OPIAdaily news bulletin

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

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XLIV - 60th Year

Friday, April 22, 1977

No. 78

Tragedy Mars Yom Ha'atzmaut

8 DIE, 35 RESCUED IN WORST CIVILIAN

BOAT ACCIDENT IN ISRAEL'S HISTORY

By Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, April 21 (JTA)—At least eight persons, including three children, drowned today and four are missing after an excursion boat carrying about 50 passengers capsized in Haifa Bay. Four of the known dead appear to be members of the same family. About 35 people were rescued by fishing boats and Israeli Navy craft or managed to swim ashore. Seventeen of the rescued were hospitalized. A search for the missing was called off at dusk but is expected to be resumed by the Navy tomorrow morning.

The tragedy, which marred Independence Day celebrations, was the worst civilian boat accident in Israel's history. Seven of the dead have been identified. They are: Haya Kaufmann, 26, of Haifa; Ammar Assi, 45, Mufid Assi, 30, Tami Assi, 10 and Zuheida Assi, 8, all of the Arab village of Kafar Kara near Afule; Fatme Abdallah, 20, of the Arab village of JalJulya near Petach Tikva; and Luvana Yassid, 3, of Tamra village near Acre. The body of the eighth victim was not immediately identified.

The boat, owned by a Haifa fisherman, made several excursions during the day carrying holiday-makers along the picturesque shoreline of Acre across the bay from Haifa. It was about to return to Haifa when it capsized for reasons still unknown. Many of the passengers were trapped beneath the boat, but those who could swim were able to save themselves.

No other accidents were reported during Independence Day, which hundreds of thousands of Israelis spent picnicking on the beaches and woodlands. (See related Independence Day stories P. 4)

JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS DO NOT FEEL MENACED BY KKK IN AREA BUT ANGERED BY PUBLICITY OVER-KILL By William Saphire

NEW YORK, April 21 (JTA)--Leaders of Far Rockaway's Jewish community said today that they were caught completely by surprise by the disclosure of the existence of a Ku Klux Klan chapter in the Rockaways, made by the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League yesterday. Officials of the predominently Orthodox, middle-class community of 35-40,000 told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that they did not feel "menaced" by the presence of the racist organization in their vicinity.

But they said they were very angry that the ADL had failed to inform or consult with the local community, which includes four B'nai B'rith lodges, about its investigation before the story broke in yesterday's New York Post. Sidney Lipstein, president of the Jewish Community Council of Far Rockaway, said he had expressed a "strong protest" to Howard Weinstein, New York regional director of the ADL, No ADL official was immediately available for comment.

The Rockaways comprise a seashore peninsula in the borough of Queens with an overall population of about 144,000. Jewish sources esti-

mated that as much as 80 percent of the population is Jewish but Jews are now concentrated at the eastern end of the peninsula, near the Nassau County line. The rest of the peninsula. once a popular resort of hotels and summer bungalows, has deteriorated over the past two decades.

Community leaders contacted by the JTA seemed less disturbed by the fact that a small KKK chapter was active in the Rockaways than by the damage the disclosure could do the image of the community.—Both Lipstein and Marvin Leff, president of Young Israel of Far Rockaway, stressed that the community was "stable" and that the Jewish families, mostly home owners, were "committed" to staying there and were, in fact, attracting new Tamilies from other parts of the city. There are about 12 Orthodox synagogues and two Conservative, but no Reform congregations, Leff said.

ADL Rapped For Its Approach

Lipstein said he was especially concerned by the stories in the Post and in the New York Times today in which ADL officials seemed to imply that the local Klan chapter was established because of the changing racial make-up of the Rockaways.

He conceded that low-income public housing projects in other sections such as Edgemere and Arverne had brought an influx of Blacks and Hispanics in recent years, many of them welfare clients. But he insisted that this has not affected the Far Rockaway community where most of the peninsula's Jews are located. Leff told the JTA that race relations have been stable, there have been no racial confrontations between Jews and non-whites and the problems are no different from those in other parts of the city.

Leff said that if the ADL felt that a problem existed, it should have consulted with the local Jewish community. Rabbi Ephraim Sturm, executive vice-president of the National Council of Young Israel and a leader in the Young Israel of Far Rockaway, said that the growing population of non-whites in the surrounding area posed some problems but "not a bad problem."

Uninformed About KKK Anti-Semitism

ish residents of Far Rockaway were completely unaware that the Klan was as anti-Semitic as it was anti-Black. He said he invited a group of people to his home last night to "enlighten" them as to the nature of the Klan. He explained that the younger generation and older people, largely immigrants who arrived in the United States after 1948, knew nothing of the Klan's anti-Semitic history. He said they reacted to the newspaper reports as another instance of conflict between blue collar Irish Catholics and Blacks from which the Jewish community could remain aloof.

Sturm also stressed the geography of the Rockaways, noting that the Klan center was located some 90 blocks or five miles from Far Rockaway. He said that virtually all Jews have moved from that area. Young Israel closed its

synagogue there last January and the Conservative synagogue re-located a year ago.

"klavern" or chapter is the first discovered within the precincts of New York City since the 1920s. It consists of about 50 members, mostly unemployed construction workers, blue collar workers and Vietnam veterans. Most are under 30 and virtually all are Irish Catholics, an anomoly since the Klan traditionally has been anti-Catholic as well as anti-Semitic and anti-Black. Local police were aware of the Klan's presence but noted that so far it has not engaged in illegal activities or caused any trouble.

B'NAI B'RITH HONORS THOSE WHO HELPED HOSTAGES OF HANAFI TERROR

WASHINGTON, April 21 (JTA)-B'nai B'rith yesterday celebrated with a public convocation of thanksgiving the safe deliverance of 134 hostages held last month for 39 terror-filled hours, paying tribute to this city's mayor and police chief, and three ambassadors of Moslem nations whose successful negotiations helped end the ordeal.

Diplomats from 18 nations joined an audience of more than 800--which included hostages and their families--for the solemn-yet-joyful ceremony. Recollections of the ordeal--in which 12 Hanafi Moslems held more than 100 captives on the barricaded top floor of the B'nai B'rith building and also seized hostages at the District Building and Islamic Center--brought tears to many.

Special B'nai B'rith awards for humanitarianism were presented to Mayor Walter E. Washington, Police Chief Maurice J. Cullinane and Ambassadors Ardeshir Zahedi of Iran, Ashraf A. Ghorbal of Egypt and Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan of Pakistan.

Their role in negotiating the release of the captives with the leader of the terrorist band "was as crucial as their skillful efforts were single-minded: the simple, eloquent purpose of saving human lives," said David M. Blumberg, B'nai B'rith's president. Ghorbal and Yaqub-Khan, citing previous commitments, were not present for the ceremonies but sent messages which were read to the gathering.

Tribute To Hostages And Families

Blumberg also paid tribute to the steadfastness of the hostages—the majority members of
the B'nai B'rith staff that included many nonJews and Blacks—who had "lived through shock
and anguish, and physical pain, with an unspoken
spirit of comradeship, of love and concern and
compassion for each other. That vision of the
human spirit has enobled us all."

Similarly, he added, "for those who were on the outside--anguished families and friends, a community gripped by the horror of it all--there remains a vision of groups of men and women from many different walks of life working together with an earnestness of resolve to help, in some way, in the rescue of those who were beleaguered."

When Cullinane was presented his award by Ella Taylor, a Black hostage of the B'nai B'rith staff, the audience gave the police chief a standing ovation, reflecting the hostages' high regard for the professionalism with which the metropolitan police department handled the tense and critical situation.

Zahedi, in accepting his award, said. "I have always believed that humanity does not recognize

boundaries, religions or nationalities." He was convinced, he added, "especially after this episode (of terrorism) that "there is a trust, and understanding and a belief of goodness" in the world that "can solve any problem."

Ghorbal, in his message, declared that the "same divinity" unites us all regardless of the name we give him." This, he said, made him "more firm in my conviction that although political differences exist between people, these differences can be overcome through understanding, open minds and seeing common ground for co-existence in peace and harmony." Yaqub-Khan said he was "touched" by being honored for contributing to the "ideals of chivalry and decency, and of peace and friendship in a troubled world."

Speaking for the hostages, Sidney H. Closter, president of the B'nai B'rith headquarters staff association, said that the label hostage "evokes grim memories." Instead, he said, "let us remember that we're born free men and women. We will persist in that spirit in a society which guards freedom as its most cherished value."

Mayor Washington, who received his award from Mrs. Kay G. Kash, president of B'nai B'rith Women, said that his role in the ordeal had left "a humbleness" in him. He asked the hostages "for prayers to guide and strengthen him in his efforts to "heal the wounds of our city." The ceremonies were briefly interrupted by eight young Jewish Defense League members who were protesting against giving the awards. Police quickly hustled them out of the auditorium.

YEMENITE BOY WINS BIBLE QUIZ; NEW YORKER, BELGIAN ARE 2ND AND 3RD

JERUSALEM, April 21 (JTA)--Hilkiyahu
Habra, a 17-year-old Israeli yeshiva student
from Bnei Brak is this year's International
Jewish Youth Bible Quiz champion. He scored
the maximum possible points--74--at the Independence Day contest here, displaying a phenomenal memory of Biblical verses and stories.
Habra, a Yemenite, is one of a family of 15
children. All his siblings and many friends were
in the hall of the Jerusalem Theater to cheer him
on. He is a student at Bnei Akiva's "Yeshivat
Hadarom" at Rehovot.

Second was David Glatt, only one point behind. This 15-year-old New York rabbi's son studies at the Yeshiva University High School. Third, with 71 points, was Zvi Hirsch, 16 of Belgium. In the chair was just-retired chief army chaplain, Gen. Mordechai Piron.

HOUSE ADOPTS ANTI-BOYCOTT BILL BY 364-43 VOTE; FIGHT MOVES TO SENATE By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 21 (JTA)--With the House of Representatives having overwhelmingly approved without change its International Relations Committee's bill to counter the Arab boycott of Israel and Americans who do business with Israel, foes of the measure were expected today to center their strength in the Senate to ease restrictions prohibiting Americans from complying with the boycott.

The Senate is expected to take up its Banking Committee's version either late next week or the following week. Since the Senate legislation is certain to differ from the House measure, the issues will be ultimately fought in the Senate-

House conference where agreement must be attained before the Congress can vote on identical

legislation.

Anti-boycott proponents generally see the House measure as stronger than the Senate version since its restrictions are regarded as making it more difficult for Arab countries to maneuver American companies into discriminating against other Americans or circumventing the intent of the law. The Senate and House versions differ mainly on the unilateral selection clause and means of complying with local laws by a company operating within an Arab country.

With the acquiesence of the Carter Administration, the support of organized labor and the leadership of both Republican and Democratic parties, a bipartisan wave of support buried the opposition to the legislation in the House yesterday by a better than 8-1 margin. The vote was 364-43 with 26 not voting. Some negative votes came from those who opposed other sections of the Export Administration Act of which the new anti-boycott legislation is a part.

Scare Tactics Denounced

International Relations Committee chairman Clement Zablocki (D.Wis.), who managed the bill on the floor, pointed out that "no one who testified before the committee claimed that it would involve the loss of 500,000 jobs." The loss of that number, he said, which appeared in an advertisement in the Wall Street Journal, "is sheer nonsense and the worst sort of scare tactics."

Zablocki pointed out that the 500,000 job figure is "probably the total number of jobs that resulted from all U.S. trade with all the Arab nations and no one is claiming that this will terminate U.S. trade with the Arab nations in total." His "best judgement," Zablocki continued, is that there would be "possibly no loss at all, maybe several hundred jobs, but in no case would any job loss be more than several thousand." He also noted that the committee was told "this legislation will enhance trade and will create jobs."

Supporting the bill, Rep. William Broomfield (R. Mich.), the committee's ranking Republican, said that "I can hardly recall a single piece of legislation that was as closely lobbied, debated, analyzed, compromised and as carefully written" as the measure he said was designed to "legislate in a very difficult and controversial area."

Opposition Views Aired

The opposition leader, House Republican

Whip, Robert Michel (R.III.), said "morality and sensitivity" are not "on only one side" of the issue. He claimed the bill makes "uncertain the future of hundreds of thousands of Americans working for companies who now do business in Arab nations." He also said the bill "would put in jeopardy billions of dollars of national income" and "seriously damage U.S. influence in negotiations for a Middle East peaceful settlement."

"An unspoken assumption underlying this debate." Michel said, is that "there is fear, very real fear, present in the House, that those who question or vote" against this bill "will be labeled less than friendly to the nation of Israel."

Michel said in this connection that he has supported Israel and it is his view that "the United States will never permit the original borders of the State of Israel to be violated by an aggressor nation," but he held that "true support of Israel means that we keep the U.S. strong, for without a

strong America, Israel will surely be destroyed.
And we cannot have a strong America by legislating away hundreds of thousands of American
jobs."

In response, Deputy Democratic Whip Benjamin Rosenthal (D.NY), said that Michel "sees the vote on this bill as being a vote for or against Israel. I do not see it that way at all. It is a vote for or against fundamental American principles." Rosenthal said the boycott has "very little impact in Israel."

SPANISH OFFICIAL AMONG GUESTS AT A RECEPTION GIVEN BY DINITZ

WASHINGTON, April 21 (JTA)-Diplomats from about 40 countries, including, for the first time, a representative of the Spanish Embassy, mingled with some 300 other guests at an Independence Day reception given by Israeli Ambassador and Mrs. Simoha Dinitz at the Ambassador's residence today.

The presence of Jouquin Cervino, Minister of the Embassy of Spain and the second ranking official of the Spanish diplomatic mission, was considered especially significant. Spain has no diplomatic relations with Israel and anticipated moves to establish them after the death of Francisco Franco failed to materialize, apparently because of strong Arab pressure on the Madrid government.

But Cervino's attendance at Israel's Independence Day reception was viewed as a positive gesture, especially since Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez will be in Washington for three days next week to meet President Carter and other U.S. officials.

Other guests included the ambassadors of Rumania, the African countries of Lesotho and Ivory Coast, Mexico, Singapore, South Korea, Nepal and the envoys from many Latin American and other European countries. The ranking American guest was Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Philip Habib. Samuel Lewis, who was sworn in today as the new U.S. Ambassador to Israel was also present as was Habib's predecessor at the State Department, former Undersecretary Joseph Sisco, who is now president of American University.

STRIKE CREATING ECONOMIC HAVOC

JERUSALEM, April 21 (JTA)—The strike by merchant marine officers, now in its second week, is creating havor in Israel's economy and there is a rising clamor for the government to intervene. So far, the government has taken no action, apparently for fear of precipitating a worse situation. One economist, Dr. Moshe Mandelbaum, estimated that the economy has lost at least \$50 million since last month in disputes involving maritime labor. He said the week-long wildcat strike by longshoremen at Israel's three ports in March cost some \$15 million and the current strike by licensed ships' officers has cost between \$30-\$40 million to date.

Mandelbaum said that 750 workers have been laid off by export industries and another 2-3000 will lose their jobs if the strike continues for one or two more weeks. The Zim Lines, Israel's largest shipping company, said it would sell two old ships in an effort to minimize the strike damage. The licensed officers have urged the government to intervene in their wage dispute but the government has declined ostensibly because it has not been asked to by the shipping companies.

ISRAEL'S 29TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

DINITZ: ISRAELIS ARE DOVES ON THE ISSUE OF PEACE BUT HAWKS ON THE QUESTION OF SECURITY By David Friedman and Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 21 (JTA)--"When it comes to the question of peace we are all doves, but when it comes to the question of our security we are all hawks," Simcha Dinitz, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, declared to the prolonged applause of some 1000 persons attending the American Zionist Federation's Independence Day celebration last night at Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Center.

The Israeli envoy affirmed that the Jewish State will not "forfeit the right" to determine the needs for its own security. He said Israel demands defensible borders as part of a peace agreement and will not give up this point to receive a few favorable editorials in major newspapers in the U.S. "The press is looking to write editorials. That's their job. Our's is to write a page, a chapter in the history of the Jewish people," he declared.

Dinitz also stressed that out of the present domestic difficulties Israel will "emerge stronger and more united among ourselves" and with the Jewish people everywhere "our best allies."

Israel-USSR Ties Seen Unlikely

At a press conference prior to the official celebration, Dinitz said there is no indication that renewed diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel are in the offing. Responding to a reporter's question about recent reports from Washington that the Soviet Union and Israel are likely to renew diplomatic ties, Dinitz said the Russians are interested only in creating "an impression that they can talk to both sides" in the Mideast conflict.

The USSR, he charged, "wants to appear neutral and establish its credentials as co-chairman of the Geneva peace conference." The Israeli envoy noted that the Soviets have stepped up their harassment of Jews and that anti-Semitism is on the rise in the USSR. These developments also show that the Soviet Union is not interested in renewing ties with Israel.

As to the situation on the Israel-Lebanon border, Dinitz said Israel considers it with "great gravity" and views as "intolerable" any movement of Syrian troops closer to the Israeli border and a takeover of southern Lebanon by the Palestine Liberation Organization to renew forays into Israel.

Zionism Is Unifying Force

AZF President Faye Schenk told the Independence Day audience that Zionism is "the central unifying force in Jewish life." She urged all who are publicly criticizing Israel to concentrate on the "common ground" of support for the Jewish State rather than picking Israel apart for the sake of scoring points for their disparate views.

Lt. Gov. Mary Anne Krupsak and Mayor Abraham Beame praised Israel's accomplishments in its 29 years and said that the American people will continue to support the Jewish State. Beame said that two pledges must be made: "There will never be another Holocaust...there always will be an Israel." Mrs. Krupsak read a proclamation from Gov. Hugh Carey declaring April 21 Israel Independence Day in New York State.

The highlight of the evening was the performance by Anachnu Kan (We Are Here), a group of more than 100 Israeli singers, dancers and musicians, originally from the Soviet Union. They performed songs in Hebrew and Yiddish. Rabbi Israel Miller, the AZF's honorary president, offered a memorial prayer for those who gave their lives for Israel from the pre-State times to the present and a prayer for the State of Israel.

RABIN'S YOM HA'ATZMAUT MESSAGE

JERUSALEM, April 21 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin stressed Israel's commitment to peace in a message to world Jewry on the occasion of the 29th anniversary of Israel's independence.

"We work and pray for peace even as we must continue to defend ourselves until peace with security is achieved." Rabin declared. He said that "Israel is ready to join in any reasonable initiative that will bring our sovereign neighbors to the negotiating table face-to-face with us at the Geneva peace conference."

But, he added: "The central theme of such a conference must be the ending of the Arab-Israel conflict once and for all. If this be the goal, Israel will seek mutual compromises for the sake of a secure peace. We shall be ready to take risks, but never to the point that our vital national security will ever again be placed in jeopardy."

Rabin noted that this year Yom Ha'atzmaut coincides with the 10th anniversary of the re-unification of Jerusalem. "Both events register revolutionary episodes in the contemporary Jewish calendar," he said. "They dramatize the march forward of the liberation movement of the Jewish people in our times. They are the Jewish answer to those who seek to defame Zionism, who attack the centrality of the Jewish State in our Jewish lives and who declare war on the unique place of our people in history."

Rabin emphasized that Israel's independence made it possible for the first time for Jews to determine their own future. "Never before have we, the Jewish people, been so equipped to make our own decisions by our own self-determination," he said."

AWARDS PRESENTED ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

JERUSALEM, April 21 (JTA)—The winners of the prestigious Israel Prize were announced tonight at the end of Independence Day celebrations. The winners are: for Distinguished Life Service: Esther Levitt, 75, born in the northern town of Metulla, active in hosting soldiers serving in the north; Avraham Yaacov, born in Yemen, for his work with the underprivileged; and Avraham Kalir, one of the founders of Israeli industry.

For geography and culture research: Prof. David Amiran, and Prof. Shmuel Avitzur. For agriculture: Prof. Avi Avidav and Dr. Yaacov Efrat. For art: sculptor Danny Caravan, Elisheva Cohen of the Israel Museum and Yonna Fisher. For the research of Eretz Israel and the history of the Jewish people: Prof. Nahman Avigad and Prof. Menahem Stern. Education and Culture Minister Aharon Yadlin, who greeted the winners, said it was about time that Israel rid itself of the Yom Kippur War trauma and develop creative research and activity such as those displayed by the winners.