

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. LVIII - 63rd Year

Tuesday, February 19, 1980

No. 34

SUSPECTS HELD IN TERRORIST ATTACK THAT KILLED THREE IN GAZA

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held at Kibbutz Kissufim yesterday for Reuben Foyer, 25 and Elaine Gazit, 22, who were killed Saturday in the first of two grenade attacks on Israeli vehicles in downtown Gaza. A local Arab passerby was fatally wounded and eight other persons, including one Israeli civilian and two soldiers, were injured.

Several of the numerous suspects detained for questioning over the weekend were jailed today and security sources said they were certain these were the perpetrators of the outrage. The curfew clamped on Gaza immediately after the attacks was lifted today by the military governor. Traffic from Israel to the Gaza Strip was resumed after having been halted temporarily.

Foyer and Gazit, both civilians, were sitting in an army pick-up truck when the grenade exploded. The Arab passer-by not immediately identified was severely injured and taken to Tel Hashomer Hospital where he died. The others were injured when a second grenade was thrown at an Israeli car in the same vicinity about 90 minutes later. It missed the car and exploded in a crowd of people on the sidewalk.

Foyer was an immigrant from Argentina who joined Kibbutz Kissufim in 1973 as a member of the Dror youth movement. Gazit, who lived in Tel Aviv, belonged to a group planning to join the kibbutz and was also buried in the cemetery there. Foyer's parents, Hanna and Itzhak and his sisters, Diana and Karin, settled in Israel in 1975 and were members of the kibbutz.

Suspects Held In Sloma Murder

Mayor Roshad A-Shawa of Gaza, expressed regret over the incidents and said he was against violence. He claimed the grenade assaults were in reaction to the government's plans to resettle Jews in the West Bank Arab town of Hebron. Israeli sources tended to believe that the latest terrorist act in Gaza was in response to the imminent exchange of ambassadors between Israel and Egypt.

In other developments, police have detained two suspects in the Jan. 31 murder of 23-year-old yeshiva student Yehoshua Sloma in Hebron. According to police, the suspects are brothers and one was an eye-witness to the murder.

In Tulkarem on the West Bank, five terrorist suspects were charged by a military tribunal today with planning to place a bomb in the center of Petach Tikva. The bomb exploded prematurely, injuring one of the suspects who was hospitalized. Under questioning, he admitted the plot and implicated the others, the authorities said.

ISRAEL OPENS ITS EMBASSY IN CAIRO

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18 (JTA) -- The first Embassy of Israel in the Arab world was formally opened in Cairo today. The blue-and-white flag with the Star of David was hoisted over a two-story tan building in the fashionable Dokki section of the Egyptian capital at 10 a.m. local time and a plaque was unveiled with the words "Embassy of

Israel" in Hebrew, Arabic and English.

The ceremonies were in a low key. The advance staff of the Israeli diplomatic mission sang Hatikva as the colors were hoisted. Some Egyptians watched from the terraces of neighboring buildings but many passersby seemed unaware of the event. Yossef Haddas, the Israeli Charge d'Affaires who will head the Embassy until Ambassador-designate Elihu Ben-Elissar arrives in Cairo next Sunday, made a brief speech in which he expressed the hope that other Arab countries will follow the example of Egypt and make peace with Israel. "Let us hope that other Arab leaders will join the peace process which the leaders of both our countries have done so much to build for good neighborly relations between our peoples," Haddas said. The Israeli diplomat, who was born in Syria, spoke in Arabic.

Ben-Elissar will present his credentials to President Anwar Sadat on Feb. 26. Egypt's Ambassador-designate, Saad Morfada, will present his to President Yitzhak Navon in Jerusalem on the same day. According to reports from Cairo, he will also hand the Israeli President a note stressing that Egypt does not recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Its Embassy will be located in Tel Aviv.

The Israeli advance party arrived in Cairo yesterday. Haddas, accompanied by Zvi Gabbai, Councillor to the Embassy, visited the building which, he pointed out, will serve only temporarily as the Israeli legation. More suitable and presumably less expensive premises, are being sought to house the Embassy permanently. The Israelis are paying \$3500 per month rent for the building in the Dokki section. It is on a residential block and has been under heavy guard by Egyptian police and plainclothesmen ever since the Israelis rented it.

Furniture and office equipment reached the premises several days ago in a two-truck convoy that took the overland route to Egypt via Sinai. As of this morning, the Embassy's four telephone lines and telex connections were functioning and their numbers were published.

CABINET AGAIN DEFERS DECISION ON JEWISH PRESENCE IN HEBRON

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18 (JTA) -- The Cabinet discussed the Hebron issue yesterday for the second successive week and again deferred a decision as to whether Jews should be allowed to settle in that West Bank Arab town. Premier Menachem Begin said a decision would be adopted when the Cabinet convenes next Sunday.

At yesterday's session, Begin read the letter he received from Secretary of State Cyrus Vance last week urging the Israeli government to refrain from settling Jews in Hebron. He said his response to Vance cited the Cabinet's declaration of Feb. 3 which supported in principle the right of Jews to live in Hebron but set no time for implementing that right.

Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Ephraim Evron briefed the ministers on current U.S.-Israeli relations and noted in particular the negative reaction in Washington to the Cabinet's position on Hebron. Evron reportedly criticized "Israelis who come to the U.S. on official missions and speak against the government's settlement policy," but it was not clear to whom he may have been referring. Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon wanted to know whether Israel's

representatives abroad were presenting the government's views on this subject "with confidence or apologetically."

Arab Protest Called Off

Begin expressed the view that the difficulties that arise from time to time between Israel and the U.S. were not all related to the settlements issue but also stemmed from difficulties encountered in the autonomy talks and the Jerusalem problem.

While the Cabinet continued its inconclusive deliberations over Hebron, Arab political leaders from the West Bank and Gaza Strip were organizing a massive protest rally to be held at the Al Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem tomorrow. It was called off, however, after Israeli military authorities announced that they would bar the West Bank mayors and other political figures from entering Jerusalem.

At the same time, the Gush Emunim militants in Kiryat Arba went ahead with plans to install Jewish families in Hebron immediately, regardless of what the government decides. It was unclear what measures if any would be taken to prevent the Gush Emunim settlers from taking over selected buildings in Hebron. According to one report, physical means might be used if the Cabinet decides against any settlements at this time. But the Kiryat Arba militants may make their move before the Cabinet convenes next Sunday. Thirty families from the Orthodox township were said to be poised to move into Hebron this week. If they do so without official sanction, another major confrontation appears to be inevitable between the government and the Gush Emunim.

Legal Obstacles To Settlement Bid

Apart from the political problems, new legal obstacles to the settlement bid surfaced over the weekend. One of the two houses targeted by the Kiryat Arba settlers for immediate occupancy belonged more than 50 years ago to the family of Haham Tsrifati. His heirs, the Bierman family in Jerusalem, sent a telegram to Begin declaring that they do not want Jews moving into the house because they felt this would not serve the interests of the peace process. Amnon Bierman said on a television interview last night that he would file suit for trespassing if Jewish families occupied the property.

Three other houses on the Kiryat Arba list were ruled out by Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir last week because they are protected by tenancy leases. One serves as an Arab girls' school and another is leased to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Arab refugees (UNRWA). The Kiryat Arba residents have drawn up plans that ignore the Attorney General's opinion. They call for the immediate settlement of several dozen Jewish families in Hebron to be followed by more than 100 other Jewish families. An architect's plan for a revived "Jewish quarter" in Hebron has been submitted to Sharon who is chairman of the Ministerial Settlement Committee and the most vociferous supporter of Gush Emunim demands in the government.

MANN HITS JAKOBOVITS' CRITICISM OF ISRAEL'S APPROACH TO PEACE

NEW YORK, Feb. 18 (JTA) — Theodore Mann, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, took sharp issue today with Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits of Britain for his recent remarks imply-

ing that Israel was not sufficiently forthcoming in its approach to peace with the Palestinians and the Arab world as a whole. Jakobovits spoke to a group of Anglo-Jewish and Israeli journalists who were luncheon guests at his home in London last week. He observed, at one point, that "If I knew we could never obtain peace with the Arab world, I would say, liquidate Israel now."

In reply to the Chief Rabbi, Mann declared: "I cannot be silent in response to such an astonishing statement. For 32 years the message from all but one of Israel's neighbors has been 'we will never make peace with you; liquidate now.' It is beyond my comprehension that the religious leader of the great British Jewish community should appear to encourage the Arab world's continued refusal to acknowledge Israel's legitimate place in the Mideast."

Apparently referring to Jakobovits' statement that he would not rule out the eventual establishment of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and would even allow it to be governed from East Jerusalem, Mann declared: "You have once again publicly advised Israel how to conduct the current negotiations, as you did in the summer of 1978. I will not repeat now what I said to you then. I will only remind you that three months after your advice was rejected by the government of Israel, the Camp David accords were signed, confirming that the Israeli negotiators merited our patient trust. I believe they merit our patient trust today."

Mann said he shared Jakobovits' view "that leaders of Jewish communities are obliged to speak out on the great issues confronting our people and our time." He observed, however, "As we approach the target date for the conclusion of the autonomy negotiations three months from now, once again I beg you — and Jewish leaders everywhere — to understand that the final throes of difficult negotiations are a time for steely nerves, a time to recall the admonition that 'to everything there is a season ... a time to keep silent and a time to speak out'."

ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC NEEDS STRESSED AT HISTADRUT FOUNDATION CONFERENCE

MIAMI BEACH, Feb. 18 (JTA) — More than 30 Jewish communities from throughout the U.S. and Canada were represented at the opening Saturday of the 14th annual economic conference here of the Histadrut Foundation.

The conference, called to draw attention to the increased financial needs of the social and welfare program of Histadrut in Israel, featured an opening address by Ambassador Zvi Brosh, minister for information at the Israeli Embassy in Washington. Brosh spoke of an austerity program of belt tightening that Israelis will have to endure to pay the price of peace with Egypt. He pointed to the high cost of relocating military installations from the Sinai to the Negev under the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement, and to Israel's increased energy bill due to the loss of the Sinai oil fields.

Brosh noted that Israel will spend roughly 10 percent of its gross national product on defense this year because Syria, Iraq and Jordan still remain a threat to Israel's security.

TORTURE ALLEGED IN CASE OF ARAB PRISONER WHO 'LOST MENTAL BALANCE'

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18 (JTA) — New allegations that Israeli security agents torture some Arab political detainees in the course of their interrogations surfaced here over the weekend in the case of Nader Affuri who was committed to a mental institution immediately after his release from two years of

administrative detention.

His attorney, Felicia Langer, charged that Affuri, 30, "lost his mental balance" soon after his arrest in August, 1977 on suspicion of membership in a terrorist organization. She attributed his condition to torture. Langer claimed that Affuri, who is presently at the A-Dahaisha mental hospital near Bethlehem, bore physical evidence of torture when she visited him in a Nablus jail 10 months ago. She said he had burns on his brows and arms and that fellow prisoners claimed the Israelis had stubbed out lighted cigarettes on his body.

Langer told Haaretz reporter Yehuda Lifani that Affuri was out of his mind when she saw him again six weeks ago and seemed to her "half dead" although he had been healthy and normal at the time of his arrest. She said the prison commander told her he was only pretending mental illness. According to Haaretz, Affuri's present condition is characterized by inability to speak, incontinence and complete unresponsiveness. Hospital staff have "apparently received orders not to admit newsmen," the Haaretz reporter said.

Officer Explains Affuri's Condition

A high ranking army officer denied last night that Affuri had been tortured until he went out of his mind. He told reporters that the prisoner had developed a condition, soon after his arrest, known as environmental detachment which manifests itself by refusing contacts with other people and even refusing to eat. The officer said that in time, that condition developed into "hysterical psychosis," which, according to him, is fairly common among prisoners awaiting trial.

The officer claimed that Affuri was examined repeatedly by a psychologist and was eventually admitted to the psychiatric section at the Ramle jail. He said Affuri's case was studied by Amnesty International several months ago and the organization which assists political prisoners accepted the findings of the various psychiatric examinations that the prisoner had undergone.

Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir reported recently that there are 17 persons presently held under administrative detention in the occupied territories. Administrative detention is incarceration without trial.

ARSON SUSPECTED IN CANADA SYNAGOGUE FIRE

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Feb. 18 (JTA) — Police in Edmonton, Alberta are still investigating a fire that destroyed the sanctuary of Beth Shalom Congregation, the Conservative synagogue in that western Canada city. A spokesperson told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by telephone today that the police definitely believe the fire was arson caused by vandals.

The spokesperson said the fire, which occurred last Wednesday night, was confined to the sanctuary which is on the second floor of the two-story building. An auditorium which is also on the second floor and the other parts of the building were not damaged, she said.

Although a swastika was found "crudely drawn" with chalk on the wall of a basement classroom at the same time as the fire, the spokesperson stressed that Rabbi Saul Z. Hyman, the congregation's spiritual leader, does not believe it was an act of anti-Semitism but rather one of vandalism. She said there had not been any pre-

vious incidents.

The 300-family congregation has not yet decided what to do about replacing the four Torah scrolls lost in the fire as well as the rest of the room, the spokesperson said. Meanwhile, Beth Shalom members held services in a nearby Orthodox synagogue and plan to continue to do so until their sanctuary is restored.

ISRAELI OFFICIALS SILENT ON U.S. ARMS DEALS WITH EGYPT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18 (JTA) — Top Israeli officials have refrained so far from public comments on the high level of U.S. military aid for Egypt. But there is concern here, particularly over the sophisticated weaponry, including F-15 and F-16 aircraft, that the Carter Administration plans to provide to Egypt and the matter is expected to be raised at upcoming meetings between Israelis and visiting American officials.

Assistant Secretary of Defense David McGiffert is due here later this week after a visit to Cairo. Yosef Maayan, Director General of the Defense Ministry and Brig. Gen. Zvi Shor, the Ministry's financial advisor, are expected to go to Washington next week to discuss Israel's military needs. The subject of American military supplies to Egypt is believed likely to come up in the course of these meetings.

Defense Minister Ezer Weizman reportedly intends to ignore the issue, arguing that what matters is the strength of the Israeli Air Force, not the Egyptian. That view is supported by government officials who believe that Israel cannot launch an all-out campaign against selling warplanes to Egypt at a time when the two countries are about to exchange ambassadors.

However, one source at the Foreign Ministry was quoted as saying, "This is a scandal. Never before has Israel kept quiet over such a large scale airplane deal with Egypt. This silence will cause us a lot of damage." The official urged that Israel launch a massive campaign against the deal in the U.S. Administration, the Congress and in public opinion, raising the question as to why Egypt needs the most sophisticated American combat aircraft when it is establishing normal peaceful relations with Israel.

ISRAELI INDUSTRIALIST SEES TRADE WITH EGYPT PROMISING

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18 (JTA) — An Israeli industrialist said today that trade with Egypt and economic relations with that country in general are more promising than originally anticipated. According to Nathali Blumenthal, director general of Koor Industries, Israel's largest industrial concern, it is only necessary to compare the economies of Egypt and Israel to see that they can be made complementary, to the benefit of both countries.

Blumenthal revealed that Koor, a Histadrut-owned enterprise, already has a working office in Cairo and has been exporting its products to Egypt for some time through a third country because an Israeli-Egyptian trade agreement has not yet been concluded. Koor produces chemicals, foods, electronic and communications equipment, cement, construction materials and other items. Blumenthal said Egyptian industrialists and trade leaders are not yet doing business with Israel although they appreciate the opportunities. He suggested that to encourage them, Israel should purchase certain Egyptian goods even if they are not immediately essential.

SPECIAL REPORT**ISRAEL AND CHINA - A STUDY IN CONTRASTS**

By Charlotte Jacobson

(Editor's note: Mrs. Jacobson, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section, recently returned from a visit to the People's Republic of China. In this exclusive report for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, she offers her impressions of that vast nation, founded at the same time as Israel.)

NEW YORK, Feb. 18 (JTA) -- Israel and the People's Republic of China are about the same age. From the time of their birth within months of each other, both of necessity concentrated their efforts on agriculture with the primary goal of feeding of their people. Both nations have achieved this aim. Although China does not have the abundance of food for its population which Israel's sophisticated agriculture provides, the crucial fact is that the drought-flood cycle which scourged pre-Mao China with recurrent famine is ended. Unlike their ancestors, the Chinese people are neither starving, nor in dread of its possibility.

Among the greatest contrasts between the two nations are the vital life and death statistics of demography. Israel's *raison d'être* is as the Jewish homeland premised on and promised in the Law of Return and *aliya*. Israel is avid for more Israelis. From *Metullah* to *Eilat*, zero population growth is anathema. But from Harbin to Canton it is a blessing -- a consummation devoutly to be wished for and attained in the most populous of earth's nations.

The congregations of teen-agers on King George Street in Jerusalem and on Dizengoff in Tel-Aviv, are unknown and conspicuously absent in the cities of China. In fact, there is virtually no social life among Chinese teenagers and college students. You don't see the mingling of the sexes so apparent and normally accepted in Israel. To stem the enormous population growth that presses so indomitably on China's food supply and productive capacity stern rules apply concerning dating, marriage and family size.

Behavior Of Children Different

The result is that there is an unspoken "mehitzah"-like proscription in the streets of China's cities where young men and women do not walk hand-in-hand as romantically peripatetic Israeli boys and girls do. Strict marital laws deny girls the right to marry until the age of 24 and boys until they are 26. More than a family of two children is frowned upon and is penalized by the state by denial of child support for these additional children. However, though families are encouraged to be small, family ties are strong and the older people are made to feel both wanted and respected.

The attitude toward, and consequent behavior of children in Israel and China is also different. In contrast to the outspokenness of Israeli children who are known for their freedom of expression, Chinese children are well-mannered and respectful of their elders. Expressive terms by disapproving observers are "spoiled" for the former and "regimented" for the latter. But the ethos of each society affects its progeny. Chinese society like most Communist countries is far better programmed than the Western world to provide excellent free care for the children of working mothers. The eternal Chinese pressure-cooker milieu of a fourth of the world's people rubbing

elbows requires inner discipline, respect for others and understanding of the privilege of getting an education.

The Chinese are thoroughly energy conscious. Unburdened by the omnipresent cars and the sophisticated factories of the industrialized world they are only beginning to be troubled by pollution, and OPEC's prices. Nevertheless, they limit heat to a minimum and keep their lighting dim in setting an example for the West of how to conserve energy and reduce reliance on imported oil.

Shared Concern Over Soviet Policies

Both Israel and China share a sense of concern about the policies of the Soviet Union. But its expression differs. The Chinese have a profoundly intense, palpable fear of the Soviet Union. America has been displaced completely by the Soviet Union as Public Enemy No. 1. Indeed, there is a complete turnaround with a pro-American feeling among the Chinese, from the people in the streets to the leaders in the Forbidden Palace, that is pleasant to see and to experience. Israel's dread is much more focussed upon the Soviet influence on her foes who are neighbors, than upon the Kremlin itself.

The Chinese are largely ignorant of Judaism or Israel. They are Asia-oriented and concerned with that continent's problems, and with keeping pace with the Soviets in maintaining their place of importance with the Third World nations. There is no inherent competition or contretemps between Israel and China. In fact, it would benefit both nations to trade information about their agricultural advances and achievements, and to exchange university students. Certainly China could benefit from the know-how of the World Zionist Organization's Rural Settlement Department or from Israel's medical expertise in preventive medicine. The Chinese communes include both agriculture and industry. They are profoundly involved in the totality of their inhabitants' lives which are far more stringently controlled than are those of the kibbutzniks.

NURSES PROTEST AGAINST DISMISSALS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18 (JTA) -- Only a skeleton staff of nurses was on duty at public hospitals all over Israel yesterday in a protest move against the government's decision to freeze the hiring of nurses and dismiss a certain percentage of them. Clinics did not function, surgery was postponed in many cases and many patients who had just undergone surgery were sent home because there were no nurses to take care of them.

The nurses demand that the economy measures at their expense be abandoned and the government seek to save money elsewhere. Health Minister Eliezer Shostak said the strike was unnecessary and unwarranted. He said the Cabinet's decision to reduce staff covered all government departments and the nurses were not singled out.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Sen. Henry Jackson (D., Wash.) called on President Carter Sunday night to work with Israel and Egypt and other countries without delay, to provide bases and military support to insure the security of the Persian Gulf countries against Soviet "covert" aggression. Jackson made the remarks in an address to Bnai Zion's 72nd annual award dinner here. He said "Israel and Egypt can play a key role in Mideast security. The real immediate threat to Persian Gulf countries, outside of Iran, is not an overt Soviet move across national borders but a covert move from within -- subversion by planned armed uprising."