

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## A 'HIT TEAM' OF ARAB TERRORISTS PLANNED TO BOMB JEWISH INSTITUTIONS IN BRUSSELS AND IN ANTWERP

By Edwin Eytan

BRUSSELS, July 30 (JTA) -- A "hit team" of Arab terrorists were planning to bomb several Jewish establishments in Brussels and Antwerp and attack Brussels International Airport passengers arriving from Israel. The Belgian police, which arrested a second Arab terrorist in Brussels on Monday, found in a locker at Brussels' main railway station Gare du Nord a briefcase which, it is believed, contained detailed descriptions of possible targets, methods of access and possible escape routes.

On Sunday, Belgian police arrested a man in Antwerp minutes after he tossed two hand grenades at a group of Jewish teenagers and adults waiting to board a bus for summer camp. David Kohane, 15, was killed and 20 other persons were wounded, one of whom, 13-year-old Joshua Erlich, remains in critical condition. The terrorist gave his name as Abdel Wahid, born in Damascus. He said he arrived in Antwerp from Rome Sunday with a forged Moroccan passport made out in the name of Zayed Nasser.

The Belgian police's "Special Branch" has been mobilized, with all leaves cancelled, to try and pin down all possible suspects. The Belgian government has given top priority to the identification and arrest of all the culprits.

Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens on Monday visited the wounded in their Antwerp hospitals, and the King, himself hospitalized with a mild heart attack, personally cabled the families of the victims and the Antwerp Jewish community to express his sympathy.

### Believe Network Center Is In Rome

The Belgians have asked for the aid of West German authorities to try to identify a young German woman, known under the code name of Lyna Nablusi, who, according to Nasser, gave him the grenades and the heavy caliber automatic pistol with 18 bullets found on him at the time of his arrest.

Belgian police have also asked for the assistance of the Israeli authorities, the French and the Italian police. The Belgians believe that the center of the network is in Rome where the terrorists, a small fanatic gang apparently unconnected with the mainstream of Palestinian organizations, might have been in close contact with Italian extreme leftwing terrorist organizations.

### Second Arrested Terrorist Identified

The second arrested terrorist, who carried a Tunisian passport with the same name as the one arrested in Antwerp, Zayed Nasser, had in his possession Russian-made grenades, similar to those used in the deadly Antwerp attack.

The man was arrested in a small hotel in Brussels' Saint Gilles area, close to the main railway station, where most of the terrorist activities seemed to have been concentrated. Belgian State Prosecutor Renaat Verheyden said in Brussels Monday that the second man had also told the police that he had acted on behalf of an organization called "The Revolutionary Fatah" and had re-

ceived his orders by mail from an address in Saudi Arabia. Nasser told police he also acted on behalf of the same organization.

The prosecutor refused to say whether the second man, the Tunisian, had been in contact with the mysterious German woman. Police sources unofficially say that the two men had met the woman whom they knew under her code name.

### Antwerp Killer's Story

The Antwerp killer told police investigators he had first met the woman in Lebanon where she attended terrorist classes in a Palestinian training camp. In his orders to attack Belgian Jewish institutions he was told that he would meet her at a certain date and hour in a Brussels central square, Porte de Namur. He received his orders in Rome, also by mail, and also from a Saudi Arabian address.

The orders told him that should he have forgotten what she looked like he would recognize her by a gold medallion which she would be wearing around her neck. He was also given the passwords. He was to say "Palestine" and the woman would reply "victory." After meeting her, they went to his hotel room where she gave him the two grenades and the loaded pistol and 18 bullets.

Nasser described the woman as about 23 years old, tall, slim and with shoulder-long dark brown hair, dressed in jeans and a tee shirt. He said that since their meeting at the Porte de Namur and the hotel where she gave him the weapons, they had not met again.

According to police sources, the killer, who has remained throughout the interrogation calm and even relaxed, is fully cooperating with the police, apparently not realizing the gravity of his crime. When first arrested Sunday afternoon he reportedly told the two policeman who arrested him: "Why do you detain me? I did nothing to Belgians. I only hit Jews."

### Had Been In Belgium Before

According to the police, the man came to Belgium on several occasions. The first known time was on April 2 and he remained in the country until May 11 when he flew to Rome. He came again on June 11 and remained until June 28, apparently trying to pinpoint likely targets for his attack. He last came to Belgium a few days before the Sunday attack and visited Antwerp extensively.

People living in the Antwerp area where the Agudat Israel Community Center is located, say that for several days before the attack they saw a number of Arabs walk or drive up and down the strictly Jewish street.

## MUSKIE DENOUNCES UN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION AS ONE-SIDED AND AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO MIDEAST PEACE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, July 30 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Edmund Muskie said today that the United Nations General Assembly resolution against Israel which was adopted yesterday by a vote of 112-7 with 24 abstentions was "one-sided" and that it "will not bring us any closer to peace. He also said that the European Economic Community's (EEC) "exploratory mission" to the Middle East headed by Gaston Thorn, Luxembourg's Foreign Minister and the current chairman of the EEC, would be "most constructive

if it builds on the ongoing negotiations" within the Camp David process.

The Secretary of State also indirectly criticized Israel by saying that "all the parties must avoid unilateral actions designed to prejudice the outcome of the negotiations or that would have the effect of worsening the atmosphere for successful negotiations." Muskie made these comments before the House Foreign Affairs Committee for a review of world affairs.

He said that he expected the heads of the delegations of Egypt, the United States and Israel to meet again toward the middle of August on the autonomy negotiations. In this connection, he said that an agreement on autonomy must take full account of Israel's security needs and "must also lead to a significant and genuine change in the situation of the Palestinians."

#### Statement To The Committee

Focusing on the UN Assembly resolution, Muskie told the Committee:

"In seeking to advance real negotiating opportunities, we will be firm in our stand against one-sided resolutions on the Middle East at the United Nations, such as the one just put forward at the special session of the General Assembly. That resolution was totally unbalanced. It did not acknowledge Resolution 242 as a basis for a peace settlement. It did not recognize Israel's right to exist. We voted against it and were pleased that a substantial number of other members felt they could not support the resolutions. Such efforts will not bring us any closer to peace."

"Another principle clearly applies to our negotiating effort. It is this: while negotiations are being pursued, all of the parties must avoid unilateral actions designed to prejudice the outcome of the negotiations or that would have the effect of worsening the atmosphere for successful negotiations. No negotiations can succeed if one of the parties at the table attempts simultaneously to gain unilateral advantage on the ground."

"If the parties should fail, or if the Camp David process should be derailed by misguided intervention, the consequences could be serious indeed, for the interests of the entire world are deeply engaged in the Middle East. Continuing conflicts in the region threaten those interests; threaten the future of our friends in the region; threaten intervention by outside powers and threaten the peace of the world."

#### Regrets Waldheim's Statement

Under questioning by the Committee, Muskie told Rep. Clement Zablocki (D. Wisc.), the Committee chairman, that "almost every week" the United States has to deal with resolutions brought up on the Middle East that he said were "mischief making" and a diversionary tactic that "solved nothing, like the one yesterday."

Muskie added, "So I dismiss these resolutions, and the fact that they settle nothing entered into the decision" of the West European countries to abstain in yesterday's vote. He said that the "rationale" in abstaining was that the Europeans wanted to be "even-handed" in "seeking to be a middleman" on the Mideast problem.

Muskie told Rep. William Broomfield (R. Mich.), the ranking minority member of the Committee, that "I regret" that UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim "said as much as he did" when he told the Arab League last Friday that he supported Palestinian statehood. Muskie added that actions

in the UN "contribute to unrest" on the West Bank. He also chided the press for emphasizing in the current autonomy talks factors of opposition between Israel and Egypt rather than the progress being made. He said yesterday's UN resolution "could have a deteriorating effect on the autonomy negotiations."

Answering questions about the peace talks, Muskie said the base of the negotiations would have to be broadened. He said the "Palestinian people obviously have to be involved." But he explicitly ruled out the Palestine Liberation Organization. He told Rep. Lester Wolff (D. N.Y.), who asked if there has been any change either by the State Department or the Carter Administration on the U.S. position towards the PLO, "none whatsoever as long as they (PLO) are committed to the destruction of Israel, there is no place for them in the negotiations."

#### U.S. SEEKS TO JUSTIFY ITS SALE OF 100 TANKS TO JORDAN

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, July 30 (JTA) -- The State Department sought yesterday to justify the sale of 100 sophisticated M-60 American tanks to Jordan by emphasizing that the sale "is fully consistent with American interests in the region."

Harold Saunders, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, pointed out that "Jordan has a long-standing policy of denying Jordanian territory to potential terrorists" and "works actively for the stability and security of the states of the Persian Gulf and states of the Arabian Peninsula."

Testifying before the Europe and Middle East Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Saunders said that Jordan is planning to dispose of M-48 tanks it now has when it gets the new deliveries in the next two years. He said that the present Jordanian tank force numbers 673 tanks. Jordan also has on order 274 British Chieftain tanks. The British Chieftain, which has a heavier gun than the M-60, would cost Jordan 25 percent more than the M-60. The increase in equipment would boost Jordan's tank force from 16 to 18 battalions.

Challenged by Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R. N.Y.), on Jordan's opposition to the Camp David process, Saunders said "Jordan is still unable" to join the autonomy talks and the Camp David peace process does not meet with Jordan's "needs" but that the recent meetings between President Carter and King Hussein has "reaffirmed the fact that Jordan supports UN Security Council Resolution 242 and wants a comprehensive peace with Israel."

In his prepared remarks, Saunders said "Jordan's attitude will be critically important to bringing about a West Bank settlement which we would find acceptable." Indicating that the tank sale would not significantly affect the power balance with Israel, Saunders told the Committee that "an effort to 'punish' Jordan by withholding our consent to this sale will not prevent the acquisition of tanks (by Jordan) but it will do serious damage to a key bilateral relationship."

When Saunders remarked that Jordan has "tactical differences with us" on the Camp David process, Gilman asked whether it is "unwillingness" on Jordan's part. Saunders replied that "Jordan feels it has been going a long way towards what they require for peace." Jordan's position has been, among other things, that East Jerusalem must be under Arab sovereignty.

#### KNESSET APPROVES 'JERUSALEM BILL'

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 30 (JTA) -- The Knesset

today approved the "Jerusalem Bill" by a vote of 69-15 with three abstentions, thus incorporating it into Israel's Basic Law. The law states that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and that it is the seat of the President, the Knesset, the government and the Supreme Court. It also assures free access to the holy places and their preservation. A separate clause assures special treatment to Jerusalem by government agencies, as well as a special annual allowance to the city.

This clause states that the government will attend to the development and prosperity of Jerusalem and the well-being of its inhabitants by allocating special resources through an annual grant to the city to be approved by the Knesset Finance Committee. Another statement inserted in the original bill stipulates that state institutions will give Jerusalem special priority in their economic, financial and other operations. A special body, or bodies, would be set up to implement these objectives.

The Knesset Legal Committee introduced a last-minute change in an amendment agreed on earlier this week: According to an amendment introduced by the Labor Alignment representatives in the committee, one clause would state that "the customs practiced by the various communities within their holy places would remain inviolate."

However, at the request of Premier Menachem Begin, that clause was voted on again and changed for fear it might prevent future praying by Jews on Temple Mount, where it is presently forbidden and would encourage strife between sects such as the Copts and the Ethiopians who for years have had a conflict over a part of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Instead, the committee approved a generally worded clause which ensures the protection of the holy places and free access to them.

The final version of the bill was worked out in the Legal Committee following a compromise between the government coalition and the Labor Alignment. The Alignment insisted on introducing as many as possible practical proposals into the text of the bill, most of them suggested by Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek. The coalition tried to keep the text as general as possible on the grounds that basic laws should not descend to specifics.

Kollek, who attended all four meetings of the committee, was influential in working out the compromise. He said he was gratified at the guarantees on unhindered worship and free access to holy places, but he was dissatisfied that the operational elements he had demanded were watered down.

### The Irony Of It All

The irony of it all is that the bill, which kept the Knesset busy for the last few weeks, was actually forced upon the majority of the Knesset by MK Geula Cohen of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya faction, one of the smallest factions in the Knesset.

Although the vast majority of the Knesset felt that passing this law at this time was unnecessary at best and perhaps even damaging politically, the majority voted in favor. The most common argument was that any vote against the bill would be interpreted worldwide as an internal debate over the fate of Jerusalem -- which did not exist.

### MUSKIE MEETS WITH JEWISH LEADERS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, July 30 (JTA) -- Howard Squadron, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said after a luncheon meeting at the State Department today of six national Jewish leaders with Secretary of State Edmund Muskie that the Jerusalem issue is "magnified" and not of "real value." He suggested that concentration on an autonomy agreement for the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be more in the interests of Egypt, Israel and the U.S.

"I have no position on Jerusalem," Squadron said when asked for his views on the Knesset's adoption today of a law declaring united Jerusalem to be Israel's capital. He pointed out that the Presidents Conference consists of 34 diverse organizations. But "these issues are magnified and symbolic rather than real value," he said.

"Unfortunately, they have gotten much attention and caused this much reaction. It would be better if all the parties concentrated on an autonomy agreement. That would be in everybody's interest -- Israel, the U.S. and Egypt."

### No Pressure From Muskie

Squadron replied, "Not at all" when he was asked if Muskie sought to have Jewish leaders persuade the Israeli government not to move the Prime Minister's Office to East Jerusalem. He also said that Muskie described "provocative" as "not a very good word" in referring to the Knesset's action on Jerusalem.

Asked by a reporter if he would communicate with the Israeli government, Squadron said that he is in contact with Israeli officials from time to time but "there is nothing coming from this meeting (with Muskie) that specifically requires me to be in contact with the Israel government."

Saying "We were very pleased with the responses" from Muskie, Squadron specifically welcomed the Secretary's letter to him about the position of the U.S. delegation to the Decade for Women conference in Copenhagen. He said the U.S. position is "very firm" against the intrusion of the Palestinian issue into the conference and against attacks on Israel there.

In addition to Squadron, the Jewish leaders at the meeting were Ivan Novick, Theodore Mann, Maxwell Greenberg, Maynard Wishner and Charlotte Levitan. The discussion included the problems of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, but Squadron did not elaborate on that subject.

### ISRAEL DINES DEAD AT 82

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 30 (JTA) -- Israel Dines, former president of the Zionist Organization in Brazil and leader of the Bole Zion movement in Brazil has died here at the age of 82. Born in Rovno, Poland, Dines settled in Rio de Janeiro 52 years ago. For many years he was the representative of HIAS in Brazil. One of his sons, Alberto Dines, is a well known journalist for the Brazilian press.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- An El Al jumbo jet caught fire Wednesday at Ben Gurion Airport as it was preparing to depart on a flight to Rome and Paris. All 64 passengers and crew members aboard at the time left the plane through emergency exits as fire fighters rushed to the plane to extinguish the fire. The fire, which was caused by a short circuit in the electrical system, was spotted by control tower personnel as the plane was warming up on the tarmac.

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

## ISRAELI REALISM

By Soliv Press

JOHANNESBURG, July 30 (JTA) —

Israeli Ambassador Joseph Harmelin chose the Exporter of the Year event at Durban's Royal Hotel, on the edge of the Indian Ocean, to provide a realistic assessment of Israel's present situation. The sponsors were the Sunday Tribune and the South African Foreign Trade Organization.

Harmelin cautioned that while peace between Israel and its neighbors would bring prosperity, "it will not by itself solve any of the burdensome problems of the Western world. It will not add one barrel of oil. It will not make oil cheaper by even one cent."

He explained: "The supply of oil and its prices is determined by economic and technical factors. It has nothing to do with the Israeli-Arab conflict. Also, the disappearance of the conflict will not bring a more reasonable government to power in Iran. It will not improve the chances of the ruling clique in Saudi Arabia to outlive the social changes occurring there."

Furthermore, Harmelin said, "It will not improve the relations between Syria and Iraq, between Libya and Egypt, between South and North Yemen. It will not bring peace to Lebanon. It will not lessen Russian influence in Ethiopia. And, of course, it will not remove the Russians from Afghanistan — or from whatever place they will be by then."

All these problems, Israeli's Ambassador added, "to mention just a few in Israel's immediate neighborhood, are independent of the Israeli-Arab conflict. Pressuring Israel to give in to unjustified demands — besides endangering the one reliable ally the West has in that area — will not bring relief from the troubles of the West. If the West wants to resolve them, it will have to come to grips with them."

## Israeli-South African Trade

Turning to Israeli-South African trade, Harmelin — the last Israeli to leave Teheran — observed that this had dramatically increased in recent years. Barely \$20 million in 1972, the bilateral volume of trade had reached \$200 million in 1979. Of this total, about \$50 million represent Israeli exports to South Africa, composed mainly of mineral and chemical products, yet also of machinery, electronic equipment and textiles.

As far as Israel's imports from South Africa is concerned, Harmelin said that basic metals constitute more than half the value, followed by semi-precious stones, wood, paper and food-stuffs. Meanwhile, Israel and South Africa had signed an agreement for the purchase of South African coal, soon to reach one million tons a year, thus adding another \$30 million to Israel's imports. "We try hard to sell more in this country," he said, "so that our trade should be more balanced."

Referring to Israel's overall negative trade balance, Harmelin noted that its electronics industry had exported goods worth \$5 million in 1968. Ten years later, he said, Israel was exporting \$200 million worth of electronic equipment. He expected that this year the Israeli aircraft industry would export radar equipment, missiles and the like for half a billion dollars.

Harmelin also took a hard look at Israel's general economic situation. Because of the coun-

try's security problems — and he had himself played a leading role in that field some years before — Israel cannot experiment with large-scale unemployment, a step considered to be the best measure to curb inflation. Yet the effort to slow down inflation had become the number one priority of the government, and the results, "while not yet being revolutionary," show that the average inflation rate had decreased and the frightening trend reversed, the Israeli diplomat said.

Foreign observers interested in the normalization of South Africa's relations with Israel will also have noted that Pretoria's trade with the Arab world and with Black Africa far exceed the trade with the Jewish State although, going by the absurdities uttered at the United Nations, one would think that the opposite was the case. And though Harmelin did not refer to it, it is known that Israel has never approved of apartheid and still adheres to the ban of arms to South Africa.

## TERRORIST GANG FOILED

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, July 30 (JTA) — A gang of terrorists attempting to infiltrate Israel by drifting across the border in a balloon was foiled when the balloon came down near Tibnin village in south Lebanon. According to one report, the 3-4 terrorists were killed in the crash but other reports from Beirut said no bodies were found near the scene, indicating that the would-be infiltrators escaped.

The story, unconfirmed, was published in Yediot Achronot yesterday. While Israeli security circles were skeptical, they made it known that the early warning systems have been improved to cover possible infiltration attempts by air at low levels that would avoid radar detection. Terrorists from south Lebanon have repeatedly tried to infiltrate Israel by land or sea routes and, in most cases, have been thwarted.

To have made an attempt by balloon, which depends entirely on wind drift to reach its objective, the terrorists must have had the assistance of Syria, the only hostile neighbor with sophisticated meteorological equipment to provide accurate data on wind direction and weather changes, Israeli sources said. According to these sources, Syria is actively promoting terrorist assaults on Israel, but in a manner that would not incriminate the Damascus government.

Meanwhile, it was reported from Damascus yesterday that Syrian President Hafez Assad met with former Texas Governor John Connally's contender for the Republican Presidential nomination who dropped out early in the primaries race. They reportedly discussed Middle East developments. Connally arrived in Damascus Sunday on what was described as a private visit to the region. Assad met earlier in the week with former Undersecretary of State Joseph Sisco who is currently on a private tour of Middle East capitals.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Efforts are being made to establish contact with a hitherto unknown tribe of Jews living in a remote region of North Yemen close to the Saudi Arabian border. According to Mordechai Ben Porat, a former MK who heads the World Organization of Jews from Arab Countries, the tribe was discovered only recently and is believed to number about 2000 persons. Ben Porat said that until now, only a few hundred Jews were believed to dwell in that isolated part of the Arabian peninsula, mainly gold and silversmiths, artisans and weavers. He said there are presently some 35,000 Jews living in various Arab countries.