

JTA daily news bulletin

Continents Eastern Publications City by previous arrangement

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 48th Street / New York, New York 10036

Vol. XLVI - 62nd Year

Wednesday, February 21, 1979

No. 36

BEGIN PRAISES U.S. FOR SAVING ISRAELIS IN IRAN; U.S. BUMPED 33 NATIONALS TO MAKE ROOM FOR ISRAELIS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Thirty-three American nationals were taken off a Pan Am plane at Teheran over the weekend to make way for the 33 remaining Israelis in Iran to be flown out of the country. Were it not for this, the Israelis might not have gotten out -- and would have been in desperate danger.

This was revealed by Premier Menachem Begin in a briefing to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee today. Begin had warm praise for the Americans and thanked the U.S. for its efforts to save the Israelis in Iran.

Former MK Mordechai Ben Porat, who headed a recent aliya mission to Iran and was one of the 33 rescued, reported to the Knesset Immigration Committee today that many Iranian Jews wanted to leave but for the moment no Iranian citizens were being allowed out of the country. In his report to the committee and in his earlier report to the Jewish Agency Executive, Ben Porat praised the devoted work, in dangerous conditions, performed by the Agency shlichim in Iran these recent months.

Aliya Department chairman Rafael Korfwitz said the Agency still had contact with the Iranian Jewish community but did not specify the channels of communication. The Executive resolved to keep close watch on the developing situation in Iran and take its decisions pertaining to aliya of Iranian Jews accordingly.

ISRAEL CLOSES BORDER TO UNIFIL PERSONNEL, VEHICLES BUT RELAXES BAN ON SOLDIERS ENTERING ON FOOT

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Israel closed its border to all personnel and vehicles of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) but relaxed the ban on noon today to permit UNIFIL soldiers to enter on foot. The closure was ordered yesterday following the arrest of a Senegalese soldier caught in the act of transferring explosives to a Palestinian terrorist in Acre Sunday.

The soldier smuggled the explosives and detonators from Lebanon in his jeep and managed to pass the Ras Nikura checkpoint undetected. Senior officers of UNIFIL announced that they will search every vehicle to prevent a repetition of the incident.

However, Israeli officials said vehicles would continue to be barred until the investigation of the smuggling is completed. Similarly, it has refused to grant the UN legal advisor permission to visit the Senegalese soldier in jail before the investigation is closed.

The decision to lift the restrictions for soldiers who leave their vehicles on the Lebanese side of the border was taken in order to give them access to Israel for off-duty relaxation. The one-day ban had created hardships for hotel and restaurant owners in the seaside town of Nahariya, a favorite spot for UN personnel on leave. But UNIFIL trucks still cannot enter Israel for their daily pickup of fresh vegetables,

water and medical supplies that Israel has been providing the UN forces in south Lebanon.

May Demand Iranian Troops Be Withdrawn

It was learned today that Israel may demand that Iranian troops be withdrawn from UNIFIL because of the close ties between the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Teheran and PLO chief Yasser Arafat. Israel fears that Iran, under the new Islamic regime, may become a confrontation state.

The Iranian mission to Israel has been recalled but some members are still at mission headquarters in Ramat Gan. The building has been closed and no one is admitted. But the remaining Iranians go about their usual routine shopping for groceries and vegetables at local shops. Some appear unhappy at the prospect of returning to Iran.

CARTER SAYS U.S. WILL INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN SECURITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF MIDDLE-EAST NATIONS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- President Carter today spoke of "intensifying" United States efforts to maintain "the security and independence" of the Middle East nations and hinted at increasing America's military assistance towards that end.

He also called on "all leaders in the Middle East to recognize the vital importance for the region" that the Camp David ministerial talks which begin tomorrow succeed in drafting an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and warned the Soviet Union against extending its influence in Iran. Carter delivered a full-dress foreign policy speech at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, where he had been a student, after addressing the Georgia State Legislature on domestic issues.

Without going into details of his intentions in defense of the nations in the region, the President specifically mentioned his determination to work with Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia on the security of the region. Defense Secretary Harold Brown returned to Washington yesterday after an 11-day tour of those four countries and reportedly brought back requests from all of them for increased U.S. arms.

Observing that "it is still a world of danger, a world in which democracy and freedom are constantly challenged," the President said that America's "four fundamental security responsibilities" are to provide for America's strength and safety, stand by its allies and friends, support national independence and integrity and work for peace.

He pointed out that "other nations" must respect Iran's independence and integrity, as does the U.S., and declared: "We are intensifying our efforts to promote stability throughout the Middle East, so that the security and independence of the nations of that part of the world will be maintained."

Brown, Carter said, carried out "comprehensive consultations in Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia concerning the security of the region. We are determined to work with these nations and others to put the peaceful development of the region on a sound and lasting foundation. Recent disturbances in the region have underlined the need to work even more urgently towards peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors."

Reiterating that he would call another summit conference between Egypt, Israel and the U.S.

The President said, "I will do whatever I can to promote the success of the Camp David negotiations, including the calling of another summit conference if that should be necessary and the parties show adequate flexibility. I urge all leaders in the Middle East to recognize the vital importance for the region that these talks succeed."

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will begin meeting tomorrow at Camp David with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Egyptian Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil.

The State Department indicated that press information for the new Camp David talks will be handled by "one source" with an American spokesman as was the case in the previous trilateral sessions. Haddad, Carter of the State Department is expected to be that spokesman and to deliver his briefings of the State Department rather than at Camp David as was the case at the summit conference last September. The single source method also was followed during the Blair House talks that followed.

From the President's speech today and informed sources here it would appear that the ministerial talks will dwell on reaching agreements on the differences that separate Jerusalem and Cairo in quick time and then have a summit conference comprising Carter, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin follow soon thereafter to complete the treaty.

Additional Military Aid Crucial

In his Georgia Tech speech, the President observed that "many nations are troubled -- even threatened -- by the turmoil in Southeast and Southwest Asia." He then added, "To stand by our friends and help meet their security needs in these difficult times I will consult with the Congress to determine what additional military assistance will be required. This added measure of support is crucial for stability throughout the Indian Ocean area. And let me repeat: in the Middle East, in Southeast Asia and elsewhere in the world, we will stand by our friends -- and we will honor our commitments -- and we will protect the vital interests of the United States."

"If we are to meet our responsibilities, we must continue to maintain the military forces we need for our defense and to contribute to the defense of our allies."

CHRISTIAN MILITIA LEADER SAYS ONLY ISRAEL IS HELPING LEBANON

ROME, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Maj. Saad Haddad, leader of the Christian militia in south Lebanon, accused the United States and the Vatican of abandoning Lebanon to invasion and occupation by Syria. "The only disinterested help we receive today comes from Israel," but that is not enough, Haddad said in an exclusive interview published in *Il Giornale* today.

He said that "Arab extremists" cannot stand to see Israel and Israelis getting along as they do in the border area where Israel maintains an "open fence" policy. He claimed their aim was to repopulate the border region with fedayeen and to create psychological obstacles to the peace talks in the Middle East.

Haddad charged that the U.S. and the Vatican had failed to react against "the Syrian military occupation" of Lebanon. He said "that there is a religious war going on between Moslems and Christians is a monstrous lie." He claimed that the Palestinian refugees of 1948 were "completely absorbed" and the real trouble started "with the

invasion of armed Palestinians sent by Syria."

The White House has not said a word of condemnation against "the foreign invasion suffocating Lebanon" because "Damascus holds clout over Saudi Arabia to which Washington defers because of its oil," Haddad claimed.

Bitter Toward The Vatican

He was equally bitter toward the Vatican. Prayers for peace are not enough, the militia commander said. He charged that "up to several months ago, at least, the Vatican unfortunately tacitly absolved the invaders by invoking its impartiality." And before that, the Catholic Church was less than impartial "when (the late Pope) Paul VI openly supported the rights of the Palestinian people but never supported our sacred rights to existence, to liberty and independence."

Haddad said he hoped that now that the Vatican has "a pastoral leader who has (himself) suffered under a totalitarian regime... a courageous Pope not afraid of telling the truth," the Church will use "its great moral force to condemn the aggression suffered by Lebanon and the genocide that Syria is carrying out against Lebanese Christians." He was referring to Pope John Paul II, who is of Polish origin.

PLO URGING FRANCE TO PLAY MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE MIDEAST

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization has called on France to play a more active role in Middle East affairs and to submit the Arab-Israeli issue to the United Nations Security Council. The head of the PLO's political department, Fawuk Khadumi, yesterday pressed French Foreign Minister Jean Francois Poncelet to act in this direction in consultation with its West European partners.

Khadumi, according to Palestinian sources, said it is of "the utmost urgency" to have the Security Council re-examine the entire Middle East issue and vote a new resolution which "would safeguard the rights of the Palestinian people."

Khadumi, who is considered the PLO's foreign minister, spent over 75 minutes with Francois Poncelet at the Quai d'Orsay. Though French spokesmen said the meeting was "private," the two men met in official circumstances to discuss official business.

Their meeting took place barely three weeks after Israel's Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan paid an official visit to France and has thus irked most French Jewish organizations. A spokesman for the PLO told reporters after the meeting that Francois Poncelet and Khadumi were in "near-agreement" on most basic issues, and especially on the need for a global settlement in the Middle East to be negotiated with Palestinian active participation.

ROME'S JEWISH COMMUNITY OFFERS TO 'ADOPT' VIETNAMESE REFUGEE FAMILY

ROME, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Rome's 10,000-member Jewish community has offered to "adopt" a family of Vietnamese refugees, one of the thousands of so-called "boat people" who have fled their native country and live afloat off Asian shores waiting for some country to accept them. The community intends to provide housing, jobs and all other necessary support for the family in a symbolic gesture of solidarity. As Rome's Chief Rabbi Elko Toaff told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "When we read of what is happening to the Vietnamese refugees, it seemed as if we were reliving a page of Jewish history."

But the humanitarian gesture has become ensnared in the same tangle of bureaucratic red tape that has prevented the Italian government from approving the admission of refugees. So far, Italy has done no more than grant transit visas to 88 Vietnamese. Israel, by contrast, did considerably more when it admitted 101 refugees who had spent months aboard a freighter at Manila and provided them with homes.

The Israeli gesture prompted the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore to comment that Israel hoped to "set an example" to other richer and more powerful nations. The paper noted that "most of the refugees had never heard of Israel but all were grateful for the offer and most expected to find a new home in the Jewish State."

The Israeli gesture also inspired the Jewish community here. Toaff said, "We cannot help but be reminded of the odyssey, tragic in many cases, of our Jewish refugees after the last World War when shiploads of homeless people were sent from one port to another, often ending up back in Germany."

SPECIAL TO THE JTA

DULZIN FINDS POSITIVE ATTITUDE IN MEXICO TOWARD ZIONISM, ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, declared on his arrival here this afternoon from a four-day visit to Mexico that the attitude toward Israel and Zionism in that country is positive. He based his assessment on an hour-long meeting he had last Friday with Mexico's President Jose Lopez Portillo.

In an exclusive interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Dulzin described his audience with Lopez Portillo as "very cordial and warm." He said he raised the question of Mexico's vote in the United Nations General Assembly two years ago in favor of the Arab-inspired resolution equating Zionism with racism. The President responded, "Whatever was in the past, forgotten and we have opened a new leaf," Dulzin told the JTA.

He said he and the Mexican leader also discussed Mexico's vast oil reserves which, according to Lopez Portillo, are equal to those of Saudi Arabia. But the President emphasized that if some think Mexican oil will be a substitute for Iranian oil they are mistaken, Dulzin reported. He said he got the impression that Mexico intends to develop its oil reserves gradually. He said he did not discuss the issue of Mexican oil for Israel but added, "I can only say there is hope that Mexico will consider positively Israel's requests for oil."

Dulzin said Lopez Portillo met with him and the Israeli Ambassador to Mexico, Shaul Rosolio, after a hectic schedule of talks with President Carter who visited Mexico last week. He said that by receiving him, Lopez Portillo wanted to demonstrate his warm feelings toward Israel. He quoted the President, as saying that he viewed Israel as "one of the most wonderful phenomena of our times."

According to Dulzin, Lopez Portillo also said that Israel's achievements are the expression of the spiritual power of its people and noted that he is interested in the history of the Jewish people and closely follows events in Israel. Dulzin went to Mexico for meetings with Jewish and Zionist leaders there. While in Mexico City he addressed an audience of 1200 on behalf of the

United Jewish Appeal in Mexico. He said it was one of the biggest meetings ever held by the Jewish community in the Mexican capital.

NAZIS GIVEN PERMIT FOR RALLY IN PHILADELPHIA; JWV MOBILIZING ITS MEMBERS FOR A COUNTER-RALLY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- The National Jewish War Veterans (JWV) is mobilizing thousands of its members for a rally in Philadelphia at noon Sunday at the same time that the American Nazi Party is planning a demonstration there. The American Nazi Party has received a permit to hold a "White Power Rally" to show to white masses the unity of the white race.

A permit to hold the rally was granted today to the Nazi group by federal authorities. An injunction action to prevent the rally has been brought by a Philadelphia Holocaust survivors' group and the City of Philadelphia. A hearing on the motion will be held in Philadelphia on Thursday.

JWV national commander Nathan M. Goldberg, of Albany, N.Y., has announced that the JWV will meet at George Washington Park in Philadelphia at 10:30 a.m. Sunday before proceeding to Independence Hall, the location of the Nazi rally. "While not planning a confrontation with the Nazis," he said, "we intend to show the world that we will not ignore activities of this kind of group."

Members of the JWV Departments of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland and Washington, D.C., are participating, he said. Phil Moses, of Trenton, N.J., the JWV's national action chairman, is coordinating the JWV rally.

Goldberg said that JWV is planning to "lend the full force of our troops, to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Jewish community of Philadelphia. I urge our entire membership to participate." He said that "after the lesson of the Holocaust, we cannot afford to remain silent while Nazis rally at the site of the Liberty Bell."

MODAI SUGGESTS ISRAEL SEEK TO DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES TO OIL

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai recommended yesterday that Israel concentrate on developing alternatives to oil as an energy source because 96 percent of the world's oil resources are closed to it. Appearing before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Mordechai said Israel's oil reserves were satisfactory at present and an adequate supply is assured for this year.

He said that the crisis in Iran which has ended oil sales to Israel and the general hike in oil prices were reason enough for Israel to look for alternate energy sources. He noted as an example the coal-fired electric power plant being built at Hadera and called for the developments of systems to exploit solar energy. Mordechai and members of the Knesset committee agreed that too little was being done to conserve energy.

VIENNA (JTA) -- The Ministry of Interior reported that 137,700 persons visited the museum at the former Nazi concentration camp at Mauthausen in 1978. This was an increase of 23 percent compared with 1977. Among the visitors, more than 28,000 were school children, an increase of 40 percent.

CORRECTION

An article on an Orthodox G.I. in the Feb. 16 Bulletin misplaced Fort Sill. It is located in Oklahoma, not in Texas.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES FOR THE RECORD

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Feb. 20 (JTA). -- The airwaves of the Middle East once thrilled with the voice of Arab revolution beamed from the Cairo of Gamal Abdel Nasser. Today, most of the Arab radios are proclaiming a new creed, the Islamic revolution according to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Syria, Libya, the Palestine Liberation Organization and even Jordan have all hailed the Shah's overthrow as the beginning of a new Moslem crusade to regain Jerusalem and Palestine.

Their enthusiasm is all the more remarkable in view of the deep historic rivalries between the Sunnite Moslem tradition, dominant in all Arab countries, and the Shi'ite tradition, to which the Ayatollah and most Iranians belong. Even Iraq has praised Khomeini, although it expelled him last October because of his unsettling effect on Iraq's large restless Shi'ite community. The Ayatollah himself has appealed for pan-Islamic unity.

Not surprisingly, the only Arab leader to criticize the new Iranian regime strongly is King Hassan of Morocco, who rejoices in the title of "Commander of the Faithful" and who has offered hospitality to the exiled Shah of Iran. Egypt, still committed to peace talks with Israel, has coldly ignored the Ayatollah's anti-Israeli policies.

The following quotations from Iranian and Arab broadcasts, according to the British Broadcasting Corporation's radio-monitoring service in the first days after the Teheran revolution, tell their own tale.

Zionism Must Be Expelled

Abadan Radio (Iran) in Arabic (Feb. 13)

There is no longer a place for Zionism in Iran; there will no longer be an embassy for Israel in Teheran. There will no longer be oil for the Zionists from Iranian oilfields. . . . The Iranian army will fight the Zionists alongside the armies of the fraternal Arab state when this is deemed necessary. This is what hero Khomeini has said.

"Islam means support for the Palestinian Moslem people. Islam means the liberation of the usurped Moslem territories. Islam means the expulsion of Zionism from Palestine. Islam means the liberation of holy Jerusalem. Islam means the expulsion of imperialism from all Islamic lands."

PLO chairman Yasir Arafat's message to Khomeini: "The huge revolutionary torch radiating from Iran will light the sky of our dear and beloved homeland. Our return to holy Jerusalem has become near. (Voice of Palestine, Feb. 12)

Syrian President Hafez Assad to Khomeini: "The Shah fell because he was a tyrant and a criminal agent. It is not surprising that he should listen to his intimate friend Anwar el Sadat, the great traitor. . . ." (Damascus Radio, Feb. 12)

"Iraqi government statement: 'The Iranian people will undoubtedly stand by the side of the Arab people in their just struggle against tyrannical Zionism and imperialism. . . . Iran has brought about an important positive change in the region.' (Iraq News Agency, Feb. 13)

Pathful To Fraternal Iran

King Hussein's telegram to Khomeini: "Our people may carry out their great role in the march of the Islamic nation towards its honorable aim of realizing its potential and building

up its power so as to restore its holy places and rights. . . . Jordan, which stands in the forefront of the Islamic throng at the approaches to Palestine and dear Jerusalem, will always be grateful to fraternal Iran." (Amman Television, Feb. 13)

Libya's President Muammar Qaddafi "described the Iranian people's revolution as a veritable volcano that would bring about a shift in the balance in the region. Qaddafi expected new tremors and new configurations to appear in Egypt, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the (Persian) Gulf and most of the countries bordering on Iran." (Libyan News Agency, Feb. 6)

King Hassan of Morocco: "Khomeini is a Shi'ite, that is to say he is a heretic. As a Westerner and a Moslem, I am extremely worried about what may happen. . . . There will be a series of collapses in the Gulf states surrounding Saudi Arabia where the holy places of Islam are located. . . . Europe is realizing that Islam is on the move but it is not the good Islam, and not the true one." (Paris Radio interview, Feb. 8)

Egyptian "official source": "Egypt wishes the noble Iranian people every success in achieving as much prosperity as possible and in keeping Iran mighty, strong and well guarded against foreign interference and ambitions." (Middle East News Agency, Feb. 13)

BRAILOVSKY HARASSED BY SOVIETS

NEW YORK, Feb. 20 (JTA). -- Soviet officials have indicated to embattled cyberneticist Victor Brailovsky that they will give him to the middle of March before instituting "parasitism" charges against him, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ).

Brailovsky, who is an editor of the "samizdat" (underground) journal, "Jews in the USSR," and host of an internationally known weekly scientific seminar, relayed this information in a telephone conversation with NCSJ associate director Myrna Shinbaum.

The Soviet authorities have opened a criminal file against Brailovsky after they decreed he could no longer pay income tax on his earnings as a private mathematics tutor, the NCSJ reported. For the last six years, since he applied to emigrate in 1972 and was fired from his post at an electronics institute, Brailovsky had paid taxes on earnings from his tutoring. Now he has been told he can no longer tutor because he has no formal training as a teacher. He does, however, hold a Doctor of Science degree in cybernetics.

"They've told him he has a month in which to get a job," Shinbaum said. "After that, they'll hold the threat of criminal prosecution over him and use it as they see fit. He's trying to find work, but he knows they're playing a game with him. It's up to the authorities as to whether they'll let anyone hire him or whether they're willing to approve whatever work he finds."

VIENNA (JTA). -- Fred Sinowatz, Minister of Education, has asked Austrian teachers to deal with the horrors of the Nazi occupation during World War II when the NBC-TV "Holocaust" series is shown on Austrian television early in March. Hundreds of thousands of Austrians will view "Holocaust" and there will be a lot of discussions by viewers in their homes, Sinowatz said. There is no doubt that the discussions will be carried over to the schools and the teachers must be well prepared for this, he said. The Ministry will therefore send to schools a list of information materials which can be requested by teachers.