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NEW ROUND OF CIVIL WAR IN LEBANON APPEARS TO BE SHAPING UP

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 12 (JTA) -- A new round in the Lebanese civil war appears to be taking shape as Syria prepared to redeploy its "peacekeeping" force despite urgent appeals by the Lebanese government to call off or delay its evacuation from the Beirut area. The Syrian moves apparently have encouraged the Palestinian terrorists to resume their attacks on the Christian enclave in south Lebanon.

Artillery exchanges continued intermittently last night and this morning between the Palestinians and the Christian militia. It was learned, meanwhile, that the heavy shelling by the Palestinians of the Christian village of Dier Memes yesterday was a cover for the infiltration of terrorists into the hamlet. The eight casualties there -- four dead and four wounded -- were the result of mines and booby traps planted by the infiltrators.

There was no intervention by Israel in the latest round of fighting. Nevertheless, both Syria and the Soviet Union accused Israel today of aggression and intervention in the affairs of another country. The charges were contained in a statement issued in Moscow following the visit there of the deputy secretary general of the Syrian Baath Party, Abdallah el-Ahmar.

The shelling subsided late yesterday but was resumed by the terrorists at sundown, using American-made 105-mm. cannons which were originally supplied to the Lebanese army. The Christian forces commanded by Maj. Saad Haddad retaliated by shelling the terrorist stronghold at Nabatiyeh. Lebanese Prime Minister Selim al-Hoss telephoned President Hafez Assad of Syria last night and flew to Damascus today -- his second trip there in a week -- in a further effort to persuade the Syrians to remain in the Beirut area. The Lebanese fear that if the Syrian forces are withdrawn their positions will be taken over by Palestinians.

In south Lebanon, Syrian troops were encamped only three kilometers from Marj Ajoun, the largest Christian town, with tanks and artillery. Their presence apparently has encouraged the Palestinians to step up their attacks on the Christians.

STIFF JAIL TERMS FOR 3 TERRORISTS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 12 (JTA) -- Three Arab terrorists, held in custody for more than three years, were each sentenced to 18 years imprisonment by a military tribunal yesterday for attempting to shoot down an Israeli airliner over Nairobi, Kenya in 1976. Their trial, which was closed to the public, lasted five weeks.

The names and countries of origin of the terrorists have still not been disclosed. They were captured in Nairobi while preparing to fire a shoulder missile at an incoming El Al plane with more than 100 passengers aboard. Seized with them were two German terrorists, Brigitte Schulte and Thomas Ruetter. All were brought to Israel. The Germans were tried earlier and each was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

Meanwhile, a military tribunal in Nablus has charged six Arabs with plotting to murder the

Israeli Military Governor of the West Bank town of Jenin and his aides late last year. The officials attended ceremonies in Kabatiyeh village to mark the opening of a new water pipeline. According to the charges, the Arabs planned to slip sleeping pills into the coffee served to the Israelis and to kill them while they were under sedation. The plot was uncovered and the alleged perpetrators were taken into custody.

U.S. TERMS MOVEMENT OF JEWISH SETTLERS BACK TO HEBRON A STEP BACKWARD IN THE PEACE PROCESS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12 (JTA) -- The U.S. declared today that "the movement of Israeli settlers into the city of Hebron itself would be a step backward in the peace process" but explicitly ruled out "punitive" action against Israel. (See related story from Jerusalem, p. 3.)

In a statement read to reporters, State Department chief spokesman Hodding Carter said "the implications" of the Israel Cabinet's decision to allow Israelis to move into houses in Hebron, whose original Jewish owners were massacred or forced to flee in 1929, "are serious and far-reaching and the U.S. government is seriously concerned about them."

Carter said that the move "could have serious consequences for the autonomy negotiations." He added: "It would damage the confidence of the parties, particularly the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, because it raises the basic question of Israel's commitment to full autonomy."

Asked what "clarification" the State Department has received from the Israel government, Carter replied, "The Israelis say they can proceed with the process of putting settlers in." When a reporter suggested that the movement did not constitute a "settlement," Carter modified his statement to speak of Israel's "positioning of people" in Hebron.

When another reporter asked what measures the U.S. would take as a consequence if Israel "persisted" in settling occupied Arab lands, the State Department spokesman said he was "not going into that." Later, when asked specifically about that point, he said the U.S. would not take "punitive" measures.

Asked what U.S. policy would be should Arab citizens of Israel, not Jewish citizens, move into Hebron, Carter said he would reply to that later. However, he said, the U.S. policy of opposition to Jewish settlements in the occupied territories has been "stated a million times."

Issue of Full Autonomy

Carter was asked, "whose vision of full autonomy is being violated" inasmuch as a basic point of full autonomy appears to be that people would be free to settle in the territories. He replied that "the pre-establishment of positions" has yet to be negotiated and "steps which pre-judge or prejudice the outcome are prejudicial to the negotiations."

The U.S., Carter said, opposed "unilateral steps to change the character" of the area. He said the U.S. "is not asking anyone to go beyond the framework (of the Camp David accords) or make judgements contrary to their national interests." But "a comprehensive settlement is the best guarantee for the safety of Israel," Carter said.

He noted that President Carter's special Ambassador to the Middle East, Sol Linowitz's latest meeting with Egyptian and Israeli negotiators had "produced the first practical steps" for an autonomy agreement and that the three parties have reached a "tentative understanding" to be discussed by them later this month. The central point is that "all three" are seeking to resolve the Palestinian issue and are not going beyond the Camp David framework.

Carter said he would comment later on a report that the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon has received 60 medium tanks and other armored equipment from the Soviet Union. Sources in Israel reported that the equipment is being kept in the Sidon area of Lebanon and would give the PLO additional fire power to use against the Christian militia in south Lebanon. Questioned about the renewed fighting in that region, Carter said he had "independent information" that "heavy exchanges of fire" have taken place in the last two days. He said the U.S. is urging all parties to "exercise restraint."

Asked about a reported remark by the son of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Teheran yesterday, in the presence of PLO chief Yasir Arafat, that Israel must be destroyed, Carter said: "Obviously, we oppose such a policy."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES CENTRAL AMERICAN JEWS WORRIED ABOUT RISE IN POLITICAL VIOLENCE

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12 (JTA) -- Like other economic middle class residents of troubled Central American nations, Jews in the five little countries on the isthmus between Panama and Mexico are worried about their personal safety and property and some have liquidated their assets and emigrated because of the spiraling rise in political violence.

Asking their names not be used, visitors from Central America here related the circumstances of the small Jewish communities on the isthmus in interviews with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. They stressed that Jews are not singled out any more or less than other Central Americans of their economic class but generally they are more visible targets of revolutionaries aiming to alter social and economic conditions. Jews on the isthmus are nearly all engaged in light industry or commerce.

Very few, if any, Jews remain of the tiny community in Nicaragua which underwent violent civil war for months. At its height, in the early years of this decade, the Jewish community numbered only about 120 persons, mainly Eastern Europeans who arrived in the late 1920s and during the Hitler period. The first Jews in Nicaragua came from France more than a century ago. Virtually all have become assimilated.

About 15 years ago, the community built a two-room structure that served as a synagogue and a clubhouse. It was ravaged by the earthquake of 1976 and damaged again during the fighting last year. "There was not too much fallout from the outcry by revolutionaries in Nicaragua against Israel because it sold some arms to the Somoza government," one visitor said. He pointed out Nicaragua continues to have diplomatic relations with Israel. The Israeli Ambassador in Panama is accredited to the government in Managua.

Fear And Uncertainty

In El Salvador, which numbers about 100 families who maintain a magnificent synagogue, per-

sonal fear and uncertainty of the future grips the community, a traveler said. As in other countries, the Jews who are among the most prominent citizens, are not singled out but are lumped with other Salvadorans by revolutionaries.

The venerable Rabbi Alexander Granat continues to lead the community which was shocked by the kidnapping and subsequent murder a year ago by revolutionaries of Ernesto Liebes, a leading merchant and coffee exporter who was Israel's Honorary Consul. Liebes, it was emphasized, was seized because of his wealth and prestige and not for his identification with either Judaism or Israel.

"Life in El Salvador is difficult," the traveler added. "Some Salvadorans -- Jews and non-Jews -- are half in and half out. I mean, a man puts his family in Guatemala or Miami and commutes between those places and San Salvador to tend to his business which is run by office managers." He said "the hope is that the present government, which is much more liberal than the previous one, can defuse the situation and arrange economic and social standards to stop the violence." He reported that a branch of the Ernesto Freund chain of stores in the provincial city of San Miguel was recently destroyed by fire.

A Target For Trouble

In Guatemala, which has about 300 Jewish families and three synagogues -- Ashkenazic, Sephardic and Reform -- Jews are concerned by the waves of violence, particularly the recent seizure and subsequent killings in the Spanish Embassy. "It was all very upsetting," a visitor said. He analyzed the antagonism against the propertied classes as being a form of xenophobia. "You could be French, American, Mexican, or a Jew, but if you are prospering economically you are a target for trouble," he said.

Costa Rica's 2000 Jews, whose communal activities center on a quadrangle near downtown San Jose with a synagogue, school and recreation halls, also are uneasy. They worry, it was said, that if El Salvador's government is wiped out, then Costa Rica may be next. Costa Rica adjoins Nicaragua and aided the revolutionaries to overthrow the Somoza government but nevertheless its propertied classes are troubled by events in El Salvador that borders on Nicaragua to the north.

Circumstances for the approximately 125 Jews in Honduras are reportedly similar. They are divided between Tegucigalpa, the political capital in the mountains to the west, and San Pedro Sula, the commercial center on the Caribbean coast, where they have a Jewish center.

Panama's 2500 Jews are in a much more agreeable position. The country's economy is described as stable and the government as friendly towards the community. Some anti-Semitism appears through the activities of the Palestine Liberation Organization against Israel: Being a Third World country, Panama tolerates a PLO office there.

Mexican-Israeli relations were described as never better and the Jewish community of about 45,000 is similarly much less concerned about its future than in the small countries to the south. Most of Mexican Jews live in Mexico City with groupings in Monterrey, Guadalajara and Tijuana. "So they're not worried in Mexico?" a visitor was asked. "Did you ever find a Jew who wasn't worried?" he responded. "If you're a Jew you worry."

URGE BOYCOTT OF OLYMPIC GAMES

JERUSALEM, Feb. 12 (JTA) -- A group of Israeli activists on behalf of Soviet Jewry has urged

the International Olympic Committee (IOC), to boycott the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow. The group, which calls itself "I Am My Brother's Keeper," cabled the IOC in Lake Placid, N.Y., today saying they have evidence that Soviet authorities will take new steps against Soviet Jews.

A spokeswoman for the group said that it had received a telephone call from one Jewish activist in the USSR and a letter from another warning of dangers facing Jews. She quoted the letter as saying: "We are living in hard times. We are questioned by the KGB and are afraid they plan to throw us out of Moscow before the Olympic Games."

Meanwhile, 25 Knesset members of various factions signed a petition calling for a boycott of the Games. The petition was initiated by Geula Cohen, a former Herut MK who has joined the ultra-nationalist Tehiya faction. The petition cites several reasons for boycotting the Games in Moscow -- the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan; the treatment of Andrei Sakharov; and foremost, the treatment of Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate.

MIXED REACTIONS, CONFUSION OVER CABINET'S DECLARATION ON HEBRON

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 12 (JTA) -- The Cabinet's declaration Sunday that Jews have the right in principle to live in Hebron, drew mixed reactions and some confusion over what, if anything, the government intends to do about it. The 10-day curfew on Hebron was lifted Sunday night. However, tension continues in Hebron and surrounding areas. Arabs reportedly plan a massive rally at the Al Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem to protest plans to resettle Jews in Hebron.

Some nationalist and religious militants were angered by the Cabinet's failure to announce a decision to establish a Jewish presence in the West Bank Arab town forthwith. Others, who support the idea of a Jewish return to Hebron, were convinced that the Cabinet will act when it convenes again next Sunday. Moderates, who believe a move into Hebron would be an unwarranted provocation, further endangering the autonomy negotiations with Egypt and the U.S., seemed satisfied that the issue is dead for the time being.

Rabbi Moshe Levinger, leader of Kiryat Arba, the Gush Emunim stronghold adjacent to Hebron, accused the government of "mumbling" again. "MK Haim Druckman of the National Religious Party, urged the government to implement its decision 'within a week at the latest.'" David Levy, a Herut MK, insisted that the Cabinet's declaration was "not a compromise" but a decision in principle to restore Jews to Hebron. He said he expected the Cabinet to adopt concrete proposals at its next meeting.

But doveish ministers and their aides saw the declaration in principle as a device to shelve the issue. "It is dead," one ministerial aide said last night. Seasoned observers took note of a proposal advanced during the Cabinet meeting by Minister-Without-Portfolio Moshe Nissim of Likud's Liberal Party wing, a hardliner who was the only Liberal minister to support the Cabinet majority against his colleagues who urged caution.

He suggested the establishment of Jewish institutions of learning in Hebron instead of installing a few families there. He said that the Hesder Yeshiva, located in Kiryat Arba, would be a suitable type of school for Hebron. Its student body is organized on para-military lines and car-

ries out guard and patrol duties. Yehoshua Shlomo, who was murdered in Hebron on Jan. 31, was a Hesder student.

Informed sources said Nissim would submit his proposal formally at next Sunday's Cabinet session if another hardliner, Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, made a formal proposal to settle Jewish families in the Arab town.

Demand Renovation Of Buildings

The militants insist that the government seize and renovate buildings that were owned by Jews who were massacred or forced to flee Hebron during the Arab uprisings in 1929. They have five buildings in mind for immediate occupation by Jewish families.

But Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir has ruled out three of them on grounds that they are protected by leases held by a local Arab school. They are the old Hodassah clinic, the Hasson building and the Romano building. The Hodassah building has been occupied by women from Kiryat Arba for the past few months.

It is owned officially by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) which obtained it from the Jordanian authorities before 1967. The building was seized by Israeli forces during the Six-Day War. Zamir cautioned that a Jewish civilian presence there could serve as a basis for legal action by UNRWA against the government.

The Romano building presently houses a girls school run by the Hebron municipality. Kiryat Arba residents have been holding prayer sessions outside the school and small groups of them have been picketing. They claim the Military Government promised them that they could take over the building as soon as the curfew was lifted.

'CLARIFICATION' ON PETER USTINOV

TORONTO, Feb. 12 (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish News has issued a "further clarification" about a speech given by British actor Peter Ustinov last September in which he was reported to have denounced Premier Menachem Begin of Israel as a former terrorist and Israel's policy toward the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The report of his speech, which he gave Sept. 15 to the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, was carried on the front page of the newspaper Oct. 4. An article based on The Canadian Jewish News account also appeared in the Oct. 17 issue of the Daily News Bulletin.

In its "further clarification," The Canadian Jewish News said it "is satisfied" that the report of Ustinov's speech, which was "communicated" to the newspaper "as quotations" by its reporter on the basis of talks with two of the approximately 50 Jewish accountants among the 2000 people attending the convention, was "inaccurate."

It added: "The Canadian Jewish News is satisfied that Mr. Ustinov made no anti-Semitic remarks. Canadian Jewish News did not intend to imply that he did." The paper also carried the text of his entire speech which it obtained after the initial report appeared in the paper.

AMSTERDAM (JTA) -- A viciously anti-Semitic cartoon portraying Henry Kissinger in the style of "Der Stuermer" was published in the leading Dutch daily "NRC Handelsblad" last week. The cartoon, which showed Kissinger with a hooked nose, thick lips and thick spectacles, drew protests from many of the paper's readers.

N. Y. C. AREA JEWS ASSURED OF KOSHER MEALS DURING HOSPITAL STAYS

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Feb. 12 (JTA) — Blue Cross and the Greater New York Hospital Association have sent letters to member hospitals in the Greater New York area reaffirming that Blue Cross, Medicare and Medicaid take the position that Jewish patients are entitled to full coverage of requested kosher meals, Julius Berman, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, reported today.

The UOJCA raised the issue last December when Berman said that while most area hospitals do not charge extra for kosher meals, the problem stemmed from the fact that the few hospitals which did so included some of the area's largest hospitals.

Berman said then that David Merzel, the UOJCA community relations director, had learned about the problem when observant Jews cared for in three hospitals — University Hospital of the New York University Medical Center, New York Hospital and Columbia Hospital — informed the Orthodox organization that they had been billed for extra charges for kosher meals.

Later in December, the National Council of Young Israel, another national association of Orthodox congregations, issued a statement denouncing University Hospital for a "discriminatory policy in billing observant Jewish patients for kosher meals. On Jan. 8, a hospital spokesman said that, as of that date, the hospital had terminated such billings.

No. Separate Charges For Special Diets

The Hospital Association, in a bulletin dated Jan. 22, addressed to member hospitals, said the matter had been discussed by the association's Fiscal Policy Committee and a recommendation was made to the association's Board of Governors at its Jan. 15 meeting "that member hospitals would not make separate charges to patients for special diets," including kosher meals. The bulletin said "such a resolution was adopted by the board."

The Blue Cross-Blue Shield memorandum, also dated Jan. 22, was addressed to "chief executive officers of participating hospitals" on the subject of "kosher meals and other special dietetic meals."

The memorandum said "there is some confusion about reimbursement policy concerning special dietetic meals for patients." The memorandum added that "kosher meals or other special diets such as vegetarian meals are reimbursable if these diets or meals are approved by a covered patient's physician to permit the patient to continue with his or her established dietary habits."

The memorandum also noted that "Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Greater New York has always treated these items as reimbursable costs included in the per diem rate. This policy is consistent with Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement policy as well. Therefore, a patient with Blue Cross, Medicare or Medicaid coverage who receives special diets such as kosher meals should not receive a separate charge for these items."

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has been informed that hospital memberships in Blue Cross and in the Hospital Association are identical. Medicaid is a largely federally-funded program providing medical and hospital benefits to the indigent, regardless of age. Medicare is a program of such coverage provided to qualified retired Social Security beneficiaries.

FOUR OF SIX TORAH SCROLLS STOLEN FROM SYNAGOGUES FOUND IN RIVER

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Feb. 12 (JTA) — Two congregations in Memphis, Tenn. are trying to restore four Torah scrolls found in a river after burglaries of the synagogues. The four were among six stolen from Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth (Orthodox) and Beth Shalom Synagogue (Conservative) late Jan. 26 or early Jan. 27.

In a telephone interview today with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Allen Israel, vice president of Beth Shalom, said the Torahs were recovered in the Wolf River in Memphis, after a hunter discovered one of them in the water. A search of the area led to the discovery of the other three and a part of a fifth.

The Torahs still had their coverings but the silver ornaments were apparently taken by the thieves, Israel said. Three of the Torahs were from Beth Shalom and the other from Anshei Sphard. Each synagogue still has one Torah missing.

Rabbi Edmund Winter, of Beth Shalom, told the JTA today that the two synagogues are trying to dry out the scrolls. He said the parchment is brittle and some of the ink has run. He said once the Torahs are dry they will be examined by a halachic expert there although he believed eventually they will have to be brought to New York to be checked.

Although he was hopeful, Winter said he did not know if the Torahs could be saved. He estimated the replacement of the four Torahs and their ornaments at \$60,000. The Memphis Council of Jewish Congregations has established a community-wide Torah Replacement and Recovery Fund. Meanwhile, Israel and Winter reported that police still do not know the identity of the thieves.

MEXICO CITY (JTA) — Former President Ephraim Katzir of Israel was received here by President Jose Lopez Portillo. He said at a press conference later that relations between Mexico and Israel are excellent and expressed hope that Israel's peace treaty with Egypt will lead to peace with its other Arab neighbors. Katzir was honored by the Mexican Friends of Tel Aviv University whose president is Dr. Jaime Constantine. It is his second visit to Mexico, his first having been a state visit in November, 1977 as President of Israel.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Supreme Court has ordered the government to pay IL 5000 to 18 Arab landowners in Rujeib, which is near the now defunct Elon Moreh settlement, to cover the costs of their appeal against the government to rescind the order to expropriate their land. The court ruled that in view of the total evacuation of Elon Moreh, which was completed last week, and the rescission of the order by the government, the action by the Arab landowners now be dropped. But the court ordered the government to pay the cost of their appeal.

MEXICO CITY (JTA) — Der Weg, the first and oldest Jewish newspaper in Mexico, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this week. The bilingual Yiddish-Spanish paper is edited by Chaim Lazdeiski who is also the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's correspondent in Mexico. He was honored by the Central Jewish Committee for 29 years of service as its executive director on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated February 18 due to Washington's Birthday, a postal holiday.