

JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036.

Vol. XLV - 61st Year

Monday, June 12, 1978

No. 113

CLUB MEDITERRANEE PARIS OFFICE BOMBED IN APPARENT ANTI-JEWISH ACTION

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 11 (JTA)--The Paris headquarters of the Club Mediterranee, one of the world's largest travel organizations, was damaged this morning by the explosion of two bombs. Later a terrorist group said it set off the blasts "as an act of resistance against the Jewish occupation (of France)." The club is owned jointly by Jewish businessman Gilbert Traigano and the Rothschild bank.

The explosions, occurring early this morning, severely damaged the building. A night watchman was slightly injured by flying glass. Police said the bombs were placed in the central lobby sometime yesterday before the offices closed down for the weekend.

Several hours after the explosion a group calling itself "The French National Liberation Front" assumed responsibility for the attack. The organization's spokesman telephoned news agencies in Paris to say "We did not fight German occupation (during World War II) only to suffer now seven million Jews, Arabs and Blacks." He said the blast was one of several "acts of resistance against Jewish occupation." The club operates holiday camps in Israel and in several Arab countries and also brings several tens of thousands of foreigners to its camps in France.

CABINET READY FOR DISCUSSION

TEL AVIV, June 11 (JTA)--Cabinet ministers on various overseas junkets have returned to Israel assuring that the full Cabinet will be present tomorrow when it meets to formulate Israel's replies to key questions posed by the United States on the future status of the West Bank and political self-expression for the Palestinians.

Defense Minister Ezer Weizman returned Thursday evening after a surprise overnight trip to London which aroused widespread speculation as to its purpose. Premier Menachem Begin left a meeting of the Herut Central Committee to meet with Weizman as soon as he arrived in Jerusalem to hear his report. They conferred for 20 minutes in a closed off area after which Weizman left. He refused to comment to reporters on any aspect of his brief trip.

Observers now believe that the Israeli defense chief did not meet with an Arab or African personality as originally rumored but might have had a secret meeting with a senior statesman of undisclosed nationality either in London or at Zurich where he boarded an El Al flight home Thursday evening.

Meanwhile Minister of Education Zevulun Hammer and Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu Hazeira, both of the National Religious Party, have returned from visits to the U.S. and Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon returned from London. There was no Cabinet meeting today because of the Shavuot holiday.

MEMORIAL FOR MAUTHAUSEN

VIENNA, June 11 (JTA)--The Austrian government has authorized the construction of a

new \$100,000 memorial at the former Nazi concentration camp at Mauthausen, which now houses a museum, government sources said today. Construction will begin later this year. Interior Minister Erwin Lanc said "This is an important development. More and more people are getting down to the problem of Nazi ideology and its terrible consequences."

Mauthausen served as background for many sequences of the recent film "Holocaust" broadcast by the NBC television network in April. More than 112,000 persons visited the museum there last year, an increase of 15,000 over the previous year.

SHOOTING BETWEEN LEBANESE VILLAGERS, PALESTINIANS REPORTED

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 11 (JTA)--New exchanges of fire between Palestinians and Christian villagers in south Lebanon today and Israel's apparent intention to turn over its positions to local Christian forces, raised further complications in that region as Israeli troops prepared for their final withdrawal this Tuesday. Gen. Emmanuel Erskine of Ghana, commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said in an Israel interview yesterday that he was "very disappointed" that the Christian militia rather than the UN troops will be given control of the vital security belt along the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Israel's 11th hour commando raid Friday that destroyed a terrorist maritime base on the Lebanese coast south of the port of Sidon, seems to have had no effect on the situation in south Lebanon. The base, at Dar el Burj, some 21 kilometers from the Israeli border, was well north of the Litani River that defines the limits of the area occupied by Israel last March.

It was assaulted in a pre-dawn attack by Israeli naval forces and paratroopers who demolished all six buildings and killed at least ten terrorists, about one-third of those who manned the base. Two Israeli officers of lieutenant's rank were killed and eight soldiers were injured when the raiders blew up one of the buildings that, unknown to them, was an ammunition storehouse packed with high explosives. The injured men were evacuated by helicopter to hospitals in Israel. Their injuries were reported to range from slight to serious.

Learned Terrorists Planned Raid

Israel announced that the raid was undertaken as a result of intelligence reports that the terrorists were planning to launch a new attack on Israel's coast in the next few days, similar to the March 11th assault on the Haifa-Tel Aviv highway which prompted the invasion of south Lebanon.

(In Washington Friday, State Department spokesman John Trattner said the Israeli raid "underlines again the need to restore peace and stability to Lebanon and to reach a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict." Trattner added, "I don't have any feeling that there is any linkage between the action today (Friday) and the Israeli announced intention to withdraw" from Lebanon. "Every indication we have is that they do intend to withdraw June 13 as they have said they would.")

Gen. Erskine said in the interview yesterday

that "The Israelis just want to wash their hands off and hand over to the Christians who elected their own commanders and we have been asked to negotiate with them. The big question is in what capacity do we negotiate with them?" Erskine said he was seeking clarification from the Lebanese authorities in Beirut as to the status of the Christian forces. The latter claim to be the vanguard of the Lebanese regular army to which, according to Security Council Resolution 425 of March 19, authority in south Lebanon would eventually be turned over. But no Lebanese army has materialized so far and the Christian militia appears to be an autonomous local force.

Erskine Expresses Disappointment

Erskine said "I am very disappointed. I enjoyed the maximum cooperation from the Israelis in the two previous withdrawal phases. . . Positions were handed over to us at little informal ceremonies. But that cooperation is not there today. . . If things do not go well, what do we do Tuesday? If I get instructions to talk to them, (the Christians) I shall. But if there is a hitch, if there are problems, to whom do we turn? I shall personally hold Israel responsible."

Meanwhile, settlers in northern Israel reported today that terrorist artillery was fired over the heads of UN troops at Christian villages, and that the Christians returned the fire. They said terrorists were also firing mortars and machineguns on villages in the Litani River valley. UN forces reportedly were prevented by Christian units from entering a Christian-controlled enclave.

BEN GURION'S DIARY REMARKS JUST BEFORE INDEPENDENCE NOW PUBLIC

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA)--Former Premier David Ben Gurion expected war with the Arabs when Israel declared its independence on May 14, 1948 and proposed that the Israeli army seize territory beyond the boundaries designated for the Jewish State by the United Nations partition resolution of November 29, 1947, according to Ben Gurion's personal diary.

The diary, covering events during the month before Israel's declaration of independence, was published here Thursday. The documents, selected by a joint committee of the Foreign Ministry and the State Archives, are dated from April 18 to May 13, 1948. They have never been published before.

According to the diary, Ben Gurion asked Yigael Yadin, then chief operations officer of Hagana, what the chances were of war with the Arabs. Yadin estimated they were 50-50 and warned that the Arabs possessed a considerable military advantage. Ben Gurion however expressed confidence in a Jewish victory and stated that once the military tide turned to their advantage, the army (then Hagana) should not limit itself to the designated borders but go beyond them. He said that when the time came to declare independence, no mention should be made of borders.

When Pinhas Rosen, later Israel's Minister of Justice, raised the legal issue of determining the borders of the new State, Ben Gurion replied: "Everything is possible. Law is determined by the people. When we declare the State we do not have to determine borders nor do we have to seek international recognition." Israel's borders

have never been legally determined. The published documents mention a complaint by Yisrael Galili, later a Minister-Without-Portfolio and a close advisor to Premier Golda Meir, that the Irgun, commanded by Menachem Begin continued to provoke the British army in defiance of the "Peoples Administration" that was to become Israel's provisional government after May 14. Galili said it was obvious that the Irgun did not want to reach a settlement with the British for the handing over of authority. He said Begin avoided a meeting with him.

The documents disclose that Moshe Shertok (later Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett) said he was convinced the British were interested in a war in Palestine.

DISABLED ISRAELI VETS WELCOMED INTO AMERICAN JEWISH HOMES

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA)--Fifty disabled Israeli war veterans are being welcomed into the homes of American Jewish families this month in a cultural exchange launched by Mrs. Sylvia Robinson, whose husband, Donald M. Robinson, is the president of the Joint Distribution Committee. During June there will be 10 to 12 Israeli veterans hosted in Pittsburgh; Great Neck, N.Y.; Stamford, Conn.; Washington; and Toronto.

The program, now in its fourth year, began after Mrs. Robinson learned about European visits of Israeli disabled soldiers while at a JDC conference in Geneva with her husband. Since then she has experimented each summer with bringing small groups to such cities as her home community of Pittsburgh, as well as Detroit, Chicago and this year's participating communities.

"The cities and families who are eager to be host to the disabled veterans outnumber the number of young men arriving," Mrs. Robinson said. "The first experience helped us plan guidelines for other communities. The effort and planning involved much more than the dozen families who become hosts in each city. Other families raise funds, plan and implement cultural trips and help insure a successful experience." Mrs. Robinson said, "Lefters and friendships have followed these visits with both Americans and Israelis feeling that they have extended families across the ocean." She explained that many families have had heartwarming reunions with the soldiers in Israel. Mrs. Robinson is president of the Pittsburgh Federation's Women's Division.

WALTER FELLEENZ DEAD AT 61

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA)--Col. Walter Fellenz, the American army officer who liberated the Dachau concentration camp at the end of World War II, has died in San Antonio, Texas, where he lived, it was learned here today. Fellenz, who was 61 years old and retired from the army, was one of the speakers at the memorial service at Temple Emanu-El here May 31 commemorating the 35th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and the six million Jews who were murdered by the Nazis.

During his talk his voice broke down frequently with emotion as he described the horrors he found at Dachau. He told the audience "You and I must educate the youth of today of the tragedy of yesterday so we can prevent the atrocities of tomorrow."

The Jewish Journal of San Antonio which has an interview with him in its June issue reported that Fellenz spoke to 11 groups while in New York and planned a speaking tour of the West Coast. The Journal said the only payment he accepted for his talks was for expenses since he considered his description of what happened a duty and an obligation.

JAVITS URGES POSITIVE RESPONSE FOR ISRAEL TO U.S. QUESTIONS

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA)--Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R. NY) said that Israel has an important decision to make in responding to U.S. questions on the future of the West Bank "and how it makes that decision may well determine the course of events in the Middle East respecting U.S. mediation for peace."

Addressing commencement exercises at Brooklyn College Thursday, Javits declared that although it may seem "unjust" to "put the burden of moving peace forward once again upon Israel so soon after the U.S. decision to sell fighters to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, Israel has many times surmounted grave challenges in diplomacy and war and I am confident that Israel will respond to this challenge positively." The Israeli Cabinet will meet tomorrow to formulate replies to the questions posed by the Carter Administration.

In that connection, Javits called on Israel to "signal" the U.S. that it regards the sale of advanced warplanes to Saudi Arabia and Egypt as an incident and not a major change in the 30 year-old special relationship between Israel and the U.S. "Will Israel give the signal that it has lost confidence in the U.S. special relationship. Or will it give the signal that, notwithstanding a disagreement over the jet fighter sales package, it maintains confidence in the U.S.-Israeli special relationship. To give the latter signal would be very much in the highest national interest of the United States as well as the best course for Israel's integrity and security," Javits said.

Explaining Israel's Dilemma

The New York Senator, who opposed the planes package deal in the Senate debate, warned that if Israel did not respond in a positive manner, it "could open Israel to the accusation--however unjust that accusation might be--that it has failed to do its part in restoring momentum to the negotiations for peace in the Middle East." On the other hand, Javits said "It is the unique responsibility of the Jews and others in the United States who are knowledgeable on the subject to inform our fellow Americans of the excruciating dilemma which the Carter Administration's policies may be forcing upon Israel."

According to Javits, "There may be circumstances as yet hypothetical, which could compel Israel to stand against a Mideast policy of President Carter on the grounds of Israel's overriding national security interests and survival as Israel sees it."

Javits said he hoped the decision to sell 60 F-15s to Saudi Arabia would be viewed by that country as "an invitation to play a more active and open role" in the Middle East peace negotiations. He observed that while Saudi Arabia acted with "moderation" on the issues of oil production and pricing, it "appears much less to be considered moderate" when it comes to Mideast negotiations. He also expressed hope that President Anwar Sadat of Egypt will again be "seized of the passion for peace which motivated his historic initiative" last November.

MKs DEBATE U.S. JEWRY'S SUPPORT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA)--Two ends of the Knesset political spectrum joined together last week to form an unusual coalition in a demand for

a thorough discussion of the relations between Israel's government and American Jewry.

Sheli Knesseter Arye Eliav said in a motion to the agenda that the government, by its failure to make progress on peace, was losing the support of American Jewry.

When Deputy Minister Yoran Aridor took to the podium to strike the motion off the agenda, he was faced with the unexpected opposition of his party colleague, Geula Cohen, who heads the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee. She suggested that the motion be discussed in her committee. "Just because the motion was raised by Eliav is not a good enough reason to strike it off," she contended.

But Aridor quoted public opinion polls which showed that 83 per cent of U.S. Jews back the policy of Israel's government. Premier Menachem Begin's last visit to the U.S. also proved how completely American Jewry identifies itself with the government's peace plan, he said.

ALGERIAN JEWS VISIT FORMER HOME

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 11 (JTA)--Over 100 Algerian Jews returned to Paris last week from a 10-day pilgrimage to their former home. It is the first time since the European mass exodus from Algeria in 1962 that Jews have returned, even if only for a brief visit, to what is one of the most extremist Arab states.

The visit was organized by a Jewish organization of Jews from Oran which said the Algerian authorities "asked no questions" about the participants and "welcomed us all." The Algerian government extended to the visitors all possible facilities and several of the Algerian Jews said upon their return that they were "surprised by the warm and enthusiastic welcome" they received.

The Jews, most of whom stem from the province of Oran, spent most of their time at the tomb of Rabbi Ephraim Aln-Kava in Tlemcen. They also visited Oran, Sidi El Abbes and other major cities. They said that the former Tlemcen synagogue had been converted into an Algerian cultural club after the Jewish mass exodus 16 years ago, but that the rabbi's tomb has remained unchanged and seemed to be well taken care of. The Algerian authorities set up a temporary synagogue for the pilgrims in the city's main hotel, "The Zianides," where they also found a strictly kosher kitchen and accommodations.

The Jews said they were surprised by the warm welcome they received. They said upon their return to Paris that literally hundreds of their former Moslem neighbors showed up at the hotel in the hope of meeting former friends. "People kept inviting us to their homes and arranging festive meals and receptions for us. Dozens of Moslems walked with us up to the rabbi's tomb to show their good sentiments and their friendship," the pilgrims said.

Local Arabs said and kept repeating to the visitors: "We (the Arabs) even want peace with Israel. What more can you expect after (President Anwar) Sadat's visit to Jerusalem? Now it is up to Israel to show its good will and peaceful intentions. As for us (Algerian Jews and Arabs) let us be brothers like in the old days."

Most of the visitors said they were told that if Algerian Jews now living in Israel want to return on a visit to Algeria they will be allowed in, on condition that they travel with a collective passport delivered in France "so that we don't have to know officially who they are--this is, until peace with Israel is signed." Jews have traditionally been able to visit Tunisia and Morocco where many continue to operate businesses while officially living in France.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS URGE JEWISH GROUPS SEND SYMBOLIC DELEGATION TO COUNTER NAZI MARCH IN SKOKIE

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA)--The American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates and Nazi Victims has issued a call from its headquarters here to its own members as well as to other Jewish organizations and groups of all religions, races and creeds to send symbolic delegations to Skokie, to counter the expected Nazi march on June 25.

Declaring that "Skokie is now a symbol for the whole world," Solomon Zynstein, president of the Survivors Federation, also announced a further action program to halt the Nazi demonstration. He said his organization of survivors of the Holocaust would urge President Carter, Congress, the State of Illinois and the courts not to permit the Nazis to march; would distribute educational material exposing the evils of Nazism and the need for vigilance, and would be in Skokie to counter the Nazi march if it took place.

The survivors organization issued its call after hearing Sol Goldstein, a Skokie Jewish Community Leader, tell the group at a meeting at its headquarters here that he expected at least 50,000 persons from the Skokie area to counter the Nazis because he and all Jews and men of good will were committed to the "legacy of the Six Million Jews who perished in the Holocaust that the Nazis never be allowed to raise their heads again, and to perpetuate a free society." Goldstein is chairman of the Holocaust Survivors Association in Chicago and chairman of the Individual Liberty and Jewish Security Subcommittee of the Public Affairs Committee of the Jewish United Fund of Chicago. Appeals are now before the U.S. Supreme Court to halt the Nazi march.

Not Question Of Free Speech

"Every Jew was in Auschwitz; the free world was in Auschwitz," said Goldstein, who added that the march of the Nazis is not a question of free speech. "The authors of the First Amendment never believed the amendment would have the right to decide who should live or who should die and the swastika means the Jewish people should die," he said.

Zynstein added that "you cannot buy freedom of speech, assail the rights of others. Everyone has the right to be a Christian or a Jew or any other religion without being harassed or insulted, or suffering mental anguish."

Both Zynstein and Jose Tekulsky, chairman of the board of the Survivors Federation, said their organization is united behind the stand of the people of Skokie to halt the Nazis. The two leaders said that symbolic delegations from their organization would go to Skokie from New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, Montreal, Los Angeles, New Haven and other cities, "our banners in this peaceful counter-demonstration will say 'Brotherhood,' 'Freedom,' 'No more Holocaust.'"

"We, the survivors of the Holocaust know best from the experiences of history what can grow from the seeds of poison. Nobody paid attention to the small Nazi Party in Germany in the 1920s and look at the catastrophe that ensued in World War II," said Zynstein, himself a survivor.

He added that "it is unbelievable that in a free America, the swastika is alive and the Nazis want to march in the streets with the same slogans of hate and racism. We witnessed what hate

means. We declare today that as long as we are alive, we will not be silent to the scourge of Nazism."

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, told the survivors group that there would be demonstrations in New York protesting the Nazi march.

AJCOMMITTEE OPPOSES TUITION AID FOR NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA)--The American Jewish Committee today expressed its opposition to income tax credits for tuition payments to non-public elementary and secondary schools as "an unsound expenditure of public funds" which "would undermine the principle of separation of church and state."

The AJ Committee also declared that the adoption of legislation now before Congress to grant such credits would "reduce the resources available for support of public education."

In a statement by its national education committee made public here today by Mrs. Carol N. Stix, education chairperson, the AJ Committee pointed out that the tax credit legislation, adopted by the House of Representatives and currently pending in the Senate, would provide income tax reductions for all parents who send their children to non-public schools, regardless of their income.

The AJ Committee added that if the principle of partial reimbursement for tuition costs were legitimate, there would be inevitable pressure to grant tax credits for the total amounts of tuition, leading to increasing abandonment of "inadequately financed public schools." The end result of such a process, the AJ Committee insisted, would be that public schools would become "isolated scrap heaps for our society's rejects whom private schools are unwilling to accept."

While recognizing the important contributions which have been made by private and parochial schools, the statement emphasized that public education still constituted a "great unifying force in our pluralistic society. This nation and its children will be best served by increasing the resources available to make them better and more responsive to our needs. This cannot be done if limited Federal resources are provided instead for those who choose to leave the public schools."

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES AID FOR ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, June 11 (JTA)--The House Appropriations Committee has completed action on an \$8.7 billion foreign assistance program for fiscal year 1979 which includes \$1.825 billion for military and economic support assistance for Israel and a joint U.S.-Israel project. The sum represents the Administration's full request for Israel.

As submitted by Rep. Clarence D. Long (D. Md), chairman of the subcommittee on foreign operations, it earmarks \$1 billion in military sales credits for Israel for which payments of one half is forgiven and \$785 million in economic support assistance. The bill also appropriates \$40 million for a new Israel-U.S. bilateral agricultural research and development fund.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (JTA)--Ephraim Katzir, former President of Israel, was awarded an honorary doctorate of science degree at commencement exercises last week at Harvard University.

AMSTERDAM, (JTA)--A protest demonstration against the arrest of Vladimir Slepak in Moscow was held in front of the Soviet embassy in The Hague by 50 people.