

Vol. XLIV — 60th Year

Monday, August 1, 1977

No. 145

TERRORIST BOMBING ATROCITY THWARTED IN HAIFA; 8 TERRORISTS, BELIEVED RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT ACTS, ARRESTED By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, July 31 (JTA)--Police sappers safely de-fused a bomb in the downtown Haifa marketplace this morning after being summoned by an alert vendor. The market was closed for several hours but re-opened later in the day. The vendor, who saw a suspicious-looking object under a vegetable cart, was credited with helping avert another in the series of bombings that caused injuries to more than 40 persons last week in the marketplaces of Tel Aviv and Beersheba and outside a Jerusalem movie house.

The latest incident occurred only two days after security sources reported the arrests of eight terrorists in Nablus and Ramallah believed responsible for the recent wave of bombings throughout Israel aimed at causing civilian casualties. The terrorist cells in both towns operated independently but are believed to be linked to Naif Hawatmeh's Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Hawatmeh's radio station in Beirut boasted today that the Tel Aviv bombing was its doing and warned American and European tourists to stay away from Israel because there would be more bombings.

The Nablus cell is believed responsible for bombing the Petach Tikva marketplace two weeks ago in which a housewife was killed and the Carmel market in Tel Aviv last week where 11 persons were injured. It is also accused of planting a bomb in a Kfar Saba bus on July 18, 1976 in which 11 passengers were injured. Members of the same ring allegedly threw a bomb at an Israeli Army vehicle in Nablus last March. The bomb did not explode and was dismantled by sappers.

Members of the Ramallah cell are held responsible for planting bombs in three Jerusalem buses and at three locations in Jerusalem—the Mahneh Yehuda market, Hagana Square and the Shami St. movie house. The group was reportedly in possession of fire arms and explosives when captured.

People Urged To Join Civil Guard

Meanwhile the Cabinet issued a call today to the public to step up enlistment in the civil guard in view of the latest series of terrorist bombing outrages. Interior Minister Yosef Burg told the Cabinet that the police department has set up a "think tank" which will devise new methods of combatting the wave of terrorism. One suggestion already circulating in the news media is the digging of more "security pits" in public thoroughfares so that a suspected explosive charge can be quickly and safely disposed of and allowed to blow up harmlessly.

RESOLUTION CONDEMNS TERRORISM

By Chaim Lozdeiski

MEXICO CITY, July 31 (JTA)--Delegates from 19 nations participating in the Third Assembly of Parliaments from Latin America and Western Europe passed a strong resolution condemning international terrorism as a crime against mankind. The resolution called on all governments to refuse havens to terrorists.

The delegates also urged respect for human rights and denounced the use of force to settle disputes.

"We speak the same language common to our civilization," said Emilio Colombo, president of the European Parliament, "and we look for a common language about the problems of the world today."

CABINET NAMES COMMITTEE TO STUDY POSSIBILITY OF REPATRIATING 200 CHRISTIAN ARABS TO IKRIT, BIRAM SITES

By David Landau and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, July 31 (JTA)--A four-member ministerial committee was named by the Cabinet today to study the possibility of repatriating some 200 Christian Arabs to the sites of Ikrit and Biram, their former villages near the Lebanese border and to report to Premier Menachem Begin as soon as possible. Begin said Friday that he personally favored the return but stressed that the final decision rested with the government.

The committee, headed by Minister of Agriculture Ariel Sharon, consists of Housing Minister Gideon Patt, Minister of Commerce Yigael Hurwitz and Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu Hatzeira. Patt, a member of Likud's Liberal Party wing, and Abu Hatzeira of the National Religious Party are known to sympathize with the villagers' long-standing appeal for repatriation. Hurwitz, who represents the State List (La'am) faction in Likud, is opposed. Observers believe that the committee's recommendations will depend largely on the attitude of Sharon who has not yet expressed himself publicly on the issue.

Ikrit and Biram were evacuated for security reasons during Israel's War of Independence in 1948. The army reportedly promised the villagers they would be returned within two weeks. But nearly 30 years have elapsed and successive Labor-led governments have refused to repatriate them on grounds that the original security situation still prevails. Both villages were razed by the army in the late 1950s and the villagers, members of the Maronite and Greek Catholic communities, were re-settled in other Arab Christian towns.

They never abandoned hope of returning, however, and claim that Likud leaders promised them repatriation once Likud came into power. Likud circles said they knew of no such promise but were willing to look into the matter.

Labor Alignment Opposes Repatriation

The Labor Alignment, officially, remains adamant against repatriation but is sharply split over the issue. A meeting of the Labor Central Committee decided over the weekend to instruct the party's Knesset faction to vote against the villagers' return. But only a few of the Committee's 701 members attended and Labor MK Yossi Sarid has demanded another vote. Labor's Alignment partner, Mapam, has indicated that it would support repatriation.

Labor's official argument is that security considerations still govern the Lebanese border region. They also note that the land around the former villages has been under cultivation by neighboring kibbutzim and moshavim for almost 30 years and that repatriation would set a precedent for the return of other Arabs to the towns from which they were displaced during the 1948 war, such as Jaffa and Ramleh.

Sarid disclaimed any security risk, pointing out that there are other Arab villages near the Lebanese border. Moreover, he said, the villagers are not demanding any cultivated areas. As for the precedent, Sarid noted that the former residents of Ikrit and Biram are the only ones for whom the Israeli Supreme Court has recommended repatriation.

Most observers believe that a Knesset vote would favor repatriation but they caution that the appointment of a Cabinet committee to study the matter should not be regarded as a first step in that direction. The committee's terms of reference require it only to investigate the total situation of the villagers.

FRANCE OVERTURNS ANTI-BOYCOTT LAW

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, July 31 (JTA)--The French government last week decided that the recent anti-boycott law will not be applicable to Arab-imposed restrictions on trade with Israel. The government managed to overturn the practical applications of the law, approved by Parliament on June 7, by issuing an "executive directive" instructing the state-controlled Foreign Trade Insurance Commission that the law does not cover French trade in the Middle East.

The law, proposed by both opposition and majority members, outlawed all boycotts if based on national origin, race or religion. The law also included a paragraph enabling the government to overrule Parliament "if the national interests demand it".

The government has decided to act in a more direct manner. French exports are insured by a state-controlled commission which guarantees industrialists and businessmen the payment of their exports. Since the law was passed last month, the commission has refused to approve contracts which include anti-Israeli boycott conditions.

Last week, the government published an executive directive in the official gazette lifting the law's provisions on trade with the Middle East. The directive says, "exporting firms should be helped to conquer new markets, especially in oil-producing countries engaged in an industrialization process".

The directive adds: "In order to balance our foreign trade and halt unemployment the country's export drive must be considered a national priority". The government's directive will enable the commission, known as COFACE, to resume underwriting French exports to the Middle East even if the contracts contain an anti-Israeli boycott condition.

The "Free Trade Movement," a pro-Israeli organization, announced that it will challenge the government directive in the Supreme Court. The "Free Trade Movement" says it will prove that the government's action is not necessary as "other countries, which have resisted Arab boycott demands, have not suffered economic difficulties and even managed, as Holland has done, to increase their exports to the Arab world".

The French Zionist Organization has also protested against the government directive which it describes as "another instance of the government's anti-Israeli bias".

STATE ATTORNEY DENIES USE OF TORTURE; ISRAELI TO TRY SOLDIERS FOR BEATING ELDERLY ARAB TO DEATH

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 31 (JTA)--State Attorney Gabriel Bach strongly denied charges that Israeli security agents deliberately torture Arab political prisoners under interrogation and assailed a report to that effect published recently in the Sunday

Times of London. But Bach, addressing foreign correspondents here, admitted that "such things may occasionally happen".

He also disclosed that a dozen Israeli soldiers would be brought to trial shortly for alleged involvement in the death of an elderly Arab resident of Nablus, Ahmed Dahloul, who was arrested for questioning in March, 1976 in connection with disturbances on the West Bank. He said the prosecution brief was in preparation.

Dahloul died after he was taken into custody for allegedly inciting anti-Israel riots. The cause of death was initially listed as heart attack but investigations showed that he had been beaten to death. Bach said that until now only the officer in command of the unit had been tried. He was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to two years in prison and stripped of his Major's rank.

But subsequently, evidence came to light involving 12 soldiers, Bach said. He also disclosed that his office was preparing to prosecute six Arab inmates of the Nablus jail who allegedly "interrogated, tried" and severely beat four fellow inmates to find out if they had "cooperated" with police. He showed newsmen photos of one of the four exhibiting extensive bruises.

Bach denounced the Sunday Times report as "tendentious, vicious and definitely unfounded". He stressed that Israel's military courts were as punctilious as civilian courts and therefore without bias against Arab defendants. He noted that the presiding military judges were usually reserve officers who practice law in civilian life "and are therefore fully imbued with the sense of natural justice."

VANCE, OFF TO THE MIDEAST, CAUTIOUS ABOUT CHANCES FOR NEW GENEVA TALKS

By David Ettinger

WASHINGTON, July 31 (JTA)--Secretary of State Cyrus Vance left tonight on an 11-day visit to the Middle East with proposals the United States hopes will lay the groundwork for reconvening the Geneva Middle East peace conference. Prior to leaving, the Secretary held a news conference and met with a top Soviet diplomat at the State Department but the substance of his talks with the Soviet official and the proposals he is taking with him remained for the most part under wraps.

Speaking at a news conference at the State Department on Friday, Vance conceded that at the conclusion of his trip "it is still possible ... we will not know" whether a Geneva conference will be reconvened. "If that is the case we would plan to have further meetings," possibly at the upcoming United Nations General Assembly in September when Arab and Israeli diplomats will be in New York for the session. He voiced optimism, however, that as a result of the trip "we will have a clearer idea of the ability to which we have been able to narrow the differences that have existed between the parties."

President Carter was more openly optimistic that the Geneva talks could be reconvened. During his press conference last Thursday the President said he was optimistic because all the Mideast leaders with whom he has met "want to go to Geneva". He noted that even though the three Jewish settlements on the West Bank which Israel legalized a day earlier made moves toward an ultimate peace more difficult it is "not an insurmountable problem".

He reiterated this view again last Friday in an interview with a group of American editors here. "We still have a lot of difficulties to overcome," Carter was quoted as saying. "My own belief is that they can be overcome." The President also repeated

in his interview, the text of which was released by the White House, that the legalization of Jewish settlements on the West Bank "are illegal and contravene the Geneva conference." Neither in his press conference nor in his interview did Carter mention a possible date for reconvened Geneva talks, unlike his statement after meeting with Premier Menachem Begin that the talks looked good for October, the date suggested by Begin.

Mum On West Bank Trusteeship Plan

Vance refused to comment when a reporter asked him whether the proposals he was taking with him included a plan for a trusteeship arrangement for the West Bank. "It would be inappropriate for me to go into any specifics of what we might suggest," he replied.

The afternoon Israeli newspaper Maariv reported Friday that Vance would ask the Arabs to consider granting Israel the status of trustee over the territories for some years until the local population decides, in a referendum or by other means, what its future should be. Under that arrangement local affairs would be left in the hands of the local population but Israel would be responsible for the defense and security of the region.

Does Not Expect To Meet With PLO

Vance also told the news conference that he "did 'not expect there will be any meeting' with the Palestine Liberation Organization 'on this trip'." The U.S., he noted, is "constrained" by the Egyptian-Israeli interim agreements to forego contacts with the PLO until it recognizes Israel. Vance admitted, however, that the U.S. has been receiving communications from the PLO through intermediaries but said the U.S. was not responding.

The Secretary said he was "pleased" by reports that Israeli Premier Menachem Begin has accepted the possibility of stationing United Nations observers along the Lebanese-Israeli border and termed the idea "a constructive suggestion" which he said "will be discussed".

Vance also said the U.S. was keeping "closely in touch" with the Soviet Union, the co-chairman of the Geneva conference, and he himself has conducted "frequent discussions" with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin. The Secretary said he intended to divulge the specifics of his suggestions to the Soviets prior to his departure. Vance met yesterday with Vladilen Vasev, the charge d'affaires at the Soviet Embassy in the absence of Dobrynin.

Vance is due in Alexandria tomorrow and after three days there will fly to Beirut and the same day move on to Damascus where he will remain until Aug. 5. He will then go to Amman and remain there until Aug. 7 and proceed from there to Saudi Arabia. Vance will arrive in Israel on Aug. 9 and spend two days meeting with Israeli leaders. He is scheduled to return Aug. 12 via London.

Basis For Talking To Palestinian Leaders

Meanwhile, Carter said in a White House interview with Time magazine Friday that "If the Palestinian leaders... espoused the UN Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for negotiations at Geneva, we would immediately commence plans to begin talks with the Palestinian leaders." He said he could not speak for Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's response to such a development but "I would hope that he would accept that."

The interview, conducted in the Oval Office with Time's managing editor, Henry Grunwald and a group of Time correspondents, appears in this week's edition of the magazine. It elicited from the

President expressions of optimism that the Geneva conference would "materialize" this year, an acknowledgement that it might end in failure and the suggestion that "overwhelming" world opinion could guide it to a successful outcome.

In that connection, the President said, according to the official White House transcript of the interview: "I think if a particular leader of one of the countries should find that his position is in direct contravention to the position of all the other parties involved, including ourselves and the Soviet Union, and was narrowly defined in his own country, there would be a great impetus on that leader to conform with the overwhelming opinion."

At another point in the interview he said, according to the transcript: "I think there is a general acceptance of the proposition that we ought to have a comprehensive settlement, based on peace treaties with all the Arab nations and the Israelis being involved together, and with world opinion being marshaled to support and to perpetuate any agreement... I think there is going to be a focussing of public attention and public influence on the talks that will be conducive to success."

Geneva Seen As A First Opportunity

The President rejected a "step-by-step incremental approach" as being "too long, too tedious and leaves unhealed wounds". He said "it would be a mistake to assume that the Geneva conference is going to be easy or brief." But despite the risks of breakdown and failure "it will be the first opportunity, if it materializes, for the Arab leaders and the Israeli leaders to meet together in extensive negotiations to understand one another's approach, positions, attitudes, and to marshal the opinion of the world on the points in dispute," the President said.

Carter said that "Our own positions that have been spelled out in general terms deliberately are the ones we still espouse. They haven't been completely accepted by the Israelis nor the Arab leaders, of course, and we can't say yet that they are completely endorsed by the Soviets either." But the President added, after Vance's current visit to the Middle East "I think we will have a much clearer picture of where the differences lie."

SADAT'S 'INVITATION' FOR EGYPTIAN JEWS TO RETURN RAPPED AS HYPOCRISY

NEW YORK, July 31 (JTA)--The World Organization of Jews from Arab Countries (WOJAC) branded the recent invitation by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to Jews who had formerly lived in Egypt to return to that country as "nothing but hypocrisy intended to mislead public opinion." Norma Balass, WOJAC's executive director, reminded Sadat that in 1947, Egypt's United Nations representative threatened the Jews then living in Israel with imminent massacre. "The Jews from Egypt will never again let Egypt make them hostages of Arab brutality," she said.

Ms. Balass pointed out that as a result of anti-Jewish measures, only five percent of Egyptian Jews had had Egyptian citizenship. During the period from 1956 to 1958, she said, the Egyptian government enacted laws that indicated clearly its implacable enmity towards Jews. Today, there are only about 400 Jews still living there out of a Jewish population of 80,000 in 1949, she noted.

"The government of Egypt went to great lengths," Ms. Balass said, "to make sure that the Jews left stripped of all their possessions." Among those Jews, she stated, were many whose families had lived in Egypt for centuries and who had repeatedly petitioned for citizenship.

ADL CHARGES SOVIET UNION ADOPTS CZARIST ANTI-SEMITIC POSITION

NEW YORK, July 31 (JTA)--The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith today charged that the Soviet Union is aping the anti-Semitic Czarist secret police with the release of a purported scientific study of Jewish influence in the United States.

According to Seymour D. Reich, chairman of ADL's fact finding committee, the study—"International Zionism: History and Policy," published earlier this year by the Science Publishing House—is "a modern echo of the anti-Semitic forgery, 'The Protocols of the Elders of Zion,' and is equally fraudulent and malevolent".

"What distinguishes this new calumny from previous Soviet works of the genre," Reich said, "is the free use of the word 'Jew,' rather than 'Zionism,' in both the publication and a commentary by the official Tass news agency." "Zionism" is the euphemism usually employed by the Russians to avoid the risk of being accused of anti-Semitism.

Study Claims Jews Control U.S.

Reich noted this makes it obvious that the "Kremlin authorities have now dropped all pretenses and are adopting openly and flagrantly in a widespread propaganda campaign the anti-Semitic line that Jews control the United States."

Earlier this month, Tass, the Soviet news agency, claimed that Jewish financial and political power in the U.S. and control of the major news media precluded any shift in American support for Israel. The Tass commentary, based on the Soviet study, appeared in the news agency's French language service and was viewed as part of Moscow's ongoing criticism of U.S. Middle East policy.

According to the study cited by Tass, "From official American data 20 percent of American millionaires are Jewish. Jewish capital plays a considerable role in banking, commerce and industry." At another point, Tass said "The biggest group of Jewish capitalists in the world" are found in the U.S. It said "The Jewish Bourgeoisie: enjoys strong positions in the American press, notably in the New York Times, Washington Post, the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS), Radio Corporation of America (RCA) and the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC)."

According to the Soviet agency, "Jewish monopolists" provided a fifth of the campaign contributions to former President Nixon but "The Democratic Party has even closer links with Jewish capital." Tass said the "Zionist lobby" was deeply entrenched and "It is for this reason, the Soviet experts state, that one must not expect a change in American policy supporting Israel."

Study Seen As Dangerous Portent

Warning of the "ominous implications of this development," Reich declared that "although few were fooled by the Soviet use of Aesopian language to disguise bias against Jews, the fact that even this verbal restraint has been discarded is a dangerous portent for its captive Jewish community and peace in the Middle East."

He noted that the study's so-called findings of Jewish control of banking, industry, the media and legislation were evidently released at this time in a widespread propaganda attempt to counter the harmonious result of the meetings between Israel's Premier Menachem Begin and President Carter.

Reich said that this attempt is doomed to failure not only because there is "no factual basis to the insidious claim of pervasive and decisive Jewish influence in the United States," but also because of

enlightened American self-interest. "United States Middle East policy," he stated, "is what it is because of the American interest in supporting the only democracy and stable government in the region. American interests and convictions, not Jewish influence, determine this policy."

24 JEWISH INTELLECTUALS EXECUTED IN THE SOVIET UNION 25 YEARS AGO

NEW YORK, July 31 (JTA)--The 25th anniversary of the execution of 24 leading Jewish intellectuals and writers in Moscow will be marked Aug. 12. The execution was the climax of Stalin's terror campaign to eliminate all vestiges of Jewish culture in the Soviet Union. The execution of the Jewish writers took place one month after a trial in which they were accused by the government of being "enemies of the USSR, agents of American imperialism and bourgeois nationalist Zionists."

Between 1948 and 1952, 431 outstanding Jewish artists were arrested. They included 217 writers, 108 actors, 87 artists and 19 musicians. Most of the prisoners died in Soviet labor camps.

MOSCOW RABBI HOSPITALIZED

NEW YORK, July 31 (JTA)--Rabbi Jacob Fishman of the Moscow Synagogue has been hospitalized with acute appendicitis, according to Rabbi Arthur Schneier of the Park East Synagogue. In a phone conversation with Shalom Kleinman, president of the Moscow Choral Synagogue, Schneier said he was told that Fishman underwent surgery for the removal of the appendix and is in stable condition. Fishman, 64, has had a history of heart ailments.

Schneier, who is also president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, an inter-faith group concerned with strengthening religious life in the USSR and Eastern Europe, maintains contact with the Moscow Jewish community.

AJCONGRESS URGES CAREY TO VETO TWO MEASURES TO REVIVE SUNDAY BLUE LAWS

NEW YORK, July 31 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress has urged Governor Carey to veto two measures passed by the New York State Legislature that would revive compulsory Sunday observance laws. Louis E. Yavner, chairman of the AJCongress Metropolitan Council, wrote Carey stating the organization's opposition to the enactment of the bills.

"Such laws are basically religious laws, designed to compel all persons to observe a religious day of rest," Yavner said. "We believe that the state has no moral or constitutional right to sanctify Sunday or any other day of the week for 'religious observance' and compel adherence by all persons, whether or not they share in the underlying religious premise. Nor should any person be forced to prove to the satisfaction of a peace officer or court that he or she observes another day of the week as the Sabbath."

He charged the measures "attempt to disguise a basically religious law as secular measures, under the guise of encouraging energy conservation, in order to avoid their being adjudged unconstitutional under the First Amendment."

BEGIN CELEBRATES HIS 64TH BIRTHDAY

JERUSALEM, July 31 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin celebrated his 64th birthday yesterday. Family members, friends and reporters attended a party at the Premier's residence here, but many had to remain outside due to overcrowding and were unable to congratulate Begin. The highlight of the party was when the guests joined in the singing of Betar, Irgun and other underground songs.