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GUNMEN SEIZE B'NAI B'RITH BUILDING

WASHINGTON, March 9 (JTA)--Armed gunmen stormed the B'nai B'rith building this morning and seized 100 hostages. "Police cordoned off the area and surrounded the building with a task force. At the same time, some 15 hostages were reported being held at the Islamic Center, a mile away and about two blocks from the Israel Embassy. No immediate demands were announced by the gunmen at either building. (See full story P. 3.)

CARTER: ISRAEL'S DEFENSE

CAPABILITIES MAY HAVE TO EXTEND BEYOND RECOGNIZED BORDERS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 9 (JTA)--President Carter said today that Israel's defense capabilities may have to extend "beyond the permanent and recognized borders" that may be agreed upon in a peace settlement between Israel and the Arab states.

While Carter said he did not want to be specific about this, he said it could mean an international force, a line that spreads 20 kilometers or so in a demilitarized zone or outposts consisting either of electronic equipment "or perhaps personnel outposts as were established in the Sinai region as a result of the Egyptian and Israeli agreement."

Answering questions at a wide ranging press conference, Carter said "I am not trying to act as the one to lay down an ultimate settlement. I don't know what an ultimate settlement will be." But he indicated that he believed it would involve "minor adjustments to the pre-1967 border but that is a matter for Israel and her neighbors to decide between themselves."

Carter stressed that in mid-May after he has a chance to talk to the leaders of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, he will have a more clear idea of what are the positions of the parties to the conflict. Following is the text of the questions and answers on the Middle East issue during today's press conference:

Not Just Semantics

Q. Mr. President, you talked about defensible borders lately and what that means in regard to the Middle East. Could I ask you, sir, do you feel it would be appropriate in a Middle East peace settlement for the Israelis to keep some of the occupied land they took during the 1967 war in order to have secure borders?

A. The defensible border phrase, the secure border phrase are obviously just semantics. I think it's a relatively insignificant development and a description of possible settlement in the Middle East to talk about these things as a distinction. Recognized borders have to be mutual. The Arab nations and the Israeli nation have to agree on permanent and recognized borders where sovereignty is legal as mutually agreed. Defense lines may or may not conform in the foreseeable future to those legal borders.

There may be extensions of it--Israeli defense capabilities beyond the permanent and recognized borders. I think this distinction is one

that is now recognized by Israeli leaders. The definition of orders on a geographic basis is one that remains to be determined but I think it is important for the world to begin to see and for the interested parties to begin to see there can be a distinction between the two--the ability of Israel to defend herself by international agreement or by the sometime placement of Israeli forces themselves or by monitoring stations as had been the case in the Sinai beyond the actual sovereignty borders as mutually agreed by Israel and her neighbor.

Would Like To See End Of Belligerence

Q. Does that mean international zones between the countries?

A. International zones could very well be part of an agreement. And I think that I can see, in a growing way, a step-by-step process where there might be a mutual agreement that the ultimate settlement, even including the border delineations would be at a certain described point in an interim state; maybe two years, four years, eight years, or more, there would be a mutual demonstration of friendship and an end to the declaration of state of war.

I think what Israel would like to have is what we would like to have--a termination of belligerence towards Israel by her neighbors, a recognition of Israel's right to exist, the right to exist in peace, the opening up of borders with free trade, tourist travel, cultural exchange between Israel and her neighbors, in other words, a stabilization of the situation in the Middle East without a constant threat to Israel's existence by her neighbors. And this would involve substantial withdrawal of Israel's present control over territories. Now where that withdrawal might end, I don't know.

I would guess there would be some minor adjustments in the 1967 borders but that still remains to be negotiated but I think this is going to be a long, tedious process. We are going to mount a major effort in our own government in 1977 to bring the parties to Geneva. Obviously, any agreement has to be between the parties concerned. We will act as an intermediary when our good offices will serve well, but I am not trying to predispose our own nation's attitude towards what might be the ultimate details of the agreement that might mean so much to world peace.

Three Basic Elements

Q. I would like to try to clarify the Israeli situation if I might. A moment ago in answering the question you spoke of the possibility of substantial withdrawal of Israeli control over territory and then just a few seconds later spoke of the possibility of minor territorial concessions by the Israelis. What is it exactly that you have in mind here? Are you really talking about some big withdrawals or are you talking only about minor withdrawals?

A. I don't think I used the word minor withdrawals. I think there might be minor adjustments to the pre-1967 borders but that is a matter for Israel and her neighbors to decide between themselves. And I believe that we will

know by I would say the middle of May much more clearly the positions of the interested parties. I have not yet met nor talked to the leaders of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia to a lesser direct participation degree. I will meet with all these leaders between now and the middle of May. And I don't want to try to define in any specific terms the exact delineation of borders, but I think this is obviously one of the most serious problems.

There are three basic elements: one is an ultimate commitment to complete peace in the Middle East. Secondly, border determinations which are highly controversial and have not yet been defined by either side. And third, dealing with the Palestinian question. And I am not trying to act as the one to lay down an ultimate settlement. I don't know what an ultimate settlement will be. But these matters will be clearly and openly debated within our own country and within the countries involved. And I think I have described as best as I can my own position.

Q. I would like to go just a little bit further in your discussion of the defensible border issue. If I understood you correctly you are talking about the possibility of something like an Israeli defense line along the Jordan River and perhaps at some point in the Sinai Desert and perhaps at some point on the Golan Heights that would be defense forces but not legal borders. Have I understood correctly that your feeling is that the Israelis are going to have to have some kind of defense forces along the Jordan River and in those other places?

A. You have added a great deal to what I have said. In the first place, I did not mention any particular parts of the geography around Israel. And I did not define the defense capability to Israeli forces. These might very well be international forces. It might very well be a line that spreads a broad 20 kilometers or more where demilitarization is guaranteed on both sides. It might very well consist of outposts, electronics or perhaps personnel outposts as were established in the Sinai region as a result of the Egyptian and Israeli agreement.

I am not going to try to get more specific and say what will or will not be the case but that is a possibility that might lead to the alleviation of tension there and is one about which I will be discussing with the representatives from the Arab countries when they come.

ALMOGI SAYS THERE IS NO ABATEMENT IN DROP-OUT AMONG SOVIET JEWRY By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 9 (JTA)--Yosef Almogi, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, said today that the incidence of drop-outs among Jews who leave the Soviet Union is showing no abatement. On the other hand, he said, aliyah from France was encouraging and, even more so, the volunteer movement which, he said, is yielding between one-quarter and one-third of the olim. He said he expected the aliyah rate to remain at about 20,000 in 1977, the same as last year, unless unforeseen developments change the picture.

Speaking to reporters in his office here, Almogi disclosed that the drop-out rate ranges between 49-58 percent of Soviet Jewish emigres. He said that 1300 Jews left the USSR in January of whom 708 or 58 percent did not go to Israel. In February, 1000 Jews left the USSR but 523 re-

mained in Europe awaiting visas to go to countries other than Israel.

Almogi said that 15,000 volunteers came to Israel in 1976, compared to 11,000 the previous year. Volunteers are persons who spend a year or longer working in Israel while they decide whether to remain here permanently. Almogi said that the entire student body and faculty of the Yeshiva Hafez Haim in the U.S. will come to Israel for a year with the possibility of becoming olim.

Almogi will attend the meeting of the presidium of the Brussels Conference for Soviet Jewry, of which he is chairman, and its Steering Committee which convenes in Geneva next Monday. He will also attend a meeting of the World Jewish Congress Executive in Geneva to deal with the current situation confronting Jews in the USSR, Syria and other Arab countries.

Almogi pointed out that these meetings coincide with a renewed assault on Soviet Jewish aliyah activists by the Soviet authorities. He referred to attempts to link Jewish activists with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and mounting harassment of Jews seeking exit visas. According to Almogi, the atmosphere in the Soviet Union now can be compared to the climate that prevailed in the early 1950s, the time of the alleged "doctors plot" and the purge of Jewish intellectuals under Stalin.

KOL WITHDRAWS FROM ELECTIONS

TEL AVIV, March 9 (JTA)--Moshe Kol, veteran leader of the Independent Liberal Party, announced that he will not stand for re-election to the Knesset on May 17. His place at the head of the ILP list went to his Cabinet colleague, Minister-Without-Portfolio Gideon Hausner, who was selected in a secret ballot by the ILP's newly elected Central Committee at the close of its convention here.

But Kol, who serves as Minister of Tourism in the coalition government of Premier Yitzhak Rabin, made it clear that his retirement from the Knesset does not mean he is ending his political career and does not preclude his serving in a future government. Israel law does not require a Cabinet minister to sit in the Knesset.

Kol withdrew from the elections apparently because of disension within ILP ranks and demands by some party members for "new faces." He said his future involvement in ILP affairs would depend on a changed atmosphere in the party. Itzhak Golan, another ILP MK of many years, has also withdrawn from the election list. He said he acted to make way for younger members. The ILP holds only four seats in the present Knesset.

Meanwhile, the Labor Party suffered another defection when Mordechai Ben Porat, a Knesset member for 12 years, announced that he was leaving the party because he could not support its platform plank calling for territorial concessions in "all sectors" in exchange for peace. The plank was inserted at the insistence of Mapam.

Ben Porat, a supporter of former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, said he might join an opposition party or form a new party in association with others. He will complete his present Knesset term, however, as a one-man faction under the title Yachdav (Together).

100 HOSTAGES HELD AT B'NAI B'RITH BUILDING BY FOUR GUNMEN; 10 ARE INJURED AND ONE DIED; ISLAMIC CENTER AND DISTRICT BUILDING ALSO SEIZED

By Joseph Polakoff, David Friedman and William Saphire

WASHINGTON, March 9 (JTA)--Unidentified gunmen seized the B'nai B'rith national headquarters building near the center of Washington today, the Islamic Center, about a mile away, and the District Building (City Hall) taking hostages at each site and leaving a trail of bloodshed which resulted in numerous injuries and one death.

Four gunmen carrying weapons in violin and guitar cases, stormed the B'nai B'rith headquarters at about 11 a.m. and, according to latest reports, were holding between 50-100 hostages in the upper stories of the building. Ten injured hostages were released later. Four were rushed to George Washington Hospital and seven were treated at the nearby Gramercy Hotel.

The four, who were not immediately identified, were said to include one with a gunshot wound in the head, one with a stab wound, one who was pistol-whipped and another who suffered an apparent heart attack. At least two hostages seriously injured at the District Building were identified as a security guard and Councilman Marion Barry. According to a confirmed report, one has died.

B'nai B'rith President David M. Blumberg and the organization's new executive director, Daniel Thursz, left a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations with Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin when news of the assault was received and rushed to the B'nai B'rith headquarters site. Mrs. Betty Shapiro, past president of the B'nai B'rith Women's organization was also at the scene.

Police believe that the seizures of the B'nai B'rith building and the Islamic Center, two blocks from the Israeli Embassy, may be related but they have determined no link yet with the District Building seizure.

Object To Film About Mohammad

According to police, the gunmen may belong to the Hanafi Moslems, an offshoot of the Black Muslim sect. They are not known to have made any demands but hostages who have been released from the B'nai B'rith building indicated that their rampage was over objections to the film "Mohammad--Messenger of God," a United Artists release that opened in several cities today.

One freed hostage reportedly said one of his captors had threatened "we will kill people" who see the movie. (United Artists announced today that it was withdrawing the film, a lavish production reportedly financed by Middle Eastern Arab interests. The Rivoli Theater on Broadway in the Times Square district of Manhattan, where the film opened, was evacuated and patrons, protected by heavy police cordons, lined up at the box-office to receive refunds.) It was reported that Washington police asked United Artists to withdraw the film.

Thursz told a Jewish Telegraphic Agency reporter late today that there are at least 100 hostages on the eighth floor of the B'nai B'rith building and perhaps as many as 30 others have hidden themselves in the building. He said the staff consists of 150-160 people, besides construction workers at the site. Thursz said that "to the best of my knowledge everybody is safe at this

point." He said the staff includes Jews, Catholics, Protestants, Blacks and Orientals. "I have no idea why they picked on B'nai B'rith," Thursz said of the gunmen. He said police were negotiating with them and the only demand they made was that the movie be stopped.

Herded To The Eighth Floor

It was reported that the gunmen at the B'nai B'rith building went from office to office removing personnel and herding them to the eighth floor of the building. The personnel were each questioned by the gunmen but there was no immediate indication of what the questioning was about. People in the building were reportedly ordered to paint the windows with opaque color so that the gunmen could not be seen from outside.

It was impossible throughout the day to reach the B'nai B'rith building by telephone. Calls made from the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League in New York using the private wire and the JTA on the regular number were unanswered.

The B'nai B'rith headquarters, about seven blocks from the White House, houses the agency's national headquarters, the ADL, the B'nai B'rith Women's offices and the B'nai B'rith Jewish Museum. Traffic was barred within a three-mile radius of the building. Scores of police vehicles, fire engines and ambulances were in the vicinity of the building and police helicopters hovered overhead. The police bomb squad was also called but its purpose was not immediately known. Police sharpshooters were stationed on roofs of nearby buildings.

Many high B'nai B'rith officials were believed not to be in the building since they had been scheduled to attend a special convocation at the Kennedy Center where Rabin was to receive an honorary Doctorate of Law from the American University.

Shortly after the seizure, a police spokesman described the leader of the gunmen as a person with an Arabic or Moslem-sounding name. The attackers apparently reached the building in a rented panel truck. One source said the truck bore Arabic lettering. Another said it was owned by an Arab.

While police were trying to deal with the situation at the B'nai B'rith building, gunmen seized the Islamic Center and held 15 hostages. There was no immediate report on whether any of the hostages there were injured. The center is a tourist attraction because of its mosque which can be seen from many parts of the city.

Late this evening police reported that a reporter who entered the District Building while it was seized was shot and killed by the gunmen.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Some 130 members of the pro-Israeli Japanese Christian Makuya sect are visiting Israel to mark the 10th anniversary of Jerusalem's reunification. The group marched through downtown Jerusalem in a Salute to Israel Parade.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--A plan to mark the 30th anniversary of Israel's independence next year by planting a Jewish children's forest near Jerusalem was presented by Moshe Rivlin, chairman of the Jewish National Fund, at the meeting of the JNF board of directors. The Ministry of Education has already given its blessing to this project.

3 SOVIET JEWS ACCUSED OF BEING CIA AGENTS TO SUE DEAFAMERS

NEW YORK, March 9 (JTA)--Vladimir Slepak, Alexander Lerner and Anatoly Sharansky, the three Soviet Jewish refusenik leaders denounced in last Friday's Izvestia as being paid CIA agents, have declared they are bringing a defamation of character suit against their accusers, according to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

The trio's targets are the editors of Izvestia, the two writers of the article, and Dr. Sanya Lipavsky, whose purported "letter" was the basis of the attack. The venue of the suit is Moscow's Frunze district court, the area where the paper is published.

The SSSJ and UCSJ also reported that Vitaly Rubin, also accused in the Izvestia article of being a CIA agent, has issued a categorical denial from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where he now lives. The discussions with American Embassy officials and foreign correspondents, he said, "were not secret and had the character of normal, friendly contact."

Continuing, Rubin said: "But we know that the KGB hated these meetings. If the so-called 'letter' of Lipavsky is not a fraud, then to force him to sign such a document, the KGB would have to apply to him exceptional means of pressure. The trumped-up stories have the aims of compromising Jewish activists and dissidents as American spies, stopping friendly contacts between Soviet citizens and foreign correspondents, and intimidating Jews in contact with Jewish activists."

HERZOG SLAMS UGANDA PRESIDENT

CHICAGO, March 9 (JTA)--Uganda's President Idi Amin has diverted world attention from the murder of thousands of Black Christians by creating artificial crises--a technique similar to that being used by Arab states to cloud the real issues in the Middle East, according to Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations. In a luncheon address here before the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago (not the United Jewish Appeal as previously reported), Herzog also said that the degree of American Jewry's support for humanitarian programs in Israel is considered an important indicator of Israel's strength by governments both friendly and unfriendly to Israel.

The audience of more than 250 leaders of Chicago's Jewish community responded enthusiastically to Herzog's call to let the "echoes of our voices and our concern resound so that generations to come will remember us with pride." Special Gifts chairman Edgar L. Cadden reported substantial giving increments that brought the 1977 Jewish United Fund-Israel Emergency Fund campaign total to \$11.5 million.

Herzog was introduced by Jewish United Fund general chairman William Levine who told the gathering that because of inflation, contributions would have to be increased 30 percent in order to maintain the level of local and overseas services provided by JUF locally, nationally and overseas in 1976.

In his address, Herzog charged that Amin used American citizens to draw attention from the "slaughter of tens of thousands of Africans." He pointed out that Amin used the same technique following reports that he authorized the murder of 73-year-old Mrs. Dora Block, a hostage at Entebbe who reportedly had been in a Ugandan

hospital at the time of the Israeli rescue. In that instance Amin created the illusion of an impending war with Kenya, Herzog said.

In the Middle East, the Arabs have attempted to parallel this technique by posing Arab-Israeli strife as the barrier to peace, whereas the real problem is "the inherent immaturity and instability of Arab governments," Herzog said. As evidence, he pointed to recent inter-Arab wars in Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, Sudan and Jordan.

Herzog cited other hostilities, such as those between Egypt and Libya, between the PLO and various Arab states, and in a post-luncheon press conference he enumerated a total of 70 revolutions in Arab lands (25 of them successful) since Israel was established in 1948. This instability makes it difficult for Israel to negotiate a peace, since there is no guarantee that the governments who sign a treaty will be there to observe it, Herzog said.

KAHANE TO ORGANIZE GROUP TO OPPOSE ISRAELI POLICY ON THE WEST BANK

NEW YORK, March 9 (JTA)--Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of the Jewish Defense League and head of the new Israeli party, Kach (Thus), announced today that he is launching a nationwide drive in this country to organize a group called Af Sha'al (Not One Inch) dedicated to opposing any Israeli attempt to give up "the liberated lands of Eretz Yisrael."

Kahane, who is in this country for two weeks in order to raise funds for his Knesset election campaign, said the new organization intends to collect 100,000 signatures "to oppose any further retreat by the Israeli government under U.S. pressure, this time including Judea and Samaria." At the same time, the JDL leader called upon Jews in this country and in Israel to "pledge civil disobedience to prevent retreat from the liberated Jewish territories."

Kahane also announced that "in order to strengthen opposition to retreat" two settlement groups, one in Israel and the other in the U.S., for the purpose of attempting to settle in Samaria "in defiance of governmental ban." The groups will be known as Garin Af Sha'al (the "not one inch" settlers) and will be formally launched Saturday night at a rally at Hunter College.

In announcing these moves, Kahane said that Torah law takes precedence over that of a Knesset or government decision "that is in opposition to Halacha (which) demands unlimited Jewish settlement in every part of the Land of Israel."

PROTEST AGAINST MATZOZ BAN

TORONTO, March 9 (JTA)--David Satok, national chairman of the Canadian Committee for Soviet Jewry, sent a message to Soviet Ambassador Alexander Yakovlev protesting against the Soviet ban on the importation of matzoh as an infringement on religious freedom. In a message to Postmaster General Jean Jacques Blais, Satok called attention to the Soviet Union's violation of international postal union regulations.

At the same time he urged External Affairs Minister Donald Jamieson to view the ban as contrary to the Helsinki agreement. Meanwhile, rabbis and Jewish community leaders throughout Canada are asking their congregations and members of organizations to protest to Members of Parliament and to the Soviet Embassy.