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70 GAZANS ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF BELONGING TO TERRORIST CELLS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Sept. 9 (JTA) — A security dragnet in the Gaza Strip has resulted in the arrests of some 70 local residents on suspicion of belonging to or organizing terrorist cells — among them the son of Dr. Haider Abdul-Shafi, one of two pro-PLO Palestinian leaders with whom Defense Minister Moshe Dayan met recently to "exchange views." An Army spokesman confirmed that Tarik Haider el-Shafi, 19, was detained for alleged membership in El Fatah, the terrorist arm of the PLO. He said more arrests are expected.

Two of the cells — one in Gaza and the other in Khan Yunis — were part of El Fatah. A third was associated with the Syrian-backed Al Saïqa terrorist group and a fourth with George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the security sources said.

They said the exposure of these cells prevented several terrorist acts. In one case, explosive charges were found, two of them primed for detonation. The Gaza cells confessed to planting an explosive charge in the Israel Discount Bank branch office in Gaza. The Al Saïqa members admitted at least two acts of terror, the security sources said. In an unrelated development, police discovered and dismantled a large bomb discovered in the Ashkelon marketplace last Thursday afternoon.

WEIZMAN IN THE U.S. TO DISCUSS NATURE, EXTENT OF U.S. MILITARY AID

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Sept. 9 (JTA) — Defense Minister Ezer Weizman left for the United States today for a series of conferences with Pentagon and State Department officials over the nature and extent of American military aid — and financial assistance for military purposes — to Israel over the next 10 years.

Weizman will be joined in Washington later by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan for diplomatic discussions with American and Egyptian officials over future multi-national peace-keeping forces in Sinai. Dayan himself left for West Germany today on a three-day visit that will include meetings with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Circles close to Weizman said the Defense Minister was aware that he will have to answer tough questions in Washington about Israel's role and policies in south Lebanon and that the answers he provides will affect the American decision on whether to supply Israel with sophisticated modern weapons systems in the future. The U.S. has been sharply critical of Israel's use of American-supplied weapons in attacking Palestinian terrorist bases in Lebanon.

Will Stress Growing Threat

It is assumed that Weizman will stress the growing threat to Israel's security from its eastern neighbors which are being supplied with arms by both the Soviet Union and West European

countries. The Defense Minister is expected to seek American assistance that will enable Israel to establish a modern defense production infrastructure.

The objective is to give Israel a degree of independence coupled with maximum security while eliminating the potential need to use American weapons against American allies, specifically Lebanon. In that connection, Weizman will try to convince the Americans to grant Israel production rights on the next generation of fighter planes rather than simply supplying the U.S.-made aircraft as has been the case up to now, circles here said. Israel would like to manufacture the warplanes under a licensing arrangement or an extended co-production deal.

It is presently considering two aircraft, one produced by McDonnell Douglas which is a carrier-based plane and the other, the land-based F-18 produced by the Northrop Co. The outcome of Weizman's talks in Washington will have an important bearing on the future of Israel Aircraft Industries which must decide whether to proceed with its plans for the Aryeh, the next generation Israel-made interceptor, or participate in the production of the F-18.

Weizman will also want to determine to what extent the U.S. is prepared to help Israel develop its first generation interceptor, the locally manufactured Kfir, and agree to its sale to third parties. The U.S. has been able to block Kfir sales to certain countries because the aircraft contains American technology that by agreement with Israel is non-transferable. Another issue that Weizman will discuss in Washington concerns the Sinai airfields.

Issue Of Sinai Peace-Keeping Force

When Dayan arrives in Washington, he and Weizman will meet with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Defense Secretary Harold Brown and an Egyptian party headed by Defense Minister Kamal Haasan Ali. Their talks are expected to decide whether to seek an immediate solution of the Sinai peace-keeping problem or to retain the temporary arrangements pending the creation of a new multi-national force by the U.S.

The United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) was terminated by the Security Council in July. Israel has rejected the American proposal to replace it with an enlarged United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO) force.

Dayan, who departed for Bonn today accompanied by his wife, Rachel, and his advisor, Naftali Lavi, said he would seek greater support for the Camp David peace agreements and try to stem the movement among West European countries to enhance the importance of the PLO. He noted that West German newspapers have highlighted his recent meetings with pro-PLO Palestinian leaders on the West Bank and in Gaza. He insisted that it was important to have talks with those personalities in the administered territories who, according to Israeli law, are not considered members of the PLO.

ARAFAT DODGES ISSUE OF COEXISTENCE BETWEEN PALESTINIAN STATE AND ISRAEL

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Sept. 9 (JTA) — Yasir Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, refused flatly in a television interview today, to say

whether a Palestinian state would agree to co-exist with Israel.

Although pressed repeatedly by interviewer Barbara Walters on ABC-TV's "Issues and Answers," Arafat would not answer the question directly. Instead, he said the decision would have to be made by the "democratic establishment" of a Palestinian state once that state was created. The interview was taped yesterday in Havana where Arafat was attending the meeting of the non-aligned nations.

When asked whether the PLO would abandon its call for the elimination of Israel, Arafat replied that this was a foolish question since Israel has a "huge force" with 15-20 atomic weapons backed by the United States. He denied the Palestine Charter calls for the elimination of Israel.

The PLO leader also said he did not want changes in United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 but a new resolution which provided for Palestinian self-determination and a Palestinian state. He said that President Carter was "not accurate" when he said recently that no Arab leader had told the President privately that they support a Palestinian state. Arafat said all Arab leaders support such a state.

Accuses Sadat Of Betrayal

Arafat again accused Egyptian President Anwar Sadat of "betrayal" of the Arab people. He said evidence of this was that when Sadat's yacht sailed into Haifa last week it was guarded by Israeli planes, the same planes that bomb "my people" and the Lebanese people in Lebanon. The PLO leader maintained that he was a "moderate." He said that "to be a moderate in the Middle East is very difficult," explaining that "I try to deal with all the camps around me."

Arafat denied he was anti-Semitic. "We are anti-Zionist. We respect the Jews and the Jewish religion." He characterized Zionism as expansionist. Walters, who was irked throughout the interview by Arafat's refusal to directly state whether the Palestinians could exist with Israel, noted that the PLO seemed to be getting more support in the U.S. but at the same time Americans did not want to see Israel destroyed. Arafat again refused to give a direct answer implying only that Israel was strong enough to prevent its destruction.

On the issue of Andrew Young's resignation as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Arafat at first said he agreed with a statement by a PLO official that the resignation has increased anti-Semitism in the U.S. He said Young was fired for doing his job by meeting with the PLO observer at the U.N. But then Arafat seemed to change his position, saying the resignation has increased "anti-aggression," opposition to Israel's attacks against south Lebanon.

The PLO leader said that he still wants an Arab oil boycott of the U.S. because Israel is using the most "up-to-date" American weapons in its attack on the Palestinians. He said the PLO leadership has not yet decided whether he should go to New York this fall for the U.N. General Assembly session.

AUTONOMY TALKS RESUME

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 9 (JTA) -- The working teams in the autonomy negotiations met today for yet another round of talks at the Herzlia Accadia Hotel. The working group on "modalities" for the

elections to the self-administration of the autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip has been locked in differences over Egypt's demand for the inclusion of East Jerusalem in the West Bank electoral constituencies.

The other working group, tackling the powers of the autonomy, bogged down on the formulation of an agenda, with Egypt demanding that headings refer to self-rule powers and Israel insisting on limiting discussion to the creation of a restricted administrative council.

The Israeli delegation is headed by Dr. Meir Rosenne, Israel's Ambassador to France, a key figure in the peace negotiations with Egypt and formerly the legal advisor to the Foreign Ministry. The Egyptian team is headed by Ahmad Abdul Latif, an Ambassador at the Foreign Ministry. The Americans are represented by James Leonard, deputy to President Carter's special Mideast Ambassador Robert Strauss.

Will Seek to Bring Palestinians Into Talks

Strauss, himself, was due to arrive in Alexandria today to meet with Egyptian leaders to obtain their assessment of last week's summit meetings in Haifa between Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin. Strauss will reportedly raise two issues, in addition to those already discussed by the Herzlia working groups: security arrangements within the autonomy plan and the situation in south Lebanon, which he regards as an internal part of the entire Mideast issue.

But the overall issue which is believed will be discussed between Leonard and the local negotiators is the difference which emerged out of the Haifa talks: while Sadat and Begin apparently agreed there was no need to rush the autonomy talks, the Americans reportedly believe otherwise.

In an interview on Israel TV last Friday night, Strauss said he had several thoughts in mind to bring the Palestinians to the negotiating table, but he did not specify. In the meantime, sources in Jerusalem said they knew nothing of a reported plan to summon a Carter-Begin-Sadat summit to discuss the Palestinian issue.

STRAUSS DISCLOSES HE MET WITH WEST BANK PALESTINIAN

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9 (JTA) -- Robert Strauss, President Carter's special Ambassador to the Middle East, disclosed here last Friday that he met here with a prominent West Bank Palestinian last Tuesday for more than an hour.

Speaking to reporters prior to his departure for the Middle East with a U.S. business delegation, Strauss at first would say only that he had visited with a "distinguished West Bank Palestinian" and that "I won't give you his name." But he relented and identified the Palestinian as Al Masri, chairman of the Board of Trustees of An Najal University in Nablus. After identifying Masri, Strauss said, amid laughter, "I trust he won't mind. We will soon find out."

Masri is in the United States for about a month, with his first stop in Washington. His itinerary was arranged by the International Communication Agency, the successor to the U.S. Information Agency, and the State Department, under their international visitors program. Other West Bank and Gaza Strip residents, including mayors, have come to the U.S. under this program. Masri was nominated by the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem. Masri was accompanied by the president of the university, Kayad Abdul Haq.

The State Department told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Masri is a former Speaker of the Jordanian Parliament but that he has "no strictly political role at the moment." Nevertheless, Masri lunched with Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders, met with National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski and Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs David Newsom, in addition to Strauss. However, the Department said Masri will not see Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. Masri was described by the State Department as a moderate and not a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Will Hold Follow-Through Discussions

Referring to his meetings in Egypt and Israel this week, Strauss described them as "follow-through" discussions he previously held there. "President Carter is exceedingly anxious" for a "rather in-depth report" on how Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin "perceive" the "ranging, relaxed discussions," he will hold with them, the special envoy told reporters.

Strauss said he had "no planned agenda" but that the subjects would present themselves. "I have no mandate or set of instructions," he said. "I am going with a limited and specific intent" to "explore what took place" in the meetings between Sadat and Begin in Haifa.

DEFENSE COMMITTEE AGREES TO DEMAND TO REVIEW DECISION TO ESTABLISH

FOUR NEW SETTLEMENTS ON WEST BANK

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 9 (JTA) -- The Ministerial Defense Committee agreed today to a demand by Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin and the two other Democratic Party Ministers that the Cabinet review the decision to establish four new settlements in Judea and Samaria. The committee also agreed to allow Defense Minister Ezer Weizman to appeal the decision to establish the settlements before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

At the same time, the committee rejected a charge by Yadin that Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, chairman of the Ministerial Committee on Settlements, had misled the government on the new settlements. Yadin, a member of the committee, said last week that Sharon had used the government's earlier decision to only "thicken" existing settlements for the present as a means of establishing the new settlements. He said Sharon used the names of existing settlements such as Karnei Shomron and Rehav and added a "Bet" to them to make it appear they were the second stage of the settlement rather than a new one.

The committee acted today after Premier Menachem Begin, at a meeting earlier today with Yadin, rejected his demand that the matter be fully discussed by the Ministerial Defense Committee. Yadin said he would not attend Cabinet meetings until there was such a review, and was backed by his party colleagues, Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir and Social Bettement Minister Yisrael Katz.

Begin hurriedly called Sharon into his office but the Agriculture Minister reportedly accused the Democratic Party Ministers of trying to sabotage the settlement efforts. He said he would not make it easy for them. Yadin and his two colleagues agreed to return to the Cabinet meeting after Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich said that Yadin's complaints would be discussed today.

The discussion resulted in the decision to review the establishment of the settlements while clearing Sharon of misleading the Cabinet.

Meanwhile, construction work presently being implemented at the site of the four settlements will continue until the appeal is discussed. Yadin's appeal is expected to be debated in the coming week, but Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Moshe Arens said today that it will most likely be rejected with a considerable majority.

CARTER'S ROSH HASHANAH MESSAGE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9 (JTA) -- President Carter issued the following Rosh Hashanah message: "My fellow Americans: As you celebrate Rosh Hashanah, the beginning of the High Holy Days, Rosalynn and I send our warmest greetings to you as you gather together in homes and synagogues to welcome a new year.

"I know that your liturgy for this sacred season includes prayers for reconciliation between neighbors, affirmation of life and commitment, and at this time you reflect on eternal questions concerning life and death. The words of these services echo universal human concerns.

"With you, we recommit ourselves to cherish the freedom of all peoples and to strive peacefully" for its realization. With you we pray not for an escape from challenges, problems and decisions, but for the wisdom, insight and courage to choose wisely and bravely.

"Let us strive to make common cause with decent people of all faiths and nations. Let us strive to preserve the values of our democracy and to broaden the areas of its blessings. Your religion, like mine, seeks to help all people learn to live in harmony with one another and with God. May the coming year bring us closer to the just and lasting peace for which we have yearned and prayed so long, and bring to each of you new strength of faith and purpose."

NO PLAN FOR PLO COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

NEW YORK, Sept. 9 (JTA) -- The Postal Administration of the United Nations has no plans for the next two years in issuing a stamp commemorating the PLO, The Workmen's Circle has been assured by H. Edgar Stock, Assistant Postmaster General of the United States. The Jewish labor fraternal order, through its President Bernard Backer, had sought assurances that the U.S. postal authorities would not honor such a stamp after the U.N. Palestine Committee had recommended its issuance.

In addition, The Workmen's Circle was informed by Stock: "I have brought your mailgram to the attention of the Office of International Organization Affairs at the Department of State, which will give the matter appropriate attention."

Backer was told that "The Postal Administration of the United Nations has informed us that its stamp production schedule is drawn up for two years in advance and that there are no plans for a stamp commemorating the Palestine Liberation Organization."

In his original communication to Postmaster General William F. Folger, Backer had predicated his opposition on press reports with authoritative U.N. by-lines that the U.N. Palestine Committee had, among other PLO promotional activities voted favorably on the issuance of a PLO commemorative stamp.

"It was our intention in heading off such issuance that we protested on August 17th and we shall monitor the situation to make certain that no exception is made," Backer said after receiving Stock's letter.

CAMPAIGNING FOR IDA NUDEL

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Sept. 9 (JTA) -- Elena Friedman, the sister of Prisoner of Conscience Ida Nudel, arrived here from Israel several days ago to meet with government officials and the media to convince them to publicize the plight of her 49-year-old sister who is in exile in the Siberian village of Krivoshean.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Mrs. Friedman said that all her letters, parcels and telegrams addressed to Nudel were returned to her stamped by the Siberian post office "Addressee refuses to accept the mail." She said that a Soviet Jewish refusnik, Arik Rachlenko, who visited Nudel several months ago wrote to her in Israel that Nudel was hospitalized in fonsk, the nearest town to Krivoshean, for a kidney infection but that after one month she was discharged and sent back to her place of exile.

But, Mrs. Friedman said, Nudel has difficulty walking and her left arm is paralyzed and is actually "a 100 percent invalid." She termed her sister's 8-hour trip from her place of exile to the hospital "a real punishment." She said that Nudel relies exclusively on parcels she receives from time to time from her friends in Moscow for the medicine she desperately needs and for supplemental food. She does not get enough of either in her place of exile where she works as an assistant bookkeeper, Mrs. Friedman said.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Friedman and a delegation comprising a group from the Canadian branch of "Women for Ida Nudel" and Prof. Irwin Cotler of McGill University who is Nudel's attorney met with Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Flora McDonald in Ottawa last Friday. Miss McDonald told the delegation that she always had a special interest in the Nudel case and that even before she became Secretary of State she was honorary chairperson of Women for Ida Nudel.

A Promise To Help Nudel

Miss McDonald said now that she is Secretary of State she intends to do everything both as a Minister and in her personal capacity to bring about Nudel's release. She said she already protested Nudel's imprisonment to the Soviet Ambassador in Ottawa and instructed the Canadian Ambassador in Moscow to make similar presentations to the Soviet government. "I intend to bring up Ida's case in every one of my encounters with Soviet representatives, including those at the United Nations," Miss McDonald said.

Cotler said he feels Nudel's liberation is a Canadian responsibility because of Canada's advocacy and support of the freedom of movement of individuals and reunification of families. While in Canada, Mrs. Friedman also met with members of Women for Ida Nudel and their honorary president, Ursula Appoloni who is also a member of the Parliament representing Ontario.

In related developments, a film that was taken of Nudel in her place of exile will be telecast nationwide on CBC and CTV. Mrs. Friedman, who has lived in Israel since 1972, will be in the United States this week where she is scheduled to meet with a number of Congressmen in Washington.

UAHC TO RESETTLE 1800 BOAT PEOPLE; JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES AND SYNAGOGUES WILL COOPERATE IN EFFORT.

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9 (JTA) -- Jewish social service agencies and synagogues will co-

operate in the nationwide program undertaken by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) to resettle 1800 boat people and other Indochinese refugees. New techniques will be used by UAHC, organization leaders disclosed at a news conference here last Friday, as distinguished from the American Jewish communal efforts towards resettling Soviet, Iranian and Syrian Jews in recent years.

Rabbi Irwin Herman, of Los Angeles, director of the UAHC's Pacific Southwest Council, noted that in most Jewish communities, the resettlement of the Soviet and Mideast Jews was through Jewish social service agencies and volunteers. In California, the assistance is on a joint Jewish family service-synagogue basis, with the agency providing professional support on a family case basis while the synagogue provides complete sponsorship of the refugee family.

"This is a total voluntary effort," Herman said. "No money will be accepted from synagogue budgets." He emphasized that UAHC will not permit a family under its sponsorship to go on public welfare. "We will support them until they are able to support themselves," he said.

While a six-month period is considered the time usually required to resettle a family, experience has shown that a refugee family becomes totally independent in three months or less, Herman said. UAHC, representing 735 Reform Jewish congregations has accepted responsibility for the 1800 boat people as part of the 4000 refugees that the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) has undertaken to resettle.

Explains Meaning Of 1800 Figure

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, UAHC president, explained at the news conference at the UAHC center here that the figure 1800 was chosen because it represents 100 times "chai," the Hebrew word for life, which also signifies the number 18. The 1800 figure also stands for twice the number of Jewish refugees from Nazism who, as the world's first boat people, were passengers aboard the MS St. Louis in 1939.

Herman and Rabbi Steven Jacobs of Temple Judea in Tarzana, Calif., came here on completion of a tour of a dozen major American cities where they sought commitments from members of Reform synagogues to sponsor refugee families. The UAHC program is coordinated with HIAS and local Jewish welfare federations, UAHC reported.

STANFIELD ON HIS WAY TO THE MIDEAST

MONTREAL, Sept. 9 (JTA) -- Robert Stanfield, who was appointed by Premier Joe Clark as special Ambassador to the Middle East to sound out the feelings of Arab countries about the feasibility of moving Canada's Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, left today for Israel, his first stop on a five-week Mideast tour.

The former Progressive Conservative Party leader will remain in Israel until Sept. 15 and then visit other Mideast countries. Stanfield, who was asked by Clark to report back to him "as he sees it," told reporters in Ottawa, "So far I have no idea what I will be recommending."

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Flora McDonald, asked whether Stanfield accepted his assignment on the basis of a pledge to move Canada's Embassy to Jerusalem, replied: "That's part of the terms of reference." He has one year to report back to Clark with his recommendation. When Clark was running for election last Spring, he pledged that the Embassy would be moved to Jerusalem. Since then, he has been under pressure by Arab interests in Canada not to do so.