CALL FOR PASSIVE RESISTANCE TO GOVERNMENT LAND EXPROPRIATIONS

TEL AVIV, May 31 (JTA) -- An Israeli Arab group announced over the weekend that it would adopt tactics of passive resistance to government expropriation of Arab lands in Galilee and that it would take its case to world opinion abroad. The Communist-sponsored Committee for the Defense of Arab Lands said it would dispatch representatives to foreign countries to explain its position.

The plan of action adopted at a meeting of Arab notables in Nazareth calls for return of expropriation notices to the government and sitting down in front of advancing bulldozers if the government attempts to clear the land. The committee is affiliated with the pro-Moscow Rakah Communist faction. Another left-wing group, Moked, held a meeting in Nazareth on the same subject but managed to attract only 500 Arabs from nearby villages and a handful of Jewish supporters.

Meanwhile a recently formed Druze Zionist group has called for total integration of the Druze community into Israeli life. As a first step they want special Druze units in the army abolished and Druze soldiers integrated with other Israeli army units. "We have a treaty with the Jews and we are Israelis for better or worse," a spokesman for the group said. The Druze, a non-Arab Moslem sect, have supported Israel since its inception.

QUEEN SOPHIA OF SPAIN GUEST AT JEWISH SABBATH SERVICES

PARIS, May 31 (JTA) -- Queen Sophia of Spain attended traditional Sabbath Eve services at the Madrid Synagogue Friday night, at the invitation of the local Jewish community, according to a report reaching here. It was the first time in modern history that Spanish Royalty visited a Jewish house of worship. The occasion was also Queen Sophia's first public appearance since her husband, Juan Carlos, assumed the throne last year after the death of Generalissimo Francisco Franco.

The Queen, accompanied by numerous Court officials and government advisors, was welcomed at the Synagogue by Chief Rabbi Felipe Haluoca and representatives of Spanish Jewry. A special prayer was recited in honor of the Royal Family and the Spanish people. The Queen's visit was widely covered in the Spanish news media. It was viewed as an indication of the government's intention to improve relations with Spanish Jewry and to help Spain gain a more liberal image abroad. According to Jewish organizations there are some 15,000 Jews in Spain, concentrated mainly in Madrid and Barcelona where synagogues and communal organizations exist and in Valencia.

GEZA SEIFERT, LEADER OF HUNGARIAN JEWRY, DIES AT 70

By Andrew Suemegh

BUDAPEST, May 31 (JTA) -- Geza Seifert, chairman of the Hungarian Jewish Community for the last 12 years and one of the foremost Jewish personalities of Eastern Europe, died here Saturday at the age of 70. The mass circulation daily, Magyar Nemzet, described him as "An eminent

lawyer and for many years one of the best leaders of the Jewish community had" who "played an important role in steering the Jews in being faithful both to their traditions and teachings and to their country."

Mr. Seifert organized the surviving Jewish community of Hungary after World War II. He negotiated an agreement with the State in 1948 which recognized the Jewish community as a legal entity for the first time in Hungarian history and explicitly granted it equal rights with the Christian church. He was also instrumental in setting up the Budapest Rabbinical School and obtained government approval for the attendance there of rabbinical students from the Soviet Union. There are no rabbinical seminaries in the USSR.

Mr. Seifert was rare among East European Jews in that he maintained extensive contacts with Jewish communities in the West. He recently visited the United States and Canada and held meetings with rabbis in New York, New Jersey and Montreal. He also maintained excellent relations with the Hungarian government and the ruling Communist Party. But he was, nevertheless, outspoken. At the last meeting of the Community he attended, he warned that anti-Semitism continues to exist in Hungary "among certain backward people." He stressed however that "There is no danger for the Jews because the State considers anti-Semitism a crime and permits (Jews) to leave Hungary for Israel if they so desire."

KAREL EDERSHEIM, DUTCH ZIONIST LEADER, DEAD AT 82

AMSTERDAM, May 31 (JTA) -- Karel J. Edersheim, a Dutch Zionist leader who served as Israel's representative at The Hague for two years after the creation of the State, died here last week at the age of 82. Mr. Edersheim, a lawyer, also served for a number of years as the Jewish Agency's representative in Holland. He was regarded as Dutch Jewry's most respected "elder statesman."

PALESTINIAN TERRORIST GROUP RECRUITS ARAB GIRLS

TEL AVIV, May 31 (JTA) -- The Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a terrorist group headed by Naif Hawatmeh, has been recruiting girl students for various missions on the West Bank. These activities were disclosed at the trial of 22-year-old Wadjdah Ayash, of Jenin, who was sentenced by a Nablus military tribunal to two years imprisonment for membership in the Front.

Ms. Ayash was the fifth Arab girl student tried and sentenced this year for terrorist-related activities. Last month, Saniyeh Saliman, a Nablus student at Amman University, got a three year prison term on similar charges. Hawatmeh reportedly recruited the girls at Arab universities and paid their expenses while he trained them for anti-Israel missions. Ms. Ayash, for example, was sent into Israel with documents including instructions for terrorists active in the Samaria region.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Newly licensed drivers in Israel exceed the number of registered vehicles by an almost 2 to 1 ratio, according to figures released Monday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

AMERICAN INDUSTRIALIST SPEAKS OF INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 31, (JTA) -- "Potential American investors -- including, until recently, Abe Goodman -- haven't fully appreciated the potentialities of Israel as an area for investment. Israel is small in size and population, but it is big in terms of scientific and technological skills. In fact it is second to none in these fields."

The speaker was Abe Goodman, a New York industrialist and philanthropist, head of H, Goodman and Sons, manufacturer of "Goody" trademark hair-grips, bobby-pins and other ladies hair appurtenances. Goodman, in Israel since early May and "busy every minute of the time," as he attests, is in the advanced stages of a plan to open a machine tools plant at Holon, outside Tel Aviv, which will manufacture tools for his four giant factories in Georgia, New Jersey and Florida. If the plan works out well, Goodman predicts expansion and already has his eye on another site at Ramleh) it will eventually export machine tools to industries other than his own.

Israel's plants could actually manufacture the hair appurtenances themselves, to international standards and specifications. But until now this has proved uneconomical as a small attempt by Goodman at Ashdod demonstrated. The Israeli market is simply not big enough, Goodman explained. Now, however, with the new Israel-ECC (European Economic Community) tariff agreement, it may be possible to open up markets in Europe for such Israeli products.

But this is all in the future. The immediate plan calls for the Holon plant to farm out work to the myriad small workshops around the country, guiding quality and specification, assembling the parts in Holon, and shipping them to the U.S. for installation in Goodman's factories. Tools involved in both the metal and plastic "Goody" products will be manufactured in Israel. The Israeli government, says Goodman, "gives generous support in encouraging export... There's lots of room for American businessmen to move in there -- and I'm talking in terms of industry, not charity."

He does not blame the Israeli government, he says, for the lack of awareness among American industrialists of investment opportunities here. The information is made available, the promotion is fairly good. "But people just don't take the time to get acquainted with the opportunities." So far, says Goodman, he has not run into the legendary Israeli red tape. His cousin is Moshe Baram, Minister of Labor, and he has spent pleasant hours socializing with him on this visit. He has not -- yet at any rate -- had to call on Baram to bail him out of a tangle of red tape, the reputation of which alone often deters overseas investors.

Goodman, who is treasurer of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, is well known among Jewish leaders and philanthropists. Just how well known was touchingly demonstrated during the interview. At the next table sat Sir Isaac Wolfson, the leader of British Jewry. The two men had not noticed each other, but when their eyew met -- their faces lit up, and they stood to warmly embrace.

Active for years in the Zionist Organization of America, Goodman is perhaps best known for his sponsorship of the Hebrew Arts School in New York. An "Abraham Goodman House" -- a center for Jewish communal and intellectual activities -- will soon rise on a site owned by the school at

Lincoln Center. One section of the House will be devoted to a permanent exhibition on the Nazi Holocaust. Goodman met with officials of Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and toured the Memorial in Jerusalem to learn effective ideas for the New York project.

AMERICAN JEWS "AN ENDANGERED SPECIES" BECAUSE OF ASSIMILATION, LOW BIRTH RATE

BOSTON, May 31 (JTA) -- A leading authority on American Jewry last night characterized Jews in this country as "an endangered species" because of a high rate of assimilation and a low birth rate.

Speaking to some 1,000 persons at the 78th annual meeting of the National Conference of Jewish Communal Service (NCJCS), Milton Himmelfarb, director of informational research for the American Jewish Committee, said American Jewry faces extinction due to its high rate of assimilation into the larger non-Jewish society, which by and large, has been good to its Jewish citizens. At the same time Himmelfarb said American Jews are "committing mass suicide" because of their low birth rate. He recommended that every Jewish family in the country have at least three children.

As a reaction to assimilation, Himmelfarb predicted an increase in proselytizing by Jewish groups and organizations. Jews should stop feeling uncomfortable with this or other activities that are in the interest of Jewish survival, he declared.

Samuel Katz, the NCJCS' outgoing president, said Jewish communal services needs to incorporate the techniques and findings of the behavioral sciences while continuing to intensify the Jewish commitment and understanding of the professionals in the field. "The research findings and new methodology which are being put into practice by business, industry, government and think tanks, are scarcely to be found in the field of Jewish communal service," according to Katz, director of the AJ Committee's community service department. "The time has come when there should be a duet between the Jewish component of our work and our practical skills enriched by the techniques and findings of the behavioral scientists."

BUDGET CUTBACK FORCES 'HABIMA' TO RETRENCH

TEL AVIV, May 31 (JTA) -- Habima, Israel's national theater, is in severe financial straits and will be forced to retrench beginning in July, it was learned today. The internationally prominent troupe will dismiss 30 administrative employees and stage hands and will close down a small theater it has maintained for years. Seven actors were let go earlier this year reducing the performing company to 45 permanent and contract artists.

Habima has been operating on a budget of IL 12 million a year, of which IL 8 million was provided by the government. The government announced recently that it cannot increase the subsidy. Only about IL 2 million is realizable from ticket sales. Habima aims to reduce its budget to IL 10 million. Other cultural institutions supported by the government are also in trouble. These include the Haifa Orchestra, the Israeli Opera and Bimot, a small theatrical group.