

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. LVIII — 63rd Year

Monday, June 23, 1980

No. 119

SNIPER WOUNDS ISRAELI SOLDIER IN BETHLEHEM, ISRAELI YOUTH BEATEN BY ARABS IN JERUSALEM

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 22 (JTA) — Police continued to search today for a sniper who severely wounded an Israeli soldier in Bethlehem yesterday, causing him to lose one eye and for three Arabs who attacked an Israeli youth in the Old City of Jerusalem last night.

The young man was on his way to the Western Wall when he was assaulted and badly beaten with a blunt object which fractured his jaw. The soldier, who was on duty in the center of Bethlehem, was hit in the eye by a bullet fired from the direction of a building construction site. He was hospitalized and underwent surgery for removal of his eye. The area of the attack was filled with Israelis on shopping trips. Police cordoned it off to conduct their search.

Misgav Am Suspect Held

Meanwhile, a south Lebanese youth accused of collaborating with the terrorists who attacked Kibbutz Misgav Am last April, will be brought before a military court for trial. Ibrahim Abdel Karim Tawil, 21, was detained by Maj. Saad Haddad's Christian militia in south Lebanon and turned over to the Israelis. He had been a cook employed by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and allegedly admitted helping the Misgav Am attackers cross the border into Israel.

Police experts investigating the explosives used in the June 2 bomb attacks against West Bank Arab majors said today that the material was of a type frequently used by Arab terrorists. The experts conceded however that it was also obtainable by Israelis. Shortly after the outrage, police experts said the explosives were of the type issued to Israel's armed forces but could have fallen into the hands of Arab terrorists.

73-YEAR-OLD MAN AVERTS TERRORIST ACT ON BEACH, HELPS CAPTURE PERPETRATORS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 22 (JTA) — Shimon Rant, a 73-year-old retired gym teacher, was credited with averting a terrorist bombing on the beach at Bat Galim near Haifa Friday and apprehending the three perpetrators. Rant, who was an underground fighter in Poland during World War II and lives in Haifa, spotted one of three youths burying a suspicious-looking object in the sand.

He was on the beach early Friday morning for his daily swim when he noticed the three men, two of them standing in the surf and the third digging vigorously, depositing an object in the hole and covering it with sand. When the three left, Rant dug up the object which turned out to be a thermos jug filled with explosives. An attached device was timed to detonate the explosives several hours later when the beach would have been packed with bathers.

Rant, after yelling to others on the beach to "run away," gave chase to the three terrorists who were still in sight. He was joined by a local kiosk owner and by several soldiers who had been waiting

on a nearby road to hitch a ride. The three men were captured and held until police arrived. They had knapsacks, one of which contained another explosive-filled thermos jug which they apparently intended to plant elsewhere.

40,000 AT PEACE NOW RALLY DEMAND BEGIN GOVERNMENT RESIGN

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 22 (JTA) — A Peace Now rally in the heart of Tel Aviv last night drew more than 40,000 Israelis who demanded that Premier Menachem Begin's government resign.

Speakers castigated the government for providing subsidies to Jewish settlements on the West Bank while slum dwellers live in tents. The government was charged with neglecting housing, social welfare and security. It is not functioning and the only way out is for it to resign, they said.

"One speaker observed that the demonstration would prove to Jews in Israel and the diaspora and to Israel's friends the world over that there are Israelis who seek a different path from that taken by the Begin regime. The Israel they knew in the past still exists," he said.

CABINET AGREES TO PARE BUDGET BY UP TO IL 17 BILLION BUT DOESN'T SAY HOW

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA) — The Cabinet agreed today to chop between IL 15.5-IL 17 billion (\$320-\$350 million) from this year's budget but did not specify where the bulk of the cuts would be made. The Cabinet decided, at a special session which ended in the early hours of Thursday morning, that the defense budget would be pared by IL 7 billion (\$150 million).

The balance obviously will come from the civilian budget. The amounts that each ministry will have to contribute is a problem the Ministerial Economic Committee is expected to tackle at its next meeting, probably tomorrow.

"The objective of the Cabinet is to fight inflation," Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor told reporters after today's session. He said the budget was reduced to "find a way to live with a world-wide economic crisis."

The budget was the chief item on the Cabinet's agenda today. Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz demanded cuts of at least IL 14 billion beyond the IL 7 billion extracted from the defense budget. Originally he had insisted upon IL 15 billion slash in defense spending, a demand successfully opposed by the defense establishment. The Cabinet decision Thursday represented a compromise acceptable to the Defense Ministry if not entirely satisfactory to Hurwitz. He made it clear that the savings he stipulated must be made, regardless of where they come from.

No Crisis Now, Says Begin

It was not certain whether today's Cabinet decision satisfied Hurwitz and whether he has waived his threats to resign unless the budget is reduced to levels he considers essential to fight inflation. Prior to the Cabinet meeting, he met with senior members of his La'am faction for consultations on his next move.

Treasury sources were quoted as saying that Hurwitz would not resign because he is more concerned over the prospects that Premier Menachem Begin's government might fall if he quit than with the possibility that he might fail to achieve his economic goals. Begin told reporters after today's session that for the time being there is no crisis over the proposed budget.

But other ministers were quoted as saying they had the impression that Hurwitz was determined to resign. Hurwitz said he was not sure himself whether the budget cuts agreed to today were satisfactory but he acknowledged that the Cabinet made "great efforts" to meet his demands. Most ministers emerging from the session conceded that the task of implementing further cuts will be a "very difficult one."

It was understood meanwhile that the Cabinet took no decisions on further taxation. A five percent compulsory loan had been mentioned over the weekend.

SADAT REPUDIATES PLO, PUSHES GAZA-FIRST PLAN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA) -- President Anwar Sadat of Egypt strongly repudiated the Palestine Liberation Organization today and revived his proposal that autonomy for the Palestinian Arabs should be implemented in the Gaza Strip first before it is applied to the West Bank.

In an interview on Israeli television, Sadat said he has instructed Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali to raise the Gaza-first proposal when the autonomy talks resume. Ali, Interior Minister Yosef Burg — who is Israel's chief negotiator on autonomy — and U.S. special Ambassador Sal Linowitz are scheduled to meet in Washington early next month to set a date for resuming the talks.

Sadat also said that he would have liked to invite Premier Menachem Begin to Cairo to address the Egyptian Peoples Council (parliament) but refrained from doing so in order to protect the popularity Begin still has among the Egyptian people. "I am afraid that if Begin comes to Cairo and speaks before the Peoples Council, he would say the same things he said in Jerusalem on autonomy and the establishment of new settlements. With such talk he would lose whatever he has achieved so far with the Egyptian people," Sadat told the Israeli TV audience.

He said that for a time he entertained the idea of re-visiting Jerusalem to address the Knesset on the Palestinian problem. He implied that he dropped the idea after it got a cold reception in Israel.

No Longer Recognizes PLO's Status

Sadat said he no longer supports the position of the other Arab states acknowledging the PLO as "the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people." In light of the PLO's conduct, he no longer recognizes it as such, he said. "I maintain reservations over its status." Sadat was referring to the 1974 Arab summit meeting at Rabat, Morocco, where the Arab states, with Egypt's backing, conferred representative status on the PLO.

He denied that he has been in consultation with the PLO on autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip but acknowledged that several PLO representatives did approach former Prime

Minister Mustapha Khalil. "It is they who contacted us. We did not contact any party. In the light of my experience with (PLO chief) Yasir Arafat, I relate no importance to such contacts," he said. Israel recently accused Egypt of having briefed the PLO on the progress of the autonomy negotiations.

The Egyptian leader said that if he were Begin he would have ordered a unilateral Israeli pull-out from the West Bank and Gaza and thereby challenge the Palestinians with self-rule. After three years, it would be up to the Palestinians to determine their own future, he said. He warned Israel that it was now facing the choice between a conflict with the entire world over the Palestinian issue and a constructive approach of coming to grips with the emergence of an independent Palestinian entity — taking into account the necessary security guarantees for Israel.

U.S. TANK SALES TO JORDAN EXPECTED DESPITE HUSSEIN'S REFUSAL TO COOPERATE IN PEACE PROCESS

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, June 22 (JTA) -- In their first meeting in 30 months, Jordan's King Hussein gained a commitment from President Carter to provide 100 sophisticated American tanks. But the King not only refused to help the President in his Mideast peace-making effort but implied that he favored getting the Soviet Union into the peace process.

While widespread Congressional opposition is manifest toward the Saudi Arabian request for enhancement of the combat capability of its 60 F-15 interceptor jets, similar protests against the tank sale to Jordan are not expected. Congressional feeling, it was indicated, would center on U.S. delivery of the tanks with the proviso that those they replace be removed from Jordan.

Administration sources said that President Carter agreed to sell Jordan 100 M-60 tanks and tentatively agreed to deliver another 100 later, should Congress not raise great opposition to the first shipment of tanks. The tanks would carry night-vision equipment and laser range-finders. Indicating the Mideast power balance would not be disturbed, the sources said Jordan has 300 M-47 while the U.S. has provided 810 M-60s to Israel and 100 to Saudi Arabia.

Jordan also was said to have acquired 250 British Chieftain tanks and was prepared to get others, including some from the Soviet Union, if the U.S. would not supply them.

Won't Comment On Reported Anti-Terrorist Pledge

Interviewed on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press" today, Hussein expressed the hope that Congress would not block the sale of tanks to Jordan. "If the links are to be preserved between us, then obviously we have the right to ask our friends to update the equipment that we have... otherwise, obviously we have to look elsewhere," he said. The interview was taped yesterday before he left Washington for Amman.

The King again sidestepped any comment on reports from the Carter Administration that he had promised that Jordan would not be used as a base to launch terrorist attacks against Israel. "The fact of the matter is that the problem never came up," he said. "We have not altered our policy in Jordan, nor our posture of the recent past."

In a speech here Thursday, Hussein said "the world community" should enter the peace process.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

NEW CHAIRMAN OF PRESIDENTS
CONFERENCE DISCUSSES U.S.-ISRAELI
RELATIONS; ISRAEL'S RELATIONS WITH
U.S. JEWS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 22 (JTA) — Howard M. Squadron, a prominent New York lawyer and president of the American Jewish Congress was elected on June 9 chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, a group that is largely accepted as the spokesman of American Jewry's consensus on issues relating to Israel and U.S. Mideast policy.

The 53-year-old Squadron, who succeeds another lawyer, Theodore R. Mann, for a one year term beginning July 1, is assuming office in an election year here and at a time when the prospects for further progress toward peace in the Mideast are at a stalemate.

In a special interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency at his Fifth Avenue law firm office, Squadron outlined his views on the Presidents Conference and its goals, its dealings with the Administration and Israel and other related issues. Following are excerpts from the 50-minute interview.

Q. What is the role of the Presidents Conference?

A. I think that the Conference of Presidents is the one instance in the American Jewish community where unity is attempted to be reached on one subject; the subject of Israel and the relations between Israel and the United States.

It is a very diverse group, representing all shades of opinions, different constituencies and different concerns. It is therefore rather remarkable that the group agrees on what the U.S. policy toward Israel should be.

Q. Can you be more specific as to the role of the Conference in dealing with the Administration?

A. The Presidents Conference has two principal functions. One, to express to the Administration the concern of the American Jewish community on the subject of U.S.-Israel relations and two, to express the unified view of the Presidents Conference how the best interests of the U.S. can be served in the Mideast or anywhere else in the world where there is a Jewish community.

Q. How would you describe the present relations between American Jewry and the Administration?

A. I think they are cordial. In the last two years there has been a remarkable access (to Jewish leaders) to the White House, the State Department and other branches of the Administration. When the announcement was made that I was elected as chairman of the Presidents Conference I immediately received an invitation to meet with Vice President (Walter) Mondale. I hope to meet with him when I am in Washington next week.

Q. You describe the Conference's relations with the Administration as "cordial" but do you agree with the Administration's Mideast policy?

A. Autonomy Agreement Before Nov. "Vital"?

A. The tradition has been in an election year to suspend differences. This year, I think, it is not going to be possible. The differences are going to be confronted. It is absolutely vital, if the Camp David process is to survive, to reach an agreement on autonomy (for the Palestinians),

even if it's a compromise agreement, before the November election. It is in the interest of Israel, Egypt and the U.S. to do so for different reasons. But the common reason is that an autonomy agreement now is the only defense against the West Europeans' efforts to impose a PLO dominated Palestinian State in the West Bank... After the election the Administration here is going to find common ground with our Western European allies.

Q. Is the Presidents Conference an independent organization? Is it in any way receiving instructions from the Government of Israel?

A. In my view it has been independent and should be independent. The member organizations in the Presidents Conference are American Jewish organizations and they should be making decisions of what is in the best interest of the U.S. as well as the security of Israel. If they (the Presidents Conference) appear to be taking instructions from the government of Israel, they cannot be effective.

Criticizes Sharon's Appeal

Q. A few months ago (Israeli) Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon urged American Jewry, during an address to the Presidents Conference, to stage a mass demonstration in Washington against the Carter Administration's Mideast policy. What do you think of such advice?

A. Mr. Sharon was making a mistake. He does not understand the American political process and it was not appropriate for him to give such advice. Such statements can only create the mistaken impression that the Presidents Conference gets instructions from Israel.

Q. How should disagreements with the government of Israel be handled?

A. The communications to the Israeli government from the Presidents Conference should be private and not in the media. Exchanges through the media do not help Israel and do not increase the effectiveness of the Presidents Conference.

Q. The issue of Israeli settlements in the West Bank is a constant source of friction between Israel and the Administration, which claims that the settlements are an obstacle to peace and illegal. What are your views?

A. I do not think the settlements are illegal and I think that even if you would like a different approach from Israel, it is a mistake to call them an obstacle to peace. The real obstacle (to peace) is the PLO's commitment to exterminate Israel. How do you make peace with somebody who wants to kill you?

Americans Will Oppose PLO

Q. Don't you think that the PLO is gaining in American public opinion?

A. There should be a distinction between the PLO and Palestinians in general. In my view the American people are prepared to continue to support opposition to the PLO because it is a terrorist organization committed to the extermination of Israel. On this subject, the subject of not dealing with the PLO, I think the American people will support the U.S. view and not the European approach (which advocates bringing the PLO to the Mideast peace process).

Q. How would you characterize your relationship with Premier Menachem Begin?

A. Good, quite good. We agree on most things. We disagree on some things.

Q. Did you ever meet with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat? What is your impression of him?

A. I met with him twice. I found him to be charming, intelligent; a man who possesses a very

good sense of public relations.

Q. But were you convinced that he is sincere in his peace policy?

A. My opinion is that Sadat is a pragmatic Egyptian patriot who honestly believes that it is better for Egypt to live in peace rather than in war. He would probably prefer that Israel was not there but as long as it's there, it is better to make peace with her.

FONDA IN JURES FOOT, TOURS JERUSALEM ON CRUTCHES

By Gil Sedan and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA) — Jane Fonda, the American actress and political activist, toured Jerusalem, East and West today, on a pair of crutches, with Mayor Teddy Kollek serving as her guide. Ms. Fonda slipped and fell at her Herzliya hotel last night. She checked into Hadassah Hospital here this morning where X-rays disclosed a fractured left foot.

She will have to wear a knee-high plaster cast for the rest of her stay in Israel. But the 43-year-old actress said she was determined to stick to her schedule which includes two benefit performances to help the Haifa Theater overcome its financial difficulties.

Fonda arrived in Israel Friday, accompanied by her husband, Tom Hayden and her children, Vanessa and Troy. Her presence created a sensation at Ben Gurion Airport where other arriving passengers, customs officers, police and bystanders vied with reporters and photographers to get near the celebrity. Former President of Israel Ephraim Katzir who arrived on the same plane, was overlooked and had to wait some time before a customs inspector dealt with his baggage and papers.

Fonda toured the Golan Heights yesterday, visiting an Israeli army position opposite the Syrian lines. She said later that she now has a better understanding of Israel's security problems. She also toured Nazareth. She spent her first night in Israel at Kibbutz Maagan Michael and said she was especially impressed by the way the children are brought up.

Fonda told reporters that her visit has nothing to do with politics. She said her presence here proves her belief in and support of Israel's right to exist.

KIDNAPPING CONTINUES TO BAFFLE POLICE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 22 (JTA) — Police still have no clue to the whereabouts of eight-year-old Oran Yarden, kidnapped in Tel Aviv two weeks ago today. The search and investigation is continuing while well-intentioned persons and perpetrators of hoaxes raised hopes that rapidly faded into despair.

An anonymous telephone caller to Abie Nathan's "Voice of Peace" radio station last night said Oran would be returned this morning but that turned out to be a hoax. Last Thursday, Israel Radio broadcast a tape of the voice of one of the kidnappers who spoke to Oran's parents by telephone shortly after the child disappeared. Thousands of persons telephoned the police claiming they recognized the voice but no fresh leads turned up.

Meanwhile, Oran's father Amos and his mother, Penina, have gone back to work. His older brother has returned to his army unit and his sister has gone back to school. The child was kidnapped by unknown persons on June 8. His parents

paid the IL 2 million demanded by the kidnappers on June 10 but their son was not released and nothing has been heard from the kidnappers since then.

COUPLE TOLD DAUGHTER DIED UNDER TORTURE IN ARGENTINA

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, June 22 (JTA) — Luis and Helena Haimovitz, an elderly Jewish couple, were told here last week that their daughter, Alexandra, died after being tortured in a prison in Argentina. The Haimovitz's, who immigrated to Israel from Argentina several years ago and now live in Rehovot, came to Geneva to seek information about their daughter from officials of the United Nations Human Rights Commission which has a special committee that investigates cases of missing persons.

Their daughter, a high school student, was arrested in Cordoba, Argentina in 1976 and has not been heard from since. She was a member of the "Youth for Guevara" movement which supported the late Latin American radical leader, Che Guevara. According to her parents, she and a girlfriend were picked up by police several days before she was to leave for Israel to join two older brothers who settled there.

Put In Contact With Eye Witness

The Haimovitz's received a letter from Amnesty International stating that a young Argentine woman, Gratiela Chauna, had been in prison with Alexandra and reported that she died after being tortured. Ms. Chauna escaped and is now in Geneva.

She told the Haimovitz's that Alexandra was given worse treatment than the others in prison because she was Jewish and that in Argentine prison camps it was much worse to be Jewish than to be a terrorist. While in Geneva, the couple met with Gerhard Riegner, Secretary General of the World Jewish Congress. They plan to go to London to see officials of Amnesty International.

Before leaving they told reporters, "Nothing will bring back our daughter but let the Argentinian government at least acknowledge they killed our daughter. We want our daughter's body back at least to be able to bury her in Israel."

At least 15,000 persons have disappeared in Argentina since the military junta seized power there in 1976, many of them Jews. Those not heard from after a year are generally presumed to be dead. Numerous bodies have been washed ashore in Argentina during the last four years with heads and limbs severed to prevent identification.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Delegates to the second convocation of the World Council for Yiddish welcomed at the closing session Thursday an announcement by Jewish Agency Treasurer Akiya Levinsky, that the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency would seek to assist the Yiddish and Jewish press to prevent any possibility of collapse. Yitzhak Korn, who was re-elected chairman of the Council by unanimous vote, said the Council had decided to proceed with the planning of two seminaries to prepare teachers of Yiddish. He said both seminaries would have high academic standards under the auspices of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The Council announced a \$100,000 fund to publish books of Yiddish writers and to assist translation into Hebrew.