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AIPAC CHIEF'S HOME BOMBED; NO INJURIES

By David Efftinger

WASHINGTON, July 25 (JTA)--A bomb explosion this morning ripped the home of Morris J. Amitay, executive director of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), in nearby Rockville, Md. Neither Amitay nor his family were hurt but the explosion killed the family dog. The force of the explosion, which was described by a neighbor as sounding like a "sonic boom," shattered windows in homes five blocks away. A fire department spokesman, surveying the extensive damage done to the house, said the Amitays were "very, very lucky" to be alive.

The explosion occurred about 3:15 this morning while Amitay, his wife Sybil, and their three children, aged 9, 12 and 14 were still asleep. About 400 feet of electric cord was found leading from the site of the blast. The bomb was planted outside the family room directly below where the Amitays were sleeping. Their dog was in the family room when the explosion occurred.

According to Montgomery County (Md.) police, "a great deal of structural damage" was caused by the "powerful explosion." Much of the wall of one side of the house was "ripped off," the police said. The sound of the explosion caused nearby residents to stream into the streets. The FBI is assisting in the investigation. It is not known who is responsible.

(In New York, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith expressed shock at "the savage terror bombing." Burton M. Joseph, ADL's national chairman, called upon the FBI and local police authorities to pursue their investigation with "vigorous dispatch so that the terrorist culprits are apprehended as quickly as possible." The ADL extended sympathy to Amitay and his family and expressed relief that they had escaped personal injury.)

MUSIC AT THE GOOD FENCE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, July 25 (JTA)--The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Zubin Mehta performed Tchaikovsky and Offenbach in an unlikely setting Friday before an audience unfamiliar with the works of European composers but appreciative nonetheless. The place was the open fence in the Israeli border village of Dovev and the listeners were several hundred south Lebanese--school children, border police, Christian Phalangists wearing side arms, Druze, Circassians, Israeli settlers and Lebanese farmers.

It was a holiday for the Lebanese and a propaganda victory for the Israelis through the universal language of music. Mehta, who visited the open fence a week earlier, decided that it would be an excellent spot for a concert. His 100-member orchestra arrived in buses from Tel Aviv with their instruments and sheet music. They set up in a clearing near the border, under a few trees that offered meager shade from the burning sun.

The Lebanese, who might have expected Oriental tunes and a belly dancer were intrigued by the violins, French horns and bass drums. The percussion instruments they have been used to for many months are machineguns and mortars.

Tzvi Baer, Israeli border police chief in what appeared to be a reference to the bitter

fighting that had broken out between Egypt and Libya, said: "While somewhere the guns are roaring between two states that have defined themselves as sisters, we here produce wonderful sounds, the eternal tones of music to our neighbors."

Mehta expressed hope that someday "soon we shall perform in Cairo and the Egyptian national orchestra will perform in Tel Aviv." A Phalangist major presented the maestro with a Lebanese flag painted on cedar wood as a gesture of appreciation. He said his people may not have understood Tchaikovsky but they understand "the call for a brotherly alliance between you and us."

Reality intruded, however, when a wounded Lebanese soldier was carried through the fence opening for medical treatment at the border clinic. But for a while the tragedy of Lebanon's civil war had been forgotten.

HUNGARIAN PRESS BAN HIT

TEL AVIV, July 25 (JTA)--The International Federation of Journalists may cancel a planned tour to Hungary unless the Budapest authorities reverse their refusal to issue an entry visa to the Israeli member of the delegation, Mrs. Bella Almog. The Israeli Journalists Association protested to the international body. Its president, Theo Bogart, said in reply that he has asked the Hungarian Journalists Association to pressure their government to issue the visa. If this fails Bogart said the Federation would consider cancelling its visit to Hungary.

BEGIN RETURNS HOME; REBUTS CRITICISM LEVELLED AGAINST HIM BY OPPOSITION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 25 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin returned from the U.S. this morning and launched into an angry rebuttal of criticism levelled against him by former Premier Yitzhak Rabin and other Labor Alignment leaders. In a brief press conference at Ben Gurion Airport, Begin flatly rejected Rabin's contention that he had failed to coordinate U.S.-Israel policy and thereby opened the way for an inevitable confrontation with America when the Geneva conference is reconvened.

Begin attacked the former Rabin government for creating a "bitter confrontation" with the U.S. which his government, he claimed, has succeeded in ending. He said that by trying to reach an agreement with Washington before the Geneva conference, Rabin had actually asked for American pressure.

"Of course the Americans were willing to reach a prior agreement but an agreement according to their terms," Begin said. He also claimed that Rabin's meetings with Carter last March were a "very difficult conversation," in contrast, apparently to the "rapport" that he succeeded in establishing with the President.

"Not only is there no confrontation, there is even a promise for arms supplies," Begin said. He said the arms are worth \$250 million and, contrary to custom, he mentioned 19 Cobra helicopters for anti-tank warfare as one "of the most important items promised." He acknowledged that differences existed with the U.S. "They are well known, but we did not ask to reach an agreement with the U.S. before Geneva," he said. He

reiterated that "We will go to Geneva with no preconditions."

Defends His Peace Plan

Begin also lashed out at former Foreign Minister Yigal Allon who had criticized the Premier's peace plan for failing to mention diplomatic relations with the Arab states as one of the aims of negotiations. Begin contended that this did not need specification because it was implicit in other elements of the plan. But it was in fact spelled out in order to avoid any doubts, Begin said.

He said the words "diplomatic relations" did not appear in the draft of the document presented to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee "because of forgetfulness." However, he said, when he discovered that those words were missing, just before his meeting with Carter, he ordered that part of the document re-written. "Thus the Americans received an Israeli document which specified diplomatic relations as part of Israel's understanding of peace," Begin said.

Begin also accused the opposition of "leaking" the document presented to the Knesset committee. "This is an act of irresponsibility and we shall learn the lesson," he said.

Meanwhile, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt was quoted by the Middle East News Agency in Cairo yesterday as saying that he believes if Israel is ready for peace, a solution can be found to the question of a Palestinian presence at the Geneva conference. "But any solution should take in consideration the fact that without solving the Palestinian problem there will be no permanent peace in the area because it is the core of the whole problem," Sadat was reported to have said in an interview with French television.

TISHA B'AV PRAYER SERVICE FOR SHARANSKY AT SOVIET UN MISSION

By Brian Lipsitz

NEW YORK, July 25 (JTA)--Between 150 and 200 people held a mincha service yesterday afternoon, across the street from the Soviet Mission to the United Nations, to protest the imprisonment of Soviet Jewish activist Anatoly Sharansky. Sharansky, accused of being a spy for the CIA and charged with treason, is being held in Lefortovo Prison in Moscow and faces a possible death sentence if found guilty.

According to a spokesman for the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, which sponsored the peaceful demonstration, the service was held on Tisha B'Av because for Sharansky "each agonizing day is Tisha B'Av." Tisha B'Av is a Jewish day of mourning commemorating the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 BCE and 70 CE.

Although the police said a court order allowed for only 15 people to stand inside a rectangular police barricade set up on the sidewalk, with the rest permitted to stand on the adjoining street, a confrontation was averted as the police seemingly ignored the dozens of people who ducked under the barricade and remained inside.

A letter smuggled out of the Soviet Union and signed by more than 200 Soviet Jews was read to the congregants. It called for Sharansky's freedom and charged that the Sharansky case is not an isolated issue, but rather indicative of the government's anti-Jewish policies which the writers likened to the time of Stalin.

After the completion of the service the spirited congregants turned around and faced the Soviet Mission, from which a rotating camera and a man on the roof observed the gathering, and chanted

"Free Sharansky Now." After several other chants and songs, they sang Hatikvah, and peacefully dispersed.

JACOB BEN-AMI DEAD AT 86

NEW YORK, July 25 (JTA)--Funeral services were held here yesterday for Jacob Ben-Ami, one of the best known actors of the Yiddish stage. He died Friday at the age of 86. Ben-Ami, who performed with equal skill in both English and Yiddish, had a long distinguished career appearing in plays by Yiddish, American, British and Russian playwrights on tours in Europe, South Africa, South America and the United States.

He was last seen on the stage in 1972 in a production of "Yoshe Kalb" staged at the theater on Second Avenue and 12th Street on the East Side where he had appeared with Maurice Schwartz in 1918 in what was then the Irving Place Theater.

Born in Minsk, Ben-Ami fell in love with the theater early. But he found the Yiddish theater too superficial and wanted to change it by learning from the Russian theater. He appeared in small repertory companies in Minsk but rejected a chance to join the renowned Moscow Art Theater because it would have meant converting from Judaism.

Ben-Ami immigrated to the U.S. in 1921 and worked with some amateur groups before joining Schwartz in 1918. Ben-Ami, who wanted more modern and realistic dramas than the melodramas and comedies popular with Yiddish audiences, broke with Schwartz and founded the Jewish Art Theater where for years he presented plays by such authors as Sholom Aleichem, Tolstoy and Gerhart Hauptmann. He appeared in several Broadway productions but in only one real hit, Paddy Chayefsky's "The Tenth Man," which opened in 1959 and in which he played the grandfather.

JNF IS PLANTING A FOREST IN MEMORY OF 101 AMERICANS AND CANADIANS WHO DIED IN ISRAELI WARS

JERUSALEM, July 25 (JTA)--The Jewish National Fund is planting a 10,000-tree forest commemorating 101 members of the Association of American and Canadian Immigrants who have died in Israel's wars, the JNF announced. The forest will be in the Judean Hills in the Jerusalem corridor. A statue with the names of the 101 dead was unveiled last week. Five of the children of the dead planted five saplings marking the five wars in which Israel has been involved since 1948.

Another JNF venture begun last week was the dedication of a 12.5-acre recreational area at the foothills of the Carmel range known as Shaar Ha-Carmel. The dedication took place in the presence of Moshe Rivlin, JNF board of directors chairman, Pierre Gildesgame, world president of Maccabi, Louis Berold, president of the Caesaria golf club, and member of JNF National Golf of Great Britain whose sponsorship of this recreation area is the latest of their projects. The area was dedicated in honor of Sidney Obrant, president of the JNF golfers of Britain, and his wife, Ruth.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Two villas in Miron, which were unearthed over the weekend by an archaeological expedition from Duke University, may shed light on the way of life of Jews of Galilee under the burden of heavy taxation imposed by Roman rulers. In the basement of the residences, which were connected by a veranda, were some 29 amphora filled with preserved and apparently kosher nuts and grains and some 500 coins of the Fourth Century. It is believed that the taxation policies of the governors of Constantine II prompted the population here to leave.

SPECIAL ANALYSIS**WILL BEGIN BE LOVED IN DECEMBER
AS MUCH AS HE WAS IN JULY?**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 25 (JTA)—Premier Menachem Begin's trip to the U.S. from which he returned today may well be the high point of the political "honeymoon" that Likud has enjoyed since it emerged victorious from the elections two months ago.

Begin, the opposition leader for 29 years, was regarded before the elections as just another politician who failed to adjust to changing times. He returned from Washington projecting the image of a national leader of purpose who knows exactly where he is going. Israelis who regarded his elevation to the Premiership with apprehension, now express relief that finally someone is steering the ship of state. Begin's new popularity stems in part from the contrast he presents to the opposition Labor Alignment leadership.

Labor Alignment leaders are still busy blaming each other for the May 17 election disaster. Prof. Yigael Yadin's Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) whose strong election showing at the expense of Labor was largely responsible for Likud's victory, is currently wracked by internal debates over whether or not to join Begin's coalition.

Likud Moves To Enlarge Coalition

Likud is the only party which seems to be in control of the situation and it is exploiting every public relations device to enhance that image. In fact, Likud is acting as if the election campaign still was in full swing. It is making a determined effort not only to enlarge its narrow coalition but to win over a majority of the electorate—permanently. One pundit, Prof. Yirmiyahu Yovel of the Hebrew University, warned in Haaretz last weekend that if Labor does not close ranks soon it risks the danger of losing a substantial section of the moderates who supported it to Likud.

Of course there are plenty of skeptics who view Begin's foray into international diplomacy in Washington as a triumph of cosmetics over substance. But the general public seems satisfied. At last, they say Israel has a leader who knows the art of public relations, an area in which the previous government was often awkward and heavy-handed.

There is, nevertheless, an undercurrent of concern that Begin's government partners are the two religious parties which apparently feel that now is the time to increase the influence of Orthodoxy in all aspects of Israeli life. There is much uneasiness over Begin's commitments to the religious establishment to kill Israel's new, liberal abortion law, to exempt women from military service, to tighten rules against Sabbath work and to try to get a majority of the Knesset to amend the Law of Return to suit Orthodox demands.

But even the secular elements have pushed these worries aside for the moment in the wake of Begin's talks with President Carter which the Likud publicity machine is depicting as a glittering success.

Ehrlich Emerges As Economic Hero

Begin is not the sole beneficiary of this "era of good feeling." Likud's No. 2 man, Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich, until recently a faceless behind-the-scenes politician with whom many regarded as a 19th Century petit bourgeois mentality in economic affairs, has emerged as something of an economic hero.

The tough fiscal measures he just pushed through the Knesset might have raised a storm under the pre-

vious government. But after some initial anger, mostly on the part of Histadrut for not having been consulted in advance, the measures were accepted by the public as necessary to aid the nation's faltering economy and fight inflation.

Ehrlich got an excellent press for keeping his fiscal package under tight secrecy until he was ready to announce it. His predecessor, Yehoshua Rabinowitz, it was noted, never managed to prevent leaks and the results in the past were wild buying sprees and hoarding whenever the public knew that price increases were imminent.

Ehrlich increased his popularity by announcing that he will abolish control over foreign currency, simplify the investment law to attract more overseas investors and not deliberately use unemployment as a weapon against inflation.

Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, whom many Israelis once thought too inexperienced and too impulsive to be trusted with a major government post, aroused cheers from many former opponents of Likud when he spoke of the need to allow the displaced Arab villagers from Ikrit and Baram to return to the sites of their villages near the Lebanese border.

The Labor Alignment had stubbornly resisted any such move by the villagers who are Maronite Christians and no threat to the security of the State. The Labor position, especially the hard line taken by Premier Golda Meir, was seen as symbolic of the old regime's inability to make a simple gesture that would have enhanced Israel's image abroad.

An Astonishing Turn-About

Perhaps the most astonishing turn-about is the criticism now being leveled at Begin from the political left because he has indicated a willingness to return territory on the Golan Heights. The astuteness of Likud is also demonstrated by the low profile maintained by Moshe Dayan since his elevation to the office of Foreign Minister. Dayan, regarded as a renegade by former Labor colleagues, is well aware that many Israelis still hold him responsible for the lack of preparedness on the eve of the Yom Kippur War when he was Defense Minister.

Perhaps Likud's biggest public relations coup was the retention of most of the senior civil servants of the old regime. Few were removed from their jobs after the new government took office although most were apparently expecting to be unemployed. The new political leadership says it wants to establish a civil service tradition based on continuity similar to that of Great Britain.

Begin thus returns from the U.S. with greatly increased prestige and credit among the people. Whether it will last depends on whether he can reinforce his public relations image with concrete political acts that will meet with equally wide approval.

SOVIET JEWISH ACTIVIST DIES OF CANCER

NEW YORK, July 25 (JTA)—Dina Zlotver, a Soviet Jewish activist who had petitioned Soviet authorities to emigrate to Israel with her husband since December, 1974, to rejoin her son and daughter, died of cancer in her hometown of Sverdlovsk, according to information reaching the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Soviet authorities have not indicated if her husband will be allowed to emigrate.

JERUSALEM (JTA)—The world young leadership mission of Keren Hayesod—United Israel. Appeal began several days ago as 250 members from 24 countries assembled in Jerusalem for a 10-day program.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE CEREMONIES ARE OVER BUT THE PROBLEMS REMAIN

By David Effinger

WASHINGTON, July 25 (JTA)--Israeli and American flags flew in unison along Pennsylvania Avenue last week conveying, if only in symbolic form, an outward appearance of solidarity between the two nations. Judging from the statements made by Premier Menachem Begin and President Carter following their lengthy discussions, there was good reason to believe that the impression was not illusory.

An obviously pleased Begin termed his talks with the President "very successful" and praised Carter as "a great friend of Israel." The President was no less subdued in his comments affirming the "personal rapport" established between him and the Israeli leader. He said he thought the meetings "could (not) have been any better."

The most optimistic assessment, however, came from Vice President Walter Mondale, who insisted "that relations between the United States and Israel have never been better than they are today" and lavished praise on Israel's "remarkable new Prime Minister."

Nothing Has Changed

Notwithstanding these auspicious statements, which could be easily dismissed as atmospherics, observers here were quick to cut through the cosmetics and inflated rhetoric to return to reality--for in essence nothing has changed.

Begin and Carter had what appears to have been a productive get-acquainted session. But neither leader seems to have made any great strides toward convincing the other. What some had hoped and predicted would emerge from the talks never took place.

There was no indication, for instance, that the U.S. position on Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories except for so-called "minor adjustments" has been modified. Although the President reassured Begin that "we are determined to do our share not to try to impose our will on anyone but to act as a trusted intermediary," he was quick to add that "controversial issues" creating "dissension among people who have strongly held opposing views" would be brought to the fore.

The President also spoke of "differences of opinion" between the two countries which, he said, had been explored "in a very blunt and frank fashion." Only "some of the differences" were resolved, he said. One of the thorniest outstanding differences is on the Palestinian issue. The Administration still speaks in terms of a "Palestinian homeland"--an idea repugnant to Begin.

Another Area Of Disagreement

Another area of disagreement centers around how soon a settlement should come. An impatient Carter has made it clear that he desires rapid movement toward peace. Although Israel acknowledges "the sense of urgency," Begin told Carter, "we also must have some patience." Israelis are concerned lest the absence of rapid progress toward a settlement lead to renewed accusations of Israeli intransigence.

There was nothing new, moreover, in the "framework for the peace-making process" divulged by Begin at his July 20 news conference in Washington. What the Premier said was what the previous Israeli government had been saying all along--Israel is prepared to go to Geneva without any prior conditions. Predictably, the Arab states, true to

the Alice-in-Wonderland world of Mideast politics, rejected the plan outright even before it was made public.

The external optimism which attended the talks is, therefore, probably an overreaction. If Begin accomplished anything it was to persuade the President that Washington should forego making further statements about the conflict and, at least for the time being, leave it up to the parties directly involved.

"I will stick to my public views," Carter stressed, "but I think now is the time to be quiet about specifics." In effect, the President called for an extension of an earlier moratorium on comments on the Middle East pending Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's scheduled visit to the area beginning Aug. 1.

Confrontation Was Avoided

Perhaps the most important result of the talks was they laid to rest exaggerated fears of confrontation between the two leaders. "Your minds may be at peace," Begin reassured an apprehensive audience here last week. "There was no confrontation." Jewish leaders appeared gratified by the foundation for mutual understanding engendered by the discussions. For the time being, then, the American Jewish community is breathing a little easier. How much longer it will be able to do so is uncertain.

The road to Geneva is one strewn with difficulties. A lot now depends on the success of Vance's trip in which he will try to goad Arab leaders to return to the conference table.

According to White House Press Secretary Jody Powell, a "new phase" in the negotiating process has begun. He added, however, that "the important point is agreement between Israel and her Arab neighbors. We have no desire to bring the two sides to an agreement with us but between each other. That is the sole purpose." If only on that point, there was complete unanimity among Israeli and American officials.

WILLIAM CHOMSKY DEAD AT 81

PHILADELPHIA, July 25 (JTA)--Dr. William Chomsky, one of the world's foremost Hebrew grammarians, died at his home here last Tuesday at the age of 81. Chomsky, who was chairman of the faculty at Gratz College from 1949 until he retired in 1969, had been with the school, the oldest teacher training college in the United States, since 1924. He also served as professor of Hebrew at Dropsie University in Philadelphia from 1955 to 1977.

Born in Russia, he came to the United States in 1913. He worked his way through Johns Hopkins University by teaching at a Hebrew school in Baltimore. Chomsky was a member of the American Academy for Jewish Research, National Council for Jewish Education, Labor Zionist Organization of America, Histadrut Ivrit, World Union of Jewish Studies and the Conference on Jewish Studies.

Among his books are "Hebrew, The Eternal Language," "Teaching and Learning," and "David Kimhi's Hebrew Grammar." He was the father of Noam Chomsky, professor of modern languages and linguistics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Tourism from Europe increased by 29 percent in the first half of 1977, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism announced Monday. European tourists constituted some 56 percent of the 457,000 tourists who came to Israel in that period.