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ISRAEL CLOSES BORDERS TO UNIFIL AFTER OFFICER FOUND BRINGING WEAPONS TO PLO IN JERUSALEM

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 17 (JTA) -- Israel closed its border this morning to all personnel of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), following the arrest of a high-ranking Nigerian army officer who, according to police, was smuggling a small arsenal of weapons and explosives to a Palestine Liberation Organization agent in Jerusalem. The officer, Lt. Col. Alfred Goni, who serves as Manpower and Information Officer at UNIFIL headquarters, was remanded in custody for 15 days by a Jerusalem magistrate. He has refused any comment and asked for legal counsel by the UNIFIL legal officer.

A spokesman for UNIFIL said today that the matter is entirely in the hands of the Israeli authorities. He observed that among the 12,000 soldiers attached to UNIFIL there are some "rotten apples" but this should not cause friction between UNIFIL soldiers and Israelis.

Goni was the second UNIFIL officer arrested this year for alleged arms smuggling to terrorists. Last February, a Senegalese Captain was arrested for delivering an arms cache concealed in the spare tire of his car to a PLO agent near Acre. Senegalese personnel have been barred from Israel since then.

Goni, who crossed the border into Israel Friday, was detected as a result of a highway accident at Bab el Wad midway between the coastal plain and Jerusalem. His car hit a private car driven by a woman who was injured and hospitalized. Police immediately inspected Goni's car to ascertain if it was in good running order, a routine required in any highway accident that causes injuries.

2 Valises, Crammed

According to police, two valises in the trunk compartment were crammed with weapons and explosives wrapped in red cloth. Police said the cache consisted of 30 demolition bricks of a combined weight of 15 kilograms; 70 "telegnite" fingers; weighing seven kilograms; 60 detonators; two Italian-made Baretta submachineguns; ten American-made hand grenades; one Kalashnikov assault rifle and many magazines of ammunition.

Police said Goni at first denied any knowledge of the arsenal but later confessed that he had received the two valises from a PLO agent in Lebanon for delivery to a PLO contact-man in Jerusalem. The police have imposed a news blackout on the investigation but it is assumed that several more arrests will be made. An Army spokesman said the fact that a UNIFIL officer served as a delivery man for the PLO was a very serious violation of the confidence Israel has placed in UNIFIL officers. Gen. Avigdor Ben-Gal, commander of the northern region, ordered the border closed to UNIFIL personnel until adequate measures are taken to prevent a recurrence of such incidents. The Cabinet decided late today to reopen the border to UNIFIL.

ISRAEL PROTESTS TO UN

UNITED NATIONS, June 17 (JTA) -- Israel protested "vigorously and emphatically" to the United Nations today over the attempt by a Nigerian army officer serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to smuggle weapons and explosives to Palestine Liberation Organization agents in Israel.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Yehuda Blum requested that "action be taken forthwith to prevent once and for all any recurrence of such acts which, you will surely agree, are in flagrant violation of UNIFIL's peace-keeping mandate." Blum stated in his letter, "As you are aware, this is not the first time that a soldier serving with UNIFIL has been caught red-handed while attempting to smuggle into Israel arms and explosives for the terrorist PLO. I am instructed to protest vigorously and emphatically against this repeated criminal abuse of a UN peace-keeping force to serve as a cover for cooperation with PLO terrorists despite assurances received from the UN to take action to prevent the recurrence of activities of this kind. The acts of terror carried out by PLO criminals against innocent civilians in Israel, whether successful or not, demonstrate the special gravity of such actions."

Blum observed that "Anyone aiding and abetting the PLO in its activities aimed at indiscriminate mass murder of civilians bears a heavy responsibility, particularly if he happens to be a member and a high ranking officer at that, of a UN force."

30,000 IN TEL-AVIV PROTEST GOVERNMENT'S SETTLEMENT POLICY

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 17 (JTA) -- Some 30,000 persons, responding to a call by the Peace Now Movement, massed in Tel Aviv last night to protest the government's settlement policy and specifically the controversial Gush Emunim settlement of Alon Moreh near Nablus. A cable was read, signed by 62 prominent American Jews, warning that the new settlement undermined Israel's credibility in the eyes of the world. Among the signatories were Saul Bellow, winner of the Nobel Prize for literature, conductor and composer Leonard Bernstein and the actor, Theodore Bikel.

The Prime Minister's Office claimed today that no such cable had been received. An American academician, Prof. Leonard Fein of Harvard, and editor of the Jewish magazine, Moment, who addressed the rally, questioned a statement made in Jerusalem Thursday by Theodore Mann, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, that the consensus among American Jews was that the West Bank settlements were "legal" and "necessary" for Israel's security. Mann did not specifically mention Alon Moreh in that connection. Fein declared that there is no consensus of American Jewry in support of the settlements. He said there are many American Jews who feel that Israel's settlement policy, as it is being carried out, can create serious divisions. (See separate story, page 3)

The cable from the U.S. expressed anxiety over the decision to set up yet another settlement on the West Bank on the eve of negotiations with Egypt and the U.S. on the future of that territory.

While stating that they understand that there are legal and historic factors which prompt Jewish settlements, the signatories declared that "Alon Moreh undermines the credibility of Israel in the eyes of the West Bank people and the nations of the world." They also said that "A policy that requires forfeiture of Arab lands is regarded by us as unacceptable from a moral point of view and harms the democratic character of the Jewish State."

Other speakers denounced Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon for his Knesset speech last week in which he referred to the Peace Now Movement as a "fifth column." They noted that most Peace Now members are veterans who fought for Israel. "With whom would (Sharon) go to war if we are a fifth column?" they asked. S. Ishar, a former Knesset member declared that the time has come for general elections "so that the nation can say 'no' to Begin's historic dreams."

Riots In Nablus

Riots broke out in Nablus today after the Military Governor of the West Bank prohibited a protest march by local residents to the site of Alon Moreh. About 1,000 Arab youths burned tires and hurled stones at Israeli soldiers and police in the Casba district of the town. Two soldiers and one local youth were slightly injured. The crowd was dispersed with tear gas. An Israeli army truck was set on fire by youths who fled when the soldiers fired into the air. The violence erupted after some 1,500 Nablus residents gathered outside the Military Governor's residence to present a petition protesting Alon Moreh. The town was quiet by evening but the air of tension remained.

On Friday, residents of Rujeib village near Nablus whose land was seized for the new settlement, appealed to the Supreme Court to nullify the seizure and to evict the settlers, their tents, prefabricated structures and earth-moving equipment. Justice Shlomo Asher, who received the appeal, denied the petitioners a temporary injunction to halt the settlement work and referred their appeal to a three-judge panel. No date was set for a hearing.

Meanwhile, Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, who returned from a six-day archaeological tour of Egypt Friday, expressed serious concern over Begin's assertion the night before that "there will be many more Alon Morehs." Yadin indicated that he was especially embarrassed because, at a meeting he had with President Anwar Sadat Thursday, the issue of provocative statements by Israeli leaders was taken up. Yadin countered by pointing to the bitter personal attacks on Begin published in Egyptian newspapers but he also promised to try to influence his colleagues in the Cabinet to avoid making statements that do not help the peace process.

More Settlements Promised

Begin made his remarks at a festive meeting at Benyamina on the West Bank marking the 40th anniversary of the militant Betar movement. "There will be many more Alon Morehs. We shall continue to settle in Eretz Israel in the Samaria and Judea, the Gaza Strip and Golan," Begin declared.

He also appeared to imply that Zionism sanctioned Jewish settlements in heavily Arab populated territory when he asked, rhetorically, "What is Zionism? Was it not the settlement of an Arab-populated area? Was not Haifa a Jewish settlement in an Arab-populated area? Was not Jerusalem populated by Arabs when Jews came there?"

And was not Tel Aviv built just touching a large Arab town? (Jaffa).

Sharon, a member of the Israeli delegation negotiating with Egypt and the U.S. over autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip had harsh words for the U.S. in an interview published in Maariv Friday. He accused the Americans of endangering the peace process by "ceaselessly involving themselves in the affairs of the Arabs in the territories." He said it was clear to him beyond any doubt that an understanding with the Americans on the subject of autonomy was impossible. "In this respect, the U.S. is much more extreme than Egypt because of its interest in the Mideast. It is unlikely that the Egyptians will adopt a more moderate stand than the Americans," Sharon said. He charged that "It is the purpose of the American policy to press Israel to establish a second Palestinian state—the first one is Jordan." Therefore, he said, "it is Israel's duty to reject the American attempt to participate as full partners to the autonomy talks."

UNIFIL MANDATE EXTENDED; ISRAELI ROLE HIT

UNITED NATIONS, June 18 (JTA) — The United Nations Security Council approved late Thursday a double-barrelled resolution extending for another six months the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and criticizing Israel for its activities in Lebanon. The vote was 12-0.

The United States, while calling the condemnation of Israel one-sided, voted for it. The Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia abstained and China, as usual, did not participate. China opposes use of UN forces in principle.

The American delegate, Richard Petree, assailed Israel for "contributing" to tensions in Lebanon by failure to cooperate with UNIFIL. He said the U.S. could not accept constant harassment of UNIFIL troops by Christian militia supplied and supported by Israel. But he also said the Arab world must help to end Palestinian "extremist" attacks against Israel. The U.S. "deplores equally" acts of violence and terrorism "directed indiscriminately against Israeli citizens," he said. Yehuda Blum, Israel's delegate, denounced the "blatant bias" of the resolution's anti-Israel portions.

NEW YORK (JTA) — Maxwell E. Greenberg, chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, has expressed approval of the State Department's opposition to a sale of American jumbo jets to Libya on grounds it could be detrimental to U.S. interest. In a letter to Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, he said the ADL was "pleased to note that the State Department has recognized the strong possibility that Libya would use the 747's in inappropriate and improper ways to the detriment of America's interests and to the detriment of peace."

AMSTERDAM (JTA) — The Hague Municipal Council has formally agreed to buy the more than century-old former main Ashkenazi synagogue in the Wagenstraat area, once the center of the Jewish quarter. It also agreed to remove the building from the list of historically protected monuments so that it can be demolished. The Hague Ashkenazi congregation, which wanted to sell the synagogue, had requested the removal from the list of protected monuments so that the synagogue could be sold. The Hague Ashkenazi congregation, three years ago moved to a new building, the Edwille Protestant Church in Bezuidenhout.

MANN DEFENDS SETTLEMENTS AS NECESSARY FOR ISRAEL'S SECURITY

NEW YORK, June 17 (JTA) -- Theodore Mann, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, replied today to a message sent by 62 prominent American Jews to Premier Menachem Begin protesting the Israel government's settlement policy on the West Bank, in particular, the controversial Gush Etzion settlement, Alon Moreh near Nablus. Mann, who returned from Israel Friday where he headed an eight-member Presidents' Conference delegation in discussions with Begin and other Israeli leaders on a variety of matters including the settlements issue, reiterated that the consensus of American Jews is that the settlements are "legal" and "necessary" to protect Israel from terrorists.

"The distinguished men and women who signed the June 15 communication to Prime Minister Begin have unfortunately allowed their concern over a single settlement, Alon Moreh — a concern which I share — to color their views about all future settlements on the West Bank," Mann said. He said that after his conversations with Begin, Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, Interior Minister Yosef Burg and other leaders, "I have utterly no doubt that Israel intends to carry out the letter and spirit of the Camp David accords. But if the West Bank is not to become a staging ground for PLO terrorism against Israel — as Jordan was once and Lebanon is now — then full autonomy can be achieved only in the context of effective security arrangements for Israel's protection."

"According to Mann, 'The heart of the problem is to hamonize Israel's desperately needed security against terror with the inhabitants' need for autonomy. Jewish settlements are an answer to the first part of the equation. Great sensitivity in regard to their location is an answer to the second. That such settlements are legal is not only my view but the consensus view in the American Jewish community; nor is this view contested by the signers of the message to Mr. Begin," Mann said. He went on to say that the belief that such settlements are an effective deterrent to terrorism is held "not only by Mr. Begin but by Dayan, Weizman, Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon and other Israelis who have demonstrated enormous competence in protecting Israel from the ravages of terror in the past."

Mann concluded that "For this reason, the broad, sweeping conclusions drawn by the signers of the message to Prime Minister Begin, opposing all future settlements on the West Bank, should not and will not, in my judgment, win the support of the American Jewish community."

LZA Leaders Score Policy

On Friday, however, two American Labor Zionist leaders declared that the settlement policy of the "current Israeli government" undermines the consensus of the American Jewish community on the settlement issue and urged the Israeli government "to be cautious" in undertaking actions "which make it more difficult to maintain a unified American Jewish community in these difficult times."

The statement was issued jointly by Prof. Allen Pollack, president of the Labor Zionist Alliance and Frieda Leeman, president of the Pioneer Women. Pollack and Leeman are presently in Israel but their statement was released in New York through the coordinating committee of the

Labor Zionist Movement. The two signatories made it plain that they were responding to a statement by Mann in Jerusalem Thursday claiming that American Jewry concurred in the Israeli government's settlement policy. The LZA and Pioneer Women are constituents of the Presidents Conference headed by Mann.

"There is no consensus in the American Jewish community or even in the Conference of Presidents regarding the Israel government's settlement policy," they said. "There are deep divisions in our community as there are in Israel, as is understandable in the face of so controversial a policy." They added that while they rejected President Carter's assertions that such settlements are "illegal," they did believe "they are unwise," especially at the beginning of the autonomy negotiations. "When the delicate relations with Egypt should be cultivated and relations with the United States should not be exacerbated (by) Jewish settlements in densely populated Arab areas."

Another statement related to the settlements issue, issued Friday by Julius Berman, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, claimed that recent news reports of Israeli and American Jewish reaction to the latest Jewish settlement near Nablus were "deliberately slanted to mislead the American public as to the degree of support that the Begin government enjoys at home and abroad." According to Berman, "We have been subjected to an outrageous barrage of biased reporting, selected and designed to dovetail with a series of editorial attacks upon Israel's long-standing policy of establishing civilian settlements on the West Bank."

Berman conceded that "Honest men may disagree and usually do," but, he charged, "rather than report the debate as a normal part of the ongoing dialogue of Israeli politics, a portion of our media has chosen to sensationalize it and thereby distort the American public's views of events in Israel."

EGYPT SEEKS FRENCH ARMS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 17 (JTA) -- Egyptian Vice President Hosni Mubarak said here that France will continue to supply Egypt with arms and planes and will play an active role in organizing Egyptian defense systems.

Mubarak, who met Friday with French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, is in Paris to continue arms talks with the French and to visit the International Air Show at Le Bourget. France is already supplying Egypt with Alpha jet training and ground support planes, helicopters and electronic equipment. The Egyptians are also planning to start first assembling and then building the new Mirage-2000.

Israeli officials at the air show told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that as far as they can judge from a superficial examination the Mirage-2000 is a powerful and fast combat plane, but far less effective than its American counterparts.

The Israeli delegation to the show includes the Defense Ministry Director General Yosef Maayan and the Commander of the Air Force, Brig. General David Ivry. Both men watched at length the Mirage-4000 prototype as it overflew Le Bourget while performing intricate air figures and steep climbs.

Several Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, are considering acquiring the plane as the backbone for their Air Force in the 1980s.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW DULZIN CITES NEED TO END DROPOUT OF SOVIET JEWS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 17 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin and World Zionist Organization chairman Leon Dulzin have summoned a special meeting of Jewish organization leaders to discuss the issue of "neshira" — the dropout of Soviet Jewish emigrants to countries other than Israel. The neshira rate is currently at close to 70 percent.

The meeting will convene in Jerusalem later this month, coincidentally with the Jewish Agency Assembly, and Dulzin says he hopes it will decide on "serious steps" to redirect the flow of Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union to Israel. In an exclusive interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Dulzin said he sees the neshira problem as "a national calamity," the responsibility for which must be shared by the whole Jewish people. "Today," he said, "there is no such thing as a Jewish refugee. A refugee means someone who has nowhere to go. But today all Soviet Jewish emigrants have Israeli visas — and Israel is ready to absorb them and assist them."

"My position therefore is," Dulzin said, "that while there is of course no way of forcing an emigrant to go to Israel, and while he is obviously free to go wherever he wishes, if he chooses to go elsewhere than to Israel, he should do so on his own responsibility, by himself. He should not be assisted to do so by the Jewish people for he is not a refugee." Dulzin was referring here to the core of the neshira issue as it preoccupies Israel and U.S. Jewish leaders: the aid rendered by the two veteran Jewish refugee organizations, HIAS and the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), to Soviet Jewish emigrants arriving in Vienna who "drop-out," i.e., go to the U.S. or Canada rather than to Israel. "The very fact that he is being assisted in this way," says Dulzin, "is itself an indirect encouragement to him not to go to Israel."

HIAS and the JDC house the "dropouts" in hotels in Vienna, and later transfer them to Rome, where they stay, often for months, assisted by these organizations, until their papers are ready and they can proceed to the U.S.

Jewish Responsibility

Dulzin says it is "a general Jewish responsibility" to see to it that most of the Jews who leave the USSR come to Israel. He feels that there has been a marked change among Jewish leaders abroad, especially in the U.S., in their perception of the issue over recent months. Now, Dulzin asserts, "many see the gravity of the problem and want to see the emigrants going to Israel."

"All recognize today that measures should be taken to achieve this end. There are differences of opinions regarding what measures — and these will be discussed at our meeting with Premier Begin later this month," he said. Invited to the meeting are members of the Jewish Agency Executive and top figures in the Jewish Agency leadership, including Board of Governors chairman Max Fisher, several Israeli government ministers, United Jewish Appeal chairman Irwin Fields, UJA president Frank Lautenberg, Dan Robinson, the president of JDC, Ed Shapiro, president of HIAS, Jerald Hoffberger, chairman of the United Israel Appeal, Morfon Mandel,

president of the Council of Federations and Welfare Funds (CJF).

Begin has asked the American leaders to consult among themselves in advance and come to Jerusalem, if possible, with concrete proposals to put forward. Fisher is currently engaged in orchestrating these consultations among the American leaders.

Soviet Jews Israel's "Great Reservoir"

The new sense of urgency, and the sense of change in perception that is felt among some U.S. Jewish leaders, stem, says Dulzin, from the significantly higher emigration figures of the past few months. The prospect — on present trends — is for a Jewish emigration from the USSR of some 50,000 during 1979 — of whom more than 30,000 will make their way to the U.S., if the present neshira rate is maintained. This would be a "national calamity," says Dulzin, because Soviet Jewry is "the great reservoir of Israel's future."

The WZO chairman stressed that he will continue to ensure that "all Jews who wish to leave the Soviet Union will be enabled to do so," insofar as that is dependent on the Israeli and Jewish authorities. Dulzin's concern is with the dropout process that begins in Vienna and continues through Rome to New York. Last month, he recalled, the Presidium of the Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry, meeting in Rome, met with hundreds of dropouts. "They all agreed that if their sole option were to go to Israel they would go to Israel." In other words, there is no fear, according to Dulzin, that if HIAS and JDC assistance is cut down, Jews will prefer to remain in Russia rather than leave for Israel.

Dulzin noted with gratification that the Brussels Conference Presidium passed, for the first time, a resolution urging all parties involved to take drastic action to reduce the rate of neshira. "Ever since I took office and as (Jewish) Agency chairman, I have been warning against this serious problem," said Dulzin. "If strong measures are not taken, the rate of neshira will rise still higher," he declared, and, with Soviet emigration figures currently high and hopefully high in the future, too, that will mean tens of thousands of Soviet Jews, who could have become Israelis flocking into the U.S.

WALDHEIM WANTS TO INCLUDE OTHERS

DETROIT, June 17 (JTA) -- Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary General, declared at a press conference here that he is working to include the other parties to the Middle East conference in the present peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt, with United States participation.

Waldheim said the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty had changed the framework of Middle East peace talks. He also told reporters that a reconvened Geneva peace conference, which he had previously favored, "would not contribute to a Middle East solution at this time or in the near future."

He reiterated that the Palestinian issue "is still at the crux" of the Middle East problem. He said he had advocated "very delicate" preparatory meetings, under UN auspices, to bring Syria, Jordan and others "into the peace talks."

He said the Palestinian Arabs "want self-determination" and "their own state." He said "there is a deep gap between the Palestinians, the other Arabs and the Israeli-American approach" and that there cannot be a comprehensive Mideast settlement without solution of the Palestinian problem.

JOHANNESBURG (JTA) -- The South African Zionist Federation has called on the government in Pretoria to emulate Canada's promise to transfer its country's embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.