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DISASTER OF EGYPT'S RESCUE MISSION IN CYPRUS DUE TO SERIOUS FLAWS IN THE WAY ITS RAID WAS ORGANIZED, EXPERTS SAY

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 21 (JTA)--Israeli experts, analyzing the costly Egyptian effort to free 15 terrorist-held hostages at Larnaca Airport in Cyprus over the weekend, blamed the failed aspects of the mission on a general lag in worldwide attempts to fight international terrorism. But they also found serious flaws in the way the Egyptians organized and executed the commando raid that left 15 Egyptian soldiers dead.

The two Palestinian terrorists, who on Saturday had killed Yousef el-Sabai, editor-in-chief of the semi-official Egyptian newspaper Al Ahran in a lobby of the Hilton Hotel in Nicosia and then seized hostages and tried to flee Cyprus in a hijacked plane, surrendered to Cypriot authorities. A half dozen Arab and other countries refused to permit the terrorists to land the plane. The hostages and the 57 surviving commandos, including 16 wounded, returned safely to Egypt where they were welcomed as heroes at Cairo Airport.

The Egyptian failure seemed all the more glaring against the background of Israel's spectacularly successful rescue-raid on Entebbe Airport in Uganda on July 3-4, 1976 and last year's similar feat by West German commandos at Mogadishu, Somalia. But the Israelis were not gloating. In fact, security circles here stressed that any and all efforts to fight terrorism were welcomed and if the action failed, all civilized nations were the losers.

Operation Faulted On Three Counts

The experts, who said they based their opinions entirely on media accounts of the events at Larnaca, faulted the Egyptian operation on three counts: lack of proper intelligence information; lack of coordination; and lack of surprise.

They said the Egyptian commandos were unaware of the fact that when they landed at Larnaca the terrorists had already agreed to release the hostages and surrender themselves. They also lacked basic knowledge of the airport's layout, the position of the Cypriot airliner in which the hostages were held, the position of the hijackers and the presence of the Cypriot national guardsmen.

The Egyptians for some reason, possibly fearing a breach of secrecy, did not inform the Cypriot authorities in advance of their intention to mount the commando rescue mission. The Cypriot guardsmen were, in any event, unaware of it and opened fire on the Egyptians.

Finally, the Israeli analysts said, the Egyptians lost whatever element of surprise they may have had when their soldiers opened fire in all directions the moment they emerged from their Hercules transport plane. Their shooting triggered return fire from the Cypriots which took the high toll of Egyptian lives.

Other sources noted that the Israeli raid on Entebbe was carried out only after a week of fruitless negotiations, was the first of its kind and therefore came as a stunning surprise. The Is-

raelis knew every inch of Entebbe Airport which they in fact had built. They were opposed by ill-trained Ugandan soldiers. The West Germans landed at Mogadishu with the full cooperation of the Somalia government. All of those favorable elements were lacking to the Egyptians, the sources said.

ATHERTON BEGINS HIS SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 21 (JTA)--U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred L. Atherton met for two hours today with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and later with Premier Menachem Begin. The American diplomat, who President Carter is expected to name Ambassador-at-large for Mideast peace negotiations, arrived here from Washington last night to resume his efforts for a joint "declaration of principles" on which both Israel and Egypt can agree.

After his session with Dayan and his aides, Atherton said the subject of a declaration was discussed but would not elaborate. "I think it is probably not useful for me, after each of these discussions, to say precisely where we are and who is saying what to whom," he told reporters. Dayan concurred, saying, "Just give us a chance to work a while." Atherton and Dayan reportedly focused on the "Palestinian clause" of a possible declaration.

Atherton is expected to fly to Cairo tomorrow for further discussions with Egyptian leaders and return to Israel before the weekend. He will visit Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Syria next week. But his shuttle diplomacy is not expected to achieve any breakthrough before Begin's meeting with Carter in Washington, scheduled for March 14.

EHRLICH DEFENDS HIS SOUTH AFRICAN VISIT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 21 (JTA)--Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich defended his recent visit to South Africa against critics who charged, at the 29th World Zionist Congress today, that Israel's cooperation with a "racist state" put it in disrepute. Ehrlich said he was proud to have made the trip in the interests of strengthening Israel's economy. "All the talk of national damage has no foundation. We did openly what others are doing under the table," he declared, adding that "we are willing to receive any assistance, even from Communist countries." (See related Congress story P.3.)

Ehrlich went to South Africa on Feb. 5 for an eight-day visit, accompanied by his wife and an entourage of Finance Ministry officials. He met with Prime Minister John Vorster, Finance Minister Owen Horwood and Foreign Minister Pik Botha as well as with leaders of the South African Jewish community. The trip was described by Israeli sources as an effort to boost exports to South Africa to help overcome the substantial trade imbalance between the two countries and to sign a treaty abolishing double taxation.

Ehrlich's visit to South Africa was used as a springboard to attack Israel at the United Nations Human Rights Commission debate on racial discrimination in Geneva last week. The Nigerian delegate referred to the Israeli minister's trip as evidence that Israel was strengthening its relations with the apartheid regime while most countries were breaking with it. The Syrian delegate accused Israel and

South Africa of collaborating to produce nuclear weapons.

Says Trip Helped Israel

Ehrlich's trip was assailed at the Zionist Congress today by Prof. Shlomo Avineri of the Labor Party, a former director general of the Foreign Ministry and Ran Cohen, of the Sheli faction.

Avineri asked Ehrlich to explain how Israel could cooperate with a "racist state." He declared: "How can you explain the positive values of Zionism while you cooperate with a racist government such as that in South Africa?" Cohen said the visit was a slap at national liberation movements and damaging to the Zionist cause.

Ehrlich responded that his visit was in the interests of Israel and he had sought to foster Israel's economic growth. He affirmed that his trip was not intended to condone practices of the South African government. The Finance Minister was warmly applauded by most of the Congress delegates and his trip was defended by Julius Weinstein, chairman of the South African Zionist Federation.

"As Jews and as Zionists, if the hand of my country is extended to Israel, Israel should accept it," Weinstein said. He praised South Africa for being "the first on several occasions to support Israel" and said that Ehrlich's trip paved the way for greater investments by South Africans in Israel. Weinstein was also applauded. But the Sheli delegate shouted from the floor, "This is shame and disgrace for Zionism."

DISPUTE OVER INCREASED NEO-NAZI ACTIVITY IN WEST GERMANY

By Jon Fedler

BONN, Feb. 21 (JTA)--Increased neo-Nazi activity in West Germany and the alarming proliferation of leaflets, Nazi era symbols and artifacts in public places has led to a dispute between the Federal Minister of Justice, Hans-Jochen Vogel and the Justice Minister of at least one State--North Rhine-Westphalia--on the need for new, tighter laws to combat the spread of Nazi propaganda.

Vogel expressed serious concern over these developments in letters to the Westphalia Justice Minister Diether Posser and the Federal Minister of Interior Werner Maihofer. He said the increasing circulation of Nazi emblems and propaganda called for new laws "if it should emerge that adequate punishment is not possible under existing law." He referred specifically to an "escalation in the sale of records with taped events from the Nazi period, Nazi literature, toys and imitation weapons with Nazi symbols."

Posser, who is chairman of the Coordinating Committee of State Justice Ministers, rejected Vogel's proposal. He said on a television interview that tougher measures should be considered only if there was "convincing evidence" that there were loopholes in existing laws that ban Nazi propaganda. In his letter to Maihofer, Vogel asked that interior ministers on the state level be required to ensure that the police pay more attention than they do to violations of the ban on Nazi propaganda and to seek prosecution when necessary.

Last Friday, a ranking official of the Ministry of Youth, Family and Health admitted, in reply to questions in Parliament, that tape recordings of Nazi speeches and brochures glorifying the Nazi period could violate laws that ban activities "dangerous to young people." The Bonn government says it has no details of the extent to which

Nazi books, pamphlets and recordings are being sold. A special ministerial committee empowered to examine the problem has taken no action so far to check it.

New Incidents Reported

Meanwhile, a number of new incidents have occurred. West Berlin police broke up a meeting of the outlawed neo-Nazi NSDAP. The 17 participants, some carrying swastikas, were released after questioning. In Soltau, north Germany, two men who gave the Nazi salute at funeral services last week for convicted war criminal Herbert Kappler, were charged by police with "using the emblems of an unconstitutional organization."

The Association for Christian-Jewish Cooperation has filed charges with the Dusseldorf prosecutor against a group of men and women in that city who distributed Nazi literature outside the regional court during hearings in the current trial of Maidanek concentration camp guards. A spokesman for the Jewish community in West Berlin reported that swastika badges were on sale at a recent ice skating event there and that women were seen recently at a night club in a posh Berlin hotel wearing swastikas inlaid with diamonds.

PROBE ETHNIC BIAS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 (JTA)--Joseph A. Califano Jr., Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), has ordered an investigation to determine if ethnic bias had played a part in the rejection of a new grant application to a Bronx (NY) school district.

The inquiry was prompted by Rep. Mario Biaggi (D, NY) who wrote a letter of protest to Califano after he was informed by School District 11 that a grant it had applied for under the Women's Educational Equity Act was denied when one of three HEW evaluators had given the project a sharply lower score by charging that "...All the people cited as resource management seem middle class (Jewish in ethnicity)."

In a letter to School District Superintendent Nicholas Cicchetti, Califano wrote that he was "personally appalled at the possibility that racial, class or ethnic bias in the review process may have caused" the grant to have been denied. He stated that he has ordered Dr. Ernest L. Boyer, U.S. Commissioner of Education, "to investigate this matter personally and immediately." The funding proposal involved a grant of \$44,000 for the preparation of educational material "free of sexual stereotypes."

Califano, who said he expects the results of the investigation to be ready by the end of the month, stated that he asked Boyer to "recommend to me any action that should be taken on this particular application and such modifications in law or the Office of Education's regulations that may be required to eliminate inappropriate racial, ethnic, or class criteria in the award of education grants."

TEL AVIV (JTA)--The Tel Aviv municipality's Bialik Awards for Literature for this year went to poets Abba Kovner for his book of poetry, "Tzupiot" (forecasts) and to Zelda Mishkovsky (known as Zelda) for her book of poems, "Mountains and Fire." The award for Israeli philosophy went to Prof. Yehoshua Ben Aryeh for his research on Jerusalem in the 19th Century, and Prof. Aharon Mirski for his work on the ancient Eretz Israel poet Yossi Ben Yossi.

DULZIN DEMANDS WORLD JEWRY HALT AID TO SOVIET JEWISH 'DROP-OUTS'

By Gil Sedan and Tuvia Mendelsohn

JERUSALEM, Feb. 21 (JTA)--Leon Dulzin, chairman-designate of the World Zionist Organization, demanded today that world Jewry stop providing assistance to Jews who leave the Soviet Union but go to countries other than Israel. In his opening speech before more than 600 delegates attending the 29th World Zionist Congress, Dulzin repeated his charges that HIAS was responsible to a large extent for the high rate of "drop-outs" among Soviet Jewish emigres.

According to Dulzin, HIAS enables Jews leaving the USSR to spend weeks in Vienna at "fancy hotels" and months in Rome at the expense "of the Jewish people." He said "this is intolerable. The Jewish people can no longer afford it." Dulzin said the drop-outs were utilizing Soviet exit permits which otherwise might have gone to Jews who would come to Israel. "There is no perfect justice, but those who fight for the exit of Jews from the USSR do not do so to immigrate to the U.S. and Canada," Dulzin said, an apparent reference to the emigration activists in the Soviet Union.

Although the number of Soviet Jewish immigrants arriving in Israel increased during the last six months from 1000-1200 to 2000 per month, the drop-out rate among those reaching Vienna is still 50 percent, Dulzin said. He noted that a committee set up to deal with the problem a year ago no longer meets and the "issue must be raised again."

Dulzin's attack on HIAS reflected the belief in Jewish Agency and other Israeli circles that HIAS is influencing Jews from the Soviet Union to go to countries other than Israel. HIAS has vigorously denied this. It has noted repeatedly that it provides aid only after the immigrants have decided against Israel and after Jewish Agency representatives in Vienna have failed to persuade them to change their minds.

In his speech, Dulzin claimed that the public was insufficiently aware of the achievements of the Zionist movement and criticized those who, he said, undervalued it. "Let us not live with an inferiority complex and contempt for ourselves," he said. "Let us come out of this Congress as proud Zionists and though we may not have accomplished everything, we are still achieving much."

The Central Problem

The ceremonial opening of the Congress took place in the Jerusalem Convention Hall last night before 2000 delegates and guests. Anshel Reis, 92, a Congress delegate for 65 years, announced the official opening, followed by Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren who delivered a prayer composed especially for the occasion.

President Ephraim Katzir, who made the opening speech, said: "The central problem facing us is to give Zionism a new interpretation that will be meaningful to today's Jewry, especially the younger generation." He said the Zionist movement has never been satisfied with achieving political sovereignty for the Jewish people "but rather believed in a vision of a just society based on moral and cultural values."

Shift Of Political Power Evident

The shift of political power in Israel in last May's elections was starkly evident at the Congress opening where, for the first time, the Labor Zionist contingent was relegated to the back rows while

the triumphant Likud occupied the front of the hall. Former Premier Golda Meir was honored with a seat in the first row. But she was virtually ignored by the Cabinet members who sat near her. She was mentioned only in the speech by the outgoing WZO chairman, Yosef Almogi.

The "grand opening" momentarily obscured the bitter differences among the various Zionist factions that are expected to liven the Congress proceedings during the next seven days. Dulzin has declared that he wants the next WZO Executive to be a wall-to-wall coalition representing all Zionist parties.

But a major battle is looming over the allocation of portfolios on the Executive. The hottest issue is who will hold the key office of treasurer which Dulzin vacates. The Labor Party is demanding that post and is understood to have the support of the World Confederation of United Zionists, the second largest body attending the Congress. Dulzin has vowed that the office of treasurer will remain in the hands of Likud.

Warning By Sephardi Leader

Another source of friction developed at the first plenary session today when Nessim Gaon, president of the World Sephardi Federation, warned that his group will quit the Congress unless it is given four seats on the new WZO Executive. According to present plans, "non-Zionist" organizations are limited to two seats. "Am I to conclude that we Sephardim are not qualified for leadership?" Gaon asked to the applause of dozens of Sephardi delegates.

He also raised the painful issue of the social and economic gap in Israel. "Our Sephardi brethren, who constitute the so-called 'second Israel,' forgotten and deprived for 30 years, have lost all patience," he declared.

While stressing that he did not believe there was a deliberate policy of discrimination, he said the Sephardi community was the victim of the most serious inequities in Israeli society, particularly in housing, education and equal opportunity. "If this situation is allowed to continue, inevitably the result will be social conflict and political confrontation," Gaon warned.

SEEK HELP FOR SOVIET JEW

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 (JTA)--Sixty-four members of Congress have asked Soviet Interior Minister Nikolai Sholokov to allow Soviet engineer Isaac Zlotver, who is dying of cancer, to join his two children and grandchild in Israel. Zlotver, whose wife Dina died last August, has been asking repeatedly to emigrate over the past two years but Soviet authorities have refused to grant him an exit visa on the grounds he was associated with the Soviet military 13 years ago.

In a letter initiated by Rep. Newton I. Steers (R.Md.), the Congressmen said that "if Zlotver is allowed to die alone without the chance to see his family, this will be a most unfortunate incident that would reflect poorly on the intent of the Soviet Union to abide by her signed agreements."

WASHINGTON (JTA)--For the second time within a week the private premises of an Egyptian World Bank official were set on fire. Early Tuesday morning, in circumstances similar to the incident last week in Bethesda, Md., a gasoline can was placed at the garage of Saad el Fishawy, 54, of Arlington, Va. Damage was slight and no one was injured.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW**ALMOGI: TIME WAS OUT OF JOINT**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 21 (JTA)--Yosef Almogi's two years at the helm of the Jewish Agency/World Zionist Organization have not been an entirely happy or fulfilling time for him, and he admits it. "I wasn't able to develop the momentum, to introduce the changes that I had planned," he says in a matter-of-fact way, without patent bitterness or remorse.

He took the post, he recalls, in February 1976, after Pinchas Sapir's sudden death, full of plans and hopes: "I wanted to encourage the national Zionist federations around the world to take on much greater responsibilities. I wanted to strengthen the aliya movements. I was going to lay down clear and strict criteria for the appointment of shlichim (emissaries) and for their training. My design called for the establishment of aliya desks in every major community of the free world, to be run by the communities themselves. And there were many other ideas...."

His overall scheme envisioned his confirmation as chairman at the World Zionist Congress that was to have been held in January 1977 and at which he intended to outline his proposals and initiate the changes. But the Congress was postponed for a year because of an appeal by the Herut-Hatzohar movement against the decision to dispense with elections in countries where "agreed lists" could be drawn up. The postponement was Almogi's first blow.

His Days Were Numbered

He had hardly recovered when the second, and final blow struck. Israel underwent a "political earthquake" in the 1977 May elections--with Likud taking over the government. It was immediately obvious that one spinoff of that revolution would be Almogi's displacement at the next World Zionist Congress by a Likud leader. Illness compounded the former Haifa Labor boss's misfortunes.

He immediately acknowledged publicly that his days as chairman were numbered and prepared to spend the next nine months in a "lame duck" role. Due process demanded that he stand down formally only at the Congress--and he was not one "to run away" before that, as he observed philosophically.

To his own Labor Party he counseled caution against those who demanded that a fight be put up to stop Leon Dulzin, the Likud candidate. "To me it was clear all along that Dulzin commands a majority--the same majority upon which the government coalition rests," he said.

Meanwhile, he quietly commenced preparations for the Congress, working, as he attests, in harmony with all the Executive members, both those who will stay on and those who will make way for others after next week.

Purpose Of Zionist Movement

Despite his own mixed memories, Almogi continues to believe passionately in the purpose of the Zionist movement. "It has a vital and ongoing role," he declares, to help the State in various ways, and to deepen Zionist consciousness in the diaspora. The concrete expressions of this role are ig. aliya and Jewish education, says Almogi.

He is firmly in favor of scrapping the division between the WZO's Education Department and its Department of Torah Education. "In the State itself," he observed, "we have a single Education

Ministry which is responsible for both secular and religious schools." Unlike his successor, Dulzin, however, he does not believe that "secular Jewish education" itself is a mistaken or anachronistic concept.

Though he himself is making way for a Likud man, Almogi waxed indignant at the thought that Labor might be left after the Congress with neither the chairmanship nor the treasury under its control--the two top posts in the Zionist movement. He claimed that Labor's demand for the treasury post will be backed by a majority of delegates, since neither the Religious Zionists nor the World Confederation of United Zionists will want to see both top jobs in the hands of one political party.

Dulzin, however, favors Herut's Yoram Aridor, presently Deputy Minister in the Premier's Office, for treasurer, and has so far firmly rejected Labor's demand for the post.

What of the future? At 68, with a long record of union, municipal and Cabinet service behind him, Almogi said he hasn't yet thought about it. "But certainly I won't leave public life altogether," he declared. "First I'll take a rest, and then go back to my beloved Haifa. Then, we'll see."

CHRISTIAN, JEWISH LEADERS WELCOME DECISION ON TEXT OF PASSION PLAY

NEW YORK, Feb. 21 (JTA)--American Christian and Jewish leaders have welcomed the recent vote of the town council of Oberammergau, Germany, which decided that the 1980 presentation of its famous Passion Play is to be based on an earlier text than the highly anti-Semitic version that has been presented for more than a century.

As a result of the vote, the 1980 Passion Play is to be performed from a script written in 1750 by a Benedictine monk, Ferdinand Rosner, replacing an 1860 text by a priest named Joseph Alois Daisenberger. The Daisenberger version, which has been acted every 10 years for more than a century, is filled with statements and implications holding the Jewish people solely responsible for the death of Jesus. The Rosner script maintains that all mankind was responsible for Jesus' death, and that his crucifixion stemmed from a plot hatched by Lucifer and his evil spirits.

Representatives of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Council of Churches of Christ and the American Jewish Committee, at a news conference last Friday morning at the AJCommittee's headquarters, called the town council's decision "a major step in consolidating the improved relationship between Christians and Jews that evolved from the Vatican Council II declaration repudiating the charge against the Jewish people for collective guilt in the death of Jesus."

Bertram H. Gold, executive vice-president of the AJCommittee, who chaired the news conference, described the Passion Play as a "long-time concern" of the AJCommittee. It was more than 20 years ago that the AJCommittee made its first line-by-line analysis of the Daisenberger script and came to the conclusion that it was a "highly anti-Semitic document that could not help but contribute to the misunderstanding of Jews and Judaism," Gold said.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Former Foreign Minister Yigal Allon has been elected chairman of the Labor Zionist Movement, and Yehiel Leket was elected secretary general. He succeeded Yitzhak Korn who served as secretary general for 14 years.