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REPORT EXECUTION OF ELKANIAN PERSONALLY APPROVED BY KHOMEINI By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 10 (JTA) -- The death warrant and execution of Iranian Jewish community leader Habib Elkanian in Teheran Tuesday was personally approved by the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, "as a warning to American and Zionist agents in Iran," Iranian sources in Teheran told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The execution, the first of a prominent Iranian Jew, was seen by many as a turning point in Iranian policy toward the 55,000 Jews remaining in that country.

Until now, both the Ayatollah and the government of Premier Mehdi Bazargan had claimed that the policy of their Islamic regime was directed against Israel and Zionism, not the Jewish community whose rights they promised "will be strictly respected."

Yesterday's execution indicates an openly anti-Jewish policy, according to reliable sources, and is perceived as such by Iran's Jews. The State-controlled radio and television used the occasion of Elkanian's execution to launch violent attacks against Israel and vowed that the campaign to root out "Zionism" in Iran would continue.

Elkanian, a millionaire industrialist, was one of seven "enemies" of the regime executed by firing squad in Teheran. Rahim Ali Khorram, another businessman described as a millionaire, was also shot. They were, respectively, the only non-Moslem or non-political persons among the estimated 200 people executed by the Khomeini regime since it took power last February.

Elkanian's trial by an Islamic court began Tuesday morning and ended late Tuesday night. He was not permitted assistance by an attorney. He and the other six men sentenced to death were executed in the prison courtyard an hour after the trial ended. Teheran radio, broadcasting the news yesterday morning, played up Elkanian's alleged "Zionist and Israeli connections."

Signal Of New Dangers

In Israel, an Iranian-born member of the Knesset, Moshe Katzav, said yesterday that the execution of Elkanian, who he knew personally, could signal new dangers for Iran's Jews. He said "it is not too late" for Israel "to take both orthodox and unorthodox actions" to get Jews out of that country. However, two other former Iranian Jews now in Israel said on a television news interview in Jerusalem last night that Elkanian was executed as a symbol of the old regime and a former confidante of the Shah, rather than as a Jew. They did not believe his death necessarily presaged anti-Jewish persecutions by the Khomeini regime.

Nevertheless, the Israeli government and the World Zionist Organization expressed deep concern yesterday that the execution was tantamount to killing a Jew because he is a Jew. Leon Dulzin, chairman of the WZO Executive, said "We call on world public opinion to alert Khomeini's men to the serious consequences of their deterioration into a path of anti-Semitism.

History proves that all regimes which followed that path were eventually destroyed," he said. He added, "To the Jews of Iran we say: be strong, the Jewish people stands behind you and will not abandon you."

Protests; Condemnations Continue

Meanwhile, American Jewish leaders continued today to express outrage and shock at the execution of Elkanian and said this wanton act raises deep concern about the fate of other Jews in Iran. The Jewish leaders, who condemned the execution and the star-chamber proceedings which led to it, called upon President Carter, Congress, and religious organizations and human rights groups in this country and abroad to use every possible resource to persuade Iranian authorities to abandon their ruthless practices.

Among these leaders were Albert Chernin, executive vice chairman, National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council; Jack Spitzer, B'nai B'rith president; Richard Moass, American Jewish Committee president; Nathan Perlmutter, national director, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; Howard Squadron, American Jewish Congress president; Ivan Novick, president, Zionist Organization of America; Jacob Sheinkman, president, Jewish Labor Committee; Sarah Shane, president, American Mizrahi Women; and Richard Ravitch, president, Jewish Community Relations Council of New York.

In other actions, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and some 200 high school and college students in New York City held a demonstration today in front of the Iranian Mission to the United Nations. The Jewish Community Relations Council of New York announced that it will conduct a citywide memorial service tomorrow to mourn the death of Elkanian.

CAPUCCI BOASTS HE WILL RETURN TO JERUSALEM AS PATRIARCHAL VICAR

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, May 10 (JTA) -- Those who nourished hopes that Msgr. Hilario Capucci would become more discreet after his Papal audience and the letter of "obedience and submission" he reportedly presented to Pope John Paul II two days ago, were in for a sharp disappointment. In an interview published in the Rome daily Il Tempo yesterday, Capucci declared that the Greek Melchite Patriarch Maximos V assured him that as soon as political problems were solved, he would be able to return to Jerusalem as Patriarchal Vicar.

Capucci's release from a Jerusalem jail in 1977, where he served 39 months of a 12-year sentence for gun-running for the PLO when he was still Patriarchal Vicar, was achieved through the personal intervention of Pope Paul VI. The Vatican agreed at the time to Israel's request that Capucci stay out of politics and never return to the Middle East. Capucci continues to turn a deaf ear to these promises, at least in his public statements if not in his views of repentance to the Vatican.

In the interview, he drew a comparison between the Pope's struggle against the Nazis, for the Polish people and his own struggles for the Palestinians. Saying he found the Pope to be a "man" with a capital "M," he asserted, "it seemed to me that no one better than he who had fought against the Nazis and for the good of his country, Poland, could

understand my having fought for the Palestinian people and their dignity."

Capucci showed little interest in his new job with the Melchite communities of France, Switzerland, Belgium and The Netherlands, where he is to serve as Apostolic Visitor to Western Europe. He said he had not yet thought about where he was going to live, or which or how many Melchite communities there are. He pointed out that it was Maximus V who had requested this position for him which the Pope accepted. "Note that I am a visitor," he said, "which means, canonically, that my duties are temporary."

He added: "My ties to Jerusalem have not been cut.... What counts is that I, a Bishop in exile, have not been cut off from Jerusalem. My Patriarch assured me that once political problems are solved, I will return to work as his Vicar in Jerusalem."

PREPARING FOR JERUSALEM DAY

By Gil Sadeh

JERUSALEM, May 10 (JTA) -- Some 205 cities in 24 countries will celebrate Jerusalem Day this year, Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executive chairman Leon Dulzin said at a press conference here. "This is the first time that we are going outwards with the celebrations of Jerusalem Day," he said. "There is no doubt that we have not reached every Jew, but this is a good beginning."

Jerusalem Day commemorates the reunification of the city 12 years ago. It will be celebrated this year on May 25. The overseas festivities are organized by the local communities and Zionist Federations.

Several events have been scheduled here and abroad. They include the renaming of streets "Jerusalem Street" for at least one day; contributing books on Jerusalem to municipal libraries; mass rallies by various Jewish and Zionist organizations; festive receptions by local leaders; and urging Jewish families to display in their homes items which symbolize Jerusalem.

Some 46 cities have announced they would hold ceremonies renaming streets. They are located in France, Belgium, Mexico, Brazil, Switzerland, Canada and the U.S. It is expected that by Jerusalem Day, some 80 cities will announce renaming streets and 41 cities in England, France and Switzerland will receive books for the local municipal libraries.

Dulzin said that so far little thought has been given to turning the festivities into a national holiday. "There is no doubt that we shall have to deepen the subject, but it takes time. Even the celebrations of Independence Day have not yet acquired the same tradition other Israeli holidays have," he said. He explained that for the time being the celebrations will be of a demonstrative and educational nature.

INDUSTRIAL EXPLOSIONS INJURE 15

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 10 (JTA) -- Two powerful explosions at a military industries plant near Ramat Hasharon today injured nine workers and caused minor injuries to six children at a nearby school, mostly from flying glass. The workers, taken to Meir Hospital in Kfar Saba, were reported tonight to be in fair condition.

The blasts, which police immediately termed an accident not related to any terrorist act, caused damage estimated in the tens of millions of Israeli Patunds to homes and shops near the plant.

Some 700 families have already filed for compensation with the local police. In some instances, huge fragments of iron and steel penetrated tile roofs and brick walls. The roofs of many buildings were destroyed as were windows, doors and shutters. The explosions shattered windows in Herzliya, miles away. The Defense Ministry is expected to pay compensation for the damages.

The explosions occurred at midday. Police and civil defense officials evacuated the population and cordoned off the area. Teams of engineers were sent to inspect the damaged civilian property which was placed under police guard pending repairs.

Although the explosions were apparently accidental -- similar explosions at the same plant rocked the area two years ago -- the terrorist radio in Beirut claimed they were the result of time bombs planted in the installation by an El Fatah unit named after Abu Hassan Salameh, a terrorist leader killed by a bomb in Beirut several months ago. According to the terrorists, more than 50 of the "Zionist enemy" were killed.

The factory, when built, was well isolated from populated areas. But the expansion of suburbs in recent years brought homes and schools close to its perimeter fence.

ISRAELI, EGYPTIAN STUDENTS BREAK BREAD AND OTHER GOODIES AT FETE

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, May 10 (JTA) -- An official of the Israeli Student Organization in the United States and Canada reported today that Israeli students were invited for the first time last night by the Egyptian Student Organization at New York University to attend the Egyptian students' annual dinner at the university. Noami Ben-Gur, national secretary of the Israeli student group, in reporting on the invitation, said that 20 Israeli students, most of them attending NYU, joined with the 15 Egyptian students for the event.

She told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that when Amin Ebady, chairman of the Egyptian group at NYU, extended the invitation, in response to the peace agreement by Egypt and Israel, she had suggested that the Israeli invitees should be active participants in the event and not merely guests.

Ms. Ben-Gur said the highlights of the dinner event included brief talks by Ebady and herself, the showing of films of Cairo and of a tour of Israel, the latter film being brought to the event by the Israeli students, and food cooked by the wives of the Egyptian students which she said the Israeli guests agreed was delicious. She said most of the Egyptian students were studying for their doctorates and invited their faculty mentors -- about 10 -- to join the party.

She said an Israeli firm which imports flowers from Israel, sent hundreds of carnations from its office in New York to the dinner and that the Egyptian students took the Israeli flowers with them when the dinner ended. Ebady expressed the hope that more than 30 years of Israeli-Egyptian conflict was over and that war between the two nations would never happen again. Ms. Ben-Gur said, "we, the people" would have to act to insure that the treaty was transformed from a formal document into a fact of life for both peoples.

She said plans were made for smaller meetings at residences of the students and for similar dinners at campuses where there are Egyptian and Israeli students. She said there are 22 Israeli student organization branches at colleges in many parts of the United States and twice as many Egyptian student campus groups.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS IN NICARAGUA

By Ben Gallow

NEW YORK, May 10 (JTA). -- A former secretary of the Jewish community in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, reported that the 60 Jewish men, women and children remaining in that besieged Latin American country had no immediate plans to emigrate but admitted that if President Anastasio Somoza Debayle was defeated, problems for the remaining Jews might be severe.

But Leonardo Hellenberg told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview that the Somoza regime was friendly to the remaining Nicaraguan Jews and pro-United States and that conditions for the Jews were stable under Somoza's rule. Hellenberg gave the interview during a brief visit to this city, where he has relatives. He plans to return to Granada, Nicaragua, by the end of this month. He is now a store manager in Granada, the country's third largest city. He said there were some 10 Jews left in Granada and 50 in Managua.

Hellenberg said that more than 100 Jewish families had lived in Nicaragua in the 1950s, most of them having migrated from Europe after the Nazi regime was smashed, because Nicaragua was one of the few nations which had no quotas against Jewish refugees. He said one of the few grievances Sandanista rebels had against Nicaraguan Jews was the fact that Israel sold weapons to the Somoza regime. He said there is one synagogue in Nicaragua, Beth El, in Managua, which has a guard during its use for Friday evening and High Holy Day services.

Hellenberg said that a couple of months ago, two of the Sandanista rebels came to the synagogue and placed a bomb there. The guard said they told him they had no grievance against him, only against the Jews and only because Israel sold weapons to the Somoza regime. He said local police defused the bomb.

He said that after the aborted bomb attack on the synagogue, the Torah Scroll and Ark were removed to the home of one of the congregants and are kept there because they are not needed for Friday night services and there are no Saturday morning services. He said he expected the Scroll and Ark would be brought to the synagogue for the High Holy Days next fall but indicated that Nicaragua Jews were not certain of the future but remained hopeful.

Hellenberg said that most of the 50 remaining Jews in Managua had sent their wives and children to the United States and that many had purchased condominiums in south Florida. He said most of the children are now enrolled in American colleges and universities. Hellenberg stated that the wives regularly shuttled between Florida and Nicaragua and the husbands left their businesses in the hands of trusted non-Jews to visit their families in Florida.

Anti-Jewish Incidents

He noted that the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Sandanistas had signed a mutual aid pact in Mexico City last September but that such incidents against Jews as have occurred came from the Sandanistas. In another incident, he said a textile factory belonging to a Jew was partly burned about two months ago in Managua. Hellenberg said the arson was committed by a dozen men who identified themselves as Sandanistas. He reported that the factory had not

been repaired but that enough of the structure remained to allow the Jewish owner to continue to produce textiles.

He said those rebels also said they had set fire to the factory because of Israeli sales of weapons to the Somoza regime. About half of all textile factories in Nicaragua are owned by Jews and many of the textile stores in Granada are owned by Jews, Hellenberg said. In recent years, Chinese and Arab settlers had opened textile stores.

Hellenberg said that Nicaragua had not only opened its doors to Jews fleeing from Europe in the 1950s but that Somoza's father, Anastasio Somoza Garcia, had arranged to make it possible for arms bought quietly in the United States to be transhipped to Palestine to enable the pre-State Jews to arm themselves for the War of Independence. He said this was a factor in Israeli weapons sales currently to Somoza. He added that it was widely known in Latin America that Brazil and Argentina also were selling weapons to the Somoza regime.

The 33-year-old Hellenberg said he was single and suggested this might be one of the reasons he found time to serve as a lay reader at the Beth El Synagogue and to organize a non-Jewish boys baseball team which is affiliated with a league in Granada. He said enough Jews drove the 25 miles from Granada to make up a minyan for the Friday evening services. He said Nicaragua had never had a rabbi.

KUZNETSOV FORMALLY CONVERTING

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Eduard Kuznetsov, who arrived in Israel last week after spending nine years in a Siberian labor camp for his part in the 1970 Leningrad hijacking attempt, is preparing for formal conversion to Judaism.

Although his father was Jewish, his mother was not and this, according to Halacha, makes him a non-Jew. Kuznetsov was raised as a non-Jew but his Jewish consciousness was awakened during the time he spent in a labor camp from 1961 to 1968 as a political dissident. After his release from the camp he became an active Zionist and was involved in planning the Leningrad hijacking attempt.

Kuznetsov's wife, Silva Zalmanson, and her brother, Volf Zalmanson, both of whom also were in labor camps following the 1970 Leningrad trial, visited Rabbi Israel Lau in Tel Aviv last Saturday and explained the situation to him. He is instructing Kuznetsov in Judaism in preparation for conversion. According to Halacha, once the conversion is completed, Kuznetsov and Silva will have to be married in a Jewish religious ceremony.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Knesset, as expected, defeated a motion of no-confidence in the government Wednesday for its exchange of 76 imprisoned terrorists for one captured Israeli soldier last March. The motion was submitted jointly by Yigal Allon of the Labor Party and Shmuel Toledano of the Shai faction.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- A shot that wounded an Arab student from Bir Zeit College in an incident near the college on Independence Day was not fired by the pistol belonging to Prof. Ezra Zohar, a prominent physician and Gush Emunim sympathizer who had been questioned about his role in the incident. This, according to an Israel Radio report Thursday, has emerged from a police ballistic check of the weapon and the bullet. The student who was shot was hit in the chest and is recovering at a local hospital. Security forces conducted searches within the college but found no weapon there that could have fired the bullet.

SOURCE OF ANTI-ISRAEL, ANTI-JEWISH ATTITUDES IN U.S. TRACED TO PRO-ARAB ELEMENTS IN MAJOR AMERICAN CHURCHES

NEW YORK, May 10 (JTA) -- The presence of pro-Arab elements in key positions in a number of major American Christian churches, coupled with the growth of Arab Moslem communities in America, has created a formidable source of anti-Israel as well as anti-Jewish attitudes in the U.S., the American Jewish Committee was told today.

Two studies of different aspects of the problem of anti-Israel and anti-Jewish intrusions into American public opinion were released at the opening session of the AJCommittee's 73rd annual meeting, continuing through Sunday at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here.

One of the studies, titled "Anti-Israel Influence in American Churches," by Judith Banki, AJCommittee's assistant director of interreligious affairs, indicates that while public opinion polls show American Christians to be more sympathetic to Israel than to her Arab antagonists, an anti-Israel, pro-Arab attitude has been much in evidence in certain segments of American Christianity.

The study placed the major source of anti-Israel sentiment "among Protestant denominations with long-standing involvement in missions to the Arab Middle East; in churches and church-related groups engaged in aiding Arab refugees; among certain left-wing 'liberationist' ideologies; and in communions with predominantly Arab constituencies, whether Catholic or Eastern Orthodox."

In these quarters, the report notes, champions of the Arab cause often influence church policies and organizational resolutions far beyond their numbers, giving church groups a pro-Arab "tilt" by constantly pressing for statements critical of or detrimental to Israel. "There is also a potent anti-Jewish legacy in Christian tradition," the study observes, "which sometimes comes into play when Israel is being discussed; in such instances anti-Israel sentiment takes on an anti-Jewish coloration."

Role Of Liberation Theology

A second source of anti-Israel sentiment within the churches is the current ideology, sometimes referred to as "liberation theology," which calls upon Christians to identify with oppressed peoples and makes the active pursuit of racial, social, and economic justice a religious obligation.

In theory, Mrs. Banki notes, liberationist thought should not lead to anti-Israel positions, for Jews, too, are a minority, and Israel "is a beleaguered democracy if there was ever one." But the same "selective morality which singles out Israel for special abuse in the United Nations is also at work here," she comments. Some liberationist activists champion the Palestinians as oppressed Third World people and brand Israel as a racist, colonialist outpost of American imperialism.

Anti-Israel sentiment is also fostered by some leaders of American Arab Christian churches, although not all American Christians of Middle Eastern background are against Israel, Mrs. Banki points out. Many Americans of Lebanese background support Israel as the defender and ally of the beleaguered Christian community in Lebanon. But those hostile to Israel are a potent new influence in American Christianity. They have

used public relations techniques skillfully and on occasion have made common cause with Moslem leaders. From their leadership positions in their own churches, they have pressed non-Arab church groups and agencies, such as the National Council of Churches (NCC), for anti-Israel positions.

Both at the NCC and in every major church group, there are persons sympathetic to Israel and interested in Jewish-Christian dialogue, but they are not as close to the centers of institutional power and funding, and are frequently outweighed by the various anti-Israel sources when matters pertaining to the Middle East are on the agenda, the report says.

Role Of Moslems In The U.S.

The second report, titled "Islam in America," indicates that poverty and lack of opportunity in their native lands are motivating thousands of Moslems to emigrate to other countries, including the U.S. About 2,000,000 Moslems reportedly are now in this country, of whom approximately 200,000 are Arabs.

Not surprisingly, in view of recent history, the report notes, there is a marked degree of hostility to Israel and Zionism among many of the Moslems. Moslems working in the auto industry in Detroit, for example, are attempting to force the United Auto Workers to get rid of its State of Israel Bonds.

"The recent newcomers bring with them a new strong feeling of Arab identity and political consciousness," this report says. "Thanks chiefly to this vigorous, active influx, the Moslem community in the U.S. has emerged from a long period of inactivity and assimilation. The number of mosques and Moslem organizations has multiplied rapidly, the use and study of Arabic has increased, and new life has been infused into existing organizations, such as the Federation of Islamic Associations, which the Arab Moslems have almost taken over."

Moslem political and cultural activity, like the Moslem population, is on the rise in the U.S., the report states. "This is due in part to the current nationwide trend of ethnic consciousness and to a desire to organize at least as effectively as the Jewish community has done. But another reason is the growing importance of the Middle East and the revival of pan-Islamic ideology there."

The report was prepared for the AJCommittee by Lois Gottesman, a Middle East scholar at Princeton University. Ms. Gottesman conducted an intensive study of the social, economic and political makeup of the Moslems in the United States.

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, AJCommittee's national interreligious affairs director, reported that a series of academic and theological dialogues and seminars have been inaugurated in recent months and will be carried forward systematically as a major emphasis of AJCommittee's program during the coming three years.

VALETTA, Malta (JTA) -- The Maltese government has without explanation ordered a local Libyan radio station to cease broadcasting. The cessation order came after local Maltese newspapers accused the station of anti-Israel and anti-Egyptian bias in its news bulletins. The station was authorized to begin transmission in 1975, but only added news bulletins to its usual fare of light music and Libyan cultural information in the past month as British troops left the island after a 170-year presence. Malta's leftist Premier Dom Mintoff normally maintains good relations with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, who has promised extensive aid to the island to make up for the financial gap left by the British departure.