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2 KILLED, MORE THAN 50 INJURED IN BOMB EXPLOSION IN NETANYA

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- A bomb exploded in Netanya's crowded Zion Square this morning, killing two persons and injuring more than 50, at least 11 of them seriously. The fatalities, a man and a woman, were not immediately identified. The other victims, including women and children, were rushed to hospitals in Netanya, Kfar Saba, Hadera and as far as Haifa. A two-year-old child and four other persons were on the critical list tonight.

U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis issued a statement this evening, condemning the attack and offered condolences to the victims and their families. It was the first time the American Embassy issued such a statement in advance of one from the State Department.

El Fatah, the terrorist arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization, claimed credit for the outrage. It praised the perpetrators who it identified as members of the Ali Hassan Salameh unit. The implication was that the bomb attack in Netanya was an act of revenge for the death of arch-terrorist Salameh and four of his aides by a bomb in Beirut last week.

According to police, the Netanya bomb containing about a half kilogram of high explosives was concealed in a trash can. It detonated at 10:35 a.m., local time when the main square of the city was crowded with pedestrians, mothers with their children and patrons of outdoor cafes enjoying an unseasonably mild, sunny day. Windows throughout the area were shattered by the blast causing many injuries by flying splinters of glass. One baby was hospitalized with a bomb fragment in his back. The mother was also injured.

Police aided by volunteers began administering to the injured and evacuating the area within minutes of the explosion. The city's seven ambulances rushed victims to hospitals. The Landada maternity hospital was converted into an emergency treatment center.

One Of The Worst Terrorist Acts

The bombing was one of the worst terrorist acts to hit Netanya, a seaside resort city and center of the diamond polishing industry. Security sources said Netanya was probably targeted by the terrorists because the discovery of an El Fatah cell in the Jerusalem area last week aborted their plans for new outrages in the capital.

The arrests of eight terrorists at Abu Dis village near Jerusalem, announced last Friday, yielded information that bombs were about to be placed in the center of Jerusalem and at Gethsemane, a major tourist site in the city. Large quantities of arms and explosives were found buried under a garage in Abu Dis. Police said the Abu Dis gang was the one responsible for bombing the Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem last June 28 where two people were killed and scores injured.

Other of its terrorist acts included planting a bomb at a Jerusalem fuel depot which killed the American-born Jerusalem police sapper, Steve Helms, last year; planting a bomb on a No. 12 bus in Jerusalem; planting bombs in tourist buses

and outside the Holy Land Hotel near Jaffa Gate; and concealing a bomb in a divan abandoned on a Jerusalem main street. The gang may also have been responsible for the large bomb concealed in the trunk of a car parked on a busy Jerusalem street one morning two weeks ago.

LEVESQUE: A SOVEREIGN QUEBEC WILL RECOGNIZE ISRAEL, FAVOR SOLUTION FOR PALESTINIANS WITH ENTITY OF THEIR OWN

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Quebec Premier Rene Levesque, who seeks political independence for the Canadian province he heads, said here that if Quebec becomes sovereign, its government will recognize Israel and favor a solution for the Palestinian Arabs in an "entity" of their own.

Levesque, in Washington seeking support of sovereignty for the French-speaking province, did not discuss the Middle East in his address last Thursday at the National Press Club. However, later, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, he said his government would have "no problem recognizing Israel."

"The State of Israel is a national fact," he said. "We also would like a sharing of some sort with the Palestinians." Speaking of an "entity" for them, he said that "a solution should be found so that the two can co-exist." Levesque declined to provide his views on the Palestine Liberation Organization. "Don't get me into that can of worms," he said.

He observed that "we have a large Jewish community in Quebec and a growing number of Palestinian Arabs. Canada's Jewish population is 305,000. About 115,000 live in Montreal, Quebec's metropolis. Approximately the same number inhabit Toronto, the English-speaking province of Ontario. Levesque said that he discussed Israeli-Arab relations recently with former Israeli Defense Minister Shimon Peres when the latter visited Montreal.

ATHERTON LEAVES WITHOUT SCORING BREAKTHROUGH; HIGHER LEVEL TALKS SEEN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- President Carter's special-Mideast envoy, Alfred Atherton, left Israel for home today without having achieved a significant breakthrough on the legal-textual wrangle in the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty that he has been attempting to resolve. Premier Menachem Begin voiced the government's "regret" today that Egypt had rejected proposals which Atherton conveyed to it at the end of last week.

"With the agreement of the government of Israel," he said. Speaking briefly to reporters after the weekly Cabinet meeting, Begin appeared to confirm the widespread prediction among observers here that talks would now be held on a higher level, presumably between U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil of Egypt and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan of Israel. "There is no dead end," Begin said. "We are hopeful that the talks will be resumed. Possibly the level on which they are held will change."

Atherton is to report to Vance on the results of his mission. Observers here expect a pause of a week or two before the U.S. decides on the next stage.

In a short statement on the Atherton talks, the Cabinet noted that Israel was "ready to continue the negotiations." Dayan, of Ben Gurion Airport enroute to France for an official visit, said that in fact both Israel and Egypt had expressed their desire to continue the negotiations. Both sides, Dayan said, refused to accept each other's proposals but both wanted the talks to go on. Dayan also indicated the prospect of the talks now moving to "a higher level."

Observers here do not believe that there is a realistic prospect of another summit meeting between President Carter, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, and Begin in the near future. The U.S. would want to ensure -- through ministerial talks first -- that such a summit, with its commitment of Presidential prestige, was guaranteed to succeed before embarking on it, the observers feel. Dayan said that Vance, too, would want to make sure that another round of talks under his chairmanship would not end in failure.

No Progress On Key Article

Israeli sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that Atherton had made virtually no progress in Cairo on the key Article VI, paragraph five (the "priority of obligations" clause) in the draft peace treaty. The Egyptians balked at the proposed U.S. letter to Israel which would seek to explain the treaty Article in such a way as to limit the instances of legitimate Egyptian intervention in a future Arab-Israeli war to cases of Israeli pre-emptive actions against an Arab state.

There was no resolution, either, according to the sources, of Article IV (the "review clause"), even though Atherton had secured from Jerusalem, during his eight days of talks here, an agreement that the "review" (of the security arrangements in Sinai) would be mandatory after a reasonable period had elapsed. But there apparently was some shift on Article IV, with Egypt no longer insisting on a five-year deadline for the review.

Higher level talks, which would presumably be held in mid-February, would take account of these matters but would be expected to focus chiefly on the still unresolved "linkage" complex which is seen, both here and in Cairo, as the most significant remaining stumbling block on the road to a treaty.

FIRST WOMAN RABBI RESIGNS FROM POST

NEW YORK, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- The first woman rabbi in American history, Sally Preisand, confirmed reports she had resigned as associate rabbi of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, her first and only pulpit since she was ordained as a Reform rabbi. Declaring her six years in the Stephen Wise Synagogue had been a worthwhile experience, she declined comment on a Jewish Telegraphic Agency question on the reasons for her resignation. She said her resignation was effective July 1 and that she intended to stay in the rabbinate. She also declined comment on what she planned to do to stay in the rabbinate. She joined the Reform synagogue in August, 1972 as assistant rabbi and was advanced about two years ago to the position of associate rabbi.

BIKEL FOLKSINGS TO CALM FELLOW

PASSENGERS ON HIJACKED AIRLINER

NEW YORK, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Actor-singer Theodore Bikel used his well-known talents as a folksinger last night to keep calm his fellow passengers aboard a hijacked United Airlines 747 during the two hours they were held hostage at Kennedy Airport.

Bikel, who is chairman of the governing

board of the American Jewish Congress, said he took down his guitar and did what he knows best, after the passengers aboard the Los Angeles-New York plane realized they had been hijacked. The hijacker, a woman who said she was carrying nitroglycerin, allowed 24 of the 131 passengers to be released when the plane landed.

The passengers and 12 crew members were released after an FBI agent who had been talking to the woman overpowered her. The woman had demanded that a 25-page religious message she had been read by Charlton Heston or Linda Carter, TV's "Wonder Woman." The woman, who was later identified as Irene McKinney, a 49-year-old would-be actress, was scheduled to be arraigned in federal court in Brooklyn on a charge of air piracy. The bag which she said contained explosives was filled only with perfume and personal items. Bikel was helped in entertaining the passengers by Dino Martin, son of Dean Martin, and actor Sam Jaffe.

PROXY BAR MITZVAH CONDUCTED

NEW YORK, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Thirteen-year-old Baruch Begun of Moscow, whose father, Josef, has been exiled to Siberia, was bar mitzvahed in absentia at the Lake Success Jewish Center on Long Island yesterday. His coming of age was celebrated by an estimated 70,000 attending parallel Sabbath services at synagogues in the Greater New York area, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Young Begun had a stand-in, 14-year-old Tod Rothschild of New Hyde Park, L.I., who recited the Torah portion and blessings in what was for him a second bar mitzvah. The prayer shawl and Bible used will be delivered to Baruch by a tourist next month, according to members of the congregation.

The proxy service was arranged by Rabbi Seymour Baumrind of the Lake Success synagogue after it was learned that Baruch was not permitted to undergo confirmation at the Moscow synagogue. Baumrind had met the Begun family during a visit to the Soviet Union in 1977. Josef Begun, a scientist, was sentenced last year to four years in exile on charges of "hooliganism" because he taught Hebrew and had applied for a visa to leave the Soviet Union.

6 ISRAELI ARAB STUDENTS SUPPORTING THE PLO ORDERED BACK TO THEIR HOME VILLAGES

TEL AVIV, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Six Israeli Arab students at the Hebrew University who had expressed support for the Palestine Liberation Organization, were ordered back to their home villages in Galilee by the military authorities last week. The orders, signed by the general in command of the northern region, were presented to the students individually by local police Thursday night and Friday morning. All have since left the Jerusalem campus.

The orders, amounting to at least a temporary suspension from the university, were issued under an emergency regulation dating from the British Mandate period that permits the military to limit personal movements for security reasons without recourse to the courts.

The students were instructed to remain in their villages and to present themselves twice daily at the local police station. The orders are effective for three months. A search of the youths' living quarters on and off the campus yielded a quantity of pro-PLO, anti-Israel literature described as extremist and of an inflammatory nature.

A week ago, the students sent a message of solidarity to the Palestine National Council meeting in Damascus in the name of the Progressive Nationalist Movement, an Arab student organization. Coming at a time of increased terrorist outrages in Jerusalem and other cities, this dismayed many Israelis who believed that Israeli Arabs, having accepted the

benefits of citizenship, recognized their obligations to the State.

Some Knesset members were infuriated by the students' acts and demanded the ouster of all Arab students from Israeli universities. Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan referred indirectly to the Hebrew University group when he warned in a speech last week that Israel Arabs who expelled the PLO "will have to pay for it very dearly." Education Minister Zevulun Hammer spoke in a similar vein.

AGREEMENT REACHED TO WORK OUT MEANS FOR IMPLEMENTING 'PROJECT RENEWAL'

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 28 (JIA) -- The government and the Jewish Agency have agreed that a joint government-Agency committee should be formed to work out the means for implementing Project Renewal, the long-range plan for rehabilitating 160 slum areas around the country.

The Cabinet formally approved this agreement today by ratifying the policy document on Project Renewal drawn up by Deputy Premier Yisrael Yadin and Jerald Hoffberger, chairman of the United Israel Appeal, the organization which appropriates funds received from the United Jewish Appeal for specific programs in Israel.

Officials now hope that the organizational difficulties holding up Project Renewal will be ironed out and that projects can now start on the first slum areas slated for improvement. The difficulties had arisen over a demand by Absorption Minister David Levy, who was recently given the added portfolio of the Housing and Construction Ministry, that the Housing Ministry handle the entire Project Renewal and that the Jewish Agency and the fund-raising organizations abroad confine themselves to gathering half of the money needed for Project Renewal.

But the UJA and the Jewish Agency had insisted that the Agency participate in the implementation of the program, including the use of foreign Jewish experts. Yadin, in outlining the project to diaspora Jews, had stressed that he wanted their knowledge and participation, not just money.

Elements Of Cabinet Decision

The Cabinet decision followed a meeting Friday between the government, the Jewish Agency and UJA representatives at Premier Menachem Begin's office, at which the Yadin-Hoffberger document was approved.

The Cabinet decision today said that the interdepartmental committee set up by the government and the Jewish Agency which is responsible for formulating policy for Project Renewal will appoint a subcommittee of the directors-general of the relevant government and Agency departments.

The Cabinet decision also said that the heads of the joint government-Jewish Agency Committee will be Yadin and Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Agency and the World Zionist Organization Executives. Each may appoint representatives for specific sessions of the committee to coordinate matters that are under their exclusive jurisdiction. Each may also appoint a deputy. Dulzin has appointed Eliezer Raphaeli to serve as his deputy. Raphaeli was earlier appointed by the Jewish Agency as director-general of Project Renewal.

Also, according to the Cabinet, the subcommittee shall be responsible for development of general plans for renewal and earmarking the districts that are to be renewed; recommenda-

tions to the interdepartmental committee regarding the general plans; and implementation of these plans after they have been approved by the committee.

According to reports last Friday, it was agreed that the Housing Ministry would be confined to building new homes in the rehabilitated areas while the Agency would build such community institutions as schools and synagogues as well as supply the social workers needed to help the 45,000 families living in the areas slated for renewal.

The Cabinet today also appointed its own Committee of Ministers for the project. The committee, headed by Yadin, includes Levy, Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich, Social Betterment Minister Yisrael Kotz, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and Interior Minister Yosef Burg.

Approved By 6-4 Vote

Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor told reporters that today's decision was approved by a 6-4 vote with four other Ministers not participating. Among those approving the Yadin-Hoffberger document were Begin, Yadin and Ehrlich with Levy leading the opposition. Naor said those opposed felt that the sole responsibility for Project Renewal, first proposed by Begin in 1977, should be in the hands of the government. The majority felt the project could benefit from an input from the diaspora through the Jewish Agency.

Dulzin told a press conference earlier today that the project will succeed if there is full cooperation between the government and the Jewish Agency. "If we don't conclude the work in five years, we shall do it in six or seven years." Dulzin insisted that once the work begins there will be no overlapping between the tasks done by the Agency and the government.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

TEL AVIV, Jan. 28 (JIA) -- The persons killed this morning in the Netanya bomb explosion were identified tonight as Mrs. Tova Riegler, 67, and Shimon Barbi, 57, both of Netanya. Sixteen persons were still hospitalized for injuries late tonight.

PARIS (JIA) -- Israel Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan began a two-day official visit to France Sunday during which he will confer with President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Prime Minister Raymond Barre and Foreign Minister Jean François Poncet. During these two days, Dayan and his delegation will examine with the French officials the Middle East situation, prospects for peace and differences of opinions between France and Israel.

TEL AVIV (JIA) -- The Vietnamese community in Israel was increased by one with the birth of a baby last Friday at the hospital in Affuleh. A son was born to a young couple who arrived a day earlier from the refugee ship in Manila. Some have suggested that the baby be named Affuleh or, simply, Israel.

GENEVA (JIA) -- Israel and the Scandinavian countries have concluded negotiations on tax reduction in the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Finland will cut taxes on Israeli citrus by 50% and on citrus juices by 40%. Norway promised to allow for more turkey meat to be imported from Israel. It will be four times more, which amounts to 20 tons instead of five tons. Sweden will permit special tariff reduction on flowers according to the seasons.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA

IMPACT OF 'HOLOCAUST' SERIES

ON THE PEOPLE OF WEST GERMANY

by Marc H. Tanenbaum

(Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national inter-religious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, was script consultant to the NBC-TV "Holocaust" series.)

NEW YORK, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Nothing -- no book, no TV documentary, no film, no lecture -- has touched the soul of modern Germany on the moral watershed tragedy of the Nazi Holocaust as has the NBC-TV series, "Holocaust." That dramatic but factual conclusion has emerged from a series of overseas telephone calls that I had with public officials in West Germany, and in particular, with leaders in the village of Oberammergau, last Thursday following the viewing of the third installment of "Holocaust."

According to reports from West Germany in major American newspapers, an estimated 14 million people, or 39 percent of the 34 million people in the viewing audience, watched the third of the four installments last Thursday night. This was up from 13 million viewers, or 36 percent, last who watched the second installment, and 11 million, or 32 percent, who watched the first installment.

The viewing audience for each of the three installments was more than double the predicted 15 percent that was expected to watch the program over Westdeutsche Rundfunk (WDR) of Cologne, the regional station coordinating the telecasts. (The number of people watching the last installment was not available at the time of this report.)

The German officials I spoke with said that the figures reported in the American newspapers were underestimated, and that, in fact, some 20 million people had seen the second installment. That means that one in three potential regional viewers were exposed to the "Holocaust" account. "That audience broke every record for regional television in Germany," one official told me.

"Quite Extraordinary" Experience

More than 20,000 people called the WDR television offices following the Tuesday night showing, and two-thirds of the callers were in favor of "Holocaust" being televised in Germany. Many of the viewers told the TV station authorities that they either could not go on watching it, and some said that they could not sleep and had to take valium or sleeping pills so powerful was the program's impact.

One authority told me, "The experience with the program already has been quite extraordinary. Nobody, even the most sympathetic in the TV industry, expected such an emotional reaction. It has staggered everybody."

The effect has even spread to East Germany where, according to reports, many living beyond the West German regional broadcasting range are demanding to see the series. Regional television broadcasts can be received in East Berlin and in areas along the boundary, but most East German viewers are beyond their range. According to reports, among the East Germans who had seen the program and called to express their reactions, positive comments outnumbered negative comments 6-2.

Reactions In Oberammergau

I spoke with several people in the village

of Oberammergau who are involved in an effort to revise the anti-Semitic version of the Oberammergau Passion Play scheduled for production in April 1980. Hans Schwaighofer, director of the Rosner text of the Passion Play, told me: "Practically everybody in Oberammergau has watched the first two installments of 'Holocaust.' The impact has been tremendous. There is a feeling of shock throughout much of Oberammergau. Many people are walking around the streets of the village saying, 'God's sake!' and shaking their heads in disbelief. How did we let that happen?"

The Oberammergau Town Council has sent around a questionnaire to all the villagers inviting them to sign up for the 1980 Passion Play. In light of the shocked feeling in the village in the wake of 'Holocaust' many are refusing to answer the questionnaire, and it is now being extended for another eight days.

Several hundred of the younger villagers identified with the Rosner text have indicated that they will refuse to act in the Daisenberger version of the Passion Play which has been condemned by Christian and Jewish authorities alike as "structurally anti-Semitic." Some Oberammergau officials told me that they now hope that the reaction to 'Holocaust' will play an important role in influencing the rejection of the anti-Jewish Daisenberger text of the play.

There were a good number of negative and hostile reactions of Germans who asked, "Why re-open old wounds? We should forget all this. It is enough time already."

Jewish Reaction Termed Positive

Heinz Golinski, head of the Jewish community in West Berlin, said that "the reaction of the Jewish community throughout West Germany had been positive," adding that he had received many calls from Jews and non-Jews alike. There are about 27,000 Jews in West Germany today, a tragic remnant of the more than 500,000 Jews who lived in pre-war Germany.

Golinski said the "timing of the showing was perfect. It comes at a time when there is talk again of the 'Auschwitz lie,' a reference to the Nazi effort to revise history and claim that the genocide of Jews never took place, 'when some students are making jokes again about Jews, when the statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes of murder is an issue and at a time when everybody seems to be preaching 'let us forget.'"

Perhaps the most significant response of all to "Holocaust" was that of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. In a debate in the lower house of the West German Parliament last Monday, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt commended the "Holocaust" series, said the film is a "must" in connection with the current controversy over extending the legal time limit under which Nazi war criminals can be prosecuted. He added that the series encourages critical and moral reflection which "is important in view of the decision each of us must make for himself in the course of this year on the statute of limitations."

Based on the impact already registered, the American Jewish Committee now plans to carry out a systematic study of responses to the entire series in Germany as well as in the 15 other countries in which the film is being shown, and then an intensive follow-up educational program in German religious and secular school systems. I have no hesitation in saying that if this "Holocaust" series had achieved nothing other than the impact that it has already had in Germany, it more than justified all the investment of time and energy in helping bring its message before millions of Germans who might otherwise have avoided facing the tragedy of the Holocaust.