SOME IRANIAN SOLDIERS IN UNIFIL DEFECTING TO PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS

By Yitzchak Shargi

TEL AVIV, Jan. 9 (JTA) -- A number of
Iranian soldiers in Lebanon defected to the
Palestinian terrorists after military authorities in
Teheran ordered their unit home, it was learned
in Israel today. The defecting soldiers are
members of Iran's 6,000-man contingent in the
United Nations Interim Force in
Lebanon (UNIFIL). They include one sergeant
and about 120 other privates. All were said
to be Shi'ite Moslems. They reportedly crossed
the lines into the terrorist-held stronghold of
Nabatieh.

Meanwhile, a group of officers of the
Lebanese army regulars arrived in south Lebanon
last week and were transferred to Junis, a
UNIFIL base. They are the first Lebanese
army regulars posted to south Lebanon since
the evacuation of Israeli forces last year.
Their presence has disturbed the Christian militia
which regards the Lebanese army as pro-Syrian and
likely to aid the terrorists. The officers arrived by
helicopter under the knowledge of the military
commanders.

DUTCH LAWMAKER ASKS GOVERNMENT TO FREE 3 IMPRISONED WAR CRIMINALS

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 9 (JTA) -- A prominent
Calvinist member of the Dutch Senate has
asked the government to pardon the last three
Nazi war criminals imprisoned in Holland on
grounds that their continued confinement no
longer serves any purpose.

The request, by Prof. Isaac A. Diepenhorst,
a member of the lower faculty at the Calvinist Free
University, was addressed to Justice Minis-
ter Jacob de Ruiter. He petitioned the minister
in his capacity as chairman of the Interchurch
Commission for Judicial Institutions. Diepenhorst
belongs to the Calvinist wing of the Christian
Democratic Party.

The prisoners, all Germans, are Ferdinand
aus der Fien, Franz Fischer and Joseph
Kotalla, all originally sentenced to death for
war crimes committed during the Nazi occupation of
Holland. Their sentences were later commuted to
life imprisonment. In March 1972, a petition
for their release, then under consideration by the
government, raised a storm of protest and a motion
to that effect was defeated in parliament by a
vote of 85-61.

Diepenhorst argues that the three men,
confined to Breda Prison in southwest Holland for
the past 33 years, should be released because
punishment has no meaning for prisoners who are old
and are no longer fully competent mentally. Organ-
izations of war victims and former resistance
fighters said they would oppose his appeal.

Diepenhorst, who noted that the release of
the three may cause anguish to victims of Nazi
crimes in Holland, said: "In my view, the suffering
of the victims cannot find compensation in punishment
imposed by men. He recalled that in the immediate post-
war years the Dutch judicial authorities exer-
cised mercy in the cases of most persons accused
of war crimes or collaboration with the enemy.

He said that over 100,000 such persons arrested
after the war have long since been released, ex-
cept for 45 who were executed and the three held
in Breda.

REPORT SUCCESSFUL TESTING OF NEW
METHOD TO EXTRACT OIL FROM SHALE
THAT COULD REVOLUTIONIZE INDUSTRY

By Yitzchak Shargi

TEL AVIV, Jan. 9 (JTA) -- Scientists of the
Haifa Technion announced today that they have
successfully tested a new method of extracting shale
oil with use of a laser beam that, they say, could
revolutionize the world's fuel industry. The an-
nouncement was made by Prof. Jacob Druckman and
Joseph Schwartz of the Technion's aeronautical
engineering department who conducted the research
and tested the process in the Technion labs. A pat-
ent has been registered by the school.

According to Rom, who is a Likud MK, every
country possesses shale oil reserves but the extrac-
tion of fuel is in the form of kerogen, a combustible
organic material that is extremely expensive, requiring
tunneling, excavation and extraction through a long
process. He said, "The method developed by the
Technion scientists employs a powerful laser beam
directed through a narrow, ceramic pipe in a shale oil
boring. The high temperatures created by the beam
convert the kerogen into gases that can be ex-
tracted through a system of pipes. The kerogen may
be burned as gas or condensed into a liquid fuel.
Rom said the U.S. possesses shale oil reserves great-
er than the known oil reserves of all the Organiza-
tion of Petroleum Exporting Countries and that Is-
rael itself has two million tons of shale, enough to
provide for its fuel needs for 25-30 years."

TREASURY PREPARING AUSTERITY ECONOMIC
BUDGET IN MOVE TO FIGHT INFLATION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9 (JTA) -- The Treasury
was reported today to be preparing an austerity
economic program in an all-out attempt to fight
inflation. According to Yediot Ahronot's econ-
omic correspondent, the plan, designed to soak up
some $10 billion annually, includes a five percent
elevation in all taxes and the following:

- Finance Minister Simcha Etlich promptly
denied that there was any move to increase taxes.
He insisted there were no new economic plans at
this time and that he has not even studied working
papers for any. The Yediot correspondent said the
plan is still in its initial stages and probably would
undergo a number of changes before it is approved.
Some observers suggested that it was deliberately
leaked in order to test public opinion.

- The program calls for cuts in the State budget,
reduced subsidies for various economic enterprises,
the sale of public lands, a freeze on public con-
struction and on the number of government employees
and linkage of government-financed mortgages to
the cost-of-living index. The most controversial
item is the proposed levy on income tax.

The Treasury explained, according to the
Yediot Achronot report, that the plan is not to increase taxes as such but to impose a five percent levy on existing tax rates. A tax bill of 2,000 would, for example, carry an additional payment of 100.

The Likud Knesset faction urged the government yesterday to prepare a comprehensive stabilization plan for two years. MK Haiim Kalman who introduced a resolution as an effect, said it was intolerable that the faction be kept in the dark as to what the government was doing in the social and economic fields.

The Likud MKs also decided to submit an agenda motion to take legal action against yordim (Israelis who emigrate) who rent apartments to Palestinian government subsidies at an exchange rate of the day. Yordim who raised the issue said many yordim bought apartments with government supported loans before they left the country and are now reaping large profits. He proposed legal action to deprive them of the property.

Dulzin Calls For Construction Freeze

Meanwhile, Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionism Organization, called on the government to freeze all public construction, except defense construction, and freeze luxury apartment construction so that construction efforts could focus entirely on the needs of alim and poorhoused Israelis. Dulzin told a meeting of the WZO Executive that he would make his proposal formal in his letter later this week with Premier Menahem Begin.

Rafael Klatzowitz, chairman of the WZO Atiya Department, warned that any and all aliyah plans would be doomed to failure unless the housing bottleneck for alim is broken.

ALLAN RAPS LIKUD 'SURRENDER' TO GUSH

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9 (JTA) — Former Foreign Minister Yigal Allon attacked the Likud government tonight for “surrendering” to the Gush Emunim settlement movement, charging that the government was ceding the Gush “a territorial corridor” to the Gush Emunim and that the government had agreed to the establishment of a Jewish settlement near the Arab town of Nablus in the Samaria district of the West Bank. Government sources had denied that any promise was given.

The sources conceded, however, that a number of Gush families who ended an eight-day vigil on the Kalkiya-Nablus road last week were given official recognition as a settlement group and that their request to erect a “Jewish town of Nablus” near the Arab town would be reviewed. Allon called this a “shameful surrender” and warned that by giving in to pressure from the Gush and their supporters, the government was inviting further pressures. From the point of view of negotiators in the peace process, the Gush Emunim was ill-advised, Allon said.

Earlier today, Labor MK Yossi Sarid, joined by members of the Shas and Sheli factions and backed by the Peace Now Movement, introduced a petition in the Knesset protesting the “government’s surrender to the Gush Emunim.”

The 25 Gush families returned to their homes at Allen Moriah in the Kadum area base last night on the strength of what their spokesman, Zvi Slonim, described as “satisfactory clarifications” from the government. Slonim claimed that the essence of the government’s position is that they could settle anywhere they wished on the West Bank, but he was not specific about what, if anything, was promised. Other Gush circles said today that plans would be submitted immediately to build a Jewish town near Nablus in the “border areas” of the West Bank, meaning the sparsely populated Jordan River Valley. That was part of the so-called “Allen Plan” that surfaced after the Six-Day War but, he said, the decision to plan settlements in the heart of Samaria would inevitably weaken the effort at the point where it has been most effective, namely, the Jordan Valley.

When asked whether, in fact, then, Allon was Foreign Minister when the original Gush groups settled illegally at Sabaste in Samaria and was later shifted to the Kadum base under a compromise reached with the Labor government, Allon said he had no responsibility for these developments. Allon said he had strongly opposed the compromise in public statements and subsequently initiated a Cabinet session to review the settlements from the Kadum. The motion was adopted but not implemented.

SARA FEDER-KEYFritz DEAD AT 80

NEW YORK, Jan. 9 (JTA) — Funeral services for Dr. Sara Feder-Keyfritz, former president of the Pioneer Women and a prominent sociologist and advocate of women’s studies, will be held tomorrow in Jerusalem. She died yesterday in Jerusalem at the age of 80. Dr. Feder-Keyfritz, who immigrated to Israel in 1970 from the United States, was the founder there of the Adult Education Association which operates an innovative continuing education school with courses in the English Language. She was born in Russia and came to the U.S. as a child.

A holder of doctorates from both Columbia University and the University of Chicago, she joined Pioneer Women while still at Columbia and was one of its earliest members. She served as national president from 1953 to 1955 and later continued to be active on the national level. After her aliyah, she was active in Naamat, Pioneer Women’s sister organization.

Dr. Feder-Keyfritz also helped introduce the celebration of Yom Hatzmaut, Israel’s Independence Day, in the diaspora with her 1963 booklet, “Yom Hatzmaut: A Family Celebration” which is still being distributed by Pioneer Women.

A member of the sociology department of both Columbia University and the University of Miss.You, Dr. Feder-Keyfritz was the author of numerous books and articles in her field. She was a delegate to White House conferences on national level government commissions on the status of women, equal opportunity, and equal pay for women.

GENEVA, (JTA) — Officials of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees here warmly welcomed Israel’s decision to admit 100 Vietnamese refugees who have been stranded for weeks in the Manila Bay. The Commissioner was quoted as saying that this was “a constructive approach” to the problem of asylum seekers and a “welcome development” to the Israeli government. Other officials noted that Israel has already accepted of Vietnamese refugees who were rescued at sea by an Israeli cargo ship last year. Great Britain has accepted 255 refugees and Greece will admit 50. According to a spokesman for the High Commissioner, 200,000 Vietnamese refugees are still looking for a haven.
Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in his new demands for a revision of the Camp David agreements.

Diplomatic sources in Paris say that Giscard on his recent visit to Egypt was told to modify or delay his agreement with Sadat is likely to be mentioned to the French president is likely to be mentioned to the French president in his meeting with Sadat to highlight the importance of the Camp David agreements.

During Jordan's King Hussein's recent visit to Paris, Giscard, according to these sources, encouraged him to continue referring to take part in the Camp David negotiations and adopt an attitude of "wait and see." France, according to these sources, has been well-informed diplomats, was the only one to make clear to the Egyptians that Sadat's policy of non-involvement in the talks and of demands for a full Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

There seems to be several reasons for Giscard's new Middle East policy:

- France continued to believe that no real Middle East settlement can be obtained without the full participation of the Palestinians and without a comprehensive settlement between Israel and the Arab states.
- Immediately after Sadat's trip to Jerusalem, both Egypt and Jordan closed the Western channel to openly express doubt as to the success of his mission.
- The recent difficulties in the negotiations and the failure of Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's mission to Jerusalem and Cairo last month have reportedly further strengthened Giscard's initial doubts.

Pessimistic About Peace Process

- The French President is now, according to these sources, almost certain that the current peace process cannot succeed. Even if an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty were to be signed, its implementation would be practically impossible and major problems would crop up within weeks making the treaty unapplicable.
- Giscard tends to blame Israel for the failure of the peace process. What is worse in his eyes, he tends to regard Israel's leaders as lacking realism and failing to take advantage of a unique chance to transcend the global and comprehensive agreement with all their neighbors.
- France believes that the Mideast world is slowly being won over by the extremists and that the process which has started in Iran will spread to other countries like Turkey and Egypt. In accordance with this belief, France has granted political asylum to the Shah's main opponent Ayatollah Khomenei and has done nothing to try and prevent him from launching appeals for violence from his French residence.

- The French President is pessimistic about the future of the peace process in the Middle East. France does not believe that a lasting peace can be achieved in the Middle East without the participation of all parties, including the Palestinians. France has been trying to mediate between Israel and the Palestinians, but so far without success.

- Series Of Consequences Foreseen

This new French approach can have serious consequences for Israel. On Jan. 1, France assumed chairmanship of the EEC for a six-month term. France will not hold all the meetings of the nine member states, will prepare the basic files and draw up the agendas for the subjects to be discussed.

The chairmanship, which passes by rotation among the nine, gives the country holding it extra weight in influencing EEC policies. When the country happens to be, as is the case now, the most politically ambitious among the nine, it gives the chairmanship still more weight in shaping its views.
adopted as joint policy by its eight European partners.

Three more European countries — Spain, Portugal and Greece — are due to join the EEC in the coming months. All three are known for their anti-Israel stand and two of them, Greece and Portugal, have no normal diplomatic relations with Israel. Their entry into the EEC will also jeopardize Israel’s exports to Europe.

All three, especially Spain and Greece, export products similar to Israel’s: citrus, citrus by-products, agricultural products, flowers and light industry. From the date of their admission, all three will enjoy an easing of customs duties which will rapidly disappear as they integrate into the common market, which is already a sick economy. France has advocated an early admission into the EEC and is its strongest supporter so far. Therefore, it appears that difficult days lie ahead for Israel in its relations with France and Western Europe.

JEWISH SCHOOLS FUNCTIONING IN IRAN

NEW YORK, Jan. 9 (JTA) — Rabbi Moshe Milstein, international executive vice-president of Ozar Horah, the Twelve Tribes of Israel, has received reports from the Ozar Horah staff in Iran that its schools have been open for a total of 30 school days since the beginning of this semester last September, which included the period of the recent disturbances. The Iranian school year consists of 130 school days compared to 180 days in the United States.

According to the reports, disturbances were monitored daily and not only were classes suspended but school attendance would interfere with the safety of the programs were suspended. But even during those periods the educational process for students attending the Ozar Horah schools continued in local synagogues with the help of the schools’ staff. There were periods, the report noted, when the Ozar Horah school system was the only functioning educational facility in Iran.

Milstein said that, according to the reports he received, the synagogues have become the temporary educational facilities in Iran. Not only are classes provided for the youngsters, but special classes have also been organized for adults. In addition, religious services at the synagogues were well attended. Milstein said Ozar Horah is determined to continue its program in Iran as it has in the past.

Ozar Horah services approximately 6,000 students in Iran, Milstein said. There are more than 40 schools throughout the country. Most of them are located in Teheran and Shiraz, and other schools are located in cities including Abadan, Kerman, Kamyaran and Hamadan. Ozar Horah, which is the only school system in Iran that provides Jewish education, according to Milstein, also has schools in France, Morocco and Syria.

ZOA DELIVERS 100,000-SIGNATURE JERUSALEM PETITION TO WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9 (JTA) — A ceremony in the Roosevelt Room of the White House last Friday, a delegation of leaders of the Zionist Organization of America formally presented the United States a 100,000-signature petition addressed to President Carter urging him to “fulfill the July 1976 Democratic Party Platform by moving the United States Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and by recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel.”

Noting that it was “unacceptable that the United States still held to the outdated position of supporting an internationalization of the city and morally indefensible, that the Administration views parts of the city as occupied territory,” Ivan J. Novick, ZOA president and leader of the delegation, expressed determination to continue the campaign until over 30 million names have been gathered so that the President will have to take into consideration “the depth of concern of the entire Jewish community, as well as many non-Jews on this issue.”

Accepting the petition on behalf of Carter and his special advisor, Sanders told the ZOA leaders that he was “glad” they had come to the White House: “You are here exercising a fundamental right of a U.S. citizen, and it is to your petition your government: I want you to know that you are being received warmly and openly,” he said, “and that I understand the deep feeling that has prompted you to prepare this petition.”

“I will see to it that it gets to the President with the same sense of urgency that you have conveyed it to me,” Sanders added. “I know the President will be interested in your views, and I am sure you will be hearing from him.”

LEVICH JOINS TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

TEL AVIV, Jan. 9 (JTA) — Prof. Benjamin Levich, the highest ranking Jewish scientist permitted to leave the Soviet Union, has announced he is joining the faculty of Tel Aviv University as a professor of physical chemistry. The university plans to establish a chair and a research team for the 61-year-old former head of the chemical engineering department at Moscow University.

Levich was relieved of his post in 1972 after he applied for permission to leave the Soviet Union. Now he is the former president of Tel Aviv University and other Israeli scientists maintained regular phone conversations with Levich in Moscow, on scientific subjects, and he was named a professor at Tel Aviv University while he was still in Moscow.

EXPECT EXTENSION OF UNIFIL MANDATE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 9 (JTA) — Israeli sources expressed the belief today that the United Nations Security Council would extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which expires in 10 days. But the source added that concern that Iran and France are almost certain to withdraw their units from UNIFIL and that the Palestinian terrorists and the Christian militia in south Lebanon would each try to take advantage of the gap: Skirmishes have broken out between terrorists and the militia in recent days.

With respect to developments elsewhere, the Israeli sources believe that Egyptian Prime Minister Moustafa Khalil’s emerging as the second strongest political figure in Egypt after President Anwar Sadat and will have a greater role than before in the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty negotiations. War Minister Mohammed Gomasy has been relegated to the background recently but the Israeli sources believe he will still play an important role in Egyptian politics. According to the sources, the Egyptian government said that the present stream of Syrian defense forces from Moscow would culminate in a visit to the Soviet capital by President Moustafa Assad.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel’s diamond exports increased last year by 31.5 percent over 1977 to $1.317 billion from $1.002 billion.