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IRANIAN JEWISH LEADER EXECUTED BY FIRING SQUAD

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 9 (JTA) -- Israelis expressed shock and outrage over the execution of Habib Elkanian, the former president of the Iranian Jewish community, by a firing squad in Teheran this morning for "spreading corruption" and "treason through his connections with Israel and Zionism." The 61-year-old industrialist was the first prominent Jew in Iran to be executed by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic regime.

Elkanian, along with another prominent Iranian Jewish businessman, Ruhollah Ray, who was also the Jewish representative in the lower house of Parliament under the Shah, had been arrested by police last March. The two were being held in Teheran's special prison for political suspects. Ray's two sons were also arrested at the same time. Their fate is not immediately known.

Premier Menachem Begin condemned the execution in the Knesset today and urged world public opinion not to be silent over the murderous acts of the "blood-thirsty regime of Khomeini. The Jewish people will always bear the memory of Elkanian," he declared. Yehuda Dominitz, director general of the Jewish Agency's absorption department, also expressed shock. According to reports reaching Jerusalem some 100 Jews are still imprisoned in Iran.

Elkanian was shot along with six other Iranians branded enemies of the regime because of alleged ties with the deposed Shah or what the Ayatollah's secret Islamic courts consider "corruption." Teheran Radio said today that Elkanian's property, valued in the millions of dollars, would be confiscated and used "for the benefit of the people." According to Jewish sources in Teheran, Elkanian's execution has spread fear throughout the Jewish community in Iran. The executions today brought the total of known executions since the revolution in Iran last February to 200 people.

Execution Causes Reverberations

(Reactions to Elkanian's execution brought swift denunciations from Jewish leaders in the United States. In New York, Israel's Chief Sephardic Rabbi Ovadia Yosef today branded as "fabrications" the charges against Elkanian. He said the charges were made up to serve as an "excuse for murderous acts." Yosef, who is returning to Israel tonight, after six days in the United States, made his comment in response to questions at a press conference. He said he learned with "anguish" the news of Elkanian's death this morning. The rabbi said he met Elkanian during his visit to Iran three years ago. Yosef said there could be no basis for the charges against Elkanian.

(Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, denounced the execution as "a barbaric act that underscores still further the blood-thirsty nature of those who have arrogated power to themselves in Iran. No regime can long continue as an expression of raw ugly terrorism."

(Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section, said

"The Ayatollah Khomeini who was returned to power because of his deep religious commitment, certainly knows that the Jews of Iran have always been loyal, and should not deny them the right to have ties with their fellow Jews around the world." She added, "One cannot help but wonder as to the role of the PLO in this execution." Mrs. Jacobson noted that much has been made of the alliance between Yasir Arafat and the Ayatollah. "Perhaps," she said, "a special meeting of the UN is called for to deal with this gross violation of human rights in Iran. It is time to let Iran understand that if it wants relationships with the Western world it will have to prevent further judicial murders of this type."

(Philip Klutznick, president of the World Jewish Congress, said Elkanian's execution followed "a summary trial in which he was accused of Zionism and subversive activities on behalf of Israel, without being given any of the opportunities for defense required by international law and basic principles of justice. Thus a new category of victims has been added to the sad record of those forces which the current Iranian regime seems unable to prevent from taking the law into their own hands.")

U.S. Equivocates On Execution

(In Washington, State Department spokesman Hodding Carter specifically mentioned Elkanian when he was asked about the executions in Teheran this morning. "We have repeatedly made clear our strong disapproval of the summary executions in Iran," Carter said. He added that the U.S. is reiterating that view "having particularly in mind the execution of Habib Elkanian." He stressed that "we are not taking a stand on the guilt or innocence of the victims." He said that "we do feel strongly that defendants should have a fair and open trial and opportunity to defend themselves."

(Carter said "it is disturbing that Elkanian was a member of a minority community" and the government of Iran had given assurances that minorities would be protected as a fundamental tenet of Islamic law. "While the implications are disturbing," Carter continued, "the press reports indicate that Elkanian was tried as an individual and not as a leader of the Jewish community.")

ISRAEL ACCUSES UNIFIL UNIT OF AIDING TERROR ATTACK ON ISRAEL

Israeli Forces Enter South Lebanon
In Pursuit Of The Terrorist Gang
By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 9 (JTA) -- Israel today accused an Irish unit of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) of aiding and abetting a terrorist attack on Manara kibbutz in northern Israel and later blocking an Israeli force sent into south Lebanon in pursuit of the terrorists. An army spokesman confirmed that an Israeli force was combing the area of Shaqra village where the terrorists were believed to have taken shelter.

Unconfirmed reports from foreign sources said the Israeli force was augmented by anywhere from 40 to 250 tanks, depending upon the source. It was the first major incursion by Israeli troops into south Lebanon since Israel withdrew its army from that region a year ago. The force was prevented from continuing its search operation by the Irish troops and withdrew, the army spokesman said.

According to the spokesman, the events began this morning after a band of about four Arab terrorists crossed UNIFIL-held territory and remained concealed in a sector patrolled by the Irish unit. At about 4 a.m. local time they reached the border fence and opened fire with mortars and automatic weapons on Manara.

The first salvo alerted an Israeli patrol which exchanged fire with the terrorists, wounding one who was captured. The others fled back into Lebanese territory. An Israeli patrol crossed into Lebanon on a search operation that centered on the area between Shaqra village and the border. Before the terrorists could be found, the UNIFIL Irish troops appeared and refused to grant the Israeli forces permission to continue their operation.

Questioning of the captured terrorists indicated that their mission was to murder civilians in Manara, Israeli sources said. The fire exchange lasted nearly an hour. No Israeli casualties were reported.

Israel charged today that UNIFIL is not carrying out its mission. It permitted terrorists to cross its territory eastward from Tyre, which is a terrorist-controlled enclave, and made no attempt to apprehend them although the sounds of the battle could be heard for miles.

"It is inconceivable that terrorists, failing in their mission, should find shelter across the border," the Israeli military spokesman said. UNIFIL headquarters announced this afternoon that an Israeli force had been acting in the Shaqra village area east of Tebnin but did not mention that terrorists were active in the same area. "All they did was to prevent the Israelis from locating and apprehending the terrorists," the spokesman said.

YOSEF STRESSES NEED FOR MORE SYNAGOGUES IN THE NEGEV

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, May 9 (JTA) — Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, Israel's Chief Sephardic Rabbi, stressed today that when Israeli settlements in the Sinai are re-established in the Negev in line with the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty there will be a need for additional synagogues and other religious institutions in the Negev. He said the need was not only to serve the some 5000 settlers leaving the Sinai but also the expected growth in the Negev population because of the government's policy to increase the number of people in that area.

Yosef, who returns to Israel tonight, told a press conference that he has been stressing the need for synagogues and institutions in meetings he has had since arriving in the United States last Thursday. He noted that he was not on an official fund-raising campaign but was alerting American Jews to the need.

The rabbi said that his reaction to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is positive as is that of the majority of the Israeli people. He noted that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat will allow a rabbi from Israel to go to Egypt to serve the remaining Jewish community. The rabbi will not go until after May 26 when El Arish is returned to Egypt and the borders between Egypt and Israel are officially opened.

Yosef said one of the tasks for the rabbi will be to see if he can find the vast library that was at one time maintained by the Chief Rabbi of Egypt and try to bring it to Israel where it can be used by scholars. Yosef said he knew of the library because he served as Assistant Chief Rabbi

of Egypt 30 years ago.

Spiritual Revival In Israel

The rabbi was also asked to comment on the government of Premier Menachem Begin which will be celebrating its second anniversary soon. He said the "spiritual revival" in Israel is in part, but not only, due to having a Prime Minister who is observant. He said when the Premier puts on a skull cap at the White House and recites from the Psalms, eats only kosher food in the U.S. and observes the Sabbath it can only have a good influence on the Jewish people.

Yosef noted that he visited Iranian children in Baltimore yesterday and told them not to "despair" because they would eventually be reunited with their parents still in Iran. He also stressed that the situation has not improved for the Jews of Syria.

The rabbi said that during his many visits to the U.S., especially to the Sephardic communities in Brooklyn and Deal, N.J., he has had "great pleasure" at seeing the strengthening of religion among Sephardic Jews in the U.S.

STATE COMPTROLLER RAPS ISRAELI ARMY

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 9 (JTA) — The Israeli army came under scathing criticism for the first time in a report by State Comptroller Ernest Nebenzahl released today. The report, covering Israel's invasion and occupation of south Lebanon in April, 1978, cited errors in logistics, operational matters, and intelligence and serious breaches of discipline including looting by Israeli troops.

The army said today that all deficiencies noted by the Comptroller have been corrected and that punitive measures have been taken against officers and soldiers found responsible.

The Lebanese incursion, known as the Litani Operation because Israel occupied the region as far north as the Litani River, resulted in 21 fatalities to Israeli troops. But not all of them were the result of combat, Nebenzahl's report pointed out. Some soldiers were killed because they evaded or ignored standing orders and discipline.

The Comptroller cited at least three cases in which Israeli soldiers crossed the front lines unknowingly because roadblocks were not manned or control was lax. Some units were not properly alerted before the operation began and some went into action improperly equipped. One unit entered Lebanon with only 70 percent of its assigned troop carriers, the report stated. Intelligence was inadequate and units were not provided with the necessary maps.

Says Callup Was Mismanaged

According to the Comptroller's report, the calling up of reserve units was mismanaged. Many addresses were incorrect, resulting in needed soldiers not being called, while others who were not immediately needed were ordered to report and remained idle for 10 days before tasks were assigned to them.

Nebenzahl reported that 178 soldiers, a quarter of them non-commissioned officers, and some junior officers took part in looting, mainly television sets, refrigerators, calculators and transistors. All have since been court-martialed. The report mentioned excessive use of ammunition but conceded that it could not state positively if this was justified by military conditions or not.

The report was critical of other aspects of the military establishment. It stated that the Israel-made Kfir jet fighter was incorporated into the Air Force without proper calculation of the number of spare parts needed.

BLACKS AND JEWS FORM NEW COALITION IN CROWN HEIGHTS SECTION OF N. Y. C.

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, May 9 (JTA) -- Formation of a new coalition of Blacks and Jews in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, world center of the Lubavitch Hasidic movement and long an area of inter-racial tension and conflict, was announced at a press conference today held at the Brooklyn Public Library. The nine Black and nine Jewish members of the coalition, headed by Rev. Heron Sam and Mendel Shemtov, president of the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, were present for the press conference.

The co-chairmen said the coalition was the outgrowth of six months of meetings of the leaders of the two major groups -- the Blacks and the Hasidim. They expressed thanks to Bishop James Wither, the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, which includes Brooklyn; Rabbi Balfour Brickner, director of interreligious affairs for the (Reform) Union of American Hebrew Congregations; and Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council, an umbrella agency of Jewish organizations in New York City.

Sam and Shemtov declared in a jointly-presented statement of the coalition's goals that the coalition comprised "concerned individuals, holding positions of responsibility and/or residing in the Black and Jewish communities of Crown Heights." There are no official demographic data on the racial and religious make-up of Crown Heights, but it is estimated that the ratio is about two Blacks to each Jew.

The joint statement declared that "recognizing that Crown Heights is the established locale of Blacks and Jews, and other minorities; conscious that the above groups have long contributed to the stability and development of this community; appreciative that these groups consider it home, deserve and intend to remain in this area; convinced that the atmosphere of trust necessary for the stability and growth of the community can be achieved only by mutual cooperation, we have banded together jointly to build our community."

Will Seek To Help Area

The two co-chairmen pledged that the coalition would seek to bring to Crown Heights "those resources -- financial, physical, social and spiritual -- needed for its development and implementation of programs and projects that will attract city, state, federal and private resources into our community, leading towards a total urban renewal and reinvestment process." Crown Heights is generally considered a changing area.

Sam and Shemtov stressed that they did not "presume to speak for the entire community. However, we shall seek to develop mechanisms by which to respond immediately to crises which may arise. Moreover, we shall seek faithfully and accurately to represent the needs and legitimate desires of those who wish to associate themselves with our purpose. We shall do this without compromising the unique particularities of faith, race or culture which distinguish us and which give our community its positive pluralistic character."

The co-chairmen said the coalition would try to get funds to provide "the right education for our children, Black and Jewish" and to teach them "there is no room" for street violence, a problem which has plagued Crown Heights for

years. Both sides have created citizens patrols to monitor the area.

Sam was asked why Rev. Herbert Daughtry had not been invited to participate. Daughtry is a Black clergyman who has made speeches against the Crown Heights Hasidim they consider inflammatory. Sam replied that there were geographic restrictions on coalition membership and Daughtry does not live in Crown Heights. He added that the coalition would accept Daughtry as an advisor if he wanted that role.

Asked if he was negotiating with the Hasidim without the consent of the Black community, Sam gave a two-part response. He said he was a minister of the largest church in Crown Heights, representing half the Blacks of Crown Heights; and that he had reported fully to his parishioners on the developments leading to the coalition and that his parishioners had applauded his efforts vigorously.

The co-chairmen said the coalition plans to create a community ombudsman for the two communities and a mechanism to respond to crises. One of the principal goals of the coalition, they said, would be to work together to diminish street crime and improve security in Crown Heights. Sam said "our choice is either coming together in a coalition or destroying each other." Hoenlein said that other Black and Jewish Crown Heights leaders have been holding and will continue to hold talks on strengthening Crown Heights.

Hoenlein said that plans were under consideration to arrange an early meeting by the coalition with Mayor Edward Koch. The coalition is expected to soon start organizing the mechanism Sam and Shemtov cited and to hold regular meetings to implement the goals of the coalition.

AID FOR ISRAEL AND EGYPT

WASHINGTON, May 9 (JTA) -- Two subcommittees of the House Foreign Affairs Committee late yesterday adopted without change, the Carter Administration's proposals for authorizing expenditure of \$4.8 billion in assistance to Egypt and Israel on the basis of their peace treaty.

The Middle East subcommittee, led by Rep. Lee Hamilton (D. Ind.) and the panel on International Security Affairs, headed by Rep. Clement Zablocki (D. Wis.), who also is chairman of the full committee, approved the legislation following testimony by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Defense Secretary Harold Brown.

Rep. Gerry Studds (D. Mass.) did not offer an amendment to the legislation which would have reduced the aid total to Israel by \$35 million because the Israeli government is planning two new settlements on the West Bank. Studds asked Vance yesterday whether he would approve such a measure and Vance deferred his reply. It is understood, however, according to a committee source, that Studds may present his suggestion in amendment form when the legislation is put before the full committee.

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- The House unanimously adopted Wednesday a resolution urging West Germany to abolish or to extend the date that the statute of limitations will go into effect. The resolution, jointly authored by Reps. Elizabeth Holtzman (D. NY) and Hamilton Fish (R. NY), received the votes of 401 House members. There were no votes against it. Meanwhile, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has a similar resolution sponsored by Sen. Alan Cranston (D. Calif.) and co-sponsored by 41 Senators of both major parties. Once the Senate adopts the resolution it, as well as the House measure, will be sent to the Bonn government as separate appeals.

INTERNS FOR PEACE TERMED A PIONEERING PROGRAM IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, May 9 (JTA) -- A pioneering program for building friendship and mutual trust between Arabs and Jews in Israel, especially among young people, was described here at the National Interreligious Affairs Commission of the American Jewish Committee, in connection with the opening tomorrow of the Committee's 73rd annual meeting which continues through Sunday at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

The intergroup program for bettering Arab-Jewish relations is known as "Interns for Peace." It involves a group of Arabs and Jews who collaborate in providing essential social services and community projects to benefit Arab villages in the Galilee and neighboring Jewish communities coming from Arab or Islamic countries.

Reporting on the details of the project to AJCommittee leaders, Rabbi Bruce Cohen, director of Interns for Peace, announced that six Arab villages populated by Moslems, Arab Christians, and Druze had recently invited six Arab and Jewish interns from Israel and 12 North American Jewish youth to spend a year in their villages to work together in establishing health, education, youth, and other community projects. At present, there are interns and budget available to serve four villages, he said.

While living and working together in the Arab villages, the interns will also go into neighboring Jewish villages to undertake similar needed projects and to encourage cooperation and shared involvement, Cohen said. Based on successful models that are being developed between Arabs and Jews in Israel, he added, plans are now underway to create special programs for similar cooperation with Arab and Jewish counterparts in Egypt.

Priority Programs Outlined

Concentrating on fostering active cooperation in northern Israeli rural regions, indigenous Arab and Jewish leaders have agreed on the following programs as priorities in their cooperation with Interns for Peace:

Organizing a cooperative of Arab and Jewish farmers for purchasing and sharing expensive agricultural equipment; developing industrial parks in Arab and Jewish communities in the Galilee to make villages economically more self-sufficient; establishing a cooperative of Arab and Jewish women, mainly Sephardic, in producing and marketing handicrafts for domestic and foreign markets.

Also, prenatal educational programs for Arab and Jewish women; a senior citizens program for Arabs and Jews; a bicultural program involving Arab and Jewish teenage boys and a physical education program for Arab and Jewish teenage girls; summer camps for Arab and Jewish youth; a traveling folk dance/theater troupe of Arab and Jewish youth.

Significantly, Cohen noted, four Arab municipal councils in Israel have volunteered to pay for the apartments that the interns will be living in for the next two years. The Arab village and town people will be equal partners in developing the program and in helping to guide the interns during their two-year internship.

Supporters Of The Program

Among the Arab and Jewish organizations that have given financial and other support to Interns for Peace are the Arab-Jewish Center of

Givat Haviva, the Arab-Jewish Center of the University of Haifa, two major kibbutz federations, and the Histadrut (Israel) Federation of Labor.

Prominent Israeli Arab leaders on the advisory board are the Rev. Elias Chacour of Ibbilin; Munir Diab, director of the Community Center at Tamra; and Prof. Sami Mari of Hebrew University. Jewish leaders who serve on the Israeli advisory board include Rabbi Israel Goldstein; Fay Schenk, former president of Hadassah; Rabbi Emanuel Rackman, president of Bar-Ilan University; Dr. Eliezer Rifaelli, chairman of Project Renewal; and Dr. M. Bernard Resnikoff, director of the AJCommittee's Israel Office.

Chairman of the North American Steering Committee is Matthew B. Rosenhaus, president of J.B. Williams Company. In the United States, the AJCommittee has been one of the major sponsoring groups of the Interns for Peace program. AJCommittee's program specialist, Inge Lederer Gibel, serves on the American advisory committee.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS' LEADER URGES REMEMBRANCE OF CHILDREN KILLED

NEW YORK, May 9 (JTA) -- The leader of an organization of survivors of the Holocaust has called upon the International United Nations Year of the Child, 1979, to remember the millions of children who were killed during the Holocaust. Solomon Zynstein, president of the American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates and Nazi Victims, an umbrella organization of survivor groups, said, "No international program or celebration can be meaningful or complete without remembering the helpless children murdered during the Holocaust." Zynstein's views were presented in a letter to Jean Young, chairperson of the UNICEF-sponsored Year of the Child in Washington, D.C.

After commending the Year of the Child for its conferences, especially those in Israel, on the health, education, and development of children, Zynstein asked for an appropriate means of remembering the children who died during the Holocaust. "Some 1.5 million Jewish children were victims of the Holocaust," he said. "Untold numbers of non-Jewish children were merciless casualties of the catastrophe. And one cannot forget those who were orphaned, those who survived, but with emotional and physical scars."

To illustrate the decimation as it affected the children, Zynstein pointed to the 15,000 children -- all under 15 -- who passed through the Terezin concentration camp. Only around 100 came back.

Zynstein suggested that the featuring of the surviving poetry and art of the young victims would be a "most suitable" way of remembering the children. "Those children drew and wrote poetry just as the children of today do. They had the same dreams and aspirations as the young of today. For our young to see these things, to identify with those victims -- indeed a powerful lesson for the present and instruction for the future."

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Eli Eyal, head of the Jewish Agency's Information Department, believes Israel should recruit Jewish youth from abroad to perform various jobs connected with implementing the peace treaty with Egypt rather than import foreign labor for the tasks. Proposing such a program, Eyal contended that the Jewish youngsters could be employed in maintenance, driving or waiting on tables just as well as itinerant workers brought in from South Korea or other countries. If Jewish youths were given the jobs they would benefit from a trip to Israel and the increased identification with it that such a trip would provide.