

28 PERSONS INJURED, 4 SERIOUSLY, IN BOMB EXPLOSION IN BEERSHEBA

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, July 28 (JTA)--A bomb blast in the Beersheba marketplace this morning injured 28 persons, four seriously, and touched off a nationwide mobilization of security forces against what is shaping up as a new wave of terrorism aimed at causing civilian casualties. Police rounded up 11 suspects after today's bombing and patrols were beefed up in urban areas all over Israel, especially the Arab quarters in large cities.

The Beersheba outrage occurred less than 24 hours after a bomb injured 11 persons in the Carmel market place in Tel Aviv yesterday. Two persons were seriously injured when a bomb detonated outside a Jerusalem movie house last night. Bombings occurred recently in the Petach Tikva market and in a Nahariya supermarket.

According to police, the Beersheba bomb was concealed in a large trash can with an electric activating device and placed under a vendor's cart. The explosion severely injured the vendor's legs and the lower part of his body. Other shoppers and vendors nearby also sustained leg injuries. Ambulances were on the scene within minutes. All of the injured were hospitalized and some were released after treatment.

Security circles attribute the new upsurge of terrorist acts to several factors. These include the fading out of the Lebanese civil war and a desire by the PLO to restore its tarnished image in the Arab world; the influx of summer visitors from neighboring countries who may include terrorists despite careful checks at the Jordan River bridges; and the policy of the new government which opposes any withdrawals from the West Bank, participation of the PLO in peace talks or the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Meanwhile, police have urged the populace to be alert to any suspect objects or persons and to report them immediately to the proper authorities.

PARIS MAIN SYNAGOGUE DESECRATED

PARIS, July 28 (JTA)--The Paris main synagogue was desecrated last night by unknown vandals who scribbled anti-Semitic slogans on the walls and tried to break into the main hall. Police believe that a neo-Nazi organization was responsible.

The janitor at the synagogue discovered the inscriptions when he reported for work. Police launched an investigation, taking fingerprints and questioning neighbors and possible witnesses. Police said today they had not yet discovered any definite clues. The Paris Jewish Consistory and the Representative Council of French Jewish Organizations (CRIF) called upon the government to take all necessary steps to apprehend the culprits and have them tried.

DINITZ TO LODGE PROTEST AGAINST PROPOSED U.S. PLANE SALE TO EGYPT

TEL AVIV, July 28 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin said yesterday that he has instructed Ambassador Simcha Dinitz to lodge a strong protest in Washington against the Administration's proposed sale of military transport and reconnaissance aircraft to Egypt. He charged, in an address to the Knesset, "Every supply of weaponry to a country at war with

Israel is a negative act and an obstacle on the road to peace."

After an 8 1/2-hour debate, the Knesset voted 59-36 to approve Begin's report on his recent mission to Washington. There were 25 abstentions. Begin was criticized by former Premier Yitzhak Rabin over the Carter Administration's announcement that it intends to sell \$200 million worth of military equipment to Egypt and that it was also prepared to sell defense weapons to Sudan. Rabin and other opposition leaders said this was an example of the political failure of Begin's trip to the U.S. According to Rabin it proved that the Premier did nothing to improve U.S.-Israeli relations while he was in Washington.

OFFICIALS SAY THEY 'KNOW NOTHING' OF ISRAELI PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 28 (JTA)--Government officials said today that they "know nothing" of an alleged presence of Israeli defense experts in Ethiopia. No further reaction or other comment could be elicited.

The disclaimer was made in connection with reports in recent weeks that there was some Israeli involvement--along with the known massive Cuban and Soviet involvement--in Ethiopia, which finds itself locked in increasingly grim struggles with Eritrean separatist rebels and Somali irregulars. According to an American report several months ago, Israeli planes occasionally touch down at Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, and are taken into closed hangars.

This week the Washington Post carried a story attributed to U.S. sources, apparently meaning intelligence sources, alleging that a few dozen Israeli secret servicemen have been in Ethiopia training or advising local forces in counter-insurgency.

Non-governmental observers here say it must irk the Israeli government that the U.S. sources saw fit to leak this story. The leak plainly reflected American displeasure that Israel ostensibly is aiding the side helped by the Soviet Union and Cuba while the U.S. appears to have cast its lot with Ethiopia's enemy, Somalia.

CARTER SAYS SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED AREAS IMPEDE ULTIMATE PEACE BUT DO NOT CONSTITUTE INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEM

Seen As Conciliatory Gesture Toward Begin
By David Ettinger

WASHINGTON, July 28 (JTA)--President Carter said today that "any move toward making permanent the settlements in the occupied territories or the establishment of new settlements obviously increases the difficulty of an ultimate peace." But, he added, "It is not an insurmountable problem."

In a news conference this morning, Carter repeated an earlier statement that "the establishment of new settlements or the recognition of existing settlements to be legal both provide obstacles to peace." But he said it was an obstacle that "can be overcome" and expressed optimism that a Geneva conference would still be reconvened in the near future.

In what was seen here as a conciliatory gesture

toward Israeli Premier Menachem Begin, Carter seemed to play down the importance of this week's American-Israeli skirmish over Israel's legalization of three settlements on the West Bank. He said he did not think it is fair to "overly criticize" Begin and cautioned against overemphasizing or exaggerating the significance of recent developments.

Not Proper To Castigate Begin

Noting that the question of the settlement was "not a new thing," the President said "it would not be proper to castigate him (Begin) unnecessarily because he is continuing the policies that have been extant in Israel for a long time." Carter noted, "He, like myself, has run on campaign commitments and I think he is trying to accommodate the interests of peace as best he can."

But Carter added: "We feel that any restraint that Prime Minister Begin might want to exert on this subject would certainly be contributory toward peace." Carter revealed that he had no "prior notice" that Begin intended to legalize the settlements. According to the President, "Mr. Begin did not give any promise about his action on the settlement questions."

The Issue Of Settlements

"I did describe to him our long standing position on the subject...and told him that this was a major item of potential differences between Israel and the Arab countries," Carter said. The President also said he expressed to Begin "my strong hope that nothing would be done by the Israeli government in establishing new settlements that might exacerbate an already difficult position."

The matter of settlements in the occupied territories "has always been characterized by our government...as an illegal action," Carter said. Admitting that he "did not think about raising the subject" of legalization of settlements with Begin during his trip here last week, Carter said his principal concern "was with the establishment of new settlements and I let him know very strongly that this is a matter that would cause our own government deep concern."

Carter said he told Begin he thought "establishment of new settlements would be a very difficult thing for public opinion to accept" and "it would be easier to accept an increase in the population of existing settlements than it would be to accept the establishment of new settlements." Carter said Begin "is in a position now of great strength in Israel" and "his voice would be honored by the Israeli people."

The President also noted that "the Israeli governments have never claimed that these settlements are permanent. What they have done is to say that they are legal at the present time."

Optimistic About Geneva

He said he was optimistic about a return to Geneva because all the leaders he has met with have expressed a desire to go there. "What gives me hope is that all national leaders want to go to Geneva," Carter said. He said that following Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's trip to the Middle East next week, "we'll have a fuller picture of the differences which still divide the countries."

Carter said the "major stumbling block" on the road to Geneva remains the problem of Palestinian participation in the conference. Although "our position has been that they ought to be represented," until the Palestinians recognize Israel's right to exist and live in peace, "I see no way that we could advocate participation by them in the peace negotiations."

Carter voiced a hope "that every leader involved directly in the discussions...will join with us in...restraining their statements--not being so adamant on the issues and trying to calm down the situation until all can search out common ground." He said all the parties now had confidence in the U.S. and he was trying to maintain their trust.

BLUMBERG REGRETS SETTLEMENT MOVE

TEL AVIV, July 28 (JTA)--David Blumberg, international president of B'nai B'rith, said here yesterday that he believes Premier Menachem Begin will be one of Israel's strong and good leaders but he does not agree with all of his policies. Blumberg, who met with Begin during a three-week visit to Israel, said before returning to the U.S. that he regretted Begin's decision to legalize three controversial settlements on the West Bank.

The remarks by the American Jewish leader were to the government's action Tuesday conferring legal status on Ofra, Maale Edumim and Eilon Moreh near Nablus. Blumberg said he was optimistic about Mideast peace prospects but warned that peace was not around the corner.

New Settlement Begun In Raffah

Meanwhile, the cornerstone of a new settlement was laid in the Raffah salient yesterday in the presence of the settlers who are recent immigrants from South Africa. Neither the government nor the army were represented at the ceremonies and Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, who had promised to attend, sent a message of greeting instead. The new settlement, to be known as Talmei-Joseph, after Joseph Weitz, will consist of 100 family units. Each family will invest \$15,000 toward the establishment of orchards for sub-tropical fruits and sunflowers.

SAMUEL ATLAS DEAD AT 77

NEW YORK, July 28 (JTA)--A funeral service will be held tomorrow for Dr. Samuel Atlas, professor emeritus of philosophy and Talmud at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and an authority on the philosophers Maimonides and Kant, who died yesterday while on a brief vacation in Liberty, N.Y. He was 77 years old.

A native of Lithuania, Atlas came to this country to accept a teaching post at Hebrew Union College in 1942. In 1975 he was designated professor emeritus. Before coming to the U.S., Atlas was a lecturer in philosophy and Talmud at the Institute of Jewish Studies of Warsaw from 1929 to 1934 and at Cambridge University, England, from 1935 to 1939. In 1936, he delivered a series of lectures on Kant and modern thought at Magdalen College, Oxford.

Earlier, he had been ordained a rabbi after attending rabbinic schools in Lithuania. He studied philosophy and law in Moscow and at the German universities of Berlin, Marburg and Giessen. He earned the doctor of philosophy degree at the University of Giessen in 1928.

Among his many scholarly publications in the fields of philosophy and Talmud, his work on the "Novellae of Abraham ibn Daud," which he edited in Hebrew in 1940, is regarded as particularly notable. Solomon Maimon, the 18th Century Kantian philosopher, also drew Atlas' scholarly interest and was the subject of a book he published in 1965 which presents a precise analysis of the role Maimon played in the development of philosophic idealism.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH CHAIM HERZOG

By Yitzhak Rabin

NEW YORK, July 28 (JTA)—Israeli Premier Menachem Begin, in his recent visit to the United States announced that UN Ambassador Chaim Herzog, who was appointed to his post two years ago by the previous Labor government, will continue to be Israel's chief delegate to the world organization.

In a special interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, held at the Israeli Mission headquarters here, Herzog, who agreed to serve one more year as UN Ambassador, discussed and assessed the situation in the Mideast and the prospects for progress there; Israel's position in the UN and related issues. Following are excerpts of the 60-minute interview:

Crux Of Mideast Problem

Q. The present Likud government in Israel is pursuing a different foreign policy than the previous Israeli government which you have been representing for the last two years. Isn't there a conflict that you, who are identified with the Labor Party, will be now a spokesman of the right-wing Likud government?

A. First of all, an ambassador represents his country, not a political party. Secondly, I do not see any real problem here because in our situation the main issue isn't the policy of this or that government of Israel—which may vary—but rather the policy of our Arab neighbors, and I personally have not noticed any change in the attitude of the Arab states. The crux of the problem is not the substantive issues of territories, Palestinian Arabs or settlements in the (administered) territories. All of these problems did not exist between 1949 to 1967, and yet there was no move toward peace with Israel.

The crux of the problem is the willingness or unwillingness of the Arab states to meet with us at the negotiating table in order to work toward an agreement on a peace treaty. The very act of sitting down with Israel presupposes acceptance of Israel. When we in Israel and the Jewish world debate among ourselves the different types of solutions, we are in fact putting the cart before the horse and playing chess with ourselves, for there are no indications that they (the Arabs) are willing to sit face to face with us. The new Israeli initiative (Begin's peace plan) has put the ball in the Arab court and one can only hope their reply will be favorable.

Q. In his peace plan Begin said that Israel is ready to attend a reconvened Geneva conference as of Oct. 10. In your view, is the meeting likely to take place?

A. In principle there should be no problem reconvening the Geneva conference as of Oct. 10, because Begin, in his approach suggested leaving everything open without coordinating subjects in advance.

Attitude Toward PLO

Q. Do you think that the question of the Palestine Liberation Organization presence in Geneva is an obstacle to the reconvening of the conference?

A. If the Arabs insist on PLO participation in Geneva then Begin's alternative (of proximity talks) will apply. I have always felt from discussions in UN corridors that there is a very considerable degree of disenchantment on the part of many Arab delegates with the PLO. I feel that their support of the PLO in the UN is, to a great degree, lip service, and I think that they will be very hesitant to forego Geneva because of the PLO. I would estimate that the Mideast, being what it is, the Arabs are busy looking for a face-saving device in order not to be placed in the position of saying no to Geneva. This situation is, however, complicated now by the internecine strife in the Arab world.

Q. Mentioning Arab strife, what impact, if any, did the Egyptian-Libyan clashes have on the Arab-Israeli conflict?

A. I believe the Egyptian-Libyan clash only highlights the fact that the Arab world is torn more than ever before. But we should have no illusions when it comes to the hatred of Israel, if, to judge by my experience at the UN, they manage to patch up their differences. My feeling is that the more serious the conflict between the Arab states the less willing they are to appear moderate on the issue of negotiating with Israel.

Q. What are the prospects for Israel in the upcoming UN General Assembly?

A. As long as there is a possibility of meeting in Geneva, Israel will be subjected to less pressure in the UN. If Geneva should not appear a realistic possibility then I anticipate a renewal of the attacks on Israel.

Arab Options Noted

Q. Is there a danger of a new war in the Mideast in the near future?

A. All the public statements by the Arab leaders maintain that they are retaining the military option in addition to political option. It is impossible to estimate whether in fact the Arab countries would like to implement their threats of war. My own feeling is, after analyzing the inter-Arab situation and the internal situations in various Arab countries, that their enthusiasm for war has very much dampened, and in no way matches their public statements.

I believe they are not as keen to go to war as it would appear. I should warn, however, that this evaluation is based on a logical assessment of various factors and logic frequently plays no part in Arab calculations.

Israel And The UN

Q. A few months ago U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young claimed that Israel's position at the UN has improved. Do you agree?

A. There is no doubt whatsoever that Israel has had much easier a year in the UN compared to the previous year. The fact is that during the year of the 31st General Assembly (1975-1976) we had not only the vile, pernicious anti-Zionism resolution, but, in addition, there was a concentrated attack on Israel practically every month in the Security Council, except the month when the U.S. held the presidency of the Council.

In the year of the 32nd General Assembly (1976-1977) we have had so far one Security Council meeting against Israel, which ended by being postponed and in which the Egyptians suffered a major setback. Many factors contributed to this improvement: Israel's unrelenting fight; the war in Lebanon and the strife in the Arab world; the concentration of the UN on southern Africa; the proud and strong reaction of world and particularly American Jewry; and of course the efforts of the U.S. government.

Ambassador Young is performing a successful job for the U.S. in the UN. He is the outstanding personality today in the UN and as such a very important element in creating an atmosphere of moderation. As for his attitude toward Israel and the Jewish people, he is a good friend and his heart is in the right place.

Q. In view of these developments would you say that the UN is gaining a better public image?

A. No. While the attacks on Israel have eased off, the Arabs are continuing to destroy the UN and it looks as if they will yet succeed, because the process of politicization in UN specialized agencies continues, with the member states apparently power-

less to do anything.

Last week the Economic and Social Council voted in Geneva to admit a terrorist organization like the PLO as a full member of the Economic Council of Western Asia (ECWA). The utter incongruity of this move is highlighted by the fact that Israel, a member state in Western Asia, was not admitted to ECWA while a terrorist organization which is not a state has been admitted. We were very disturbed to see countries like Greece and Jamaica voting to sit the PLO as a state. This is the height of cynicism which must shock anybody to whom the future of the UN is important.

Talking of cynicism, Cuba, which is trying to ingratiate itself in U.S. public opinion, has been adopting an increasingly anti-Israeli, anti-Jewish position in the UN, in recent months, including the fact that Cuba is the only non-Arab country to have recently publicly reaffirmed its support of the Zionism-is-racism resolution.

PROJECT COPE TO AID LOOTING VICTIMS

NEW YORK, July 28 (JTA)—A special program to assist merchants whose businesses were destroyed during the July 13-14 blackout has been established by Project COPE (Career Opportunities and Preparation for Employment), the career guidance and job training agency of Agudath Israel of America, it was announced today. The major thrust of the program will be to provide on-job-training funds and vocational training to those affected by the events of mid-July.

According to Rabbi Menachem Lubinsky, director of Project COPE, the program will operate out of COPE offices throughout the city, but primary emphasis will be given through the Fresh Start Training Program office in Brooklyn which caters to people over the age of 40. Lubinsky explained: "It is widely known that many of the affected businessmen were middle aged people who had spent many years in building up their businesses and were now devastated by the looting during the blackout."

In addition to providing on-job-training funds, the COPE effort for the victims of the looting will also include extensive career guidance and counseling, placement in state-licensed vocational schools, and referrals to Small Business Administration programs to assist in the reconstruction of their businesses.

EBAN DUE IN U.S. FOR A TWO-WEEK 'INFORMATION MISSION'

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 28 (JTA)—Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban left today on a two week "information mission" to the United States for the Likud government. Eban, a Labor MK, said on a radio interview before his departure that he saw nothing wrong in undertaking a mission for Likud because he would confine his efforts to explaining government policies in areas where there is a broad consensus and a necessity to inform American opinion about Israel's problems before the Geneva conference reconvenes.

According to Eban there is a "national consensus" in Israel not to return to the 1967 borders and to oppose a Palestinian state in territories that Israel may evacuate. He said that in discussing these matters he would be expressing the views of his own party.

In response to questions, Eban said he thought the issue of legalizing three settlements on the West Bank, which drew a sharp American rebuke this week, had been exaggerated. He noted that the former Labor-led government authorized settlements on the West Bank though it limited them to strategic areas whereas the Begin government appears to be

less selective. Eban told newsmen at the airport that he was not in full agreement with the new government. He will meet with U.S. officials in Washington and with the media in various parts of the country.

He said he undertook the mission at the invitation of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and that it was approved by Labor Alignment leader Shimon Peres. Eban will stop over in London briefly before proceeding to New York.

CAMPAIGN TO INVOLVE JEWISH ACADEMICS MORE CLOSELY WITH ISRAEL

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, July 28 (JTA)—A campaign to involve Jewish academic staffs at British universities more deeply with Israel will be launched here in September, shortly before the start of the next academic year.

Announcing this here yesterday, Eric Moonman, MP, chairman of the Zionist Federation, said the project would be sponsored by several Jewish and pro-Israeli organizations and would parallel the educational work already carried out among students. There were Jews on the staffs of every one of Britain's 43 universities, but they had not yet been adequately mobilized on Israel's behalf.

Besides the Zionist Federation, other groups behind the campaign will include the Institute for Jewish Affairs and the British-Israel Public Affairs Committee (BIPAC). The impetus for the campaign comes from the Israel Solidarity Campaign, formed here nearly two years ago. The necessary finance would be raised in Britain.

Moonman wants the project to resemble the American Professors for Peace in the Middle East in the United States. He himself will visit the U.S. next month and hopes to discuss the project with the chairman of the Professors for Peace group and other people associated with it.

THREE ISRAELI CIVILIAN FLYERS KILLED IN PLANE CRASH NEAR IVORY COAST

TEL AVIV, July 28 (JTA)—The death of three Israeli civilian flyers in a plane crash in the sea near Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Monday, was confirmed here today. They were identified in reports from London and Brussels as Itzhak Peled and Efraim Bar-Erez, both pilots, and Shimon Harouzi, a flight engineer.

They were ferrying an executive jet from Lagos, Nigeria to London when, according to the reports, they ran into bad weather and were granted permission to land at Abidjan. The jet circled over the sea to make its approach but hit the water and was destroyed. There were no survivors. Abidjan radio reported the crash on Monday but did not indicate that the victims were Israelis.

Peled, 27, was the son of Gen. Moshe Peled, commander of Israel's armored corps, and was only recently discharged from the army. Bar-Erez was the chief pilot of Arkia, Israel's domestic air line. He was in the news last November when he successfully landed a disabled plane with three other Israelis aboard in the sea off Nice on the French Riviera. Harouzi was also employed by Arkia. Arrangements are being made to have the bodies returned to Israel for burial.

WASHINGTON (JTA)—The Senate has voted to accept for display in the Hall of Statues of the Capitol the statue of the late Ernest Gruening, former Senator from Alaska. It is believed that this is the first time a Jewish Senator has been so honored.