

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ISRAELI FORCES HIT TERRORIST BASES IN SOUTH LEBANON: 3 ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILLED AND 12 INJURED; AT LEAST 40 TERRORISTS WERE KILLED

By Yitzhak Shargil and Gil Seidan

TEL AVIV, Aug. 19 (JTA) -- Israeli forces attacked terrorist bases across the Litani River in south Lebanon last night and this morning and destroyed 26 buildings used by terrorists and part of their military equipment. Three Israeli soldiers were killed and 12 injured in the twin operation.

At least 40 terrorists were killed and three terrorists were brought back by the Israeli forces as prisoners. In retaliation, terrorists fired shells from the Lebanese town of Nabatiya toward the southern region controlled by the Christian militia under Maj. Saad Haddad.

Two of the Israeli fatalities were identified as Capt. Meir Knisbah, 23, of Netanya, and Sgt. Guy Shalev of Kibbutz Kfar Menachem. The third fatality was not immediately identified.

Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan, who watched the operation from his command post along with Premier Menachem Begin, who is acting Defense Minister, said it was the largest Israeli operation into south Lebanon since Operation Litani in March, 1978, when Israel took over all of south Lebanon. He said all targets were captured and destroyed.

### Account Of The Operations

According to an army spokesman, the operation last night was directed against four targets in the Amoun plateau north and west of the Litani River: the villages of Amoun, Hamma, Tibnit and Jabel Tahara. The Israeli forces reportedly arrived after midnight, surprising the terrorists in their bases. An advance force of the Golani Infantry Brigade was the first to confront a unit of terrorists. After a brief exchange of fire the Israeli force overcame the terrorists. Once near the targeted bases the Israel forces comprising infantrymen and paratroopers simultaneously attacked the terrorists and blew up their bases.

Early this morning the Israel Air Force bombed the Beaufort fortress, a 12th Century Crusader castle west of the Litani from which the terrorists control the Marj Ayon Valley. The fortress, which is the central military position of the terrorists in the area, was reportedly badly damaged in the aerial attack. The army spokesman said today the operations were part of several preventive measures being taken by the Israel Defense Force against the terrorists in south Lebanon to destroy their organization and prevent them from carrying out renewed strikes against Israel.

This was the second operation against the terrorists in less than a week. Israel launched a combined land, air and sea attack last Thursday against two bases north of Tyre and north of Sidon and leveled them. A number of terrorists were killed and all Israeli forces returned safely to their bases. This raid was also taken within the context of preventive action.

### Area Honeycombed With Terrorists

The actions last night and this morning

covered an area in which 150 to 200 terrorists staff several bases operated by various terrorist organizations, particularly El Fatah, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Syrian-backed Al Saika.

It is from these bases that the terrorists prepare for sabotage activities across the border into Israel, and direct most of their shellings against the area controlled by Haddad. This is the area known as "Famhland" and there are an estimated 6000 terrorists in the region between Israel's border with Lebanon and the Zaharani River.

Since the IDF evacuated south Lebanon in 1978, the terrorists have launched 48 strikes, killing nine civilians, two soldiers and wounding 31 civilians and 20 soldiers. During the same period, terrorists shelled Israeli settlements 29 times and penetrated Israel nine times by sea. In clashes with the IDF 31 terrorists were killed and 22 were taken prisoner.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said today that despite the dangers and sacrifices, Israel cannot survive without such operations that help prevent acts of terrorism against Israel. Eitan said the operation last night and today was part of Israel's policy of pre-emptive attacks against terrorist targets. He said it had been successful in surprising the terrorists.

Meanwhile, life in northern Israel was normal today despite being on special alert for terrorist shells. Explosions could still be heard from the Litani River area where the Israelis had attacked last night.

### ANTI-SEMITISM IN BRAZIL

WASHINGTON, Aug. 19 (JTA) -- A series of anti-Semitic actions have taken place recently in Brazil, it was reported by the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs which noted that "there are troubling signs that rightwing factions within the nation's military and their civilian supporters have begun to oppose the government's commitment to gradually liberalizing Brazil's institutions."

The Council reported that there was an attempt to kill a prominent Jewish leader, Sao Paulo State Deputy Flavio Bierrenbach, last month in Sao Paulo. Bierrenbach, described by the Council as "a staunch human rights leader" and a member of the opposition Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party, "was out of his office when it was partially destroyed by intruders' gunfire."

The Council also reported that the security and information branch of the Ministry of Mines and Energy earlier this year accused "Zionists," scientists and opposition political leaders of staging a campaign with "origins in the U.S. and the USSR" to sabotage Brazil's nuclear accord with West Germany. The charges, the Council noted, echoed those made in a series of threats last year against several Sao Paulo scientists and intellectuals, including Jewish scientist Jose Goldemberg, president of the Brazilian Society for the Progress of Science.

Other anti-Semitic incidents included threatening letters and phone calls and the beating of a Sao Paulo artist, Lourdes Cedran, the wife of physicist Mario Schiemberg, a leading opponent of the nuclear accord, the Council reported. It also pointed out that a Brazilian neo-Nazi group, the Movimento de Reorganizacao, has been identified as being responsible for acts of intimidation against opponents of the nuclear accord and against prominent scientists, theologians, liberal political leaders, lawyers who defend

political scientists and Jewish personalities, artists and journalists.

The Council concluded that these incidents are "symptomatic of this new upsurge of anti-Semitism in the nation" which has a Jewish community of 150,000.

#### EGYPT RECEIVES ISRAEL REPLY TO LATEST PROPOSAL BY SADAT

JERUSALEM, Aug. 19 (JTA) -- Israel's reply to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's call for a Camp David-style summit conference after the U.S. Presidential elections was delivered to Egyptian officials today.

David Kimche, director general of the Foreign Ministry, in delivering the letter by Premier Menachem Begin to Egyptian Ambassador Soad Mortada, expressed regrets that Egypt had suspended the autonomy talks for the fourth time. He said Israel believed there was no justification for such a step. Begin's letter was later handed to Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Butros Ghali in Cairo by Israeli Ambassador Eliahu Ben Elissar.

Meanwhile, Sadat announced today that he would write no more letters to Begin since Egypt "had clarified" its position in his earlier letters to Begin. The exchange of letters began Aug. 3 when Egypt announced a suspension of what was to be renewed autonomy talks, already suspended since last May.

#### SUPREME COURT REJECTS APPEAL TO RESCIND DEPORTATION OF THREE WEST BANK OFFICIALS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 19 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court today rejected the appeal by the families of the three West Bank leaders expelled last May that their deportation be rescinded.

However, the court recommended that two of the three, Mayor Fahed Kawasme of Hebron and Mayor Mohammed Milhim of Halhul, could appeal to the West Bank military government's advisory board. The court said the two mayors would first have to present affidavits to an Israeli consulate abroad or a representative of the International Red Cross declaring they intend to obey Israeli law if they return and clarifying their view on statements of incitement against Israel which were published in their names.

The court said the third deportee, Sheikh Rajab Tamimi, head of the Moslem religious court in Hebron, should not have the right to appeal to the advisory board because he had called for Israel's destruction at a demonstration in Hebron last March at which the two mayors were present. The three were expelled shortly after Palestinian terrorists killed six yeshiva students in Hebron.

The court sharply criticized the method by which the three were expelled. Contrary to law, they received no advance notice and were not permitted to appeal to the advisory board before their deportation.

#### Method Of Expulsion Questioned

However, Chief Justice Moshe Landau said the deportation was still valid since the three had not applied to the advisory board until now. At the same time, Landau questioned the evidence that the two mayors had indeed called for the liquidation of the State of Israel, "even though they have not repudiated press statements in their names made abroad."

Landau's view was supported in the three-member court by Justice Yitzhak Kahan who said that some legal procedures could be suspended in a time of danger to the security of the State. But in a minority opinion, Justice Haim Cohen said that the government does not have the right to expel people without first giving them the right to appeal. He said the government had acted illegally and this would be true even if the men involved had incited West Bank Arabs to revolt against Israel. He added that he was not sure there was such danger.

Felicia Langer, attorney for the three deportees, said she was disappointed with the verdict but was pleased that it had not been unanimous. Kawasme's wife said she was convinced that the government had forced the court's decision. "It's a political decision," she said. "There is no democracy in Israel."

#### JEWISH GROUPS OPPOSE BILL TO DEPRIVE FEDERAL COURTS OF HEARING CHALLENGES TO PUBLIC SCHOOL PRAYERS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 19 (JTA) -- Spokesmen for national Jewish organizations, testifying before Congressional subcommittees, expressed strong opposition today to legislation that would bar federal courts from hearing legal challenges to organized prayer in public schools.

Alvin Gray of Cleveland, co-chairman of the American Jewish Congress governing council, testified before a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee at a hearing on S. 450. Samuel Rabinove, legal director of the American Jewish Committee, testified at hearings of the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties and the Administration of Justice.

Gray testified as a spokesman for the American Jewish Congress as one of the affiliated organizations of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC), which also represents 108 local Jewish Community Councils. Both the AJCongress and the AJCommittee are member agencies of the NJCRAC.

Gray testified that "we believe firmly that any impairment of the authority of the courts to redress constitutional violations would imperil our system of law and impede progress toward unity and common purpose in our society." The amendment would deprive federal courts of jurisdiction in determining challenges to state and local laws calling for voluntary prayer in the public schools.

Gray said the amendment to S. 450 "manifests a hostility to the principle of church-state separation ostensibly under the guise of protecting religious freedom. All of the organizations joining in this testimony believe that any weakening of the barriers between church and state would cause a serious deprivation of religious liberty and should therefore be defeated." He added that, "as organizations dedicated to the preservation of constitutional rights, we have frequently found that those rights can be protected only by the federal judiciary."

#### Cite Dangerous Precedent

Gray declared that if the amendment becomes law, it would establish "the dangerous precedent of disabling the federal courts from protecting constitutional rights when those rights become politically unpopular" and "in effect, overrule the salutary principle of judicial supremacy in matters of constitutional interpretation."

Declaring that "we are opposed only to government-sponsored prayer," Gray testified that "our opposition to prayer in the public schools extends not only to Christian prayers but to Jewish and so-called non-denominational ones as well."

Rabinovitch testified that the amendment was "legally unsound and, from a religious point of view, profoundly misguided." He said public schools should "maintain complete neutrality in the realm of religion and should never undermine the faith of any child or question the absence of religious belief in any child." He said the public school setting, "including peer and teacher pressure on the individual student," was such that "organized prayer in public schools can never be truly voluntary."

Citing Supreme Court decisions in 1962 and 1963, which held unconstitutional the recitation of non-denominational, state-sponsored prayers or readings from the Bible in public schools, Rabinovitch argued that "no prayer can ever be truly non-denominational. In attempting to incorporate the tenets of several major religions, the meaning of prayer can only be diluted." He added "it is simply not the business of our government to compose or to sponsor prayers for American children to recite" in public schools.

Rabinovitch testified that the proposed legislation "is of dubious constitutionality and would create a dangerous and unprecedented incursion into the jurisdiction of the federal courts" and would "undermine the cherished principle of separation of powers."

He also contended, as did Gray, that the amendment was "perilous" because it would "open the door to future legislation to divest the federal courts of jurisdiction over other matters involving fundamental liberties." If the amendment was adopted, he testified, "nothing in the Bill of Rights would ever be truly secure again."

#### SPECIAL REPORT PLO TRYING TO DEFEAT SENATORS BACKING ISRAEL

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 19 (JTA) -- A leading Palestine Liberation Organization propagandist, Dr. M.T. Mehdi of New York City, is campaigning in Idaho and Oregon to block the reelection of two U.S. Senators who support friendly relations with Israel. In turn, the two legislators, Sen. Frank Church (D. Idaho), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Bob Packwood (R. Ore.), have hit back at his tactics.

Mehdi, who is understood to be of Iraqi origin, has identified himself as secretary general of Arab People to America. His tactics against Church and Packwood, among the most articulate supporters of Israel in Congress, include advertisements in newspapers in the two states urging opposition to "all American military aid to Israel and the Arab states." He also suggests that the Arab states would boycott wheat from Idaho. To avoid charges that he is interfering in American elections, Mehdi masks his propaganda by claiming that he is conducting an "educational campaign," the Senator's aides have noted.

Characterizing Mehdi's statements as "nonsense," Church's office here said "Israel and Egypt are our two strongest allies in the Middle East. That's why we support them. If we don't, we leave a vacuum to be filled by radical Arab states -- Syria, Iraq, Libya -- which are already armed to the teeth by the Soviet Union."

Idaho mainly produces soft white wheat which is chiefly exported to the Far East. Libya, which helps bankroll the PLO, seeks hard winter wheat available in the Midwest. Besides, the

cost of transporting the grain to the Mideast is much less from the Midwestern states.

Packwood's office said, "Dr. Mehdi has been a front for the PLO for almost 15 years" and described him as "a supporter of terrorism, a supporter of hijacking of airplanes." It quoted Packwood as saying: "As far as support of Israel is concerned, I intend to continue it. They are a great ally. They are a democracy. I wish we had a dozen more allies like Israel around the world. I'd feel a lot safer."

#### DUTCH CABINET BEGINS DISCUSSION ON FUTURE OF ITS EMBASSY IN ISRAEL

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 19 (JTA) -- The Dutch Cabinet started its deliberations this morning on whether it should transfer its embassy from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. The deliberations are expected to last several days. A debate will also take place tomorrow in the Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee.

Before the Cabinet session began today members and sympathizers of three pro-Israel organizations -- The Netherlands Israel Committee, the Working Group for Israel and The Netherlands Zionist Organization -- demonstrated in front of the Premier's office in The Hague and presented a petition to Dutch Foreign Minister Christoph van der Klauuw. The petition asked Holland not to yield to Arab blackmail and not to transfer the Dutch embassy from Jerusalem. The Working Group for Israel and The Netherlands Israel Committee are comprised mainly of non-Jews.

At the same time, the Chief Rabbinate of The Netherlands Ashkenazi congregation cabled the Roman Catholic Cardinal, Msgr. Johannes Willebrands, and the synods of the Dutch Reformed Church and other Protestant congregations asking Christians to give sermons in their church services on Jerusalem and its holiness and to point to the danger of an increasing isolation of Israel as a result of outside pressure. It is extremely rare that the Chief Rabbinate in The Netherlands issues appeals to the Christian churches.

#### ISRAEL APPOINTS NEW U.S. TOURISM COMMISSIONER

NEW YORK, Aug. 19 (JTA) -- Uzi Michaeli has been appointed Israel's Commissioner for Tourism to North America. He took over the post this week from Israel Zuriel, who is returning to Israel at the completion of his six-year term in the United States. From 1978 until the present, Michaeli served as director for the Western United States for the Israel Government Tourist Office in Los Angeles.

Michaeli is a Jerusalemite and has a B.A. in Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies from Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He was with the Prime Minister's Office from 1959 to 1962, when he joined the Ministry of Tourism. He spent five years (1968-73) in Chicago as director of the midwestern region of the Israel Tourist Office. Prior to coming to Los Angeles, he was director of the Tourism Ministry's overseas operations and then was deputy director general of the Ministry.

Michaeli was a founding member of Kibbutz Tel Katzir near the Sea of Galilee. He was director of tourism and economic development for the Jerusalem municipality and was secretary general of the Israel Museum and the Jerusalem Foundation.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- For the third consecutive year, the Israel Aliya Department in conjunction with the North American Aliyah Movement, has opened an Israel Aliyah Drop-In Center in Woodbourne, N.Y., in the heart of the Catskill Mountains.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES****SIMON WIESENTHAL: A PERSONAL TRIBUTE**

By James Rice

(Editor's note: James Rice was the American Joint Distribution Committee director for Austria in 1945-46.)

CHICAGO, Aug. 19 (JTA) -- When President Carter awarded a special congressional gold medal to Simon Wiesenthal in the East Room of the White House on Aug. 5, this writer's thoughts went back to another time and place, almost 35 years to the day. It was a few weeks after the liberation when a gaunt, hollow-eyed concentration camp survivor introduced himself as "Engineer Simon Wiesenthal" and offered his help to the Joint Distribution Committee director in Austria.

Wiesenthal immediately reported that in the Salzburg railroad yards were several freight cars containing the Nazi loot of the Hungarian Jewish community and urged that the U.S. Army be asked to protect these freight cars because they contained jewelry, paintings, gold, currency and other valuables and were in imminent danger of being stolen.

Impressed by Wiesenthal's insistence that these assets of the murdered Jews of Hungary should be given to the organizations aiding survivors, the writer reported the matter to the army authorities. Of course, Wiesenthal knew exactly what he was talking about then as he does now.

The army did act to protect the freight cars and eventually the contents were sold and auctioned by international refugee agencies. The proceeds became part of tens of millions of dollars subsequently distributed as reparations on the basis of 90 percent to the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee and 10 percent to non-Jewish refugee agencies.

**Has Become A World Figure**

In the three-and-a-half decades since that time, Wiesenthal became a world figure described by President Carter as a human being with "incomparable courage and conviction whose presence honors this House and the principles for which it stands." For this writer, no relationship in 45 years of service to the American Jewish community surpassed in professional and emotional significance the ongoing friendship and cooperation with Wiesenthal.

This relationship has created a special opportunity to evaluate and understand Simon Wiesenthal the man -- his philosophy, and his perceptive understanding of the world of the second half of the 20th Century.

**Wiesenthal's Dual Mission**

Wiesenthal has a dual mission: to bring to justice the principal Nazi murderers and to educate the younger generation of the free world at every opportunity about the Holocaust. He played an indispensable role in the successful effort last year to persuade the Parliament of West Germany to extend the statute of limitations so that Nazi criminals who have not yet been brought to trial will be unable to go scot free.

He constantly reminds Jewish audiences especially, that there were 11 million civilian victims murdered by the Nazis -- six million Jews and five million Christians.

The austere office of Wiesenthal's Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna, which is the

focal point of his international efforts to apprehend Nazi criminals, belies his world-wide prestige. How is the work of the Vienna Center financed?

A principal source of income is from voluntary gifts of the Dutch people -- primarily non-Jews. Curiously, only two Jewish Federations in the U.S. (Miami and Chicago) make allocations to the Center, which incidentally is on the Internal Revenue Service approved list of tax-exempt organizations.

Wiesenthal has strong ties to Israel. When he retires, he intends to turn over his precious files to the appropriate Israeli body. His wife, who is rarely seen in public, is quietly supportive of her renowned husband and stoically accepts the continued threats on his life. She is a relative of Dr. Sigmund Freud.

**Judging A Man By His Enemies**

If one can judge a man by his enemies, Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Austria frequently bitterly attacks Wiesenthal, despite Kreisky's own Jewish origins. The USSR and its satellites often castigate him. Why? Perhaps because of his outspoken anti-Communism, his exposure of former Nazis in high places in the East German government, and his well-known close relationship with Israel and the United States.

Naturally, Wiesenthal has been gratified that the USSR has permitted large numbers of Jews to emigrate, but he points out that even if the Soviets permitted 50,000 a year to emigrate every year as in 1979 -- and this year it is about half that rate -- the total Jewish population in the USSR will not be reduced because of the natural increase.

Wiesenthal, therefore, expresses deep concern that far too little has been done by the major Jewish organizations to reach out to the millions of Soviet Jews who will never be able to emigrate, and in another generation or two will lose their Jewish identity.

Although Wiesenthal is the world's best known Nazi hunter, during a recent discussion in Vienna he made clear to this writer that he does not regard all 10 million Nazi Party members as war criminals. He does expose those in current public office and especially determinedly pursues arch criminals like Dr. Josef Mengele, including many in this country who are clearly personally responsible for mass murder.

**Enjoys The Recognition He Has Received**

Is this the description of a saint? By no means. Wiesenthal takes tremendous, if pardonable, pride in his achievements, and very much enjoys the recognition he has received: the naming of the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies in Los Angeles; the highest civilian honor given to him by the Dutch government in 1979; and now, the gold medal by the U.S. Congress and President Carter.

There is sometimes almost a naive quality about this world figure. When the ceremony at the White House was over and Wiesenthal's friends gathered around to congratulate and embrace him, he asked, "Was my speech all right? Did you like it?"

Yes, they liked it, and their admiration for Wiesenthal and his life's work has left an indelible mark on everyone privileged to know this unique personality of our time.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Egyptian Embassy officials here have denied a report in Kuwait newspapers that a bomb was recently found and dismantled at the Egyptian Embassy building in Tel Aviv only a few minutes before it was scheduled to explode. Israeli sources also denied the report and said it was just another effort aimed at creating greater tensions between Israel and Egypt.