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ISRAELI NAVAL COMMANDOS RAID TERRORIST BASES IN SOUTH-LEBANON

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Sept. 18 (JTA) -- Israeli naval commandos carried out a surprise raid last night on terrorist targets in the south Lebanese port of Tyre and the nearby Rashidiyeh refugee camp, a military spokesman announced today. The units carried out their mission and returned safely to their bases, the announcement said.

The raid was the first of its kind on Tyre, a stronghold of Palestinian terrorists. A similar raid was conducted against the port of Sidon some time ago. According to Lebanese sources, the Israeli force in last night's attack consisted of four naval craft and a helicopter and achieved surprise but later encountered heavy fire from terrorist shore batteries and anti-aircraft guns. Israeli sources gave no estimate of the casualties inflicted on the terrorists. United Nations sources in Lebanon said one child was killed and 34 people were injured in the Israeli attack.

Information was scarce from the target area because Maj. Saad Haddad's Christian militia closed down the Rosh Hanikra border checkpoint today. Late yesterday afternoon, terrorists fired several Katyusha rockets into Upper Galilee. No casualties were reported and damage was slight.

GAMASSY: WAR OPTION CLOSED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 18 (JTA) -- Former Egyptian War Minister, Gen. Abdul Ghani al-Gamassy, who served as Egypt's chief of operations during the Yom Kippur War, said today that there is no longer an option of war between Israel and Egypt.

Gamassy spoke in a telephone interview with the Israel Army Radio, commemorating the seventh anniversary of the war. It was the first time Gamassy gave an interview to an Israeli news medium since he was relieved of his position shortly after President Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in November, 1977.

Gamassy said the Yom Kippur War was a turning point in the Arab-Israeli conflict, in that it eventually led to the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt. He refrained from making specific comments on the Yom Kippur War, merely saying that as far as he was concerned the war was conducted satisfactorily. He said he would make a more elaborate appraisal of the war in a book he is now writing. Gamassy has retired from both military and political life.

Gamassy, stressing that the war option no longer exists in the relations between the two countries, added: "As far as other Arab countries are concerned -- it is up to them." He said Egypt did not choose Oct. 6, 1973, the attack day, because it was Yom Kippur. "We had other reasons," he said, but did not elaborate. At the end of the interview he conveyed his regards to all Israelis.

Gamassy was the head of the Egyptian delegation to the separation of forces talks which took place at the Kilometer 101 signpost. His Israeli counterpart was Gen. Aharon Yariv, now head of the Tel Aviv University Strategic Institute.

SHAMIR: AUTONOMY TALKS MIGHT RESUME SOON; SAYS NORMALIZATION WOULD INFLUENCE THE NEGOTIATIONS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, indicating that the West Bank-Gaza autonomy talks may be resumed as early as next week, said today that advances in the "normalization" of Egypt's relations with Israel would help "fluence" the negotiations.

"If there would be real normalization," Shamir told a press conference, "it could create a better atmosphere and this could influence the negotiations." He noted that President Anwar Sadat of Egypt told him that he "sees no obstacles to full normalization in all fields -- trade, joint ventures, agricultural cooperation, cultural cooperation, tourism." Asked when normalization would happen, Shamir replied, "I'm not sure when it will take place but this is the first time we got such clear declarations."

Normalization Is Real Expression Of Peace

Pointing out that Egypt, Israel and the U.S. would be resuming talks in the next weeks, "Shamir said "Then we can see the progress of normalization. Normalization is the real expression of peace between Egypt and Israel. Steps in the next few weeks can implement normalization."

Shamir, who met Secretary of State Edmund Muskie yesterday and will meet with Defense Secretary Harold Brown later today, returns to New York tomorrow where he is expected to remain for the rest of the month to attend the UN General Assembly. Asked if he would meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko at the UN, as has been rumored, Shamir said, "If there will be that possibility, I will not exclude it."

Neither the site nor the date for the next autonomy meetings have been set, Shamir said. He said Israel preferred to meet in Israel or in Egypt while suggestions have been made that Washington be the site.

"We won't discuss now the problem of Jerusalem," he said, responding to a question about a report in the semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahram that Egypt has suggested its own plan for the security of Israel and the Jerusalem issue. "When Egypt proposes its agenda for the negotiations, we'll express our views," Shamir said.

Regarding the possibility of a separate arrangement for the Gaza Strip, he said "all possibilities" would be discussed when the negotiations resume. Asked if movement is "not happening in Gaza now," he replied, "not yet."

Studying U.S. Proposals On Autonomy

Shamir said U.S. proposals on the autonomy discussions are "under study." Asked if "anything objectionable" is contained in the proposals, he replied, "I would not say so." The Israeli Foreign Minister was asked about President Carter's policy toward Israel. "I will not say anything in general but on specific questions we got positive answers," he said.

Pressed to elucidate on "positive answers," Shamir said: "It would be very difficult to specify. There are many problems and aspects between Israel and the U.S. I can only say that generally we got positive answers for aid and so on."

Asked about "coordination" between the U.S.

and Israel, Shamir said the dialogue takes place "all the time" between the two governments. "Sometimes we agree, sometimes we disagree. It is quite normal."

Speaking of "too many enemies of the peace process in the Middle East" and "too many obstacles," Shamir said, "therefore, the help of the U.S. is necessary to overcome all those obstacles. The Egyptians need it as we need it."

Issue Of East Jerusalem

After Shamir said that an agreement has been reached on 80 percent of the powers to be vested in the autonomous authority, he was asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency about the State Department's view that the Arab inhabitants of East Jerusalem could vote in the West Bank elections but that would not determine the ultimate status of Jerusalem, although the Carter Administration says Jerusalem is undivided. The reporter also asked how can Jerusalem be undivided and yet East Jerusalem be considered part of the West Bank? "This is exactly our position," Shamir said, agreeing with the reporter. He observed that "the inhabitants of Jerusalem are part of the problem of Jerusalem" and "not part of the autonomy talks."

ARMS SUPPLIES TO THE MIDDLE EAST

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Sept. 18 (JTA) — Britain, France and the U.S. are stepping up their arms supplies to the Middle East and, in the past 12 months, secured at least 34 major arms contracts compared with only four by the Soviet Union. This is revealed by the International Institute for Strategic Studies in its annual "Military Balance" published today.

Although the number of deals do not necessarily reflect the quantities of weapons delivered, they underline the continued demand of Middle East states, especially the oil-producing countries, for sophisticated Western weaponry and the readiness of Western states to supply them in growing quantities.

The two superpowers are still supplying their principal clients. Thus the U.S. signed major deals with Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Saudi Arabia, and the Soviet Union pledged new supplies to Algeria, Iraq, Syria and North Yemen.

But there were significant variations. Iraq, which previously drew many of its arms from the USSR, has now turned to France, which concluded no fewer than seven agreements with it, for Mirage fighters, helicopters, and anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles. Italy also emerged as a supplier to Iraq's navy, agreeing to sell her four frigates, six 650-ton Corvettes and a support vessel.

The Soviet Union agreed to supply the Iraqis with 40 trainer aircraft and unknown quantities of MIG 23s, MIG 25s and MIG 27 fighters.

The Big Buyers

Libya, whose armory already included 2400 Soviet tanks, also turned to the West in the past year: Spain agreed to sell her three submarines; Canada, light aircraft; France, anti-aircraft missiles; Italy, armored cars; and The Netherlands, one transport aircraft. Kuwait, traditionally supplied by the West, moved in the opposite direction and bought ground and air missiles from the Soviet Union. Britain is selling

287 Shtr tanks to Jordan; while Saudi Arabia has contracted to buy AMX infantry combat vehicles and anti-aircraft systems from France.

Among Middle East states, Syria is spending the highest proportion of its government's defense budget, a massive 55 percent. Syria is followed by Israel, with 32 percent, and Saudi Arabia with 28 percent. But in terms of actual defense spending, oil-rich Saudi Arabia is way out in front with a colossal \$20 billion, compared with Israel's \$5.2 billion and Syria's \$4 billion.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

THE SAMARITANS OF ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Sept. 18 (JTA) — Two representatives of the ancient Samaritan community in Israel arrived here this week to begin a four-week tour of the United States to acquaint Americans, particularly Jews, with the customs and traditions of their community.

The two Samaritans, Menashe Marchiv, 41, the secretary general of the Samaritan community in Holon, and Meir Sasoni, 31, said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here, that they consider their mission to the United States to be of far-reaching importance to the future of their community.

"We are here to raise money to build a community center and a research institute of Samaritan history and life in Holon," Marchiv said. He claimed that the project will cost an estimated \$350,000 and that the Israeli government has allocated about \$50,000 for the project.

According to Marchiv and Sasoni, the lack of a community center might be a major contributing factor in the demise of the Samaritan community as a distinct group. "We are concerned about this possibility," Sasoni said, "and we believe that a community and cultural center will be a unifying force for the Samaritan community in general and for the young generation in particular."

The Samaritans reside in Holon, near Tel Aviv, and in Shechem (Nablus) on the West Bank. The two communities have about 600 members. Marchiv said that during their visit to the U.S., he and Sasoni are representing only the community in Holon.

Historic Background Of Samaritans

The Samaritans claim to be descendants of the tribes of Ephraim and Menashe and part of the tribe of Levi. Their original capital was in Samaria and originally they called themselves "Bené Yisrael" or Shomerim (the "keepers" of the Law). The Samaritans did not participate in the Jewish revolt of 66-70, but rose independently from time to time against the Romans.

The Samaritans believe in Moses as the sole Prophet and the only part of the Bible they accept is the Pentateuch. They claim that the place chosen by God for His sanctuary is Mt. Gerizim, the holiest place in the history and tradition of the Samaritans and that Passover can only be celebrated on Mt. Gerizim where the lamb are sacrificed, roasted and eaten. On the seventh day they make a pilgrimage to the mountain, reciting sections of the Pentateuch.

With the establishment of the State of Israel the Samaritan community enjoyed the patronage of Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, the second President of Israel. As a sign of gratitude, the Samaritan community plans to name the new community center they hope to build as the Yitzhak Ben-Zvi Samaritan Community Center.

The tightly knit Samaritan community in Israel is represented by a High Priest (Kohen Gadol) and a committee of five. Their children receive their

education in State schools, but their religious studies are conducted within the community "at the private home of the Kohen due to the lack of appropriate buildings," Marchiv said. Both Marchiv and Sasoni emphasized that the Samaritans are equal citizens in Israel "who enjoy equality of rights and obligations," including the mandatory service in the Israeli army.

Two Acute Problems

Due to the small number of Samaritans and their special customs, "it is imperative for us to live together in a closeknit community," Sasoni said. He explained that a Samaritan is required to live within his own community and use its synagogue. There is only one Samaritan synagogue in the country, and that one is in Holon. This has caused a severe housing problem for about 50 Samaritan young couples who cannot reside elsewhere in Israel and cannot afford presently to build apartments in the vicinity of their community in Holon, Sasoni said.

The housing shortage and the lack of a community center are two acute problems facing the Samaritans, Marchiv and Sasoni observed. "We hope, while we are in the United States, to meet with Jewish leaders and with American officials in Washington," they said, "and we hope to find someone who will listen to our cause."

BAPTIST LEADER CLAIMS GOD 'DOES NOT HEAR THE PRAYER OF A JEW'

NEW YORK, Sept. 18 (JTA) -- A Baptist leader's claim that "God Almighty does not hear the prayer of a Jew" has drawn sharp criticism from Jewish and some Baptist groups and a denial by Dr. Bailey Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, who made the statement, that he is anti-Semitic.

Smith, however, would not disavow the remarks he made at the National Affairs Briefing, a gathering of fundamentalist Christians in Dallas last month. Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, director of the interreligious affairs department of the American Jewish Committee, described Smith's assertion as "invincible ignorance" of the Jewish faith and "almost totally at variance with the major pronouncements of the Southern Baptist Convention." Smith is Pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla.

Smith's Dallas speech was recorded by Milton Labian, executive director of the A.C. Committee's North Texas region which mailed transcripts to Jewish leaders this week. Smith was recorded as saying: "It is interesting, at great political rallies, how you have a Protestant to pray, a Catholic to pray, and then you have a Jew to pray. With all due respects to those dear people, my friends, God Almighty does not hear the prayer of a Jew."

Claims He Is Pro-Jewish

Responding this week to the angry reactions to his remarks, Smith declared "I am pro-Jew. I believe they are God's special people. I believe they are still loved in the heart of God and that the Jews are some of the greatest blessings humanity has ever had, but without Jesus Christ they are lost. No prayer gets through that is not prayed through Jesus." He claimed that "Jews have an argument with me because they have an argument with the New Testament."

Smith's remarks were condemned by a colleague, Dr. James Dunn, director of the

Dallas-based Christian Life Commission of Texas Baptists. Dunn observed that "Baptists at their best have always believed in religious liberty" but "you can't really believe in religious liberty without respecting the religious convictions of others." He added, "If God Almighty cannot hear the prayers of Jews, you're putting pretty severe limits on your doctrine of God."

HOUSE WARNS IMF NOT TO GRANT OFFICIAL STATUS TO THE PLO

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18 (JTA) -- With only two Congressmen dissenting, the House of Representatives last night warned the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that the U.S. would "seriously" reduce its financial support for it, should the IMF grant any "official status" to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Acting on a resolution sponsored by Rep. Richard Gilman (R.N.Y.), 386 members backed that position and only Reps. John Conyers (D.Mich.) and James Johnson (R.Colo.) opposed it. Forty-four members were absent. Rep. Paul Findley (R.Ill.), who is regarded as the leading advocate in the House for legitimizing the PLO, changed his vote from "no" to "aye."

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have threatened to cancel loans and suspend other credits to the IMF if it does not grant the PLO observer status. The IMF executive committee, at the urging of the U.S. and other Western nations, has denied the PLO's application pending further consideration. The two oil-rich Arab states and their allies have pressed for immediate action.

The IMF is a source of credit for Third World nations that require financial assistance in times of stress to supply their people with food. The action of the House, Congressional sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today, is to help the Carter Administration encourage other governments to act against the Kuwaiti-Saudi Arabian demands and block majority support within the IMF committee for entry by the PLO.

Gilman's resolution said "It is the policy of the United States that the PLO should not be given membership in the Fund or be given observer status or any other official status at any meeting sponsored by or associated with the Fund. The U.S. executive director of the Fund shall promptly notify the Fund of such policy. In the event that the Fund provides either membership, observer status or any other official status to the PLO, such action would result in a serious diminution of U.S. support. Upon review of such action, the President would be required to report his recommendations to the Congress with regard to any further U.S. participation in the Fund."

BULLETIN

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18 (JTA) -- President Carter declared today that he is "determined that progress for a summit meeting" between himself, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin "will not interfere with substantive negotiations" for West Bank-Gaza Strip autonomy.

Carter told a nationally-televised White House press conference that he was optimistic on the Middle East situation because "top level negotiations" were now going on in Washington between Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and U.S. special envoy Sol Linowitz. Carter, in his remarks, ignored the original question, whether there could be progress in the Mideast if there was no discussion of the Jerusalem issue.

JACKSON INDICATES ANNOYANCE AT REPORTS THAT HE IS ANGRY WITH BEGIN

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18 (JTA) — Sen. Henry Jackson (D. Wash.), whose support of Israel has been unquestioned in his long political career, has indicated annoyance with published speculation that he did not mention Israel in his address to the B'nai B'rith International convention because he is "angry" with Premier Menachem Begin.

Under headlines such as "Why Senator Jackson Was Mute on Israel" and "Some Hear Thunder in Jackson's Silence," sections of the American Jewish press carried the report from their own Washington correspondent that Begin "How angry is" Jackson with Begin? The report noted he had spoken about U.S.-Soviet relations, Soviet Jewish emigration, Afghanistan, the strikes in Poland, and the energy crisis but "nothing about Israel."

Jackson's office dismissed the report as "an invention" and as "utterly ridiculous." Dorothy Fosdick, a principal assistant to Jackson, said she told the report's author that "You're inventing the whole thing. You don't have a story there."

Jackson, Fosdick said, "is very close and very loyal to Begin" and that "personally, Scoop is a good friend of Begin." Jackson's nickname is "Scoop."

Says Allegation Is "Ridiculous"

Asked for a comment on the allegation he is angry with Begin, Fosdick replied "it's utterly ridiculous. He doesn't have to answer stuff like that."

Independent observers noted that while Jackson did not mention Israel in his address, neither did Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser whose credentials in support of Israel's government are similarly unquestioned. Fraser, whose address preceded Jackson's, also stressed the Soviet component in world affairs and human rights.

Jackson received standing ovations before and after his speech to the B'nai B'rith, Fosdick noted. He discussed the elements about which he is the Senate's foremost expert — Soviet Jewish emigration and the problems stemming from U.S. dependence on Middle East oil.

In an interview with The Washington Star two months ago, Jackson criticized the "timing" of Israel's establishment of new settlements on the West Bank but in the same interview he said "the settlements are not illegal," which is contrary to the Carter Administration's position.

ISRAEL'S AUTONOMY PLAN WINS UNEXPECTED SUPPORT FROM EBAN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 18 (JTA) — The government's autonomy plan has won unexpected support from former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, a leader of the opposition Labor Party. He told a lecture audience here Tuesday that the plan should be regarded as a step toward territorial compromise as advocated by Labor and urged his party not to denigrate it but to press for its full implementation.

According to Eban, the problem was not the autonomy plan but the government's policies which contradicted it. While offering full autonomy, the government is intruding itself more and more into the lives of the Arab inhabitants of the

occupied territories by such acts as arrests, entering schools and forcing striking shops to open, Eban said.

"Why should I be interested if they open their schools or shops?" the former Foreign Minister asked. "If they don't open their schools they will have fewer scholars. If they don't open their shops they will have fewer men of wealth. Why should I be interested in what they say in Bir Zeit (the West Bank university town) as long as it is not incitement to violence?"

Instead of diminishing the Israeli presence among the Arab population, the government has exercised growing paternalism, he said. On other issues, Eban observed that Israel never before has been so isolated. Whereas in the past its conflicts were with governments, today it is also with public opinion, he said. He also stressed the need to divert efforts among U.S. Jewry from raising funds to increasing the number of immigrants.

BEGIN STICKS TO SETTLEMENT FIGURES

JERUSALEM, Sept. 18 (JTA) — The Premier's office announced it was sticking to the figure of 10 more settlements to be built on the West Bank. The office issued the statement in the name of Premier Menachem Begin following claims by the Gush Emunim that "senior government officials" had promised them the government would continue to establish new settlements on the West Bank, even after the 10 settlements are completed. Of the 10 Begin referred to in various interviews, six have already been approved by the Cabinet and four more remain to be approved.

EXIT DOORS SWING SHUT IN KHARKOV

NEW YORK, Sept. 18 (JTA) — In what the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) and Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (UCSJ) called "an unprecedented move that may well seal the small crack in the iron door still open," emigration authorities in the Ukrainian city of Kharkov have reportedly notified Jewish exit applicants that if they are refused visas, they must sign a declaration that they have been warned that they cannot apply again, and that they will get a job within a month.

Normally, a refusnik can reapply every half year, but those who are left without jobs are often threatened with imprisonment for "parasitism." In the past few years, restrictive emigration policies have begun in Ukrainian cities, then spread throughout the USSR, the SSSJ and the UCSJ reported.

Recent emigration has steadily dropped as restrictions grow ever higher, the SSSJ and UCSJ said. Tens of thousands of Jews have been refused even the opportunity to apply to leave because, they are told, they do not have an immediate family living in Israel. Other Jews who manage to apply may wait for months on end without receiving an answer.

NEW SETTLEMENT IN THE GALILEE

TEL AVIV, Sept. 18 (JTA) — Shechenya, a new settlement populated by immigrants from English-speaking countries, was formally inaugurated yesterday in the Segov region of western Galilee. It is one of six new settlements in the area that will be based on industry rather than agriculture. Each will have a manufacturing plant at its center.

The settlers include members of the Massada "garin" (settlement nucleus) from the U.S. who came to the Segov region three years ago and lived in temporary quarters. Because of the long wait for permanent housing, many left and the group almost disintegrated. But a number of families stuck it out and were among the settlers who moved into their new homes yesterday.