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BEGIN HINTS IT MAY TAKE LONG TIME TO FIND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR WEST BANK BOMB ATTACKS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 4 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin hinted today that it might take Israeli authorities a long time to track down the perpetrators of Monday's multiple bomb attacks against West Bank mayors and that he didn't think Israel should be pressed on the matter.

Speaking at the 100th anniversary conference of the World ORT, Begin noted that the Italian government has yet to find the killers of former Premier Aldo Moro and the British have not found the assassins of Lord Mountbatten. Therefore, he said, there was no cause to press Israel which would certainly do its utmost to arrest the perpetrators and try them in a court of law.

Begin said that Mayor Bassam Shaka of Nablus, who lost both legs in the bombing and Mayor Karim Khalaf of Ramallah, who lost his left foot were inimical to Israel because of their nationalistic, pro-Palestine Liberation Organization views. But there was no justification for anyone to take the law into his own hands, he said. (See related stories P.3.)

Begin also told the International ORT delegates that Israel will never negotiate with the "genocidal, Nazi PLO" no matter what the European Economic Community (EEC) leaders decide at their conference in Venice next week. He cited the recent El Fatah resolution calling for the dissolution of Israel as proof that the PLO has not wavered from its basic intention to dismantle the Jewish State.

Meanwhile, Yossi Dayan, an aide to Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the ultra-nationalist, "Kach" movement, was arrested for questioning today. According to his attorney, he does not know what suspicions are harbored against him. Dayan has denied that Kach was implicated in the West Bank bombings but applauded them nevertheless. Kahane has been in administrative detention since last month.

GROMYKO REBUFF ON WALLENBERG

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, June 4 (JTA) -- Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko has sternly rebuffed the latest Swedish attempt to raise the issue of Raoul Wallenberg, the wartime diplomat missing in the Soviet Union for 35 years.

The issue was raised by Swedish Foreign Minister Ola Ullsten when he paid an official visit to Gromyko late last week. Swedish official sources here say that Gromyko replied "coldly and unmoved" and firmly restated the Soviet view that Wallenberg died in 1947 despite at least 14 alleged subsequent sightings in Soviet prisons or hospitals.

EX-SS OFFICERS GO ON TRIAL

By David Kantor

BONN, June 4 (JTA) -- Two former SS officers accused of the war-time murders of concentration camp inmates went on trial in Hannover this week after a four-year delay. The indictments against Alfred Grams, 74 and Friedrich-Wilhelm Rex, 67, were presented by the State

Prosecutor in 1976.

They are charged with crimes committed in April, 1945, shortly before British troops occupied northern Germany. According to the indictments, Grams and Rex were in charge of the evacuation of the Hamburg-Neuengamme concentration camp whose 5000 inmates were ordered on April 7-8, 1945 to march some 60 kilometers to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Rex is accused specifically of shooting one inmate, Moses Soedermann, because he allegedly stole a piece of bread from an SS guard. He is also accused of shooting five other inmates in a fit of anger because he could not find his knapsack.

Two more inmates were murdered by Rex in a dispute over scarce food. In a number of other cases, he killed inmates who could not march fast enough. He is charged with ordering 7-9 inmates to dig their own graves and then shooting them.

Similar charges were brought against Grams.

He is accused in one case of shooting an inmate who covered the body of a dead companion with a coat. Grams claimed in court that none of the charges was true. Rex refused to make a statement.

It was learned, meanwhile, that a court in Erfurt in the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) sentenced Herbert Helbing of Magdeburg to 13 years imprisonment for war crimes and crimes against humanity. He was also deprived of his citizen's rights. Helbing is the first war criminal to be put on trial in East Germany in many years.

PANEL TO PROBE POWER FAILURE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 4 (JTA) -- A panel of experts appointed by the Energy Ministry began an investigation today into the massive power failure that blacked out most of Israel for six hours yesterday. The body is headed by Haifa Technion professor of electrical engineering Michael Erelitzki who headed an inquiry into a similar power failure last October.

The breakdown occurred in mid-afternoon and power was not fully restored until 9 p.m. local time. The country, from Mt. Hermon on the Golan Heights to Eilat was without electricity, resulting in traffic chaos when stoplights ceased functioning. Factories came to a sudden standstill. Scores of people were stuck in elevators and had to be rescued by fire departments.

The blackout was attributed to a short-circuit at the Caesarea power station which tripped safety devices shutting down turbine generators all over the country. They could not be reactivated until the source of the short-circuit was located.

Erelitzki's panel will try to determine why the short-circuit was caused. He recalled today that the committee he chaired after the October blackout recommended that the Israel Electric Corp. replace worn out equipment. New equipment was ordered abroad but it will not be ready for another year.

3 EXPELLED FROM WEST BANK CAMPAIGN FOR U.S. SUPPORT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, June 4 (JTA) -- Three West Bank Arab leaders opened an intensive campaign today for American endorsement of their effort to reverse their deportations a month ago from the West Bank to Lebanon by Israeli authorities. They warned

that United States support for Israel "is something wrong" and "must be corrected."

"We Palestinians know how to do it," and "we Arabs know how to do it," Muhammed Milhim, Mayor of Halhoul, told a news conference that opened the campaign in which he, Mayor Fahed Kawasme and Sheikh Rajab Buyud Tamimi, religious leader of Hebron, attacked the United States, Israeli authorities, Zionism, the American media and Jewish settlers in the occupied areas as enemies of the Arab people.

The three men were deported to Lebanon following the ambush and murder of six Jewish religious students and the wounding of 16 in Hebron on May 2. Israeli authorities accused the three with inciting the Arab populace to violence. The expulsion order is now before the Israeli Supreme Court for approval or disapproval.

The United Nations Security Council, by a vote of 14-0, asked Israel two weeks ago to allow the three West Bank leaders to return. The United States obtained in the vote because the resolution was considered not balanced. But the United States favors their return.

At the news conference at a hotel, Milhim demonstrated for TV cameras a khaki bag which, he said was put over his head by Israeli soldiers when he was being deported to Lebanon. He challenged the American media to give Arabs the attention they give to Zionists and Israelis. He declared that American TV gave "six hours" on one occasion to Premier Menachem Begin who, he said, "is the biggest terrorist in the history of mankind."

Mayors Portrayed As Moderates

The Palestine Human Rights Committee and the Palestine Congress of North America, which are participating in sponsoring their visit, distributed Israeli and American newspaper articles that portrayed Milhim and Kawasme as reasonable and moderate. After he charged that Zionism's aim was to drive the Arabs from their homes and land, Milhim was asked whether the killings in Hebron represented an attempt to drive Jews from the area. "Those Jews were not worshippers," Milhim replied. "They were harassing people. It is a human right that they (the Jews) are driven out. We will spare no effort to see that they are driven out."

Asked then, whether the killing of Jews in Hebron is a human right, Milhim referred to one of the six killed as having been "a killer in Vietnam," who came "to the Middle East to kill." He added that "the killers will have to be killed some day."

Tamimi, who spoke in Arabic, said that the Camp David accords are a "Zionist conspiracy" and a movement for "Judaization" of Islamic sites. Kawasme alleged that Israeli authorities are trying "to kill the mayors, trying to kill our population. They want the land empty -- without Arabs."

Break-In Alleged

The Palestine Congress distributed a press statement alleging "a break-in" at its offices in the early morning hours today in the Highland Hotel where the press conference was held. Jawad F. George, the organization's coordinator, said the alleged break-in might have been an attempt to obtain the mayors' itineraries. He said that in the light of the June 2 bombings against West Bank mayors, security for the two visiting mayors "has become an urgent priority."

George was unable to tell reporters what, if anything, had been taken from the offices. Washington police, who investigated, later said they found no evidence of crime.

The three Arabs will address a rally for them at Temple Sinai in Washington. Milton Viorst, a political writer, is to chair the session. Milhim had said during the news conference that he wanted to address the American Jewish community.

James Zogby, the PHRC head, announced that the visitors also will speak Friday night at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington under the "honorary chairmanship" of Ramsey Clark who is now in Iran, and with David Dellinger, known for his anti-Vietnam efforts, and journalist I.F. Stone as co-sponsors.

The House Foreign Affairs subcommittee for the Middle East, of which Rep. Lee Hamilton (D.Ind.) is chairman, will hold a coffee meeting tomorrow morning at the Capitol.

Asked if the mayors would meet President Carter's special representative to the Middle East peace talks, Sol Linowitz, Milhim emphatically replied, "No, we do not intend to. He represents autonomy and we do not want autonomy."

Meet State Department Officials

Later, at the State Department, spokesman Hoddging Carter said the mayors "will have an opportunity to express their feelings" at a meeting at the State Department tomorrow with Harold Saunders, assistant Secretary of State for Middle East affairs, and Robert Hunter, the National Security Council's Middle East specialist.

Spokesman Carter said that the meeting was arranged at the Arabs' request, prior to the car bombings on the West Bank. Carter was asked whether the West Bank mayors were PLO members. "I don't know the answer," Carter said. He noted that "they are purported to be mayors of Arab towns. We have had conversations with them in the past and we want to meet with them in the future." When Carter was asked that, since Milhim had rejected the idea of meeting Linowitz for being in favor of autonomy, did he consider Saunders and Hunter as being opponents of autonomy. Carter replied that "the U.S. officials have a wider mandate" than Linowitz.

MENTEN TRIAL DELAYED

By Henriette Boos

AMSTERDAM, June 4 (JTA) -- The second trial of alleged Nazi war criminal Pieter Menten will be interrupted while an expert goes to the Soviet Union to search for additional evidence. The Rotterdam district court, where the trial opened last month, agreed today to a request by defense attorney Eduard de Liagre Boehl to have the War Crimes Archives in Moscow examined to see if they contain material to substantiate Menten's claim that he was not involved in the crimes with which he is charged.

The court selected Willem R. Veder, a professor of Slavonic languages at the University of Nijmegen, to visit the archives and submit his report by June 20. Veder served as interpreter at Menten's first trial in Amsterdam and in the same capacity at the current one. He is thoroughly familiar with the case. The court said that the trial would not be unduly delayed by the interruption.

Boehl originally asked that a three-man inquiry commission be sent to the USSR. This might have suspended the proceedings for 2-3 months while the Dutch request for the commission to be admitted to the Soviet Union made its way through diplomatic channels. It was seen as a deliberate delaying tactic by the defense.

DAYAN PUBLICLY CRITICIZES BEGIN; FIRST TIME SINCE LEAVING CABINET

By Gil Sedar

JERUSALEM, June 4 (JTA) — Former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan ended eight months of public silence with a blast of criticism against Premier Menachem Begin and his government in the Knesset today. He specifically accused Begin of distorting his proposals for Palestinian autonomy to make it appear that Dayan advocated a weakening of Israel's security in the occupied territories.

Dayan, who defected from the Labor Party in 1977 and joined Begin's Likud-led government when it took office that year, resigned last Oct. 22. He retained his Knesset seat as an independent MK. Unlike Defense Minister Ezer Weizman who resigned on May 26 with a bitter attack on Begin's policies, Dayan departed quietly and had little to say in public about the government's performance.

But today, his speech was fierce in tone and scathingly critical of the Premier. Dayan was incensed by Begin's speech to the Knesset yesterday in which he claimed, among other things, that his former Foreign Minister wanted Israel to withdraw unilaterally from the West Bank and leave security matters to local Arabs. "How dare he (Begin) put such words into my mouth, things I never said?" Dayan declared.

He said that Begin had distorted, for the sake of argument, proposals Dayan had made regarding the West Bank. Dayan said he had never suggested that a new target date for the autonomy talks with Egypt be set after the American Presidential elections. He said that when he called for the dismantling of the Military Government on the West Bank he did not mean the withdrawal of Israeli defense forces, as Begin had implied.

Observers said today that Dayan's Knesset speech marked the parting of the ways between him and the Likud-led government and the government has lost yet another influential supporter. Although he never joined Likud, Dayan continued to support the government on most issues after he resigned from the Cabinet. He hinted today that Begin's attitude and policies were pushing him to vote with the opposition in the future.

NO PROGRESS IN INVESTIGATION

By Gil Sedar and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, June 4 (JTA) — No serious progress was reported today in the investigation of the bomb attacks against Arab mayors on the West Bank Monday. The police laboratory reported that the explosives used were standard army issue. But police sources insisted that this was not positive proof that the outrage was perpetrated by Jews because a great deal of army equipment has fallen into the hands of Arab terrorists in the past.

Nevertheless, security agencies are known to be focussing on at least three groups of Jewish extremists as likely suspects. One is the ultra-nationalist "Kach" movement headed by Rabbi Meir Kahane who has long advocated the expulsion of Arabs from Israel and the occupied territories and the use of force against them. Another is the Gush Emunim, the militant Orthodox settlers movement which lately has been accusing the government of not taking a sufficiently hard line against Palestinian nationalists and not providing adequate protection for the settlers on the West Bank.

The third group under investigation is a hitherto unknown cell of Jewish extremists which the police have not identified by name. Earlier this week, Israeli newspapers received calls from

anonymous persons who claimed, in one case that a group called "Bnei Zion" was responsible for the bombings and in another that it was a group called "Counter Terror Unit." Neither name was known to the authorities.

Last night, the Israel Press Association news agency Ithim received a call from a person who said he represented a group called "Terror Against Terror" which, he claimed, had 250 members and had supplied a "counter-terrorist unit" with the explosives for the bombs. The caller, who spoke Sobra (native Israeli) Hebrew and said he was calling from Netanyahu, warned that the group planned more acts against Arabs in Jerusalem that they would "remember for a long time." As was the case with the earlier anonymous callers, the person from Netanyahu insisted that his group was in no way connected with the Gush Emunim.

Army, Police Dispute Responsibility

Meanwhile, a dispute emerged between the army and the police with each claiming that the other was responsible for investigating the West Bank bombings. Chief of Staff Gen. Raphael Eitan told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee yesterday that it was entirely a police matter. A senior police source said, however, that the investigation was the task of the Military Government and that the police were only supplying technical assistance.

Shops and businesses reopened in East Jerusalem and on the West Bank this afternoon despite a three-day general strike declared by West Bank leaders to protest Monday's bombings. But Arab merchants said they were forced by the Israeli military and police to open for business on penalty of arrest. Last night, Jerusalem police herded about 120 Arab merchants into local police stations and served them with written orders to open their shops today or face penalties of up to three months in jail. This morning, police accompanied the shopkeepers to their stores to make sure they complied.

The merchants complained that they were being squeezed between the Israeli authorities and supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organization who have threatened them with dire consequences if they ignored the strike. They reported cases where PLO terrorists planted bombs or set fire to stores that were open and said they had insufficient police protection. Police arrested two East Jerusalem Arabs today on suspicion of threatening merchants who opened their shops.

IEWS DIFFER ON BOMBINGS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 4 (JTA) — Israel's Orthodox religious establishment appeared to be sharply divided today in its reactions to Monday's bomb attacks on the West Bank which maimed the Mayors of Nablus and Ramallah and injured 10 other Arabs and a Druze policeman. Although the perpetrators have not been identified, it is widely believed in Israel that they were members of an extremist Jewish group.

MK Haim Druckman of the National Religious Party, who is spiritual mentor of the militant Gush Emunim, seemed pleased by the bombings and the casualties they caused. Speaking at an NRP Knesset caucus, Druckman quoted a Biblical verse — "Thus shall perish all thy enemies, O Lord." That aroused the ire of some of his party colleagues. Minister of Religious Affairs Aharon Abu-Hatzeira, told Druckman that the sentiments he expressed were totally divergent from Jewish tradition. MK David Glass, an NRP dove, remarked "Woe to the pupils of such a teacher. They will hear wishful thinking and translate it into action."

OBERRAMMERGAU CALLED CAPITAL OF RELIGIOUS ANTI-SEMITISM

NEW YORK, June 4 (JTA) — Oberammergau has become "the international capital" of religious anti-Semitism, an AJCommittee delegation charged here yesterday after having seen the opening performance of the 1980 Oberammergau Passion Play.

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, the American Jewish Committee interreligious affairs director, said the Passion Play remained, after widespread protests, one of the most anti-Semitic presentations anywhere in the world. Declaring that some 2,000,000 people had been "exposed to its emotion-laden, anti-Jewish message since World War II," Rabbi Tanenbaum said this suggested that the West German village had become "the international capital for the promulgation of some of the worst forms of demonic religious anti-Semitism in the world today." The delegation presented its findings at a press conference at the AJCommittee's headquarters.

He said more than 500,000 persons from all over the world are expected to see the 1980 Passion Play, which opened May 25 and will run through September. Performed every ten years, the play follows Jesus into Jerusalem, through his arrest, trial, crucifixion and resurrection.

Judith Banki, the assistant interreligious affairs director, said the Passion Play was a work of fiction, incorporating some aspects of the Gospels, ignoring others and freely inventing both scenes and characters that have no basis in the New Testament. Her booklet, "What Viewers Should Know About the Oberammergau Passion Play, 1980," was released at the press conference.

Revision Still Raises Questions

Tanenbaum stressed that the delegation had been shocked by the current production because four earlier AJCommittee missions had met with Oberammergau Mayor Ernst Zwink and with town officials who had assured the AJCommittee that they would make a "genuine effort to remove every vestige of anti-Semitism in the 1980 production."

Robert S. Jacobs of Chicago, chairman of the interreligious affairs commission, said the text had been revised but the revised Passion Play "still raises far more questions than it answers." He said the high priests and rabbis "wear miters topped by curved horns, recalling the medieval association with the devil as anti-Christ. Jews are depicted as children of darkness."

Tanenbaum said that despite a number of significant changes in the Passion Play text, the 1980 production could not help to "nurture and incite hatred and contempt for Judaism and the Jewish people." He cited as one example among the major anti-Jewish themes and images central to the play that Jews are portrayed as rejecting Jesus and the entire Jewish people are collectively responsible for his death.

MEMORIAL FOR TERRORISTS' VICTIM

NEW YORK, June 4 (JTA) — Some 700 people gathered Sunday at the Young Israel of Flatbush to commemorate Zvi Glatt, a young man from the community who was killed in a Palestine Liberation Organization attack in Hebron May 2.

The memorial, held at the end of the traditional 30-day mourning period, included many speakers from the area who praised Glatt's commitment to bringing Jews closer together. Two local rabbis, Max Schreier and Herbert Bomzer,

criticized the Carter Administration which, they charged, attempted to cover up for the terrorists by denying that U.S. citizens were killed or wounded in the raid.

Glatt, one of six killed in Hebron, was visiting friends at Kiryat Arba when the attack occurred. Sixteen people were wounded, including five Americans. Glatt hoped to open a high school in the diaspora. A month before his death he organized a Passover service at a United Nations liaison base for Israeli and UN soldiers. Glatt would have been 21 June 13.

ADL STUDY FINDS LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES KEEP PLO AT ARM'S-LENGTH

NEW YORK, June 4 (JTA) — Most Latin American countries — unlike the Western Europeans — have kept Palestine Liberation Organization representatives at arm's length because they fear a "terrorist Trojan horse," according to a report made public this week by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The ADL's study, on the PLO's drive to gain quasi-diplomatic footholds in Latin America and Europe — its chief targets in a "world-wide propaganda campaign" — found that only Cuba, Peru and Mexico have thus far allowed the PLO to open official offices.

Abraham H. Foxman, ADL's associate director, announced the findings at the closing session of the League's National Commission meeting Tuesday. He said the majority of Latin American countries have resisted increasing pressures from Arab nations and the PLO.

"With their long experience with violence and terror," he said, "they are reluctant to accept PLO terrorists in their midst posing as respectable diplomats and representatives."

In Western Europe, where there is a "much shorter experience with terrorism," the PLO has made great inroads with varying degrees of diplomatic recognition, Foxman said. Austria and Spain have accorded the PLO virtual diplomatic status while 10 other countries have granted or intend to grant permission for the opening of PLO offices. They are: Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal and Sweden.

Although only three Latin American nations have let the PLO set up offices, the PLO has made other diplomatic advances and established links with terrorists in Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, Nicaragua and Panama, Foxman said. He added that hundreds of Latin American terrorists are being trained at PLO bases outside the continent.

PLO infiltration of Latin America, combined with oil "intimidation" from the Arab states for support against Israel, has produced a "noticeable tilt" towards the Arabs since 1973, according to the report. "But what has helped prevent this tilt from becoming a possibly more serious shift to the Arabs in other Latin American countries," said Foxman, "is that they have witnessed Brazil's experience with PLO representatives in its midst for the past 10 years."

NEW YORK (JTA) — Ofira Navon, wife of Israel's President Yitzhak Navon, and television news correspondent Marilyn Berger received the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith awards at a luncheon-fashion show, Wednesday at the Hotel Pierre here. Israel's First Lady was given the Rita V. Tishman Human Relations Award of ADL Women's Division; Ms. Berger received its annual Communications Award.