

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

Thursday, October 5, 1978

No. 192

FOIL TERRORIST PLOT TO SHELL EILAT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 4 (JTA)--Details of an elaborate terrorist plot to shell Eilat and ram an explosives-laden vessel on the beach crowded with Rosh Hashanah vacationers were disclosed today by security sources.

The vessel, the 600-ton freighter Agios Demetrios, was sunk by an Israeli naval patrol boat last Saturday afternoon in Sinai coastal waters about 70 miles south of Eilat. The seven terrorists aboard were captured and identified as members of the El Fatah military arm commanded by a terrorist known as Abu Jihad.

According to information elicited by the security sources, the terrorists' ship arrived at Latakia, Syria early last month from Lebanon and sailed from there under the Cypriot flag. Ship's documents seized by the navy before the vessel sank indicated that it was bound for a port in Saudi Arabia via the Suez Canal.

But interrogation of the captured terrorists revealed that the documents were false. The terrorists admitted that their destination was Eilat, at the head of the Gulf of Aqaba. They planned to shell the city with 42 Katyusha rockets on board, the chief targets being the oil jetty and oil storage tanks. "Afterwards the terrorists intended to run the ship aground on the public beach and make their escape in rubber dinghies to neighboring Jordan.

They disclosed that three tons of explosives were crammed into the double bottom linked to a timing device. The blast was calculated to take the highest possible toll of civilian lives.

Carnage was averted when the navy patrol boat spotted the ship far from its goal. After warning shots went unheeded, the patrol boat fired at the ship which began to take water. A naval party boarded and seized weapons and documents before the vessel sank. One terrorist was captured aboard and six others were fished out of the sea, three of them injured.

CLAIM INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION PAID TO COMBATTING TERRORISM IN ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Oct. 4 (JTA)--Reserve Gen. Rehavam Ze'evi, who was the Prime Minister's advisor on terrorism during the former Labor government, has criticized the present government for not paying enough attention to combatting terrorism within Israel.

Speaking at a symposium on terrorism at Tel Aviv University's Institute for Strategic Studies, Ze'evi said terrorism is treated only as a secondary problem by Israel's various security services. He noted that not enough has been done to penetrate terrorist headquarters as a means of preventing terrorist acts.

He also charged that West Bank personalities, who are not searched, have been using this special treatment to smuggle arms and explosives across the border. He noted that while Archbishop Hillbrion Capucci and the son of former Hebron Mayor, Hadj Kabari, had been arrested for smuggling arms, there were many others, such as United Nations employees and diplomats, who

cross the borders without being searched and may be carrying arms, sometimes unknowingly.

Ze'evi also said it was wrong to place the major responsibility for internal security on the police, who lack the knowledge, experts, resources and the money to adequately cope with the problem.

Reserve Gen. Aharon Yariv, head of the Institute and a former chief of intelligence, agreed that too little attention was being paid to internal security. He urged that the problem be dealt with by a higher echelon of officials who would coordinate all activities between the various security branches. He recommended creating a ministry just for this problem. Yariv noted that there were 11,000 acts of terrorism in Israel during the last 13 years during which 670 people died and 3000 were injured.

A MINYAN FOR ROSH HASHANAH

JERUSALEM, Oct. 4 (JTA)--Three Israeli journalists in Cairo joined eight elderly Jews in the Chaar Hachami Synagogue to complete the minyan during the Rosh Hashanah services. The service was also attended by a young woman from the U.S. studying at the American University in Cairo, a Moslem guard and a U.S. TV crew.

"It was one of the saddest and strangest services I have ever attended," Zeev Shiff, Haaretz's special correspondent in Cairo, wrote today. He and the other journalists reported that the Jewish cemetery in the Egyptian capital was completely neglected. They said most of the thousands of tombstones were in ruins and the inscriptions were discernable only on a few.

U.S. WARNS ISRAEL AGAINST SENDING ARMS TO CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4 (JTA)--The United States cautioned Israel today against sending weapons to Christians in Lebanon and declared that it is supporting a French government initiative to halt the warfare between Syrian "peace-keeping" forces and Christians in the Beirut area. But State Department spokesman Thomas Reston conceded, under questioning, that the U.S. had no "evidence" or "information" that Israel is supplying weapons to the Christians.

In announcing the U.S. position on the fighting in Lebanon, the State Department spokesman said "The Israelis are in a position to influence some people inside of Lebanon" and "We continue to hope Israel will counsel restraint on groups within Lebanon that have a direct stake" in the situation.

When asked what manner of restraint Israel could apply in the Beirut area, Reston repeated that Israel can "influence some people." Israel has been helping Christian forces in the enclaves in southern Lebanon adjacent to Israel's border.

Questioned about supposed Israeli military aid to the Christians, Reston said the U.S. has "no evidence" that Israel is sending American arms to Lebanon and "no information" that Israel is sending "non-American-origin arms" into Lebanon. However, he added, "our policy is for reduction of arms in Lebanon" and "if Israel is supplying arms, it is against our policy."

The initiative by France, which once governed Lebanon under a League of Nations Mandate,

is to obtain a cease fire and bring about a disengagement of Syrian and Christian forces by putting a buffer between them made up of Lebanese government military personnel.

Reston said that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who has been meeting with French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud in New York, has been consulting with members of the United Nations Security Council on the situation in Lebanon. He did not say whether the Soviet Union, which supports Syria with weaponry and diplomatically, was engaged in the consultations.

Reminded that the U.S. has been calling for months for an end to the violence in Lebanon and asking for restraint, Reston was asked what makes the U.S. position different at this time. He replied that there are "elements in the French proposal" that are "more specific than in the past," but did not describe them.

U.S. Welcomes Saudi Efforts

Reston said the U.S. welcomed the "quiet efforts" of Saudi Arabia to aid in halting the escalation of fighting in Beirut and said that Washington was in consultation with Saudi Arabia on this effort. Saudi Arabia is a backer of the Syrian presence in Lebanon and wields influence through its financial and diplomatic assistance to Syria.

Reston said, however, that he was not in a position to discuss Saudi Arabia's "motivation." He said he had no information on Saudi Arabia's view of Iraq's call for an Arab summit conference to determine the outcome in Lebanon. It was collective Arab positions that placed Syrian forces in Lebanon originally.

While Reston mentioned only Israel and Syria by name as parties involved directly in Lebanon, he said the U.S. is "urging outside governments" to "exercise maximum restraint" in that country. Asked about President Carter's proposal three weeks ago for an international conference to end the fighting in Lebanon, Reston said that the Carter "option" was "one of several alternatives of courses of action" and "we are working on a number of different tracks." He did not say what they were.

Reston said he was not in a position "to detail" what he meant by suggestions for "a fundamental political solution" in Lebanon but indicated that a change in Lebanon's charter was "one option under consideration."

FRANCE URGED TO INTERVENE IN LEBANON

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Oct. 4 (JTA)--Former French Premier Michel Debre called on the government yesterday to intervene, by force if necessary, to save Lebanon's Christian community now threatened with virtual extinction by the Syrian "Arab intervention force." Debre is one of France's leading traditional Gaullists.

His call, in the form of a parliamentary question, followed many previous appeals for intervention on behalf of Lebanon's Maronites with whom France has long-standing cultural and religious ties. Monday, when President Valery Giscard d'Estaing attended a mass in memory of the late Pope, John Paul I, hundreds of demonstrators greeted him with the cry "Save Lebanon." The President, who has tried to steer a neutral course between the various Arab states involved in Lebanon, walked by the demonstrators as if unaware of their presence.

French public opinion has been increasingly vehement during the past few days in its demand

that France use its 1300-man contingent serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to rescue the embattled Christians.

A number of national papers, such as "France Soir," have published front page editorials advocating an intervention while opposition leaders, such as left-wing radical Robert Fabre, have urged parliament to drop its current agenda and concentrate on discussing and voting concrete measures to help Lebanon's Maronites. A number of Jewish organizations, such as LICA (International League Against Anti-Semitism and Racism) have also called on the government to take active steps in Lebanon.

Official sources in Paris say France will try to work through the United Nations to obtain a cease fire in Lebanon but believe it is highly unlikely that it would supply an intervention force which, at the best, could only have a symbolic role in face of the large and well armed Syrian troops stationed in Lebanon.

ARENS: CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO GO UNDER

JERUSALEM, Oct. 4 (JTA)--Moshe Arens, the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, urged today that "the Christians in Lebanon must not be allowed to go under." He spoke as the Christian areas of Beirut underwent their most savage bombardment at the hands of Syrian artillery since the civil war began in Lebanon. But Arens did not elaborate on the implication of his statement, which was made in a radio interview. Earlier in the day he had chaired a meeting of his committee at which army personnel briefed the members on the fighting in Beirut.

Arens said the Syrians appeared to be "exploiting the spirit of Camp David"--in other words, that they were escalating their involvement on the assumption that Israel for its part would not react for fear of upsetting the Camp David agreements and the forthcoming negotiations on their implementation. Arens is one of the main opponents of the agreements within Likud.

USSR TOLD TO HALT ANTI-JEWISH ACTIONS

PARIS, Oct. 4 (JTA)--The Council of Europe, a supra-national European parliament, called Monday on the Soviet Union to stop its anti-Jewish persecutions. The European Parliament, at its regular session in Strasbourg, also called on all its member states to take active measures to try and help the Soviet Union's Jewish population.

The Council unanimously voted to protest against the prison sentences meted out to Jewish activists in the USSR, stressing that these sentences were imposed on people "who only want to exercise one of their most elementary rights--that of settling in the country of their choice."

The Council stressed that the current anti-Zionist campaign launched by the Soviet authorities "strongly smells of anti-Semitism" and drew the Soviet government's attention to the Helsinki Convention on the protection of human rights.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--An international symposium to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Albert Einstein will be held here March 14, 1979. More than 40 scientists and scholars from around the world will participate in the 10-day event sponsored by the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the Jerusalem Foundation and the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies. The participants, including several Nobel Laureates, will deal with the impact of Einstein's contributions and influence on modern science, philosophy and social and political developments.

PEACE TALKS TO OPEN NEXT WEEK IN WASHINGTON ON MINISTERIAL LEVEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 4 (JTA)--Officials here said today that Israeli-Egyptian peace talks would open in Washington at the ministerial level next week with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan heading the Israeli delegation at the initial session. No modalities have been worked out yet for subsequent sessions which might be held at some Middle East site and at a lower level, the officials said.

The talks in Washington are scheduled to begin Thursday, Oct. 12, directly after Yom Kippur and are expected to lead to the conclusion of an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty by the end of the year or sooner. Dayan will leave for New York tomorrow and will confer there with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance on Friday. He is to address the United Nations General Assembly next Monday and will go to Washington Thursday. Dayan will be accompanied by his political aide, Elyakim Rubinstein, and his spokesman, Naftali Lavie.

The Cabinet is expected to name the other members of Israel's negotiating team at its regular session Sunday. They will fly to Washington to join Dayan. Although Israel made no official announcement accepting President Carter's invitation to hold the peace talks in Washington, the announcement of Dayan's mission today signified acceptance.

Officials said Dayan is not scheduled to hold meetings with other foreign ministers at the UN--a common practice at General Assembly sessions--because of the short time he will spend in New York. But they did not rule out on-the-spot meetings.

WEST BANK PUBLIC FIGURES DENOUNCE CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS

By Gil Sedon

JERUSALEM, Oct. 4 (JTA)--More than 100 public figures on the West Bank, most of them known supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organization, met in the East Jerusalem suburb of Beit Hanina Sunday to denounce the Camp David agreements and bestow their blessings on the Arab rejectionist states and the PLO.

Among those attending was Sheikh Hilmi Al Mohtassib, head of the Moslem Supreme Council in East Jerusalem who is known as a veteran supporter of King Hussein of Jordan rather than of the PLO. Most West Bank mayors were present. A notable exception was Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem, a pro-Jordan, anti-PLO official who was one of the few West Bank mayors to support the Camp David summit.

The assembled leaders rejected the Camp David frameworks, particularly the provisions for local self-government on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They demanded an Israeli commitment to total withdrawal from those territories and to Palestinian self-determination.

Anti-Camp David demonstrations occurred in several West Bank towns over the Rosh Hashanah holiday, most of them by high school students. No arrests were made. West Bank moderates were reported, meanwhile, to be working behind the scenes to counter activity against the Camp David accords.

ZEEV SHEK DEAD AT 58

JERUSALEM, Oct. 4 (JTA)--Zeev Shek,

one of Israel's most experienced diplomats, died suddenly in Rome Monday at the age of 58. He had been Ambassador in Italy for more than a year. Born in Czechoslovakia, Shek was imprisoned in Theresienstadt during the war. He joined the Israeli foreign service almost immediately upon its creation, and later served as political secretary to Moshe Sharett, the first Foreign Minister of Israel.

Before the Rome post he had headed the Western Europe section of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, with the rank of assistant director-general, and in that role had overseen Israel's protracted negotiations for treaty status with the European community.

PROJECT RENEWAL IS CORNERSTONE OF THE 1979 UJA CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, Oct. 4 (JTA)--Irwin S. Field, national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, said today that Project Renewal "is the cornerstone" of the 1979 UJA campaign. In dealing with this, he declared:

"As we look forward to a New Year, hopefully blessed with peace for the people of Israel, the American Jewish community is taking on its full share of responsibility for a task of renewal which is far from complete...providing resources for facilitating the integration into Israeli society of 200,000 children among 45,000 immigrant families who have not yet been absorbed.

"Project Renewal, the program through which we have committed ourselves to complete this task, is the cornerstone of the 1979 UJA campaign. The Jewish communities of America, fully understanding and accepting the challenge it represents, are acting decisively to turn this visionary plan for human renewal into a living reality. In the year ahead, we are determined to meet this test and fulfill our historic obligation to strengthen the quality of life for Israel's people--the standardbearers of our Jewish legacy and our bright best hope for tomorrow."

CBS SPECIAL ON DIASPORA MUSEUM

NEW YORK, Oct. 4 (JTA)--A CBS News Religious Special, "The Timeless Family," to be broadcast Oct. 8 (10-11 a.m., ET) on the CBS television network, will deal with Beth Hatfutsot--the museum of the Jewish diaspora--which recently opened in Tel Aviv.

Produced and written by Alan Harper, and narrated by British actor Marius Goring, "The Timeless Family" examines how the museum has overcome the relative scarcity of physical artifacts (the backbone of most museums) by recreating Jewish life in many lands and centuries through sculpture, art, photographs (by Cornell Capa), recreated objects, dioramas, computers (with information about 3000 Jewish communities), and advanced audio-visual technology.

"The Timeless Family" also includes interviews with Dr. Nahum Goldmann, former president of the World Jewish Congress and one of the museum's founders; Jessaja Weinberg, the director of the museum; and Karl Katz, head of the museum's design committee and assistant director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. "The Timeless Family" is a co-production of CBS News and Landseer Productions, Ltd., and will be broadcast in Great Britain on Thames Television some time later this year.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Jewish Book Month will be marked Nov. 24-Dec. 24; it was announced by Dr. Sidney B. Hoenig, president of the Jewish Book Council of the National Jewish Welfare Board.

U.S. TO COOPERATE WITH ISRAEL ON CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW AIR BASES

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4 (JTA)--The United States said it recognizes the "urgent basis" on which it is to cooperate with Israel in the construction of two new air bases in Israel as a result of Israel's evacuation of two bases in Sinai under the Camp David frameworks.

In a letter addressed to Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman dated Sept. 28 and released the following day at the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Harold Brown suggested that the U.S. and Israel "consult on the scope and costs" of the new bases "as well as on related forms of assistance" pertaining to the project. President Carter said at his news conference Sept. 28 that the "degree of participation" by the U.S. in building the bases would be subject to negotiations. Previously, it had been understood that the U.S. would provide the estimated \$1 billion needed for the bases while the Israelis themselves would construct the bases.

The air bases to be evacuated by Israel are at Etzion near the strategic port of Eilat on the Red Sea and the Saudi Arabian border across that body of water, and at Eitam in the approaches of the Gaza Strip. Brown, in his letter to Weizman, stated:

"The United States understands that in connection with carrying out the agreements reached at Camp David, Israel intends to build two military air bases at appropriate sites in the Negev to replace the air bases at Eitam and Etzion which will be evacuated by Israel in accordance with the peace treaty to be concluded between Egypt and Israel.

"We also understand the special urgency and priority which Israel attaches to preparing the new bases in light of its conviction that it cannot safely leave the Sinai air bases until the new ones are operational. I suggested that our two governments consult on the scope and costs of the two new air bases as well as in related forms of assistance which the United States might appropriately provide in light of the special problems which may be presented by carrying out such a project on an urgent basis.

"The President is prepared to seek the necessary Congressional approvals for such assistance as may be agreed upon by the U.S. side as a result of such consultations." U.S. officials estimate that the cost of the air bases will be from \$500 million to \$1 billion.

SOVIET OLYMPIC COMMITTEE INVITES ISRAELI JUNIOR ATHLETES TO MOSCOW A WEEK BEFORE OLYMPIC GAMES BEGIN

By Haskell Cohen

NEW YORK, Oct. 4 (JTA)--The Soviet Olympic Committee has sent an entry blank to the Israel Olympic Committee, inviting the Israeli Committee to send a group of junior athletes to Moscow the week before the Olympic Games start in July 1980, Moshe Lehrer, sports columnist of Maariv, told this correspondent in a telephone interview from Tel Aviv.

The Soviet Committee also sent Chaim Weizman, vice-president of the Israel Olympic Committee, a request for the colors of the Israeli Olympic team. The two Soviet actions are generally viewed in Israel as confirmation of the Soviet intention to invite the Israelis to send a team to the 1980 Olympics. He said the colors are needed to prepare the flags and banners of the nations participating in the various Olympic Games' opening

ceremonies.

The purpose of the pre-Olympic Games' junior camp is to create and stimulate friendships among the youth of the countries throughout the world by participation in informal sports activities. The youth participants usually remain to watch the Olympic Games.

CANADIAN LABOR GROUP PROTESTS USSR TRIALS; ENDS EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

TORONTO, Oct. 4 (JTA)--The recent "anti-dissident trials" in the Soviet Union have been cited by the Executive Council of the Canadian Labor Congress (CLC) in a resolution "firmly discouraging" all further exchange visits with Soviet trade unions, according to Denis McDermott, CLC president.

In the resolution, the Executive Council noted "the fundamental differences in approach to human and trade union rights between the CLC and the Soviet Union All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions (AUCCTU), as exemplified by the recent anti-dissident trials in the Soviet Union and the harassment of the Free Trade Union Association of Workers of the Soviet Union," and said it was "forced to suspend indefinitely the exchange programs with the AUCCTU."

"Therefore, the Executive Council firmly discourages affiliates of the Congress from accepting, until such time as the human and trade union rights situation makes it possible for them to enjoy frank and positive exchanges with their Soviet counterparts, any invitations to visit the Soviet Union," the resolution stated.

HISTORIC PARTICIPATION OF WIZO IN HEALTH CARE CONFERENCE IN THE USSR

LONDON, Oct. 4 (JTA)--Raya Jaglom, president of the Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO), reported at the meeting here last week of the biannual meeting of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry about the historic participation of WIZO in the Primary Health Care Conference organized by the United Nations and the Soviet government which was held Sept. 6-15 in Alma Ata. WIZO is accredited to the UN as a non-governmental organization and is the only Zionist organization with headquarters in Israel.

Mrs. Jaglom said that Evelyn Sommer, WIZO's representative at the UN in New York, represented the organization at the conference in the USSR and presented a statement on its behalf calling on the non-governmental community to commit its energies to meet the final report of the International Conference on Primary Health which called for the development of comprehensive national health care systems and services.

After attending the conference in Alma Ata, Mrs. Sommer met with Jews and refuseniks in that city and in Tashkent, Leningrad and Moscow. She said afterwards that she was overwhelmed by their hope, faith and gallantry "unprecedented in the annals of our generation. We must involve thousands of people of good will in our struggle to free the Jews of the Soviet Union. We must continue to stress the priorities of our struggle: insist on the release of the prisoners who have been sentenced to jail or harsh labor camps; fight for the right of every Jew to receive a visa to Israel."

The Jewish refuseniks, Mrs. Sommer added, "living day after day with the threat of harassment, arrest, trials, deserve all our support, encouragement and solidarity to enable them to live their lives in freedom, as Jews, after the long ordeal to which they are being subjected."