

JTA daily news bulletin

Content copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

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

Vol. LVII - 63rd Year

Friday, June 13, 1980

No. 113

BEGIN APPEALS FOR RELEASE OF KIDNAPPED CHILD

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 12 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin appealed tonight to the kidnapers of Oron Yarden to return the eight-year-old child, abducted Sunday and "prove that in spite of the crime you committed you still have a conscience. Do not torture the family," he said.

Begin made his appeal in the course of an address to the Herut Executive Committee as the police continued their massive search for the boy augmented by army units, border police and scores of civilian volunteers. The search is centering on the Kfar Saba area where Oron's father, Amos Yarden of Tel Aviv, left an IL2 million ransom payment Tuesday. The money was picked up but the child has not been released. No word has been heard since from the kidnapers.

Begin told the Herut meeting that he would consult with the Attorney General and suggest making kidnapping punishable by a minimum of 25 years imprisonment instead of the seven years now in effect. He spoke of the rise of criminal activity in general in Israel and said the State must root out such crimes as murder, rape and kidnapping which, until recently were not identified with the Jewish people.

KOLLEK SAYS BEGIN 'PHILOSOPHICALLY' RESPONSIBLE FOR BOMB ATTACKS ON WEST BANK MAYORS

SAN FRANCISCO, June 12 (JTA) -- Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem said here today that Premier Menachem Begin was in a way "philosophically" responsible for the June 2 bomb attacks which crippled the mayors of Nablus and Ramallah. Kollek made his remarks in an interview with reporter Phil Bronstein, taped for broadcast tonight on KQED, the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) television station.

He was asked whether Begin's insistence on Jewish Biblical rights to the West Bank encouraged the violence against the mayors. Kollek replied, according to a transcript provided by telephone to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency: "I am sure that he doesn't do it in an organizational sense, but philosophically he does. You have a situation where the government believes in this; then you will always have young people who will interpret it in their own way. Although the government is very much opposed to this, you have their philosophical support, therefore you cannot divorce it from the actions."

Kollek, who is visiting here on a fund-raising tour, said he thought the expulsion of Hebron Mayor Fahd Kawasme is backfiring against Israel. "I think it was stupid to expel him. One should have known that once he was expelled, he would travel all over the world and say all sorts of things."

Kollek spoke of his long-standing proposal to separate Jerusalem into boroughs, along the lines of London. "Large cities must be divided up into smaller districts to give people more feelings of identity and responsibility," the mayor said. By doing this in Jerusalem it "would give the Arabs the feeling of running their own affairs." He stressed, however, that Jerusalem must never

again be divided and also ruled out a municipality ruled jointly by Israelis and Arabs.

He said, however, "I think what the Arabs have to get is the running of holy places, school systems, to keep their nationality, to be allowed to go across the bridges to Arab countries, have clear communications with all their friends across the borders, and a variety of other things which we are willing to do and are willing to give."

McGOVERN URGES U.S. REJECT EUROPEAN EFFORTS TO BRING PLO INTO MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS

NEW YORK, June 12 (JTA) -- Sen. George McGovern (D-SD), called on the Carter Administration yesterday to reject efforts to bring the Palestine Liberation Organization into the Middle East peace process.

In an apparent reference to reports that Western European nations at their Venice meeting, beginning today, will seek to include the PLO in future Arab-Israel negotiations, McGovern told the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations: "American policy should clearly stand for the principle that no negotiating role for the PLO should ever be considered unless and until it drops its murderous covenant and accepts Israel's right to exist.

"If our European allies seek an independent role, let them use their influence to bring Jordan and Syria into the Camp David talks to help achieve the comprehensive peace they claim to seek," he said.

Critical Of White House

McGovern, a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he supported President Carter's "threat to veto a European-inspired Palestinian resolution at the UN." He called the President's statement "an example of the strong and vigorous leadership Camp David requires and which only the United States can provide." At the same time, however, he criticized the White House for "lack of clarity" in its attitude toward the PLO, asserting: "The Administration condemns the PLO one week, then greets it at embassy cocktail parties the next." He added, "If doubts were to arise in the future about Israel's security -- if Arab leaders believed they could barter barrels of oil for a PLO state or if terrorists conclude that Americans cared more for a balanced budget than for aid to Israel, then the whole Camp David framework could become unstuck."

ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE HITS EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

DETROIT, June 12 (JTA) -- Israel's Ambassador to France charged here last night that an initiative undertaken by the European Economic Community threatens the Middle East peace process.

Meir Rosenne, addressing an Israel Bond dinner at Sha'arei Zedek Synagogue here, referred to reports of an impending decision by the European Economic Community (EEC) conference opening in Venice today to urge inclusion of the PLO in Middle East negotiations. "How can any Arab state be expected to be less rigid in its demands in this regard than the European countries?" he asked.

Rosenne said Israel would not negotiate with

the PLO, whose aim was to destroy Israel, an objective reiterated only 10 days ago in Damascus by PLO leaders. The envoy voiced optimism on the next round of autonomy negotiations but cautioned that the "international climate" would have an important role to play. About \$2.1 million in Bonds and other instruments were sold at the dinner, according to David B. Holtzman, Bonds general chairman here.

ITALY'S POSITION ON EEC MIDEAST INITIATIVE UNDEFINED AS VENICE PARLAY OPENS

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, June 12 (JTA) -- The Prime Ministers of the European Economic Community (EEC) member countries are gathering in Venice today for the opening of a two-day summit meeting at which they are expected to formulate a position on the Middle East as an alternative to the Camp David accords. Proposed revisions of Security Council Resolution 242 may also emerge from this conference, conferring political status on the Palestinians and leading, possibly to recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Venice summit is receiving extensive coverage by the Italian media, not only because Italy is the host country and its Premier, Francesco Cossiga is this year's President of the EEC Council but because Italy's position with respect to the European Mideast initiative has not been fully defined.

With the U.S. and Israel both strongly opposed to any move which would undermine Camp David, the current visit to Washington of Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo is seen here as especially significant. The impression conveyed by the media is that Italy is anxious to remain in the good graces of the U.S. Therefore, it seems likely that it will attempt to moderate the position of France, which is pressing hardest for changes in the Camp David approach to Middle East peace, by insisting that any declaration by the nine EEC countries must take into consideration the Camp David agreements and Resolution 242.

Preserving Ties With Arab World

At the same time, Italy will try to preserve its notably good relations with the Arab world. This seems to be reflected in the way the Italian media draws a distinction between George Habash's extremist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Yasser Arafat's PLO. The latter is presented as the organization which speaks for the Palestinian people. Notably absent from the Italian press was coverage of the El Fatah meeting in Damascus recently which issued a declaration stressing the PLO's determination "to fully liberate the whole of Palestine and liquidate the Zionist entity."

PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION SUPPORTED BY BRITAIN

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, June 12 (JTA) -- A ranking Foreign Office official spelled out more clearly than ever before last night the British government's full support of Palestinian claims to self-determination on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Addressing a largely Jewish audience at the London Institute of Jewish Affairs on the "Dangers to Peace in the Middle East," Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, justified involvement the Palestine Liberation Organization in the peace negotiations.

Although the PLO contains terrorists, it also contains "those who say they are ready for compromise and (co) existence," Hurd said. He said that he was "depressed" by the extremist statements at the recent El Fatah meeting in Damascus, but cautioned that it would be playing into the hands of the Russians and the terrorists to pretend that the PLO was simply a gang of murderers "or that the Palestinians have no right to be present when their future is discussed."

Palestinians' Claim Cannot Be Long Denied

Hurd spoke on the eve of the opening of a two-day conference of the European Economic Community (EEC) Ministers in Venice where a declaration is expected to emerge for an alternative to the Camp David approach to Middle East peace. He said that Palestinian claims could be suppressed by military force for some time to come. "But in the long run, we do not believe that this claim can be denied. It must be considered and its application must be negotiated alongside Israel's legitimate claim to security if there is to be a just and lasting settlement," Hurd said.

"Some day, round some table, whatever else may be present, Palestinians will have to agree to recognize Israel's right to exist in security and to accept the arrangements negotiated to guarantee that security. In their turn, the Israelis will have at the same time to recognize the rights of the Palestinians to determine their own future within the context of a negotiated settlement," the British diplomat declared.

Begin: Israel Will Never Recognize PLO

Meanwhile, Premier Menachem Begin reiterated today Israel's refusal to recognize what he called "the neo-Nazi, murderous PLO" or to agree to the creation of a Palestinian state. His impassioned statement was contained in a written reply to a recent letter from 52 members of Parliament who had protested to him about conditions on the West Bank and asserted that the PLO must be involved in a Mideast settlement.

Citing the PLO's covenant calling for the liquidation of Israel and last week's declaration by El Fatah in Damascus affirming that goal, Begin wrote that Israel does not deny the right of Arab self-determination. But, he asked, "Should a 22nd Arab state, called the Palestinian state, be formed which would endanger the very existence of the one little Jewish State and which would unleash permanent bloodshed through the PLO's genocidal methods?" He concluded, "No sir, we shall not recognize the neo-Nazi murderous PLO, nor shall we ever agree to the formation of a Palestinian state."

HOUSING BUDGET CUT MAY COST 11,000 JOBS

JERUSALEM, June 12 (JTA) -- An agreement has been reached between the Treasury and the Housing Ministry calling for a 12 percent cut in the ministry's budget. An official announcement said that the cuts would not affect new housing construction. However, analysts predicted that the reduction of the housing budget by more than IL 3 billion would result in the dismissals of over 11,000 construction workers and would set off a chain reaction in other trades. The cost of housing can be expected to rise because there will be fewer construction starts, the analysts said. (By Yitzhak Shargil)

ROTTERDAM (JTA) -- The Public Prosecutor demanded Thursday a 20-year prison sentence for Pieter Menten on trial for allegedly killing Jews and others in Pohorodze village in Poland in 1941 while serving with the Nazi SS.

MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD FOR ALBERT DANIELPOUR, EXECUTED IN IRAN

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 12 (JTA) -- More than 300 people, among them Jewish leaders, Israeli officials and members of the Iranian Jewish community in New York attended a memorial service today for Albert Danielpour, an Iranian Jew executed in Hamadan, Iran on June 5. The service was held at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue here and was sponsored by all major Jewish organizations in the metropolitan area. It was coordinated by the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York.

The 52-year-old Danielpour was accused of cooperating with the CIA and with Israeli intelligence and was also charged with helping to establish the "Zionist government in Israel." Although he denied all charges, he was sentenced to death April 10 by the Islamic Revolutionary Court in Teheran. His sentence was commuted to three years' imprisonment after many interventions on his behalf. But last Thursday, upon a direct order from Ayatollah Kalkali, he was executed in Hamadan.

Today's memorial service, which was also attended by Danielpour's two brothers and a sister, was also to express protest and anger as well as concern for other Iranian Jews now imprisoned in Iran and who may become subject to the same fate.

Execution Called Attack On Jewish People

Daniel Shapiro, vice president of the JCRC who chaired the program, said that Jews all over "and all men of conscience" should not sit idly by in the face of the harsh times confronting Iranian Jews. Rabbi Nisson Shulman of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue, said that Danielpour was a "Kadosh" (martyr) who was "blameless and innocent of any crime." He was murdered, Shulman charged, "not because of what he did but because of what he was -- a Jew." He added that Danielpour has become a symbol of the hatred of our enemies, who wanted to "attack Israel and the Jewish people" through him. He called for a campaign "to touch the conscience of the world," as to the fate of Iranian Jews.

The 45-minute memorial gathering was also addressed by Ambassador Jerome Shestak, U.S. representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and former president of the International League for Human Rights. He declared: "The execution of Danielpour and others by summary proceedings is a symbol of lawlessness. The holding of the hostages by the militants is a symbol of inhumanity. These are the symbols of the failure of the revolution that so many wanted and looked upon with hope." The service concluded with the reading of El Moleh Rochamim, the traditional Jewish memorial prayer, by Cantor Sherwood Coffin, of the Lincoln Square Synagogue. Consul General Yosef Kedat of Israel, represented the Israel government.

Memorial services for Danielpour were held in other major cities across the United States. More than 1000 persons attended a service at Temple Sinai in Los Angeles, sponsored by the Jewish Federation Council in conjunction with the Temple.

Jewish Leaders Speak Out

Earlier this week, two American Jewish leaders denounced the Iranian government's action. Bertram Gold, executive vice president of the

American Jewish Committee, said his organization "notes with revulsion and renewed concern" the report of Danielpour's execution. Gold said the fact that Danielpour's support for the creation of "the Israeli Zionist government" was equated "with spying for Israel and the United States, among other trumped-up charges against him, contains the seeds of a new threat to the several dozen other Jews currently under arrest in that unhappy country."

Edgar M. Bronfman, acting president of the World Jewish Congress, in a statement issued in Paris, where he was en route to Israel, called the execution of Danielpour "a cruel and ominous disregard of civilized standards of justice and decency. It makes one tremble for those now behind prison walls whose fate lies in the hands of men who have such contempt for international opinion and the dictates of ordinary humanity." Bronfman's statement was made available by the New York office of the WJC.

AJPA ESTABLISHES ANNUAL WRITING COMPETITION

WASHINGTON, June 12 (JTA) -- The establishment of the annual Simon Rockower Memorial Writing Competition for member publications of the American Jewish Press Association (AJPA) and their staffs was announced at the opening of the AJPA's 38th annual meeting here today.

Frank F. Wundahl, editor of the Jewish Exponent of Philadelphia, who is AJPA president and Albert W. Bloom, editor of the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle, first vice president, noted that the competition, suggested several years ago, will "become a reality because of a generous grant from the firm of Rockower Brothers, Inc. of Huntingdon Valley, Pa." It is being established in the name of the company's founder, the late Simon Rockower, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Bloom reported that Dr. Norman Lamm, president of Yeshiva University in New York, will oversee the competition with Prof. David Mirsky, of the University's English Department serving as chairman. The competition will begin in 1981 with entries in six categories covering work in 1980. The categories, Bloom said, include news writing, editorial writing, feature writing, cultural and arts writing, special series, page one make-up and graphics. The AJPA has a membership of some 75 English-language Jewish weeklies, bi-weeklies and monthly periodicals published in the U.S. and Canada.

TEAR GAS DISRUPTS FILM ON EICHMANN'S CAPTURE

NEW YORK, June 12 (JTA) -- A tear gas bomb was hurled into a Montevideo movie theater on May 31, disrupting the showing of a U.S.-made film about Adolf Eichmann's abduction from Argentina by Israeli agents in 1960, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith disclosed today.

According to the ADL, hundreds were forced to flee the Cine Central where "The House on Garibaldi Street" was playing. The Jewish Central Committee of Uruguay called the incident a "neo-Nazi attack" and asked the authorities to punish those responsible, ADL said. Earlier, the film was withdrawn from three movie theaters in Argentina after one week when two Argentine citizens filed suit to bar its showing on the grounds that the film "mocks Argentina's sovereignty."

ROME (JTA) -- Jewish militants demonstrated outside the Iran Air Line office here Wednesday to protest the execution of Jews in Iran.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES² FRANCE'S NEW CHIEF RABBI REFLECTS PROFOUND CHANGES IN FRENCH JEWRY

By Aaron Meler

PARIS, June 12 (JTA) -- The election of Rabbi René Samuel Sirat as France's new Chief Rabbi has been a confirmation of the increasing role played by Sephardi Jews from North Africa in France.

Sephardi Jews form more than 50 percent of the 750,000-strong Jewish community in France and it was logical that a Sephardi of North African origin should become the successor of Rabbi Jacob Kaplan who has been the representative of the Ashkenazi Jews and of a certain Jewish establishment.

There were of course Sephardis in France before the massive immigration of Jews from North Africa but they were already well integrated into French life since most of them were descendants of Jews who had come from Spain and Portugal some five centuries ago.

Sephardi Jews from North Africa have brought with them rigorous traditions that French Jews no longer had because of their integration into French society in the 19th Century. At the time of the Dreyfus affair many French Jews had lost their Jewish identity and the 19th Century was full of examples of conversions to Christianity throughout Europe. Nevertheless, attempts by French Jewish bourgeoisie to integrate touched off a violent wave of anti-Semitism which culminated with the Dreyfus affair.

Sephardim Brought Change

The arrival of Jews from Eastern European countries in the 1930s brought the resurgence of a new Jewish conscience for a while until the Nazi Holocaust.

The primor change which helped preserve Judaism was the creation of the State of Israel but the important factor behind the blossoming of the French Jewish community was the arrival in France of North African Jews in the early 1960s.

Sephardi Jews from North Africa brought a new cohesion to the Jewish community but also challenged the "establishment" formed by those who claimed to belong to French society for over a century.

Rabbi Kaplan, who was elected Chief Rabbi in 1955, represented, like it or not, the establishment though he did much for the rapprochement of Ashkenazis and Sephardis. North African Jews, who were forced to leave a region where they had lived for centuries, showed they were more aware of the acute problems Israel has been facing since its creation. They also formed the core of those French Jews who emigrated to the Jewish State.

They brought new blood to existing Jewish organizations and more punch to their actions and the recent "12 hours" meeting in favor of Israel demonstrated that out of 15,000 people present they outnumbered Jews of Eastern European origins.

One would be wrong in assuming that North African Jews are behind the creation of the radical "Jewish Revival" movement which has called on French Jews to condemn France's Middle East policy by voting against President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. The revival movement is headed by an Ashkenazi Jew and consists of people who share the views of the present Israeli government.

Rabbi Of All French Jews

There are Sephardis in this movement but North African Jews, more than others, are aware of

the danger of constituting a political lobby in France. Nevertheless, certain of their representatives contributed to fuel the criticism unleashed by the radicals against the "Establishment" and the Rothschild family in particular which heads the major Jewish institutions.

Rabbi Sirat does not want to be considered the rabbi of the Sephardis. "It is not a Sephardi or Ashkenazi rabbi who has been elected but the rabbi of all French Jews," he stated.

It is true that Ashkenazi Jews, who are the survivors of the Nazi Holocaust, did much to reconstruct a community which had been destroyed and Rabbi Kaplan did his best to defend Jewish interests when he opposed Gen. Charles de Gaulle who condemned Israel's preventive war in 1967. But Rabbi Kaplan was in fact, spurred by North African Jews in doing so because French Jews were much more restrained in their reactions.

North African Jews, unlike Ashkenazis who suffered the Holocaust, do not have any guilt feelings. They do not want to be identical with ordinary French people and feel more Jewish than other Jews and also more French than other Frenchmen. Sociologists have found that North African Jews claim aggressively their French citizenship and their attachment to Judaism as well.

Sephardi Jews from North Africa refused to make the concessions that Jewish immigrants from Eastern countries did 50 years ago. Without sacrificing Judaism, they rapidly took an active role in French social, economic, scientific and cultural sectors. They form more than 50 percent, perhaps 60 percent, of the community but 80 percent of its activities are in their hands. As an example, a majority of pupils in religious schools are Sephardis. The election of Rabbi Sirat, who was born in Algeria 50 years ago, is therefore a recognition of their active contribution to Judaism in France.

Rabbi Kaplan, who had been elected for life, expressed his desire to retire several years ago but the French Jewish Consistory was unable to find him a suitable successor. Most rabbis in France are Sephardis and it would have been difficult for them to accept another Ashkenazi chief especially as North African Jews have been increasingly accusing the "establishment" of not fulfilling their aspirations any longer.

Does Not Approve Begin's West Bank Policy

The election of Sirat appeared to be the best solution to keep the community united. Rabbi Sirat is known as a liberal and his views are similar to those of his rival, Rabbi Max Warchawski of Strasbourg. Both men do not approve of the Begin administration's policy on the West Bank. At the same time; they are ready to oppose France's Middle East attitude in a firm manner if necessary.

Being an intellectual who has done much to promote the teaching of Hebrew and Jewish traditions in France, Sirat said he would give priority to education. But he firmly stated that if the "superior interests of Israel were at stake it would be our duty to intervene and to tell the government of our country that we would not allow the destruction of Israel."

In his first message to French Jews, Rabbi Sirat said: "I hope that we will have at heart, through our actions and our research, through our persevering and continuing rapprochement towards religion to hasten the arrival of the Messiah. Tradition points out that the Messiah is ready and it only depends on us to make him come." He added: "All Jews in the world agree on one point: the superior interests of Israel are vital in the daily life of a Jew whether he lives in Israel or in diaspora."