

Vol. XLV - 61st Year

Tuesday, June 13, 1978

No. 114

JORDAN VALLEY SETTLEMENT REPULSES TERRORIST ATTACK; ONE KILLED, HUNT THREE OTHERS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 12 (JTA)--A manhunt is underway for the three surviving terrorists of a gang of four that attacked Meholah, a religious settlement in the Jordan Valley, early this morning. None of the settlers was hurt and no damage was reported. One terrorist was shot to death by a settler, Itzik Kleinman, 28, who fired a rifle from a second floor window. The dead man was carrying a Kalachnikov automatic rifle, hand grenades and an El Fatah flag. He wore a green uniform and commando shoes.

The other terrorists escaped in the dark. Army units called to the scene were attempting to pick up their trail. Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan were at the scene before dawn.

Security sources said the attack indicated that the terrorists are seeking a new area for their activities since the Lebanese border has been blocked. They may have set out on their mission from Syria and passed through Jordan without the knowledge of the authorities but possibly with the assistance of the local population, the sources said. Another possibility was that the gang penetrated the area several days ago and emerged from hideouts in the Samaria region to carry out this morning's attack.

First Attempt On West Bank Since August

The last attempted penetration of the West Bank by terrorists from Jordan occurred last August. Two terrorists were killed and three were captured near Ashdod Yagcov. Meholah was founded 10 years ago as a Nahal (para-military) settlement, the first in the Jordan Valley after the Six-Day War. Later it became a civilian settlement of the Orthodox Hapoel Hamizrachi movement. Members cultivate vegetables and raise turkeys. Meholah is located on the northern fringes of the Samaria region of the West Bank, about four kilometers west of the Jordan River and 15 kilometers south of the Israeli town of Beisan.

The attack occurred at about 2 a.m. local time when the terrorists penetrated the settlement's perimeter fences and assaulted the nearest house which was unoccupied. They were spotted almost immediately by security guards and fired wildly with automatic weapons. The commotion awoke the rest of the settlement. Women and children were sent to shelters and the men took arms and joined the battle. But the terrorists retreated into the dark, leaving behind one dead man and an El Fatah flag at the point where they broke through the perimeter fence.

(An El Fatah spokesman in Beirut said at noon today that the raid was carried out by members of the Abu Ali Ayad unit of Fatah. He said they reached Meholah via Jordan without the knowledge of the authorities in Amman. Abi Ali Ayad was a terrorist commander killed by Jordanian forces in 1971.)

ISRAEL PREPARES FOR FINAL WITHDRAWAL

TEL AVIV, June 12 (JTA)--Arrangements

for the final withdrawal of Israeli forces from south Lebanon, scheduled to take place tomorrow, were discussed by top level Israeli and United Nations military commanders at a meeting here today. The Israeli Chief of Staff, Gen. Rafael Eitan and his aides conferred with the commander of UN forces in the Middle East, Gen. Ensio Siilasvuo and Gen. Emmanuel Erskine, of Ghana, commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

It was not immediately known whether or how a solution was reached to a key issue that has emerged in recent days. Israel has indicated that it intends to turn over the 10-kilometer-deep security belt along the Lebanese border to the Lebanese Christian militia which occupies several enclaves in that region. It expects UNIFIL to conduct further negotiations with the Christian commanders, headed by Maj. Sa'ad Haddad. UNIFIL commanders have refused to do so unless instructed by UN headquarters in New York. Israeli circles back Haddad's claim that his forces represent the Lebanese regular army in south Lebanon. But its status is unclear.

There has been considerable tension between UNIFIL and the Christians who doubt that the UN force can prevent the return of Palestinian terrorists to the region. Yesterday's heavy exchange of fire between terrorists in the Beaufort Castle and the Christian village of Marj-Ayoun in south Lebanon was cited by the Christians as a case in point.

Funeral Services Held

Gen. Siilasvuo said yesterday that he is convinced that Friday's commando raid by Israel on a terrorist coastal base at Dahr el-Burj would not affect Israel's plans to withdraw from south Lebanon. Meanwhile, funeral services were held today for the two Israeli officers killed when a terrorist ammunition dump blew up during the raid. They were Nir Zehavi, 23, of Hadera, who was buried on the Mt. of Olives, and Yiftah Ayin, 23, of Tel Aviv. Both were promoted posthumously from lieutenant to captain's rank. (By Yitzhak Shargil)

BEGIN REPORTED IN GOOD HEALTH

JERUSALEM, June 12 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin's health is good and he functions normally, the Premier's Office announced today. The statement, quoting Begin's doctors, was issued in reaction to a story in the British paper, the Evening Standard, which reportedly claimed Begin's health has deteriorated. Begin suffered from a fever two weeks ago, and was restricted to his home for several days. Begin suffers from a heart condition and has had at least one heart attack.

CABINET FAILS TO COMPLETE DISCUSSION ON U.S. QUESTIONS; MORE TALKS PLANNED THIS WEEK

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 12 (JTA)--The Cabinet met for nearly five hours today but was unable to reach a consensus on Israel's replies to the American questions on the future of the West Bank. It is expected to convene again in special session some time during the week to try to resolve the issue. No date was announced.

The first two hours of today's meeting, which was postponed from Sunday because of the Shavuot holiday, was devoted to current matters. The

American questions were taken up in the final 2 1/2 hours which did not allow enough time for all of the ministers to express themselves on the subject. At least 13 ministers are still to be heard from, including Premier Menachem Begin who is deliberately withholding his views until he hears the opinions of all of his colleagues. Begin reportedly tried but failed to obtain a consensus before today's Cabinet meeting began.

The questions posed by the United States relate to the status of the West Bank after the expiration of five years of "self-rule" proposed by Begin and how Israel intends to extend political self-expression to the Palestinians. Begin's position is not known but it is assumed that he favors an answer that is affirmative in tone but couched in general terms. Some political observers here do not believe that Washington will accept an Israeli response that seeks to distinguish between "status" and "sovereignty" on the West Bank and would leave the sovereignty issue unsettled even after five years of self-rule.

Many Positions Still Unclear

Last Friday, Begin held preliminary discussions with Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, apparently in an attempt to gain their support for his draft of a reply to the U.S. But it is still unclear what positions those ministers will adopt. The position of Defense Minister Ezer Weizman is also unclear. It is not known whether he shares Begin's views or even whether Weizman, Dayan and Yadin are of like mind on the issue. The U.S. is said to regard Israel's replies as crucial to chances for resuming the stalled peace talks with Egypt.

The Cabinet was briefed by Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan on this morning's terrorist raid on Meholah settlement in the Jordan Valley and tomorrow's scheduled final withdrawal of Israeli forces from south Lebanon.

SHAVUOT OBSERVED IN MANY WAYS

TEL AVIV, June 12 (JTA)--The Shavuot holiday yesterday gave Israelis a long weekend to take to the beaches and countryside while the pious flocked to synagogues. The latter were especially crowded during "Yizkor," the memorial service for departed loved ones. Shavuot is only observed for one day in Israel.

In many respects, it was a children's holiday. Youngsters, garbed in white, wearing flower garlands around their heads, made their donations to the Jewish National Fund, symbolic of the first crops of the spring planting that, in Biblical times, were donated to the Temple.

At Kibbutz Revivim in the Negev, a concert was held in honor of former Premier Golda Meir's 80th birthday. Her daughter, Sara, is a member of the kibbutz. The Israel Chamber Orchestra performed under the baton of Rudolf Barshai, formerly of Moscow. The concluding work was Beethoven's Eroica. The concert was the only public festivity in her honor agreed to by Mrs. Meir.

DELAY SEEN IN ELECTION FOR CHIEF RABBIS

By Gil Sedon

JERUSALEM, June 12 (JTA)--Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu Hatzeira said yesterday that the elections to the Chief Rabbinate, scheduled for July 12, may have to be postponed again while legislation is adopted to correct shortcomings in the present election law. The elections were postponed once before this year at the behest of

Abu Hatzeira who claimed his ministry needed more time to prepare for them.

The possible new postponement was immediately denounced by supporters of Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef who backs Rabbi Shaul Yisraeli against the incumbent Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren. They charged a maneuver by the National Religious Party (NRP) to ensure Goren's reelection. A total of 139 of the 150 electors have been chosen to date. Ten more must be nominated by Abu Hatzeira of the NRP and one by the Chief Chaplain of the armed forces.

Goren's supporters say the charges are "nonsense" and claim that Goren was assured of reelection even before the nomination of the last 11 electors. But Yisraeli has emerged as a serious challenger who reportedly enjoys the support of much of the NRP rank-and-file and of Yosef as well. Yosef, who is running for reelection unopposed, has long been at odds with Goren and apparently would like to see him replaced. Meanwhile, Judge Yaacov Bazak, chairman of the elections committee, has proposed changes in the election law which, as it now stands, divides the electoral body 50-50 between Ashkenazim and Sephardim.

PEACE NOW ADDS SUPPORTERS

TEL AVIV, June 12 (JTA)--The growing Peace Now movement recruited an additional 20,000 supporters in its Peace Sabbath drive conducted last Saturday. Petitions supporting the movement's aims were circulated at road junctions and at entrances to beaches and resorts where passersby were urged to sign. At least 20,000 did, according to Peace Now spokesmen.

A Peace Now banner at the busy Country Club intersection north of Tel Aviv was removed by a police officer after Likud MK Roni Milo protested. The police said the banner distracted drivers and interfered with the traffic flow. The Peace Now movement said it would demand an investigation of the police action. Peace Now advocates a more flexible position by the government in peace negotiations. The movement has been denounced by the Likud and other supporters of Premier Menachem Begin.

EHRLICH OPPOSES MINIMUM INCOME BILL

JERUSALEM, June 12 (JTA)--Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich today urged Dr. Israel Katz, Minister of Social Betterment and Labor, to postpone the introduction of a minimum income bill. In a letter to Katz and to Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, chairman of the Ministerial Social Betterment Committee, Ehrlich wrote that the bill would mean that some 250,000 families would enjoy financial support from the State, and many would prefer not to work at all.

Katz and Yadin are both members of the Democratic Movement for Change while Ehrlich is the leading member of the Liberal Party wing of Likud in the Cabinet.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Arab intelligence has improved greatly since the Yom Kippur War and now constitutes a serious threat to Israel, according to Gen. Shlomo Gazit, Israel's chief of intelligence. According to Gazit, the Arabs received up-to-date intelligence on Israeli military moves through captured documents and prisoners of war in October 1973. He said, however, that since then a gap has developed between what the Arabs learned and the real situation. He said he did not believe that Israeli intelligence services would repeat the mistakes of the Yom Kippur War.

MIXED REACTION TO AJCONGRESS SUPPORT OF CREDITS FOR USSR

By David Ettinger

WASHINGTON, June 12 (JTA)--A mixed reaction greeted a statement by the American Jewish Congress to a House subcommittee last week in support of a bill suspending the Jackson-Vanik Amendment so that export credits could be granted to the USSR and other Soviet bloc states for the purchase of American grain and other farm products. The AJCongress said it favored the suspension as a quid pro quo, an "almost exact symbolic equivalent of the recent modest increase in Soviet Jewish emigration."

But an aide to Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D. Wash.) told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the Senator opposes any relaxation of the ban on export credits "because of the total situation." He cited "the perilous position of key refusniks" such as Vladimir Slepak, Anatoly Shcharansky and Alexander Ginzburg. The Senator feels that such action would "not be an appropriate move at this time," the aide said.

The AJCongress made its statement to the Subcommittee on Economic Policy and Trade of the House International Relations Committee. Subcommittee chairman Jonathan Bingham (D. NY) who, like Jackson, is a staunch supporter of Soviet Jewry, took a position opposite to that of his colleague in the Senate.

Bingham told the JTA that the AJCongress statement was "a significant development" which "demonstrates the willingness of Americans to respond reasonably and even generously to concrete steps by the Soviets to improve relations and abide by internationally recognized principles of humanitarianism. I think the Congress will take it quite seriously," he said. He added that he "would feel personally better about it if Shcharansky were not still facing trial and if Slepak had not just been arrested."

Would Aid U.S. Farmers

The AJCongress said in its statement submitted last Thursday that "the Russians permit a small additional increment of emigration, we permit a small increment of relief from the constraints of Jackson-Vanik and at the same time we gain an expanded market for the American farmer and a corresponding favorable increase in our trade abroad." The statement was presented on behalf of the AJCongress by Henry Rosovsky, chairman; Marshall Goldman, consultant; and Phil Baum, director of the organization's Commission on International Affairs.

It suggested that "Soviet Jewish emigration figures in recent months can, if one wishes, reasonably be interpreted as constituting something of a gesture in the right direction." The AJCongress noted that 1474 Jews were permitted to leave the USSR in August, 1977 compared to 815 in August, 1976; 1850 compared to 1254 in October of both years. Total emigration for the period September, 1976-March, 1977 was 9745 compared to 14,090 for the period September, 1977-March, 1978.

AMERICAN ARAB GETS 15 MONTHS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 12 (JTA)--A Tel Aviv district court imposed a 15-month prison sentence today on Sami Esmail, an American Arab convicted last week of membership in a terrorist organization. He was acquitted of charges of maintaining contact

with enemy agents.

The court emphasized that the defendant was not being punished for his political views but for deeds which included a period of training in Libya for terrorist acts on behalf of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The court noted that while Esmail never participated in any action against Israel, the fact that he was trained in the use of arms and explosives by a hostile organization was a serious offense.

Esmail, 24, an American citizen, was detained last December when he visited Israel to be with his father who was dying at El Bireh, a West Bank village near Ramallah. He confessed to training in Libya. The seven months he spent in jail awaiting trial will be deducted from his sentence, subject to good behavior, and he is expected to be allowed to return to the U.S. before the end of the year.

(In Washington, meanwhile, the Palestine Human Rights Campaign presented an appeal for clemency on Esmail's behalf to Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz and to Patricia Derian, human rights officer at the State Department. It was signed by 58 prominent academicians, religious and civil liberties figures.)

IDA NUDEL CHARGED WITH 'HOOLIGANISM'

TORONTO, June 12 (JTA)--Ida Nudel, one of the most prominent Jewish emigration activists in Moscow, has been charged with "malicious hooliganism" and will go on trial in 20 days, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed today. The information was relayed by Mrs. Genya Intrator, vice-chairman of the Canadian Committee for Soviet Jewry, who was told of Ms. Nudel's plight by Maria Slepak in a telephone call from Moscow. She is the wife of the currently imprisoned activist Vladimir Slepak.

According to the information, Nudel was summoned to the investigation department of the Moscow militia (police) of the Volgogradsky precinct where she lives. After interrogation she was charged with "malicious hooliganism" on the streets on June 2 and advised that she would be placed on trial in 20 days. She was released after signing a pledge not to leave Moscow. The charge carries a penalty of 1-5 years in prison.

On June 2, Nudel and 13 other activists assembled at the Pushkin monument outside the apartment building where the Slepaks live to protest the couple's arrest earlier in the day. The Slepaks were hauled out of their flat by plainclothesmen after they hung a sign from their balcony demanding the right to be reunited with their son in Israel. Mrs. Slepak was released later for medical reasons but her husband remains in detention.

The protesters were arrested and taken to the local police station where Nudel was separated from the others. She was questioned and ordered to appear before the investigation department today. Nudel, known as the "guardian angel" of Jewish "Prisoners of Conscience" in the Soviet Union, is a single woman in her middle forties. She has long been active in the emigration movement. Her repeated applications for an exit visa, beginning eight years ago, have all been refused.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--About 300 Tel Aviv high school seniors use drugs according to Police Chief Moshe Tyomkin. He said that the drug situation among youths on the fringes of society was much worse. He said the police were handicapped in fighting the drug traffic because of a serious lack of manpower.

TEACHER'S ANTI-JEWISH BOOK RAISES STORM IN CANADIAN TOWN

ST. JOHN, N.B., June 12 (JTA)--A book by a Moncton, New Brunswick elementary school teacher alleging a conspiracy of Communists, Jews and financiers to take over the world and undermine free government, has raised a storm of controversy in that Canadian town. In the book, titled "The Web of Deceit," the author, Malcolm Ross, blames the alleged conspiracy for everything from the Quebec separatist movement to "corrupting youth with various devices such as pornography and rock music," The Saint John Telegraph-Journal reported.

Ross also denounces Zionism as "an ideology essentially anti-Christian" and contends that the Jews murdered by the Nazis should be counted in the thousands, not millions.

Dr. Noel Kinsella, head of the New Brunswick Commission of Human Rights, was quoted by the Telegraph-Journal as saying that after reading the book which he described as "nonsense," he believed it was more important to protect the author's freedom of speech than to try to suppress the book because it might cause discrimination.

Rabbi Stanley Greenberg of Moncton told the Telegraph-Journal that he regards the book as clearly anti-Jewish and Dr. Julius Isræli, a Jewish professor from Newcastle, N.B., is seeking to have it examined in court for possible violation of laws barring hate literature.

According to the Telegraph-Journal, parents of the sixth grade children taught by Ross have not complained. Ross himself was quoted as saying that he thought the theories contained in his book should be taught in the province's schools but that he would not teach them unless the people of New Brunswick lobbied successfully to have them included in the curriculum.

CANADIAN GROUP: MPs DISCUSS MEANS OF AIDING SCHCHARANSKY

By Michael Solomon

OTTAWA, June 12 (JTA)--Representatives of the Canadian Committee for the Release of Anatoly Shcharansky met today with the 25 members of the Canadian Parliamentary Helsinki group representing all political factions in Canada. The meeting was convened as a result of the recent wave of repression against Soviet Jews and its implications for the fate of Shcharansky, a leading dissident facing trial on charges of treason.

McGill University law professor Irving Cotler, a civil rights lawyer and Canadian counsel for Shcharansky, submitted a detailed brief to the Parliamentary group, titled "The Helsinki Accord, Human Rights and Soviet Jewry--Anatoly Shcharansky, a Case Study." It documents Soviet violations of the Helsinki human rights accords. Cotler said that "Since the end of the Belgrade meeting (on compliance with the accords) and in contempt of the Helsinki accords, there has been an escalation of terror in the Soviet Union."

He suggested several approaches, including the creation of a Canadian monitoring group; sending an observer to Shcharansky's trial; and a re-assessment by the Canadian government of its programs of academic, scientific and cultural exchanges with the USSR. Cotler also proposed that the government call in the Soviet Ambassador to express its concern over the deteriorating situation for human rights and Jews in Russia and its implications for future Canadian-Soviet relations.

Martin O'Connell, a Liberal MP from Toronto and former parliamentary secretary to Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, is chairman of the Canadian Parliamentary Helsinki group.

REFUSNIKS OPEN MOSCOW SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, June 12 (JTA)--The Al Tidom Association reported it had learned that Soviet Jewish refusniks in Moscow have begun two new projects in Jewish education, one for kindergarteners and the second for the seven to 15-year-old age group. A group of woman activists headed by Ida Nudel and Natalia Katz has organized a nursery school - kindergarten for refusnik children and the sons and daughters of Prisoners of Conscience. The school is held in a private apartment and no tuition is charged.

This month, Boris Chernobolsky and his friends opened a Sunday school-cheder for refusnik children from seven to 15-years old. The curriculum will include the fundamentals of Judaism, Hebrew language, Jewish songs and Bar Mitzvah preparation, according to Al Tidom.

The son of a noted refusnik celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in a joyous celebration in the family's Moscow apartment, according to Al Tidom. Alexander Kreman, son of Mikhail and Galina Kreman, was fêted at a celebration in the Kreman apartment attended by about 40 fellow refusniks. Mikhail delivered an emotional address to those assembled, Al Tidom reported.

Ms. Nudel, who is known as the "guardian angel" of the POCs, gave Alexander a cake on behalf of the POCs. Among the other gifts given to the Bar Mitzvah boy was a Siddur printed in Israel--a treasure in the Soviet Union. Afterwards, a festive musical program was staged including the singing of Jewish and Israeli songs.

U.S.-ISRAEL SOLAR COOPERATION URGED

WASHINGTON, June 12 (JTA)--Sen. Clifford P. Case (R.N.J.) has urged the Carter Administration to initiate an effort to work out a joint agreement with Israel for the development of solar energy.

Case said his recommendation, made in identical letters to the Secretaries of State, Energy and the Treasury, was based on a recent analysis by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA). At his request, OTA submitted to Case a detailed, 22-page analysis of the potential benefits to both the United States and Israel of a joint agreement for development of solar energy.

Among other things, the OTA analysis found that a joint agreement of this type could relieve some of the burden of higher energy costs to Israel and this, in turn, "would have the effect of relieving some of the burden of U.S. economic assistance to Israel." The U.S. currently has an agreement with Saudi Arabia for technical cooperation in the field of solar energy.

NEW YORK (JTA)--"The Heritage of Spanish Jewry," a collection of centuries-old Sephardic books from Yeshiva University, and other materials, will be displayed at the Spanish National Tourist Office, 665 Fifth Avenue, Manhattan, June 14-July 31. The exhibit, open to the public without charge, includes a dozen books and various documents relating to Jewish life in Spain dating from the 16th Century. The materials are on loan from the Sephardic Reference Room of Yeshiva University's Mendel Gottesman Library.