

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. XLVII - 62nd Year

Wednesday, December 19, 1979

No. 240

IRANIAN VOLUNTEERS RUMORED IN SYRIA

By Gil Sedani

JERUSALEM, Dec. 18 (JTA) — According to reports from Damascus, about 40 Iranian volunteers arrived in the Syrian capital today en route to the Palestinian terrorist camps in Lebanon. The Iranians, many of whom are reportedly teenagers, landed in Syria despite the Lebanese government's opposition to their arrival.

According to these reports, today's group will soon join an earlier group of 50 Iranians already training in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. However, so far there is no confirmation here that the Iranians have actually arrived. Reports originating from the Christian forces in southern Lebanon say as many as 300 Iranians have infiltrated to Lebanon through Syria.

The volunteers are members of an organization called "Mujahiddin Fajr Iran" ("Fighters for the Renewal of Iran"). Founded in 1964, the organization's members are reportedly extreme Marxists and Moslem religious fanatics. During the Shah's regime they were active as an underground group. Prior to the civil war in Lebanon many of its members trained in the various Palestinian camps.

The group is now led by Sheikh Mohammad Montazeri, one of the leaders of the Iranian revolution. Montazeri claimed in Teheran yesterday that the expedition force to Lebanon was funded entirely by private contributions, after the ruling Revolutionary Council declined to charter a plane for the volunteers.

It seems that hardly anybody is interested in their operation in Lebanon. The Lebanese government has said firmly it did not want the group there, and last week it closed the country's airports to Iranian planes in an effort to prevent them from landing. The Syrians have also shown no enthusiasm for receiving the guests, and even the PLO reacted coolly to the volunteers' reported arrival.

Fiji PREMIER VISITS ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 18 (JTA) — The Prime Minister of Fiji, Kamisese Mara, arrived in Israel today from Lebanon on an official visit. He spent last night with members of the Fijian battalion in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) stationed between the Palestine Liberation Organization-controlled zone and the Christian militia lines.

Helicoptering from the Kosh Hanikra border post to Jerusalem, he was welcomed in the capital by Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich. Later he was to call on Premier Menachem Begin and Knesset Speaker Yitzhak Shamir. Mara told this reporter he was especially interested in Israel's prowess and progress in areas of irrigation, desalination and solar energy. Israeli experts, some working under UN auspices and others sent directly from Jerusalem, have worked in Fiji over the years in the fields of agriculture and collective marketing.

In south Lebanon, Mara said, he had found high morale among his troops, even though they have had the highest casualty rate among the UN contingents. (The one battalion represents half of

Fiji's army. Fiji has a population of 500,000. He had spent a day with high government officials in Beirut and had been given to understand, he said, that neither the Lebanese government nor the Syrians wanted Iranian volunteers to join with PLO forces in south Lebanon.

RELATIONS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE BETWEEN EGYPTIAN, JEWISH ATHLETES

By Haskell Cohen

NEW YORK, Dec. 18 (JTA) — Relations between Egypt and the Jewish sports world continue to improve rapidly. The latest development occurred yesterday in Cairo when four top tennis players of international repute gathered to participate in a \$100,000 round robin tournament. The participants were Bjorn Borg of Sweden, Ismail el Shafai, the Egyptian tennis champ, Elliot Telscher, an American Jew who is slated to be one of the finest singles players on the U.S. 1981 Maccabiah tennis squad, and Bill Scanlon, the former National Athletic Collegiate Association tennis champion.

The round robin took place before a large audience and as was expected Borg, the number one ranked international player, took down first place and copped \$50,000. Shafai was next and was awarded \$25,000, while Scanlon finished third to the \$15,000 prize, with Telscher finishing fourth to garner \$10,000.

It's interesting to note that Borg has participated both in Israel and in Egypt and is doing everything in his power to cement sports relationships between the two countries. A move now is on to try and arrange for a basketball game between the Israel National Team and the Egyptian National Team and there is reason to believe that this match will take place in 1980.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS BRIEFED BY OPPONENTS OF ZIONISM, ISRAEL

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (JTA) — Twice within recent weeks Carter Administration foreign affairs officials have listened at the State Department to guest speakers denouncing Zionism, berating Israel and advocating a Palestinian state.

"The Secretary's Open Forum," an organization comprising about a thousand government employees, mostly in the State Department, and supported by government funds, sponsored appearances of James Zogby, head of the Palestine Human Rights Committee whose credentials are now being scrutinized by the U.S. Department of Justice, and Edmund Hanquer, a foe of Israel and Zionism who supports a Palestinian state.

Their appearances, like others, were preceded by announcements on State Department stationery "to all employees" of the State Department, the Agency for International Development, the International Communications Agency, and the Arms Control Disarmament Agency. The notice, posted on bulletin boards and in elevators, bears the Department's official seal, the schedule of events and the speakers.

Zogby's activities for Palestinian Arabs, including conferences in Washington with speakers attacking the presence of Israelis on the West Bank and Jerusalem, has led Rep. William Brodhead (R,

Mich., the ranking minority member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, to ask the Department of Justice to determine whether he should register as a foreign agent.

The forum's notice emphasized Hanauer's topic would be "Is Zionism a Form of Racism?" and that he would "speak in defense of this proposition." Hanauer was identified as executive director of "Search for Justice and Equality in Palestine" and its Washington office as "The Middle East Resource Center." It also said he is a member of "American Jewish Alternatives to Zionism" and various organizations concerned with "human rights."

While well-informed sources in Washington on Jewish communal affairs were virtually unacquainted with Hanauer, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned that in January, 1976 he was quoted as saying that the anti-Zionist resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in November, 1975 is "essentially accurate although an oversimplification."

He was also reported in December, 1976 as supporting the creation of a Palestinian state and claiming that Israel violates the human rights of Palestinians. JTA's efforts to reach Hanauer by telephone in the Washington area were unsuccessful.

Speeches Raise Questions

The Hanauer and Zagby speeches within the State Department aroused revulsion and wonderment as to what is happening within the Carter Administration regarding both Israel and Jewry. President Carter and Vice President Walter Mondale have continually defended Israel and compared its values with America's. The United States has condemned the UN's anti-Zionist resolution and anti-Zionist manifestations in other international forums. The U.S. government has also steadfastly condemned Nazism.

But the Zagby and Hanauer scheduling and the recent disclosure of a White House official's apparent belittling of concern over proceedings involving Archbishop Valerian Trifa's interview on Radio Free Europe May 1 has baffled and outraged observers here. "How more preposterous can these officials in the Administration be than what those events are showing," one observer exclaimed.

In the Trifa case, Rep. Etizabeth Holtzman (D-N.Y.) has twice asked Carter to dismiss the National Security Council's (NSC) overseas propaganda expert John Henzes for his remarks to the U.S. Board for International Broadcasting. Having received a reply from a staff secretary at NSC, Holtzman has now called for an apology from NSC director Zbigniew Brzezinski. Thus, the Henzes issue remains unresolved.

Origin Of The Forum

Paul Molineaux, who heads the "Secretary's Open Forum," told the JTA that the organization "grew out of the Vietnam War." It was created, he said, by the then Secretary of State Dean Rusk because "there was a feeling around the State Department that ideas independent of established policy were not getting a fair hearing and something had to be done about dissenting views differing from views by the decision makers who make foreign policy."

"It is strictly an in-house organization," Molineaux said. "We don't publish outside the Executive branch of anything that emerges." He said he is the forum's only full-time employee and

that he is under "the general guidance" of a steering group of which he is also the chairman. "The forum consists of anyone in the government's foreign affairs community who cares to be a member," he said. The State Department provides space for meetings and other facilities.

The Hanauer appearance, Molineaux said, drew about 100 persons. The usual turnout averages 50-75, he said. Forum speakers, he said, have included Sen. Richard Stone (D-Fla.), Harvard professor Stanley Hoffman and American University professor Amos Perlmutter. He said that "in January we will have someone from the Zionist Organization of America," but he said he did not know who it would be.

A Washington political analyst discussing the forum's activities remarked, "This means the forum at least considers anti-Zionism to be legitimate even though America's worst enemies mouth it. It means that some personnel in the Department, the White House and other branches of government equate the PLO terrorists with democratic Israel. If the forum needs 'dissenting views' it can get them easily from the diatribes at the UN against Israel and in the numerous publications flooding the United States from anti-Israeli organizations."

A NOTHER ROUND OF AUTONOMY TALKS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- The Israeli delegation to the autonomy talks headed by Interior Minister Yosef Burg, left for Cairo today for another round of meetings with their Egyptian counterparts to be held in the suburb of Giza. Burg told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport that they would review the progress of the Israeli and Egyptian working teams so far on the establishment of an administrative council under the autonomy plan.

Burg refused to comment specifically on the statement last weekend by Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil, head of the Egyptian delegation, that East Jerusalem should be included in the autonomy plan for the West Bank. Burg said there was nothing new in Khalil's statement. "This was the Egyptian view during the Camp David talks. They did not change their minds and we surely did not change our attitude toward Jerusalem," he said.

WALDHEIM SEEKS EXTENSION OF UNIFIL

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has recommended that the mandate of the United Nations interim force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which expires tomorrow, be extended for another six months. In a report to the Security Council, issued here today, Waldheim warned that any move to withdraw UNIFIL could easily result in a resumption of hostilities not only in southern Lebanon but also elsewhere in the region.

Meanwhile, the Security Council was holding consultations this afternoon in preparation for its formal meeting tomorrow on the mandate's extension. Diplomatic sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that they expect "no problems" regarding the mandate's extension by the 15-member Council.

U.S. DELEGATION IN MIDEAST TO NEGOTIATE FOR ACCESS TO BASES

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- The U.S. Defense Department has sent a delegation to Saudi Arabia and three other countries to negotiate for access for American military forces to bases in the Middle East.

While Defense Secretary Harold Brown said last Sunday that "I don't believe that American bases as

such in that area are the right way to go" and that "nor do I see formal alliances," he left the way open for the U.S. use of bases when countries having them ask for "our help."

Robert Murray, a Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense who specializes in Middle Eastern affairs, left Sunday on the trip that will include Oman, Kenya and Somalia. Pentagon sources said that besides the four countries named in the Murray itinerary the Defense Department is studying possibilities for negotiating with Israel, Egypt and Morocco for rights to use bases in an emergency.

Some Senators have suggested the U.S. arrange to take over the bases in Sinai that Israel is to give Egypt in 1981 under the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. Use of bases is understood to be in connection with the development of a U.S. Rapid Deployment Force to move as many as 100,000 men quickly to a developing war anywhere in the world. Pentagon sources emphasized that Murray's trip is a continuation of efforts made before the Iranian crisis but it is believed that the crisis has expedited the need for such an arrangement.

CARTER DEDICATES MENORAH IN HISTORIC CHANUKAH CEREMONY

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- In an historic ceremony with two menorahs on the fourth night of the "Festival of Lights," President Carter last night dedicated the National Chanukah Menorah in Lafayette Square, opposite the White House, and acclaimed the holiday's significance for human freedom everywhere.

Both he and Lubavitcher Rabbi Abraham Shemtov, alluded to the 50 Americans held hostage in the U.S. Embassy in Teheran in their remarks during the 15-minute lighting ceremony -- wax candles in a 36-inch sterling silver menorah presented to the President and electric "flames" in the 36-foot gold-painted stainless steel menorah. It was the first time that Chanukah candelabras were lighted in the area that has seen many of America's most historic occasions.

"This religious season commemorates the perpetuation of age-old dreams and the hunger of men and women down through the ages to maintain a spirit committed to life under the most difficult circumstances, the most difficult persecutions and the most difficult dangers and under the most difficult suffering," Carter declared, speaking extemporaneously.

"It also commemorates humankind's commitment to be free," the President said. "So tonight we pray that our closeness to God, our memory of this fine commitment of human beings down through the ages, will strengthen our desire to share our life and our love -- not only with the 50 American hostages for whom we pray constantly -- but for men and women throughout the world who don't always have freedom and whose lives might be in danger."

Thanking the American Friends of Lubavitch for presenting the National Menorah, Shemtov, who headed the project, said, "In this way we share the meaning of Chanukah with the world at large." He said that "Chanukah reminds us that quality will be triumphant over quantity, commitment and dedication will prevail over numbers."

Participants in the ceremonies, in the presence of about 200 spectators in sub-freezing weather, included President Carter's domestic policy chief Stuart Eizenstat, his wife, Fran, and

their sons Jay, 10, and Brian, six; Secretary of Commerce-designate Philip Klutznick; Leonard Goldfine, chairman of the Philadelphia Lubavitch Center; and opera tenor Jan Peerce who chanted "Maoz Tzur Yeshuati" (Rock of Our Salvation).

After the President lit a wax candle, Jay Eizenstat lit the shamus candle from it and the first of the four candles while offering the traditional blessings in Hebrew. Brian, his father, and Goldfine lit the other candles.

In addition to the silver menorah, Shemtov gave the President two booklets, one containing a copy of the Congressional resolution and the President's proclamation honoring the Lubavitcher movement's leader, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson on his 76th birthday which was proclaimed "Education Day, U.S.A.," the other contained the texts of resolutions adopted by 25 states and the proclamations of their governors and the mayors of 30 cities.

JORDANIAN TERRORIST ORDERED EXTRADITED TO ISRAEL TO FACE TRIAL

CHICAGO, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- The extradition order handed down here today against an accused Jordanian terrorist to face trial in Israel, was hailed by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith for supporting the principle that "terrorism should not be condoned by granting terrorists refuge here."

The Jordanian, Yiyad Abu-Eain, is charged with responsibility for a bomb blast in the Tiberias marketplace last May 14 which killed two persons and injured 36. Debra Nesselson, the ADL's Midwest counsel, praised Federal Magistrate Olga Juco's ruling in the case which she said "has reaffirmed this country's efforts in the fight against world terrorism."

Eain, who entered the U.S. last June 15 on a temporary visa was arrested Aug. 20 on a request for extradition from the Israeli authorities. He fought the extradition order on grounds that his arrest was politically motivated.

DEFENDER OF TIMERMAN FORCED TO FLEE ARGENTINA AFTER THREATS ON HIS LIFE

NEW YORK, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- Robert Cox, the editor of the Buenos Aires Herald, who defended fellow journalist Jacobo Timerman during his imprisonment in Argentina, has arrived in England after leaving Argentina because of threats on his life, it was learned here today. Cox, who arrived with his wife and children, said he plans to stay out of Argentina for at least a year.

A native of Britain, Cox gained international attention as the editor of Argentina's only English-language newspaper because of his regular coverage of human rights violations while other Argentine newspapers refused to carry such news. His was also the only newspaper to continuously support Timerman. In numerous editorials, he demanded the release of Timerman, arguing that his continued detention was not only unjust but also harmful to Argentina's international stature.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

JERUSALEM, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- Israeli reaction to the possibility of Iranian volunteers deployed in south Lebanon remained low-key but wary today. Premier Menachem Begin told reporters it would not mean a major threat in military terms but would mean a significant worsening of the situation which had been quiet for the past several weeks. Israel, Begin said, was watching carefully and would be prepared for any eventuality. The presence of Iranian volunteers "could upset the present tranquility" in south Lebanon, Begin told reporters.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES NEW HORIZONS IN JEWISH EDUCATION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- An "Open University" for Jewish Studies is one of the novel ideas under active consideration by the Joint Program for Jewish Education in the Diaspora (JP). Jews in the diaspora of all ages and every walk of life would be able to take courses, by cassette and correspondence, in a wide range of Judaica and related subjects under the guidance and tutelage of some of Israel's top academicians.

Another idea, on which a feasibility study has begun, calls for three summer-long courses at Israeli universities for diaspora teachers and educators. The summer programs would be "bridged" during the academic year by correspondence courses. Upon successful completion, the teachers would automatically be entitled to a significant raise in their salaries.

An idea, still on the drawing-board, is a "Sesame Street" type television series on Jewish life, to be filmed mainly in Israel for screening by TV stations and privately around the world.

The Ideas Are Novel

The ideas are novel, well-nigh revolutionary. The funding effort that makes it possible even to consider them is indeed nothing short of revolutionary. The JP involves the allocation jointly by the Israel government and world Jewry of \$10 million annually for at least the next four years in the boldest-ever attack on ignorance and apathy in the crucial area of Jewish education in the diaspora.

It is the first time that the Israel government has committed itself in a really serious way to shouldering educational responsibilities abroad. In the words of JP's official prospectus, "Five million dollars of the fund is to be spent in Israel for diaspora Jewish education, and \$5 million is to be added annually to the Pincus Fund, initiated by the late Louis Pincus, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives."

"This initial sum is intended as seed money. No price tag can be placed on the value of the educational resources that the fund will promote, the prospectus said.

The Pincus Fund, established after Pincus' death, provides money for educational projects abroad. Since its inception in 1976, it has allocated some \$1.5 million out of its interest earnings -- for schools, seminars, yeshivas and other institutions in the diaspora. The JP will mean a very significant increase in the money available to the Pincus Fund, which is run jointly by the government, the Jewish Agency, the Joint Distribution Committee and the WZO.

The unique nature of the JP in which the government and the Jewish Agency alone are involved, is that all of its funds must be spent in Israel. To a large extent, it is the brainchild of the present Jewish Agency chairman Leon Dulzin. In April, 1978, Dulzin initiated a session of the government-Agency coordinating body which took the decision in principle to establish the JP and to set aside sums which for both groups were considered large.

Accomplishments So Far

Haim Zohar, secretary of the WZO Executive and director of the Pincus Fund, has marshalled the initial planning and execution stages

of JP. A one-time teacher himself, Zohar made his mark in the diaspora when he served as Israel's Consul for Jewish Affairs in New York in the '60s. Since 1971, he has been with the WZO, devoting most of his time to Jewish education, most recently with the focus on Latin America.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Zohar outlined what has been done so far. A panel of 17 education specialists from Israel and abroad met in Jerusalem under Prof. Seymour Fox, head of the Hebrew University's School of Education, and gave tentative approval to 11 projects submitted by various educational institutions. Seven of the projects were submitted by WZO departments. "The departments are not barred," Zohar noted wryly. But he stressed that each idea was scrupulously examined and many were "thrown out."

Among the overseas experts on the panel were Alvin Schiff, executive vice president of the New York Board of Jewish Education; Simon Frost, acting executive vice president of the American Association for Jewish Education; Herbert Millman, executive vice president emeritus of the Jewish Welfare Board; Nahm Rabinowitz, head of Jews College, London; Haim Barillo, director of the Jewish Education Council in Argentina; Rabbi David Massus, a leading French Jewish educator; and Leon Kronitz, a Canadian Jewish leader.

At board presently overseeing JP includes Education Minister Ze'evulun Hammer; Mordechai Mandel, president of the Council of Jewish Federations in the U.S.; Michel Topiol, the French Jewish Philanthropist; Dulzin and three WZO department heads.

The government and Jewish Agency will each provide a designate to be directly responsible for the running of JP and eventually a full-time director and staff will be appointed. But Zohar, as the moving spirit, will certainly retain a key role in making this Jewish educational vision come true.

MURRAY GURFEIN DEAD AT 72

NEW YORK, Dec. 18 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held today for Judge Murray Gurfein of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, who died here last Sunday at the age of 72. In 1971 he rejected the Nixon Administration's attempt to bar The New York Times from publishing the Pentagon Papers.

Active in Jewish affairs, Gurfein served for 10 years as president of HIAS. He was also president of the International Jewish Council of Social Services, was a member of the American Jewish Committee, and was on the Board of Directors of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York. Gurfein, who was born in New York City, was assistant to the United States Chief Counsel at the Nuremberg trials of Nazi war criminals at the end of World War II.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Israelis between the ages of 10 and 18 took part in a program last Sunday aimed at bringing the message of Chanukah to the Jewish ill and aged in three geriatric centers in Queens, Brooklyn and Long Island. The 50 Israelis were drawn from Jewish schools and youth movements in the New York area. The event was organized by the New York-based Association of Israeli Professionals and held under the patronage of the Israeli Consul-General, Paul Kedar. The youngsters lit the third Chanukah candle and entertained the residents with holiday songs. They were driven to the centers by volunteers from the Association.