

JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036

Vol. XLVI - 62nd Year

Friday, May 25, 1979

No. 101

ISRAELI PLANES HIT TERRORIST BASES; KATYUSHA ROCKETS HIT NORTH GALILEE

By Yitzhak Shargil and Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, May 24 (JTA) -- Terrorist attacks and Israeli retaliatory raids against their strongholds in Lebanon continued for the second day as funeral services were held for the victims of yesterday's bombing outrage in Petach Tikva. The tragedy in Petach Tikva was the latest in the escalating terrorist campaign against Israeli civilians for which the Palestine Liberation Organization claimed responsibility.

Israeli Air Force jets pounded terrorist targets in Damour township south of Beirut last night and also reportedly bombed Na'Sam village in Lebanon. The Air Force was in action again this morning, attacking terrorist concentrations in Lebanon. A military communique did not identify the targets. It said the Israeli planes engaged last night and this morning all returned safely to their bases.

Two Israelis were injured when a barrage of Katyusha rockets slammed into a house in a settlement in northern Galilee and exploded under a bed. Israeli artillery returned the fire. Another person was slightly injured when a bomb exploded at the entrance to a supermarket in the Ramot Eshkol section of Jerusalem this afternoon.

Funeral Services For Victims

In Petach Tikva, funeral services were held for Shulamit Abu Draham, 33, and her 18-month-old daughter Zehavit, who were fatally wounded when a bomb concealed on top of a bus stop shelter exploded, showering people on the waiting line with fragments. Also killed was Sara Eichbaum, 57, a Holocaust survivor. She was buried today in her home town of Moshav Mazor near Petach Tikva. Seven of the 12 people injured were still hospitalized today. One of them, Miryam Fleish, 60, of Moshav Mazor, was reported in serious condition after major surgery and is in an intensive care unit.

The explosion in Jerusalem occurred shortly after 1 p.m. local time when the supermarket was relatively uncrowded. Police said the explosive device was concealed in a flower pot brought into the store by an unidentified young woman. She left it with the guard at the door and departed. Shortly afterwards, the device exploded. Police are searching for the suspect. The supermarket was reopened later in the afternoon.

The rocket attack on Galilee settlements was apparently in retaliation for last night's air raid on Damour. One salvo exploded near a settlement causing no casualties or damage but a second barrage caused a direct hit on a residential building. The PLO radio in Beirut claimed today that 14 Palestinians and a Lebanese were killed by the Israeli air raid and 50 other persons injured. The Israeli planes were reported to have scored direct hits on four terrorist command posts.

Mrs. Abu Draham, a member of a well-known Jewish family from Morocco, left three other children aged 10, 12 and 13 and an ailing husband who underwent surgery eight months ago. Mrs. Eichbaum, who lived through the Holocaust, was on her way home to Moshav Mazor

after having registered for a summer vacation with her husband. She had bought a new vase for her daughter. The splintered vase was found near the bus stop.

W.H.O. DELAYS ACTIONS ON ARAB DEMANDS

GENEVA, May 24 (JTA) -- The World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday shelved for one year an Arab-sponsored move to suspend Israel's voting rights in the organization. The shelving followed a move by a main committee of WHO's annual assembly which accepted a compromise proposal from its Mozambique chairman after a series of behind-the-scenes negotiations to avert an open clash between Islamic states and Western nations.

The proposal noted that a special WHO committee on health conditions in Israeli-occupied areas had not visited the region this year. It called for the three-member team to conduct a new on-the-spot investigation and report back next year.

The resolution was accepted in committee by consensus and now goes before the full assembly. WHO officials said there was no reason to expect the decision will be challenged. The United States had cautioned WHO earlier this month that it would consider withdrawing from that body if it expelled or suspended Israel or if it would act against Egypt. WHO opened its assembly May 7 to set policies for the coming year.

Meanwhile, the WHO also postponed a decision on whether to remove its Eastern Mediterranean regional office from Alexandria, as demanded by 20 Arab states that oppose the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. They had insisted on an immediate decision but were unable to generate sufficient support in a key committee of the 151-member WHO assembly. A compromise resolution adopted by consensus called for the Executive Board to study the financial and political implications of such a move and report back to next year's assembly.

NEOT SINAI SETTLERS AGREE TO EVACUATE THEIR FIELDS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 24 (JTA) -- Militant settlers from Neot Sinai agreed reluctantly today to evacuate their vegetable fields near El Arish but only after driving off unnamed Israeli soldiers with flaming torches, chemical insecticides and a barrage of stones, fruits and vegetables. A number of soldiers and settlers were slightly injured in the melee early this morning. The fields, along with the town of El Arish, will be handed over to the Egyptians tomorrow.

The settlers balked and occupied the fields Tuesday in defiance of Military Government orders. They promised to leave voluntarily after Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, who flew to the scene from Jerusalem, relayed a promise from Premier Menachem Begin in London that he would try to persuade President Anwar Sadat to allow them access to the fields. Begin and Sadat are due to meet in El Arish on Sunday.

Yadin made it clear that Begin could only raise the matter with Sadat and could guarantee nothing. The vegetable fields are in the area to be returned to Egypt under the arrangements made by the Israeli-Egyptian joint military committee and approved by the Knesset under the terms of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. Yesterday, the settlers reinforced by sympathizers from the Gush Emunim and other die-

hard groups opposed to the peace treaty, fortified themselves in the fields with tractors, barbed wire and steel pipes. They angrily rejected appeals to leave peacefully from Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir and Defense Minister Ezer Weizman. They pelted Weizman with vegetables and denounced him as a "traitor" and an "agent of Egypt." They rejected similar urgings early today from the local army commander Brig. Moshe Dahan and the commanding officer of the southern region, Gen. Dan Shomron.

Israeli army units had been deployed around the fields since Tuesday but took no action to remove the settlers. Before dawn today, however, unnamed soldiers, only a few of them equipped with helmets, moved into the fields behind a bulldozer used to uproot the barbed wire. Although Gen. Shomron informed the militants that the troops were weaponless and begged them not to resort to violence, the approaching soldiers were attacked with flames, missiles and, most dangerous, chemical sprays that could cause blindness. They were exhorted by the settlers to disobey their orders. The soldiers withdrew and no further attempts were made to use force.

Yadin was summoned from Jerusalem at that point, having earlier reported to Begin in London by telephone. He said the Premier was pained by the events of this morning and would try to make Sadat understand the settlers' motivations and attachment to the land. Yadin said that since Sadat himself was once a farmer, he might understand. But if not, there is no other way but to return the land to the Egyptians, Yadin said.

This evening, the settlers began to leave Neot Sinai just hours before the Egyptians were to come in. Tempers were cooled and in an effort at reconciliation, the settlers and soldiers shook hands and saluted each other.

KLARSFELD TOLD IRANIAN JEWS HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR

PARIS, May 24 (JTA) -- French lawyer and Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld was told in Teheran yesterday that Iranian Jews have nothing to fear from the new regime. According to reports reaching here, the Iranian Minister of Justice, Assadollah Mobasherin, assured Klarsfeld that Jewish rights will be respected.

Klarsfeld, who with his wife, Beate, has been instrumental in tracking down wanted Nazi war criminals, flew to Teheran Tuesday to see if he could assist four Jews reportedly detained by Islamic Revolutionary Courts pending trial on a number of charges. He said before leaving that he also intended to investigate the execution of Iranian Jewish community leader Habib Elkannan by a firing squad on May 9 on charges of treason because of his associations with Israel and Zionism.

Mobasherin reportedly told Klarsfeld that Elkannan was "executed as a corrupter and not as a Jew." The Justice Minister said he had nothing to do with the death sentence. "The courts found him guilty and sentenced him to death," he said.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA

AUSCHWITZ SURVIVOR ELECTED TO BE A JUDGE ON INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 24 (JTA) -- Law professor Thomas Buergenthal, believed to be the youngest inmate and survivor of Auschwitz, has been elected to be a judge on the new Inter-

American Court of Human Rights, the only American to win the honor.

Buergenthal, who is on the University of Texas faculty, was nominated by the government of Costa Rica to serve on the court and he was approved by the general assembly of the Organization of American States. His term is for six years.

The United States is ineligible to nominate or vote for a judge because it has not ratified the American Convention on Human Rights which entered into force last July. President Carter has signed the convention and urged its ratification but the convention, submitted to the Senate in January, 1978, has not been ratified by the Senate.

Buergenthal, whose home is in Austin, Texas, was not immediately available for an interview, being out of the city, but the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned that he was born 45 years ago in Czechoslovakia of German-Jewish parents. At the age of 10, he and his family had fled from Czechoslovakia to Poland from where they were to leave for England when World War II began. The Nazis moved them to various camps in Poland and in January, 1944 he was sent to Auschwitz with his parents.

He was separated from his parents there and went on a "death march" from Auschwitz to Sachsenhausen near Berlin in January, 1945 before being liberated by Soviet and Polish troops. In 1949, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee brought him out of Poland and placed him in Paterson, N.J. with an uncle.

He attended Bethany College in West Virginia and obtained doctorates in law from New York University and Harvard. Before going to Texas, he taught at the University of Pennsylvania and the State University of New York in Buffalo. Buergenthal, who has written extensively on human rights, co-authored with Prof. Louis Sohn of Harvard a basic text, "The International Protection of Human Rights." The new court, consisting of seven members, will hold its first session in July in San Jose, Costa Rica, where it will be permanently located.

NO-CONFIDENCE MOTIONS DEFEATED

JERUSALEM, May 24 (JTA) -- A series of opposition no-confidence motions on economic issues were defeated in the Knesset by a majority of 52-44. The only breach of coalition discipline came from a section of the Laam faction led by Yigael Hurwitz, the former Trade Minister, which did not participate in the vote as an expression of its grave doubts over the government's economic policy.

As the debate proceeded, word filtered through that the Finance Ministry intends to slash a further IL 3-4 billion from this year's annual budget on top of a IL 3.3 billion cut promised earlier.

Finance Ministry sources explained that the atmosphere engendered in the Cabinet by the shock of an 8.7 percent increase in the cost-of-living index in April was favorable to budget cuts. Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich and his aides lost no time in preparing a supplementary program of cuts. This will be presented to the Cabinet Sunday.

The no-confidence motions were presented by Labor, the Shai faction and the Communists. They were supported by other left and liberal factions. Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres flayed the government for its ostensibly liberal economic policy which he said was directly responsible for the galloping inflation. He warned that the situation was leading to a dangerous level of dependence on the U.S. Another no-confidence motion on housing presented by the Labor Alignment also suffered a defeat in the Knesset.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE NEW SUMMIT TALKS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 24 (JTA) -- Under the steadily tightening Arab stranglehold on oil and Western finances that the industrialized democracies are unwilling or unable to halt, the Egyptian-Israeli-American talks getting underway in El Arish and Beersheba appear to spell intensely difficult times ahead for Israel and additional embarrassment for the Carter Administration.

As she has always maintained, Israel's government asserts that Jerusalem will never again be divided and Judea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip will not become a Palestinian state. Egypt takes precisely the opposite position and holds out against "open borders" for another eight months in accordance to what Egypt claims is the timetable set down in the Camp David accords. Israel, however, contends that this violates the Camp David accords.

The Carter Administration, holding back on its concepts of West Bank-Gaza autonomy, continues ambivalently with the three-way formula pronounced at Clinton, Mass. by President Carter more than two years ago -- Israel's withdrawal to its 1948 borders apart from "minor" changes, "true peace," and a "homeland" for the Palestinians.

Meanwhile, the Administration edges closer towards officially establishing East Jerusalem as "occupied" territory and "informal" talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

New Hands In Strategic Places

Washington's Mideast operational structure is shifting into new hands in strategic places. William Quandt, the White House strategist, is returning to Brookings Institution, with Robert Hunter, a National Security Council colleague with expertise in European affairs, succeeding him. Hunter reportedly has concepts similar to Quandt on a Middle East settlement.

In related developments on the eve of the Israeli-Egyptian summit talks, Special Ambassador Alfred Atherton is going to a more liming job as Ambassador in Cairo, replacing Hermann Eilts who is retiring to Boston University. Harold Saunders, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs will not be on the negotiating scene.

As the talks begin, Ambassador Robert Strauss, the new U.S. chief Mideast negotiator, is in China carrying out trade functions. He will not be at the talks until the end of June but earlier than expected. Meanwhile, James Leonard, his deputy, hand-picked by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, will hold the U.S. reins at the talks after Vance leaves following a ceremonial stay.

Leonard was with the United Nations Association before rejoining the U.S. Foreign Service as a top man with the U.S. delegation at the UN. Do these shifts mean changes in U.S. policy, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency asked Zbigniew Brzezinski. "Not at all," replied the National Security Council's chairman. "Those who make the policy are remaining" -- Brzezinski, Vance and above all, President Carter.

State Department Miffed At Strauss Appointment

The Strauss appointment is not pleasing the State Department and he is being hedged by Leonard and Counsellor Herbert Hansell, a close Vance associate. In a State Department news

conference several days ago, Strauss absolved Leonard of suspected pro-Arab leanings. "I have heard that he was biased on one side and then the other," Strauss said. "It's about a draw; that's what I heard."

Strauss' own role is uncertain. He publicly declared he would be "playing an active role, a dominant role, a controlling role very sharply in determining where our position is." But Presidential news secretary Jody Powell immediately stressed in reporters that Strauss will operate within Vance's control.

Emphasizing the Egyptian-Israeli-U.S. talks are "altogether a new process," Strauss has observed that "Israel's security, a comprehensive peace" and "full autonomy" are "terms agreed upon" by the three parties. "What is not agreed upon is what they mean, what are the definitions."

A widely held supposition which is labeled "fact" by the rejectionist front Arabs is that the negotiations will not be "serious" since the U.S. Presidential election is in the offing. The Palestine Human Rights campaign was recently told in Washington by an American advocate of the Palestinians that at least one of the officials of the American consulate in East Jerusalem is telling West Bank Arabs who are disappointed by the Egyptian-Israeli treaty that this situation will improve after Carter starts his second term and does not have another election campaign ahead of him.

Strauss, a former Democratic Party national chairman, does not think that the election ahead makes a great deal of difference. "I made an argument the other day to some sophisticated people that because it's an election year, it's the very best time to move."

APPEAL FOR RELEASE OF MENDELEVICH

ALBANY, N.Y., May 24 (JTA) -- Rivka Drori, the sister of Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Iosif Mendeleovich, appealed to the New York State Legislature Monday to aid in his release from Soviet imprisonment. Mrs. Drori, who now lives in Gush Etzion in Israel, addressed an Albany briefing and reception for the newly-formed New York Legislators Coalition for Soviet Jewry. Her brother was jailed together with Eduard Kuznetsov and Mark Dymshits in June 1970, in the first Leningrad trial, and is serving a 12-year sentence.

Because he is an observant Jew, she said, he has been subjected to harassment and sentenced to a "strict regime" imprisonment. He has not been allowed a visit by any family member for six years.

Mrs. Drori, whose Hebrew comments were translated by Mary-Ruth Davis, executive director of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, stressed that she believed that this is a critical time for pressure regarding her brother's case. Both Kuznetsov and Dymshits were released last month as part of an exchange for two Soviet spies held by the United States.

Attorney General Robert Abrams, who is a former chairman of the Greater New York Conference and currently co-chairman of the New York Committee of Conscience, which works on behalf of Soviet Jewish prisoners, told the group of legislators, "Your own intervention, by letter or telephone, can make a difference. Whether you get through to a refusal or not, the K.G.B. will know that you, a person of power and significance, made the effort. And when you're successful, it's a special merit." Last week, the Legislature adopted a resolution demanding the immediate release of Jewish POWs and reaffirming support for their basic human rights and freedoms. (By Rochelle Sidel-Wolke)

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

ISSUES FACING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

PHILADELPHIA, May 24 (JTA) -- By his own reckoning, Theodore Mann has logged some 200,000 miles since assuming the chairmanship of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations a year ago.

As he begins his second year in office, the Philadelphia lawyer and veteran Jewish leader can look forward to many more miles of travel between his Rittenhouse Square office and the power centers of New York, Washington, Jerusalem and now Cairo.

Mann visited the Jewish Exponent here to share his thoughts with News Editor David Gross, on some of the current issues facing the Jewish community. He had recently returned from attending the formal exchange of treaty documents between Egypt and Israel at Umm Khashba in the Sinai and from a series of meetings with senior U.S. officials.

"It is most important," Mann began, "that when American Jews count up the mistakes of the Carter Administration -- and there are mistakes -- and they should be counted -- they do not lose sight of the Administration's positive accomplishments, and they are impressive. This Administration has been fantastic on almost every item on the Jewish agenda, except for the West Bank and East Jerusalem."

"There is a tremendous concern in the Jewish community over the Palestine Liberation Organization and its relation to the U.S.," Mann continued. "Also over the Administration's view that East Jerusalem, or part of it, could or should be under Arab sovereignty. These are immense issues that indicate different views on Israel's security requirements than the views of most Jews."

Noting that "it isn't easy to say this to American Jews because, it seems, they just don't want to hear it," Mann nevertheless stated emphatically, "I had to write a script on what an Administration could do, this one would be hard to beat."

Carter Administration Is Praised

Mann praised the Carter Administration's efforts on behalf of Soviet Jewry, stressing that the U.S. was acting on human rights principles, not merely to secure Jewish votes. He also commended the Administration's work for the beleaguered Jewish communities in Argentina and Iran. "I can't think of anything they could do and haven't done," he said.

Turning specifically to the situation in Iran, Mann stated that no one can predict what is going to happen there. He said the best intelligence -- both American and Israeli -- indicates that the Islamic courts are on their own and that the Ayatollah Khomeini only finds out what they have done after it happens.

"The Administration and the Jewish community here are faced with a very difficult decision," Mann said. "Iranian Jewry is being held hostage and we must weigh the risks between remaining silent and raising our voices in protest. We did protest the recent execution of Jewish leader Habib Elkanian. The Ayatollah then met with a delegation of Iranian Jews and limited the power of the Islamic courts. This indicates that the risk of keeping quiet is greater than the risk of speaking out."

At the same time, Mann emphasized that

nobody -- either in Jerusalem or in Washington -- is confident that the Ayatollah meant what he said or that he has the power to impose his will on the courts.

Mann also summed up the current situation regarding the Jackson-Vanik Amendment which links U.S.-Soviet trade to the Soviet Union's emigration policy. "No one has suggested that Jackson-Vanik be repealed," he stressed. "Some Senators have suggested it be amended but they have no Administration support. Jackson-Vanik itself contains a waiver provision and that is what the current discussion involves -- not whether the waiver clause should be invoked, but under what conditions Jackson-Vanik should be waived."

Most Jewish groups, he noted, are seeking to continue using Jackson-Vanik to aid Soviet Jews. They see it as a lever to pry more Jews -- especially refuseniks and "Prisoners of Conscience" -- out of the Soviet Union, as well as to encourage the Soviets to regularize their emigration procedures. Some of this has already happened, Mann said, particularly in the last eight months. He pointed to the dramatic increase in immigration figures and the recent release of prisoners and refuseniks.

There is also a technical aspect to the Jackson-Vanik issue, Mann added. The amendment requires "assurances" by the USSR before it can be waived. Does that mean, he asked rhetorically, that these "assurances must be written? Can they be oral? Can the Russians give them by their actions? Or must they specifically state what they intend to do in the future?"

Here Mann dared assume the prophet's mantle. "Within 60 days," he confidently predicted, "the Jackson-Vanik Amendment will be waived for 12 months, and the Soviet Union will be granted 'most-favored-nation' status." Will that decision to waive Jackson-Vanik be a wise one? Even Mann refused to predict. "Ask me next year at this time," he replied.

Urges Support For SALT

Mann also discussed the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty which President Carter intends to place before the Senate for ratification. "The President is really pitching SALT," Mann said. "He is urging people to write their Senators on the issue."

While SALT is not a specifically Jewish issue, Mann said that he expected some Jewish organizations would take formal positions on the treaty and others would not. Speaking for himself, he stated, "I think that SALT is important for the U.S. and Senators should be urged to support it."

SALT II, he added, will "produce a further slowdown in the arms race -- both a quantitative and a qualitative slowdown. An effort to cap the nuclear arms race is necessary if we are to preserve civilization. All Americans," Mann concluded, "ought to support the President on SALT."

UAHC ENDORSES SALT II

NEW YORK, May 24 (JTA) -- The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, representing Reform Jews in the U.S. and Canada, this week became the first national Jewish organization to endorse Senate ratification of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty. In a unanimously adopted resolution, the UAHC board of trustees at their semi-annual meeting said SALT II offered "the most realistic possibility presently available for checking an insane, wasteful and potentially catastrophic nuclear arms race." They also noted that support of SALT conformed with past UAHC resolutions calling for "disarmament and responsible arms control."