

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ISRAELI JETS DOWN 5 SYRIAN MIGs IN FIRST AIR BATTLE SINCE YOM KIPPUR WAR

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 27 (JTA) -- Israel Air

Force jets shot down five Syrian MIG-21 interceptors in an air battle over south Lebanon this morning, the first since the Yom Kippur War. A military communique said the Syrian planes were engaged in the area of Sidon when they tried to intervene against an Israeli air strike on terrorist targets. The Israeli aircraft completed their mission and returned safely to their bases, the communique said.

Later, Israel Air Force Commander, Gen. David Ivri disclosed that F-15 jets participated in the action and observed that it was the first time the highly sophisticated American-made combat plane shot down Soviet-made planes. He said almost every type of Air Force interceptor took part in the battle, including the Israel-made Kfir. The number of Israeli aircraft engaged was not disclosed. The number of Syrian planes was put at 8-12. Israeli pilots said after de-briefing that they are convinced five Syrian planes were downed and that hits may have been scored on 2-3 others.

(In Washington today, State Department spokesman Tom Reston said Israel's use of American-made aircraft over Lebanon "has been of serious concern to us and to members of Congress." He said the U.S. had no clear knowledge what precipitated the air battle but was in touch with both sides to urge maximum restraint to prevent further violence. He said the U.S. was not in a position to place the blame for the fight.)

Israel said today that Syria must bear full responsibility for what transpired. Israel informed Egypt of the events. Cairo issued a strongly-worded criticism of the Israeli action in south Lebanon which, it said, could make the current peace talks more difficult.

(United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said today that he was "deeply concerned" about "the further escalation of hostilities in and over Lebanon" and called on "all parties concerned to exercise restraint and to give their cooperation to the establishment of an effective cease-fire in the area.")

## Damascus Admits Loss Of Four Jets

Damascus Radio, silent for three hours after the dogfight, admitted later that four Syrian planes had been hit but claimed two Israeli planes were hit. The radio station of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) in Beirut claimed that two Israeli planes were shot down by terrorists firing shoulder rockets and that the pilot of one was seen parachuting to the ground. An Israeli military spokesman categorically denied that any Israeli aircraft was hit. Reports from Lebanon later said that two Syrian pilots bailed out safely and that the body of another was found in the debris of his crashed plane.

The encounter took place at about 11 a.m. local time when Israeli planes were engaged in what has become almost a routine of daily air strikes at terrorist targets in Lebanon in accord-

ance with a new policy of attack rather than retaliation for terrorist acts against Israeli civilians. In recent weeks, Syrian jets have appeared in the skies near the areas of Israeli operations but until today they avoided contact. Gen. Ivri disclosed that in view of Syrian Air Force activity lately, it was decided to protect the Israeli planes engaged in strike missions against terrorist command posts and strong points in Lebanon with interceptors.

He said that today's operation was underway for about 15 minutes when formations of Syrian MIGs were seen approaching with apparent hostile intent. A short engagement ensued and within minutes, five Syrian planes were downed and the others fled. The Israeli planes then proceeded to complete their mission and returned safely to their bases, according to the official account.

## Syria's Motives Probed

Gen. Yehoshua Saguy, Chief of Military Intelligence, confirmed today the belief in security circles that Syria's serious internal problems may have been a factor in Damascus' decision to order the Syrian Air Force into action. It was also suggested that the Syrians were trying to influence the Arab League Council currently meeting in Tunis. The Council is expected to decide on the future of the Syrian-led Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon. Chief of Staff Gen. Raphael Eytan said today that the air battle will not change Israel's basic policy of hitting the terrorists at any time and place of its choosing. He accused Syria of providing protection and cover for the terrorists and of escalating violence in south Lebanon.

Israeli and Syrian planes have not clashed since the separation of forces agreement on the Golan Heights was signed five years ago, ending the Yom Kippur War. Israeli circles observed today that Syrian jets were always an easy target for Israeli pilots. They recalled that during the Yom Kippur War as many as 13 Syrian planes were shot down in a single battle.

## U.S. CONCERNED BY ISRAEL'S USE OF AMERICAN JETS OVER LEBANON

WASHINGTON, June 27 (JTA) -- State Department spokesman Tom Reston said today that Israel's use of American-made aircraft over Lebanon "has been of serious concern to us and to members of Congress." He said that while the U.S. was not in a position to place blame for the air fight, he noted that "the Israelis have been conducting a preemptive bombing strategy against Palestinian bases and concentrations in Lebanon in the wake of an increase in terrorist actions. Some of the targets have been extremely close to Syrian military positions. At the same time, the Syrians have been scrambling aircraft from time to time in response to the Israeli actions. This dangerous combination of events culminated in the air battle today."

Reston said, "We call on both Israel and Syria to exercise maximum restraint. We are in touch with both governments and with Lebanon to try to find ways to forestall more violence." He added, "The time is overdue for a more responsible attitude on the part of all involved, including the Palestinians whose terrorist actions in Israel have sparked off so many Israeli actions." Reston also noted that "For many months, fighting between Israel, its allies in southern Lebanon, and Palestinian forces has thwarted

off-Lebanese and international efforts to bring stability to this troubled area."

#### ARAB LEAGUE NIXES SPECIAL STATUS FOR QUEBEC IN EMBASSY DISPUTE

By Michael Solomon

OTTAWA, June 27 (JTA) -- The representative of the Arab League in Canada, Abdullah Abdullah, denied categorically today any intention by the Arab countries to grant special diplomatic status to the Province of Quebec as some sort of retaliation against the intention of the Canadian government to move its Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. "Quebec is still part of Canada and this is the way which Arabs are seeing the situation," Abdullah said. He said that "After we have vigorously protested any interference with our internal affairs how could we commit the same error?"

The possibility that the Arab countries might grant special diplomatic status to Quebec was raised in an article by the Washington correspondent of *La Presse*, the Montreal French-language daily. The correspondent, quoting Washington-based Arab sources, wrote that the ambassadors of Arab and Islamic countries have decided to establish diplomatic relations with Quebec. Claude Morin, vice premier of Quebec, said yesterday in Quebec City that "Quebec has major interests in the Middle East and their interests were badly served by the Clark decision."

He revealed that last week he met with three Arab ambassadors and will meet with others next week to see in what circumstances a Quebec "delegation" or a Quebec "mission" can be set up in one or more countries of the Middle East. He noted that the federal government in Ottawa has blocked, in the past, attempts to establish such missions abroad. But, he said, since Quebec's trade with the Arab countries would amount to \$7 billion, the decision to establish direct contact between the French-speaking province and Arab countries would have better chances than before.

#### DAYAN RECOVERING WELL FROM SURGERY, MDs REPORT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 27 (JTA) -- Some concern has been expressed over the health of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan as a result, apparently, of unfounded media reports here and abroad that he is suffering from cancer. Dayan, who underwent surgery last Sunday for the removal of an intestinal polyp, is convalescing at the Tel Hashomer Medical Center near Tel Aviv. His doctors said his condition is excellent and that he will be discharged shortly.

He is expected to be given an unequivocal clean bill of health when the results of biopsies are known in about 4-5 days. The series of tests are routine in cases where a growth is removed by surgery, doctors said. Meanwhile, Dayan is receiving visitors daily, one of them the Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butros Ghali who called on Dayan briefly yesterday and urged him to "get well quick." Ghali, in Israel for the third round of autonomy talks which ended yesterday, was accompanied by Yosef Ciechanover, Director General of the Foreign Ministry. Dayan was also visited by Defense Minister Ezer Weizman who pronounced his former brother-in-law "fit as an ox."

#### ISRAEL EASING HOUSING SHORTAGE

JERUSALEM, June 27 (JTA) -- Housing

Minister David Levy said last night that energetic measures will be taken to ease Israel's housing shortage. He said the construction of about 50,000 new flats will begin this year with emphasis on Jerusalem and the Galilee region. He also said that the government will impose heavy taxes on the owners of empty apartments who refuse to rent them.

Addressing the Likud Party Knesset faction, Levy estimated that there are some 20,000 empty flats in the country whose owners keep them off the rental market for a variety of reasons. In view of the acute housing shortage, the government cannot remain indifferent to this situation, he said. He said his Ministry would promote the sale of State-owned land for private housing construction and that low income families without permanent housing will receive government financial assistance up to IL 2500 monthly to pay their rent. Levy ruled out massive construction for rental purposes because, he said, there are no prospective investors in that sector. (By Gil Sedan)

#### 5 MKs SUBMIT BILL TO LEGALIZE PROSTITUTION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 27 (JTA) -- Five coalition and opposition Knesset members submitted a joint private members bill today to legalize prostitution. The MKs -- Sara Doron of the Liberal Party, Akiva Noff of the Democratic Movement, Roni Milo of Herut and Moshe Shahal and Shoshana Arbeli-Almosino of the Labor Party -- based their measure on the report of a commission set up three years ago to study sex crimes and prostitution. The commission was headed by Judge Hadassah Ben-Ito.

The bill would legalize professional sexual services by a woman performed in private in an apartment, hotel room, car or boat. It would stiffen legal penalties against procurers and pimps.

Doron, who initiated the measure, did so without the formal approval of the Likud coalition which took into consideration the position of the religious parties. She told reporters today that she was confident that it would be adopted by a Knesset majority if the parties allowed members to vote their conscience.

#### INFLATION RENDERS NEW BUDGET OBSOLETE

JERUSALEM, June 27 (JTA) -- The Knesset Finance Committee was expected to approve and submit to the full Knesset today a national budget of more than IL 300 billion that has already been rendered obsolete by soaring inflation and the declining value of the Pound.

The original budget figure presented to the Knesset several months ago was IL 304 billion. The equivalent buying power, however, would now require IL 320 billion. The original budget was based on an average annual inflation rate of 38 percent and an average rate of IL 24/\$1. But price hikes in recent months fueled inflation and the most optimistic forecasts at the moment are for an inflation rate of at least 60 percent this year. The rate of exchange today is IL 25.34/\$1.

With inflation acknowledged to be Israel's No. 1 economic problem, the government faces the difficult choice of either cutting its budget or raising taxes. It has already been forced to reduce spending by IL 7 Billion. At the insistence of Premier Menachem Begin, it may have to freeze the prices of basic commodities which means retaining subsidies that were intended to be reduced or abolished. That would result in deficit financing unless other budget items are cut. The price freeze decision is expected at this Sunday's Cabinet meeting. While the Knesset is expected to approve the new budget, most economists believe it will soon have to approve an additional budget to cover the ravages of inflation. (By Gil Sedan)

## U.S. CONGRESSMEN JOIN EFFORTS TO PERSUADE PARAGUAY TO EXTRADITE MENGELE

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, June 27 (JTA) -- Both Houses of Congress, using the power of publicity, moved today to flush out the Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele from his hiding place in Paraguay, of which country he is a citizen, and bring him to trial. Mengele, a medical doctor, is accused of torturing and killing at least 400,000 inmates at Auschwitz, half of them children, upon whom he conducted genetic and other experiments.

Three Congressmen asked Paraguayan Ambassador Mario Lopez Escobar at his Embassy this morning to urge his government at least to revoke Mengele's citizenship so that he stands exposed as "the world's most wanted Nazi criminal." Mengele, now 67, is known as the "Angel of Death" of Auschwitz, where five million persons were killed by the Nazis.

Joining forces in the drive against Mengele, who is wanted by the governments of West Germany, Poland and Israel, both the Senate and House are considering a joint resolution urging President Carter to "immediately call upon Paraguay to apprehend and extradite" Mengele for trial in West Germany. Sen. Jesse Helms (R, NC) introduced a resolution in the Senate last week and today Rep. Robert K. Dornan (R, Calif.) presented an identical resolution to the House to help expedite U.S. governmental action. Liberals and conservatives from both major parties are co-sponsors of the resolution.

In addition to their action against Mengele, Dornan, Rep. Jerry Lewis (R, Calif.) and personnel from the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies at Yeshiva University of Los Angeles went to the Brazilian Embassy later today to urge extradition of the Nazi war criminal Gustav Wagner. A Brazilian court last week refused to allow Wagner's extradition.

### Letter To Paraguay President

Dornan, Rep. Matthew McHugh (D, NY), and Rep. Christopher Dodd (D, Conn.) called on Escobar. With them were Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Wiesenthal Center; Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the Center's outreach program director, and Wiesenthal's attorney, Martin Rosen of New York. The Ambassador was given a letter addressed to Gen. Alfredo Stroessner, Paraguay's President, signed by 40 Congressmen.

The letter, authored by McHugh, said Mengele fled to Argentina from Germany after World War II and "later in an effort to elude authorities, he entered Paraguay where he was naturalized as a citizen in 1959." Asking Stroessner's help in locating Mengele and "bringing him to justice," the letter said Mengele has been "indicted for various crimes in several nations," and "stands accused of the torture, disfigurement and murder" of at least 200,000 children and as many adults. "As a doctor at Auschwitz," the letter said, "Mengele performed gruesome and insidious experiments on children in an effort to change the color of their eyes and their hair." In his "insane dream of breeding a blond blue-eyed race."

### Envoy Vague On Extradition

At a news conference at the Capitol, Dodd, McHugh and Dornan said Escobar agreed to transmit the letter to Stroessner and to have his government provide "assurances" that Mengele when

found, would be extradited. "The Ambassador was very vague on that point," McHugh said. Escobar "took the legal position" that until evidence is in hand that Mengele is in Paraguay he could not give assurances. "We wanted assurances beforehand," of Paraguay's cooperation, McHugh added. Dornan noted that the Mengele case makes it all the more important that the West German statute limiting trial of Nazi war criminals to the end of this year be extended or abolished to enable the authorities to prosecute the criminal.

Abraham Lewenstein, a film producer, showed reporters a short film depicting scenes at Auschwitz, and areas in Paraguay where it is believed Mengele lives or has lived. Pointing out that 220,000 Germans live in Paraguay, "the majority of them Nazis and ex-SS men," Lewenstein said the 800 Jews there ask the Wiesenthal personnel "to do nothing against Mengele in Paraguay because they fear for their lives. That's the kind of pressure we are up against in Paraguay," he said. He observed, with reference to the Germans in Paraguay, "all Nazis are not necessarily criminals; there is a distinction."

### WALDHEIM ASKED TO SUPPORT EXTRADITION OF MENGELE

VIENNA, June 27 (JTA) -- Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal disclosed today that he has called on United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to use the influence and prestige of the world organization to prevail on Paraguay to extradite Dr. Josef Mengele to West Germany for trial on war crimes charges. Wiesenthal, who heads the Nazi war crimes documentation center here, made public a letter he sent to Waldheim pointing out that Mengele lives in a villa in San Antonio, Paraguay, protected by bodyguards.

Mengele was known as the "angel of death" to the inmates of the Auschwitz concentration camp where, as the camp doctor, he decided daily who was to die. "With a swish of his cane," Mengele would indicate which newly arrived victims were to be sent to the gas chambers immediately and which were to be used in genetic experiments; survivors have testified.

As long ago as 1967, Wiesenthal confirmed that Mengele was hiding out in Paraguay. Ten years later, the Paraguayan government issued an official denial and Paraguayan authorities have stuck to it ever since despite evidence to the contrary. According to Wiesenthal, Mengele fled to South America when he learned that he was wanted for trial in West Germany. The late Chancellor Konrad Adenauer had tried to obtain his extradition in exchange for economic aid to Paraguay. The aid was stopped when it became clear that the Paraguayans did not intend to extradite him.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The first batch of responses to visa applications by Israelis who want to visit Egypt has been received by the Foreign Ministry from Cairo, it was reported Wednesday. Several dozen applications are understood to have been approved. Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butros Ghali and Yosef Ciechanover, Director General of the Foreign Ministry met Tuesday to discuss the progress of normalization between their countries and ways to simplify visa request procedures. Ciechanover was deputizing for Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan who is recovering from surgery at Tel Hashomer Hospital.

LONDON (JTA) -- Josef Frankel, Zionist historical and journalist, retired this week from his post at the World Jewish Congress which he helped to found in Geneva 43 years ago.

## SPECIAL INTERVIEW WZO LAUNCHING PROGRAM TO PROMOTE AMERICAN ALIYA

By Judith Rosen

NEW YORK, June 27 (JTA) -- The World Zionist Organization is developing a new aliya program for the 1980s to attract American and Canadian Jews. Rabbi Charles Weinberg, advisor to Rafael Katlowitz, head of the WZO's Immigration and Absorption Department, is in New York to promote the new program, which is scheduled to be launched late this fall. The WZO is also seeking the active partnership and cooperation of the American Jewish leadership in the aliya movement.

Weinberg feels the "historical destiny of the Jewish people will be determined in Israel." He hopes that WZO's "outreach program" will instill the same feeling in Jews throughout North America in the battle against rising assimilation.

### Sees Improvement in Housing

Weinberg explained, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, that his group has the full support of the Israeli government which is cooperating with the WZO's development of a computer system. The computer will aid WZO's efforts to identify the needs in Israel.

Weinberg was questioned about the housing shortage facing new immigrants in Israel. "By the time the program gets going, the housing problems should be resolved," he said. He added that programs are being readied to provide rental housing for the new settlers by the mid-1980s. Weinberg also responded to questions about Israel's growing inflation rate, the language barrier, socialization problems facing emigres and the overall hardships of living in Israel.

He said that the average American Jew comes to Israel with the knowledge that there are some serious problems and is willing to confront this situation. "Israel has a problem of uncontrollable inflation. America has a problem of uncontrollable assimilation. Inflation will be overcome in Israel, but the assimilation problem may not be overcome in the U.S.," Weinberg said.

### 'Second Thoughts' On 'Choice' For Drop-Outs

He also expressed concern that Soviet and Iranian Jews coming to the U.S. are rapidly assimilated into the American culture. "Encouraged to come to the United States, these Jews would only add to the statistics of assimilation," he said. "While the elementary rights of democracy demands they be given this choice, many leaders have second thoughts and have expressed the hope that Jews from these countries be brought to Israel first, and be given the choice to remain, afterwards."

"Skeptics remain," Weinberg concluded, "but I believe that enough brave and principled young Jews and those who seek to identify with Jewishness may turn with pioneering zeal to help firm the Jewish State of Israel." Weinberg was a rabbi in the Boston area for 25 years before moving to Israel 3 1/2 years ago. He is a former president of the Rabbinical Council of America, the Orthodox rabbinic organization.

## ARGENTINE JEW, JAILED SINCE 1976, MOVED TO HARSH PRISON

NEW YORK, June 27 (JTA) -- Jaime Lokman, the first Argentinian Jew arrested on the day of the March 1976 coup which brought

the current military junta to power, has been transferred to Rawson prison in south Argentina, known for its harsh conditions. According to Morton Rosenthal, director of the Latin American Affairs Department of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Lokman, an automobile dealer in Cordoba, remains imprisoned without formal charges filed against him.

Rosenthal said the Argentine government refused Lokman's request to leave the country four times. The Right of Option clause in the Argentinian constitution guarantees the right of emigration for citizens held in prison without being charged with a crime, Rosenthal noted. It is feared that Lokman, who developed a heart condition during his three years of confinement, will not survive the move to Rawson, Rosenthal warned. Rawson normally houses criminals charged with felonies.

Rosenthal said that Lokman appears to be the "victim of a personal vendetta by certain key officials in the province of Cordoba." He added that the ADL is urging the Argentinian government to at least return Lokman to a prison in Buenos Aires.

## CLEVELAND JEWS URGED TO 'QUARANTINE' NAZI DEMONSTRATORS

CLEVELAND, June 27 (JTA) -- The chairman of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Community Federation here has urged the local Jewish community to "quarantine" any Nazi-sponsored rallies by ignoring them, the Cleveland Jewish News reported.

The chairman, Dr. Aileen Kossen, made this suggestion after a rally by Nazis in the Cleveland suburb of Parma resulted in violence Sunday. "An understandable reaction might be to fight fire with fire, and to respond to their violence with counter-violence," she said. "However, such a reaction would be a serious mistake. Our community leadership subscribes to the policy of 'quarantine' as being the most effective way to deal with this problem. Virtually every responsible organization concurs with this approach."

The rally in a park Sunday featured Frank Collin, of Chicago, head of the American Nazi Party and 16 other Nazis. It was stopped by police when protesters threw rocks at the Nazis. Collin later held a press conference at a motel which was interrupted when about a dozen persons, wearing tee shirts with Stars of David and anti-Nazi slogans burst in causing a fight. Collin and one of his associates, Ted Kajewski, were charged with disorderly conduct and released pending a hearing July 16.

The group which broke up the press conference was called ANTO, Against Nazi Terrorist Organizations. The Cleveland Jewish News said no one in the Cleveland Jewish community recognized any of them and believed they came from outside the city.

PARIS (JTA) -- North African Jewish music ensembles and dance groups joined with Arab entertainers Sunday night for the first "Jewish-Arab musical festival" ever held here. For several hours, late into the night, the audience cheered and clapped hands in unison to the traditional tunes of many North African Jewish and Arab songs and dances. The festival was organized by an association of North African Jews with the help of several Arab orchestras and dance groups, all from North Africa. The 1500-member audience was mainly Jewish with only a handful of non-Jewish North Africans showing up for the festival. The organizers said they planned repeat performances, hopeful that the audience will be as "mixed" as the entertainers.