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BOMB BLAST INJURES 12 PEOPLE

TEL AVIV, July 25 (JTA) -- Twelve people were injured, none seriously, this morning when a bomb exploded at a bus station at the Beit Lid junction near Netanya. The bomb was placed in a can at the rear of the bus station which is usually used by kibbutzniks and moshavniks of the Sharon and Emek Hefer regions. Police and army personnel arrived on the scene within minutes from a nearby prison and detained 21 Arabs for questioning.

This was the second bombing attempt in the Netanya area. Last Saturday morning a major tragedy was averted when a large bomb was discovered and dismantled before it could explode in a cigarette case in the sand on the Netanya beach where thousands of people were gathered. Police disclosed today that they were holding a suspect in that incident. He was identified as Saif a-Din Badran of Tulkarem.

PLO BIGGIE GUNNED DOWN

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, July 25 (JTA) -- Zubair Mohsen, head of the pro-Syrian Saika organization and believed to be the number two man in the Palestine Liberation Organization, was shot and seriously wounded early this morning. Two gunmen shot him in the head as he was about to enter his apartment in Cannes in the south of France. Doctors at the Saint Roch Hospital in Nice where Mohsen was rushed, say his condition is "very critical" but they are still fighting to keep him alive. Mohsen, 43, was said to be in a deep coma, barely breathing.

Mohsen, who returned to France two days ago from the Organization of African Unity summit in Montevideo, Liberia, was shot at 1 a.m. as he rang the bell of his fourth-floor apartment. His wife, Alia, 25, found him lying in a pool of blood. He had apparently been felled by one shot.

The PLO bureau in Paris issued a communique blaming Israel "or its agents" for the attack. French police believe, however, the gunmen might belong to a rival Palestinian organization who shot Mohsen in reprisal for the recent attack against the Egyptian embassy in Ankara, Turkey. The attack was carried out by "The Eagles of the Revolution," an organization which is part of Saika.

The attack occurred while Mohsen's colleague in the PLO, Faruk Kaddoumi, is in Paris reportedly negotiating for an official invitation to PLO chief Yasser Arafat to visit France. Mohsen was the PLO "war minister" while Kaddoumi acts as "the minister for foreign affairs."

Mohsen had the reputation of belonging within the PLO to the most militant group and Israeli counter-terrorist experts believed he was personally responsible for most of the terrorist attacks carried out by the Palestinian organizations. Mohsen is the sixth Palestinian to be shot in France. The other five were all killed on the spot. The last, Ezzedine Kallak, PLO representative in France, was shot to death last August by pro-Israeli terrorists. In January PLO leader Yasser Arafat's top personal security aide, Abu Hassan, was killed when a radio-controlled bomb

blew up his car. In June, Abdel Wasfi, an Iraqi who was deputy editor of the PLO newspaper Falstin Al-Thawra, was shot and killed in Beirut.

ISRAEL RETURNS REGION OF WESTERN SINAI TO EGYPT

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, July 25 (JTA) -- Israel formally returned a 6000-square kilometer region of western Sinai to Egypt at noon today, in precise compliance with the timetable set forth in the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. The event was hailed by Egyptian Defense Minister Kamal Hassan Ali as yet another sign of "the resolute decision of both our nations to progress toward peace and carry out the peace treaty to the letter."

Hassan Ali's message was read by an Egyptian army officer during ceremonies at the Bir Naseb oasis where the Israeli flag was hauled down and the Egyptian flag raised, marking the second stage of Israel's withdrawal from Sinai. The area returned today lies along the Gulf of Suez and contains the famous Alma offshore oil fields, the most productive oil fields found by Israel during its 12-year occupation of Sinai.

The region is inhabited by about 4000 Bedouins. The tribal chiefs and notables invited to the ceremonies came on donkeys and camels, some in trucks and tractors and a few in private cars. The Muslim Fast of Ramadan is in progress so no refreshments were served. But tonight the Bedouins will hold their fantasia, a traditional Oriental festival, to celebrate the return of the region to Egyptian sovereignty. As a farewell gift, the Israeli government distributed five kilograms of flour to each of the 4000 Bedouins, a bottle of oil and IL 20 per person.

Under the peace treaty, the next transfer of Sinai territory to Egypt will take place in four months. It will include the Santa Katerina monastery and the southernmost tip of the peninsula. Two more sections, one in the north and one in the south, will be handed over in six months. By then, the Israeli-Egyptian demarcation line will extend from El Arish on the Mediterranean coast to Sharm el-Sheikh on the Red Sea. The remaining territory, extending from that line to the old international boundary between Israel and Egypt, will be returned at the end of three years from the date of ratification of the peace treaty.

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Dov Sion, the senior Israeli member of the joint Israeli-Egyptian coordinating committee, recited some statistics to show how the Bedouins have benefited from more than a decade of Israeli rule. He said there are now 243 cars in the region where there were none in 1967; 11 schools where none existed 12 years ago; ten medical clinics and two tribal water installations where there were none before.

REPORT POSSIBILITY OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN ACCORD ON PEACE FORCE

By Barbie Zelizer

JERUSALEM, July 25 (JTA) -- Israel and Egypt have agreed not to let the bitter dispute over the nature of a future United Nations peacekeeping force in Sinai develop into a confrontation between them and may, in fact, be on the way to working out their own solution, sources here indicated today.

The possibility of a bilateral agreement between

Jerusalem and Cairo emerged as Israel reacted angrily to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim's announcement last night that a United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO) force will replace the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in Sinai. (See separate story.)

Senior diplomatic sources, quoted in Maariv, said that neither Waldheim nor the U.S. can take one-sided steps in Sinai without Israel's agreement. The UNEF mandate expired at midnight last night. Its replacement by an expanded UNTSO force, which Israel flatly rejects, was proposed by the U.S. and Soviet Union after behind-the-scenes negotiations at the UN last week.

Israelis regard this as a breach of President Carter's undertaking at Camp David to form a multi-national force to police the phased withdrawal of Israeli forces from Sinai over the next three years should UNEF be dissolved. The Americans insist that UNTSO fills the requirement for a multi-national force.

Israel Radio reported late last night that Israel and Egypt have raised the possibility of an agreement to voluntarily keep out of the Sinai demilitarized zones after UNEF is withdrawn, except for the early warning stations that each country maintains. If both countries respect the demilitarized zones there would be no need for an outside force. Another alternative would be for Israel and Egypt to maintain joint patrols, Israel Radio said. These proposals were said to have emerged from yesterday's meeting of the joint Israeli-Egyptian military committee.

They are expected to be discussed at greater length between Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and Egyptian Defense Minister Kamal Hassan Ali who begins a three-day visit to Israel this Sunday. Weizman was reported yesterday to have told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that Israel and Egypt would be best off if left to police their peace arrangements between themselves. Weizman is also said to have stated that he personally was not troubled by the idea of a UNTSO force. But a majority of the government favors the presence of another multi-national force.

Allon Critical Of Government's Delay

Former Foreign Minister Yigal Allon of the opposition Labor Party, upheld Israel's position regarding UNTSO which he called "disappointing from beginning to end." He warned that "Israel must not lend itself to support a breach of an agreement. We must insist that the agreement is honored."

But Allon castigated the government for waiting until the last minute to tackle the issue. "The government of Israel saw fit to deal with the issue only after the decision had already been taken and the Soviet veto (of UNEF) had been imposed," he said. "We knew beforehand when the UNEF mandate would expire, I do not understand why this pressing and acute issue was not resolved during (Premier Menachem) Begin's recent visit with (President Anwar) Sadat in Alexandria." Allon said.

Meanwhile, Hugo Rotscha, a spokesman for the UN forces in the Middle East, said the future maintenance of the Sinai demilitarized zones is under discussion. The withdrawal of the 4000-man UNEF force will take about six weeks to complete. The 120-man UNTSO force will remain in the region pending further instructions. Rotscha also replied to Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's charge that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) provides "an umbrella for terrorist activity." He observed that the Palestinians in Lebanon

maintain the UNIFIL serves as an umbrella for the Israel-supported Christian Militia in south Lebanon.

UN UNIT LETS UNEF MANDATE EXPIRE

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, July 25 (JTA) -- Despite Israel's strong opposition, the Security Council decided last night to let the mandate of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in Sinai expire, thereby accepting the Soviet-American compromise for the UN Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO) to take over the duties of UNEF. The decision of the 15-member Council to discontinue the 4000-troop force in the Sinai was reached during a 45-minute closed-door, informal meeting.

Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, following the Council decision, announced last night that UNEF will be disbanded and declared that "It is my intention to make, in accordance with existing decisions of the Security Council, the necessary arrangements to insure the further functioning of UNTSO."

The Israel Mission to the United Nations issued today the following statement: "UNTSO does not fulfill the provisions as stipulated in the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. It does not have a clear mandate and is not under the jurisdiction of the Security Council. The experience of 1967 shows that Israel cannot trust a UN force that is subordinate to the Secretary General. Last night's decision by the Security Council is unacceptable to Israel."

"The Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty stipulates that a UN force in the Sinai will be ordered to pull out only as a result of an agreement by the permanent members of the Security Council. The new situation does not follow this stipulation."

According to sources here, Waldheim informed the Council last night that UNEF's withdrawal would take about six weeks while the removal of UNEF's logistic material and equipment would take about six months. UNEF was established by the Security Council in 1973 to supervise the disengagement agreements between Israel and Egypt after the Yom Kippur War. UNTSO was created to monitor the truce lines and agreements between Israel and its neighbors after the War of Independence in 1948.

The decision to discontinue UNEF followed a Soviet refusal to extend the force and a threat that it would use its veto if the renewal came to a vote at the Council. The Soviet Union has sided with the rest of the Arab world against the Egyptian-Israeli treaty.

POSSIBLE ARAFAT VISIT TO ITALY

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, July 25 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization representative in Italy, Nuhayda Hammud, said today that while no official invitation has been extended to PLO chief Yasser Arafat to visit Italy he would be willing to come if an invitation was extended. Hammud was obviously referring to Arafat's recent visit in Vienna with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and Socialist International president Willy Brandt and PLO moves in France to have Arafat invited officially by French government officials.

Hammud said that "in the PLO's program there is a new opening toward Western Europe." He noted the fact that Italy has no stable government at the moment is an obstacle and added, "Let's hope that there will soon be a stable government in Italy which will be able to invite Arafat and I believe that he, as chairman of the executive committee of the PLO, is ready to come to Italy." Several months ago, Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's head of

foreign relations, was received by Italy's Foreign Minister Arnaldo Forlani.

The Rome daily, *Il Messaggero*, noted that France's apparent interest in inviting Arafat seems to be connected to the recent statement by Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, at the conclusion of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries summit, that oil price stability will be directly related to Europe's behavior on the Palestinian problem.

U.S. SAYS DISCUSSION OF UNTSO ROLE HAS BEEN GOING ON FOUR MONTHS

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, July 25 (JTA) -- The State Department said today that the possibility of using the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO) as a replacement for the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in the Sinai has been under discussion for four months. But, officials said, the U.S. had not received Israel's views opposing UNTSO until last Sunday.

Department officials said the next few weeks in which it would take UNEF to withdraw will be used by the parties to attempt to reach an agreement on a UN force for the Sinai. They stressed that if UNTSO was used, it would not just be larger but would have better equipment, giving it the mobility needed to carry out the task required by the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. State Department officials said this will be discussed with Egypt and Israel and expressed confidence again, as they did yesterday and Monday, that the issue can be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties.

The officials pointed out that UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim would have the responsibility for the day-to-day operations of UNTSO. In the case of belligerency, the UNTSO force would cease to function.

CHIEF OF STAFF UNDER FIRE FOR REDUCING SENTENCE OF ARMY OFFICER

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, July 25 (JTA) -- A motion to dismiss Chief of Staff Gen. Raphael Eitan was submitted in the Knesset yesterday by Uri Avnery of the Sheli faction. He sent letters to all of his fellow MKs urging their support on grounds that Eitan had lied in his public statements justifying the reduction of the prison sentence imposed on an Israeli Army officer found guilty of murdering four Arab prisoners during the occupation of south Lebanon in the spring of 1978.

Avnery presented his motion along with what he claimed were the unpublished details of the case. He acted after two other MKs, David Glass and Shmuel Toledano, lodged a similar complaint against Eitan with Acting Premier Yigael Yadin. Glass, a member of the National Religious Party, is chairman of the Knesset's legislation and law committee and Toledano, of the Shai faction, heads the state comptroller committee. Both said the Chief of Staff had distorted the facts of the case in a recently published interview with *Yediot Achronot*.

The public has had very little information on the case. The trial and various hearings were closed and military censorship has cloaked the affair in secrecy. The officer in question was never publicly identified. He was, however, sentenced by a military tribunal to 12 years' imprisonment. An appeals court reduced the term to eight years. Subsequently, the Chief of Staff, who is empowered to review and commute military sentences, cut the sentence to two years.

This was done without the public's knowledge. When news leaked out, many MKs and other Israelis were infuriated. The issue has already had a polarizing effect. About a month ago, 150 reserve officers signed a letter protesting the Chief of Staff's action. Subsequently, 90 officers and soldiers in full uniform, entered the Knesset to denounce critics of Eitan, creating a brief uproar in the chamber.

Basis For Clemency

The Chief of Staff justified his clemency on grounds that the officer was alone and in a situation of extreme danger when he killed the prisoners. But many MKs recalled a similar instance in which the Chief of Staff reduced the sentence of a soldier who killed an Arab civilian, apparently because the killing occurred on the same spot where a terrorist had killed an Israeli soldier 24 hours before.

The Lebanese operation occurred before Eitan was elevated to Chief of Staff. His immediate predecessor Gen. (res.) Mordechai Gur, declined to discuss the case last night, saying he did not remember it. But he offered what appeared to be justification for the killing of the prisoners. He said there had been cases where Arabs pretended to be prisoners of war and then opened fire on their captors.

Gur said that during the Lebanese operation, an entire village pretended to surrender and then took arms from a secret cache and killed two Israeli soldiers. The army, he said, must be allowed to do its job. On the other hand, he added, prisoners of war must be protected.

HOUSING AID FOR ISRAEL, EGYPT

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, July 25 (JTA) -- A Senate-House Conference Committee has accepted a proposal by Sen. Jacob Javits (R-NY) that would provide \$25 million in housing guarantees for Israel. The proposal also provides \$25 million in guarantees for housing to Egypt. The Conference report containing Javits' proposal has been sent back to the Senate and House for approval in both chambers.

The Javits proposal, an amendment to the International Development Assistance Act of 1979, would permit Israeli banks to borrow up to \$25 million in the United States for the purpose of providing housing to lower income families in Israel.

Javits explained that "the provisions of this amendment are intended to enable developing countries, especially middle income level developing countries, to participate in the housing investment guarantee program in order to improve the housing conditions of their lower income families.

"This amendment will help provide housing for low income people in both countries, at least cost to the U.S. taxpayer," Javits said. "Both countries can very effectively use the housing guarantee programs for projects which meet the developmental criteria in the law."

GENEVA (JTA) -- The announcement by the Jewish-owned Placette chain of stores that it would hold a one-day sale of "Granny Smith" apples, the profits to be donated to help Vietnamese refugees, drew a protest from the Swiss Socialist Party and a colorful comment in the local press. The Socialists objected because the apples are imported from South Africa. One newspaper wrote, "Black apples sold by whites to help the whites."

NEW YORK (JTA) -- A 10-day United Jewish Appeal Mission to Israel especially organized for leaders of the automotive industry will leave New York Sept. 9.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**MANDATORY CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN ARGENTINE SCHOOLS PERTURBS THE JEWISH COMMUNITY**

NEW YORK, July 25 (JTA) -- Re-introduction of mandatory Catholic religious education in Argentina's secondary schools is deeply perturbing the Jewish community there. This teaching is being done in the guise of a "Moral and Civic Education" course established by Argentine government decree last February. This was reported by Jacob Kovadloff, American Jewish Committee director for South American Affairs.

When contents of the new course were published representatives of the Argentine Jewish umbrella organization DAIA (Delegacion de Asociaciones Israelitas de Argentina) met with Education Minister Juan Llerena Amadeo to protest strongly. Amadeo promised to meet again with DAIA, but never has done so.

Subsequently, Kovadloff said, in an address to an Argentine advertising association, Amadeo avowed that it was not for a majority to bow to the will of minorities but the contrary. He also was reported to have declared -- and never denied -- that he was "in favor of formation of Christian concepts among those not professing this creed."

"The only way for Jews to safeguard freedom of conscience and dignity would be to boycott classes of Catholic indoctrination," advocated one Jewish communal journal, "La Luz," which published a cover story entitled "Yellow Badge" dealing with the issue.

Press Attacks The Measure

Kovadloff reported that leading Argentine press organs such as "La Prensa" and "La Nacion" openly have attacked the measure. An Argentine Bishops' Conference statement supporting religious freedom and the right of parents to choose their children's education has been interpreted as an indirect slap at the decree. The leading Catholic magazine "Criterio" (formerly edited by Msgr. Jorge Mejia, now Secretary of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with Judaism) has come out in criticism.

Amadeo and the decree are getting strong support from right-wing Catholic groups, many of them inspired by the well-known "Opus Dei" according to the Argentine Jewish paper "Nueva Presencia," which has devoted lengthy articles to this aspect. Members of many of these same groups also are part of the Ombu Circle, a political discussion group with considerable prestige in Argentina. Ombu includes such personalities as the former President of the Argentine Republic, Gen. Roberto M. Levingston.

According to Kovadloff, a recent Ombu Circle meeting at which the decree was discussed was rife with anti-Semitic and anti-Israel sentiment. Attempts by the only Jew present, Rabbi Marshall Meyer, to counter this brought vehement ridicule and hostility from Levingston.

"Moral and Civic Education" is an obligatory course for first-year high school students. The religious education is introduced essentially, in sections on Christian Ideas about Man and Life; The Family; and Man and His Cultural Relations. Two other sections deal with the economic achievements and political fulfillment of man.

Subjects Termed 'Absolutely Inappropriate'

The prestigious Buenos Aires morning paper "La Nacion" blasted introduction of the subject as

"absolutely inappropriate to the sought-after goal" of formation of a moral and civic character. It stressed that the course contents were based "on just one creed" and went on:

"Although Catholicism is the traditional and majority religion of the country it is not the religion of all the inhabitants. This situation is not in keeping with the pluralistic conception of (Argentine) national life.

"Admittedly, the Argentine civic-moral order is rooted in Western Christian civilization. That does not mean the state has the right to impose mandatory topics such as 'Man's Relationship With God' -- even assuming a diversity of philosophical-existential viewpoints can be presented ... the study of the 'Doctrine of the Church,' although not specified, is understood as referring only to the Catholic church. This means the encroachment of the authorities on freedom of conscience is even more apparent."

Kovadloff observed that Argentina's constitution, adopted in 1853, declares that Roman Catholicism is the official religion of the country. The same constitution also established religious freedom. And the 1870 Education Law, Number 1420, clearly called for lay education.

Despite the 1870 measure, however, there has been a mercurial pattern, with religious education sometimes mandatory for elementary or high school, or both, and times when it was not mandatory at all, Kovadloff noted. Parents could request exemption for their children from religious classes, to attend substitute classes in morality; but this of course set them apart, and was felt by both parents and children to be discriminatory. With the new decree, this is no longer permitted. Attendance is obligatory for the Catholic education classes.

During Juan Peron's first term in office, 1945-55, religious education was mandatory. After he and his wife Evita got into a squabble with the Church during his second term it was dropped. Kovadloff said this was the situation until the new Moral and Civic Education decree of this past February.

JOSEPH KESSEL DEAD AT 81

PARIS, July 25 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held today for Joseph Kessel, the first Jew and first journalist to be elected to the French Academy, who died at his country home Monday night at the age of 81. The Russian-born writer and journalist was often called the French Ernest Hemingway. He wrote more than 40 books, including the novel on which the film *Battle of Bour* was based. His novels were packed with action, adventure and crises-laden situations.

Kessel served in the French Air Force during World War I and rejoined the Air Force during World War II during which he wrote the words of the resistance hymn "The Song of the Partisans." When he was elected to the French Academy in 1962 he had his traditional sword forged with a Magen David on the hilt and with the word Jerusalem inscribed on the blade.

LONDON (JTA) -- Britain's Jewish defense leaders are expressing concern at reports that the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," the notorious forgery "exposing" an alleged world Jewish conspiracy, is widely circulating in Britain, and even in universities. It has aroused fears that anti-Semites and anti-Israel extremists plan an even bigger campaign on British campuses after the summer vacation. The Protocols are promoted here not only by an extreme right-wing publishing company but by student "Islamic Societies."