

ZIPORI: ISRAEL WOULD AID IRAN IN WAR AGAINST IRAQ IF IRAN ENDS ANTI- ISRAEL POLICY, SUPPORT OF TERRORISTS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Sept. 28 (JTA) — Israel would assist Iran militarily in its war with Iraq on condition that Iran abandoned its extreme anti-Israel policy and stopped supporting Palestinian terrorists, Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori said according to an interview published in Maariv today. (See related story, P.4.)

"Israel can provide considerable assistance to Iran and enable her, from a logistical point of view, to continue its war with Iraq," Zipori was quoted as saying. "However, it is self-evident that such a possibility could not materialize unless there is a significant change in the present extreme regime of Iran. The Iranian authorities will first have to change their bitterly hostile policy toward us. Today they support Palestinian terrorists and wage political and economic war against us."

Zipori noted, according to Maariv, that Israeli military assistance in the form of equipment could be of major importance to Iran because its army already uses some shells of Israeli manufacture and its navy employs the Israel-made Gabriel surface-to-surface missile, weapons apparently sold to Iran during the regime of the late Shah. But as of now, Zipori pointed out, the Iranian attitude toward Israel is the same as that of the Palestine Liberation Organization and "it is unthinkable that we shall assist the PLO."

Growing Concern In Israeli Circles

Zipori's remarks reflected growing concern in Israeli circles that Iraqi hegemony over the Persian Gulf in the event of a successful outcome of its war against Iran could have long-term detrimental effects for Israel.

Gen. Yehoshua Saguy, chief of army intelligence, made that point in a television interview over the weekend. He warned that the ascendancy of Iraq would strengthen Soviet influence in the Gulf region. He did not rule out the possibility of direct Soviet intervention if the Iraqi-Iranian war is prolonged or if a power struggle develops in Iran.

Saguy also noted that Iraq has a nuclear weapons potential. "If I were an Iranian I would think twice about the effect of this war in another four or five years, especially about the fact that Iraq will be a nuclear power by the end of the 1980s," Saguy said. The Iraqi nuclear reactor under construction near Baghdad has not yet been hit by Iranian bombers, he observed.

Of more direct consequence to Israel, Saguy referred to the growing economic ties between Iraq and Jordan, leading possibly to military ties, which would pose a serious threat to Israel on its eastern borders.

Shimon Peres, leader of the opposition Labor Party also referred to Jordan in the context of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. In an interview published today in Yediot Achronot, Peres suggested that the time is now ripe for Israel to seek contacts with Jordan. According to Peres, King Hussein fears being squeezed between a powerful Iraq and a

threatening PLO and despite his public declarations to the contrary, Jordan would be ready to talk peace with Israel.

WAVE OF ASSAULTS AGAINST JEWISH INSTITUTIONS BY NEO-NAZI GROUP

By Aaron Meler

PARIS, Sept. 28 (JTA) — A neo-Nazi group claimed credit for this morning's machinegun attack on a synagogue here, the fifth armed assault on Jewish institutions in Paris in 48 hours. In pre-dawn attacks Friday, unidentified gunmen sprayed bullets into the entrance of the Great Synagogue, a Jewish-run children's home, a memorial monument to Jews deported by the Nazis and the entrance to the Lucien Hirsh School.

No casualties were reported in any of the incidents. But the French Jewish community is enraged and President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has expressed his "indignation." On Friday night, police swooped down on the offices of the recently outlawed Federation of European Nationalist Action (FANE) and arrested six persons. Two were still in custody today, including FANE leader Marc Fredriksen who was tried and convicted earlier this month for inciting race hatred and is awaiting sentence.

Anonymous telephone calls to French news media Friday and today said the attacks were the work of the European Nationalist Fasces (FNE), a neo-Nazi organization set up by Fredriksen after FANE was banned on orders of the Interior Ministry. He faces another court hearing next month.

Proliferation Of Anti-Semitic Incidents

The armed attacks over the weekend capped a series of incidents in Paris and other parts of France, including the proliferation of anti-Semitic leaflets and daubings on the walls of Jewish-owned buildings and street clashes between Jewish activists and neo-Nazis.

The most violent of these occurred last week outside the courthouse during Fredriksen's trial. Two days later, a shop owned by Salomon Milgrom, a Jewish activist, was the target of an attack.

Anti-Semitic slogans were smeared on the walls of the Hirsh School three days before the machinegun attack.

Jewish shopkeepers, concerned by the wave of anti-Semitic attacks, organized a demonstration attended by several political leaders and they took the opportunity to announce that they would set up defense groups to prevent such crimes.

Demands For Authorities To Act

The Representative Council of Jewish Organizations in France (CRIF) published a communique denouncing the attacks and said through its president, Alain de Rothschild, that "anti-Semitic elements are trying to aim at the vital sectors of our community. We demand that the authorities deal firmly with those who are responsible for the attacks. We believe that they constitute minority groups which are seeking to destabilize democratic life. Above all, it is essential not to fall into the trap of provocation."

Fredriksen and his associates are believed to be waging a deliberate campaign of terror against French Jews to force them to react. According to

this view, counter-violence by Jews is expected to stir anti-Semitic feelings in the population since the right wing extremists would utilize the counter-attacks to convince the population that Jews are responsible for France's present economic difficulties.

For the first time, meanwhile, Giscard d'Estaing intervened by saying that the attacks were particularly despicable as they had been aimed at schools. The Mayor of Paris, former Premier Jacques Chirac, said everything should be done to track down those responsible for the attacks and punished. He added that he asked the police to protect all Jewish schools and institutions in Paris.

Role Of Police Criticized

Several Jewish personalities, however, expressed regret that French police have not gone after the neo-Nazis. Andre Wormser, head of CRIF's Commission on anti-Semitism, stressed that it is "necessary to dismantle" the neo-Nazi groups but that the Jewish community should refrain from using violence.

French police, he said, "have not always done their job as they should. For three years, three neo-Nazi groups have been active in France: the Joachim Peiper group, the French Front Against Jewish Dictatorship, and the Charles Martel group. All the members of these groups are similar to the pro-Nazi collaborators during the war." He added that police must "carry out their investigations in earnest. It is hard to believe that it is impossible for them to dismantle these groups."

Jewish leaders said it was urgent to dissolve all neo-Nazi groups and prevent their leaders from reconstituting their organizations under another name, which a loophole in French laws enables them to do.

French police said they faced difficulties in dismantling neo-Nazi organizations because they were set up as clandestine cells. They added that they could only act against known pro-Nazis but that it was hard to track down the anonymous sympathizers.

Critics of the French police have nevertheless noted that many police are rightwing sympathizers. They recalled that during the war it was French police, not the Germans, who rounded up Jews who were eventually sent to Nazi death camps. After the liberation of France in 1944, the police department was not purged entirely of its former collaborationists and for years neo-Nazi elements lived in peace.

It was recalled that during the war some 50,000 Frenchmen enrolled in the militia corps which carried out even more brutal actions against the population than the Germans. When the war ended less than 2000 of these men faced French tribunals and only 500 were executed for their crimes.

SHAMIR WARNS ON-IRAN-IRAQ WAR

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir warned today that the Iraqi-Iranian war threatens the entire Middle East and the supply of oil to most of the world. He suggested that the United States take measures to end the conflict and hinted that it may already be doing so. He also said that the danger of Arab moves to expel Israel from the United Nations still exists, though they may not be imminent.

Shamir, who spoke in reply to questions at a press conference at the Regency Hotel this morning, also welcomed the call by Foreign Minister Gabriel Matthews of Liberia in the UN General Assembly Friday, for African countries to re-examine their relations with Israel. Most African countries severed diplomatic ties with Israel after the Yom Kippur War. The Israeli diplomat is scheduled to address the General Assembly tomorrow to outline Israel's foreign policy principles.

Shamir called the Liberian Foreign Minister's remark in his General Assembly address "encouraging." He said it was indicative of a new tendency on the part of the African countries to revise their relations with Israel. "We have to look at it seriously and I hope there will be a follow up to it," he said. He added that contacts between Israel and African countries are continuing "all the time" at different levels.

Cause For Concern

Asked to comment on the war between Iraq and Iran, Shamir said it posed a danger to Israel. He said the Iraqis have ambitions to control the Middle East area "and anybody who wants to control the Middle East wants to achieve it by harming Israel. This is a real cause for concern."

Shamir added that the war threatened not only the entire Middle East but much of the world's oil supply. Therefore, he said, it is expected that a country as important as the United States would make efforts to stop this danger and it seems that developments are moving in that direction. He did not elaborate.

He said that in his view the danger still exists of an Arab attempt to expel Israel from the 154-member world organization although he does not expect such a move in the next few days "but the attempt might be renewed in the future as long as there is an automatic majority at the UN."

He noted that during his talks with various foreign ministers here in the last two weeks, he received assurances from them that they would exert all their power to thwart such a move. Shamir has met with the foreign ministers of Western European and South American countries.

With respect to Israel's relations with the Soviet Union, Shamir said, in reply to a question by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he does not see any sign of change toward Israel on the part of the USSR. He said he had met today with Foreign Minister Stefan Andrie of Rumania who asked him why Israel objects to a Soviet role in the Middle East peace negotiations. Shamir said, "I told him that the Soviets removed themselves from the process by severing diplomatic relations with Israel."

Shamir is scheduled to leave the U.S. Tuesday night for Europe before returning to Israel.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, is among seven prominent religious leaders who have urged the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to recommend ratification of the Genocide Convention and four other human rights covenants. The religious spokesmen, of which Schindler is the only Jewish representative, declared: "Continued non-ratification prohibits the United States from participating in some of the most important international forums for the protection of human rights at a time when it is demonstrably in the nation's interest and purpose to strengthen international law in the field of human rights." The appeal for favorable action was in the form of a letter to Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), the Committee's chairman.

TRIAL OF ALLEGED NAZI COLLABORATOR

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 28 (JTA) — An array of prosecution witnesses, called to the witness stand or presented on videotape by the U.S. Department of Justice, offered evidence last week designed to prove that Wolodymir Osidach played a direct role in the persecution of Jews in the Ukrainian village of Rawa Ruska, it was reported by David Gross, news editor of the Jewish Exponent. Gross' report was compiled with the daily courtroom aid of Marc Sugerman and Elaine Goodman, staff editorial interns.

By the end of last week the U.S. was completing its denaturalization case against the alleged Nazi collaborator before Federal District Court Judge Louis Bechtle here. Should prosecutor Neal Sher, deputy director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, prove that Osidach lied in order to gain entry into this country — and again to become a U.S. citizen — the 76-year-old Ukrainian will be denaturalized and could face deportation proceedings.

Still to come is the case for the defense, as attorney Louis Konowal continued his effort to downplay Osidach's role in the Ukrainian Police hierarchy. Konowal hoped to separate Osidach from anti-Jewish actions in Rawa Ruska. Osidach, Konowal argued during his opening statement, is a victim of Soviet harassment directed against him because of his anti-Communist efforts as a member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists.

Concedes He Lied

In a crowded courtroom simmering with tension between the local Jewish and Ukrainian communities, Osidach himself, during direct testimony, conceded that he had lied on his visa and citizenship applications when he said that he was a "dairy technician" in Rawa Ruska during the Nazi occupation. He admitted his membership in the Ukrainian Police and agreed that his rank had been "hauptwachmann" — a term the prosecution translated as "chief of police," but which Osidach insisted meant "corporal."

Osidach also admitted that atrocities against the 3,000 Jews of Rawa Ruska, including mass murders, had taken place. He insisted repeatedly, however, that the Ukrainian police had played no part in them. Only the Germans, he maintained, entered the Rawa Ruska ghetto. The Ukrainian police, he testified under oath, were forbidden entry on pain of death by the Gestapo.

Osidach specifically denied that Ukrainian police herded Jews to the cattle cars which carried them to the gas chambers at Belzec 18 miles away. From the police station, he swore, he would see Germans guarding large groups of Jews enroute to the railroad station. Where those Jews were going, he maintained, he had no idea.

Parade Of Government Witnesses

A long parade of government witnesses — some videotaped in the Soviet Union, the first time such testimony has been admitted as evidence in an American court — provided a different version of events in Nazi-occupied Rawa Ruska. They recalled overcrowding and disease, hunger and violent death.

"I was only eight feet from Osidach when he arrested my brother," testified Ida Rybitwer, a Rawa Ruska native who now lives in a suburb of Toronto. "Osidach had a rifle. He was in a

police uniform, navy blue. I never saw my brother again." Mrs. Rybitwer survived the war because a gentile woman hid her and provided her with a false Polish birth certificate.

Kurt Lewin, another Holocaust survivor, was also in Rawa Ruska during the war. He testified that he saw Osidach in the Rawa Ruska ghetto. He knew who Osidach was, he said, because he had been specifically warned to steer clear of "Mr. Osidach, the commander of the Ukrainian police." He also saw Osidach's name on posters proclaiming Jewish regulations.

After the Germans were driven out in 1944, Lewin recounted, he returned to Rawa Ruska for a week. Of a 1942 population of 10,000 to 12,000 Jews, he sadly observed, only 10 remained. He had survived, Lewin stated, because he had been hidden by a Ukrainian farmer.

Role Of Ukrainian Police

Philip Langer, now of Tampa, Fla., also directly contradicted Osidach's testimony by stating that Ukrainian police brutally oppressed Rawa Ruska's Jewish population. He himself witnessed shootings, he said. He also testified that he saw Osidach directing a roundup of Jews in 1942.

Langer stressed that Ukrainian police were responsible for enforcing the Nazi laws relating to Jews. For example, Ukrainian police stood guard as he and other Jews were forced to destroy headstones in the Jewish cemetery with sledgehammers. The rubble was used to pave roads.

Abraham Weinfeld, now of New York, a pharmacist, also lived in Rawa Ruska under the Germans — in a two-room apartment with 17 other Jews. He also worked in the Jewish cemetery, turning headstones into gravel under the watchful eye of the Ukrainian police, who "yelled and beat us with whips."

Weinfeld also observed two mass roundups in the ghetto from the pharmacy in which he was working. He heard the shots and saw the flames of burning buildings and the dead bodies lying in the street. He saw the Germans and the Ukrainian police going from house to house pulling people out.

Story Told To Hushed Court

Shlomo Altschuler, now of Holon, Israel, told his story to the hushed court through a Hebrew translator. Altschuler, in a deposition taken in Israel, had previously identified Osidach as the Rawa Ruska's Ukrainian police chief. While working at forced labor in a quarry, he testified, he lived with other slave laborers in a house directly behind the Ukrainian police station. Every morning, Altschuler saw the Ukrainian police line up in formation and receive their orders from an officer who stood in front of the line. That man, Altschuler said, was Osidach.

One time, Altschuler said, while coming back from work, he saw many SS troops and Ukrainian police gathering outside the ghetto. Knowing that a roundup was coming, Altschuler, his father, mother and two sisters hid. After two days in hiding, his father went out to see what had happened. He never returned.

Finally, their hideout under a floor was discovered by Ukrainian police and the remaining Altschulers were dragged into the street. SS and Ukrainian police marched them, along with some 100 other Jews, to the cemetery. They were separated — the healthy men on one side, the sick and old, the women and children, on the other. The women and children were taken away in crowded

trucks, with Ukrainian police sitting on the backs and acting as guards. In a flat, emotionless voice, Altschuler stated that he heard shots and the trucks came back empty.

Other prosecution witnesses testified on videotape. As Justice Department officials explained, these witnesses were taped while being questioned in the Soviet Union with Soviet authorities present. The witnesses, all non-Jewish residents of Rawa Ruska, told of the destruction of the ghetto, the role of the Ukrainian police and of Osidach's official activities.

KNESSET UNIT ASSESSES IMPACT OF IRAN-IRAQ WAR ON ISRAEL'S SECURITY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 28 (JTA) — The Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee deliberated today on the impact of the Iraqi-Iranian war on Israel's security. Premier Menachem Begin, who attended the session, repeated that Israel must watch developments closely and carefully. Some members suggested that Israel take some initiatives to prevent an Iraqi victory while others maintained that Israel keep a low profile while exploiting the propaganda value of the conflict between two declared enemies of the Jewish State.

The consensus in the committee was that it is too early to predict the outcome of the war. Military experts who briefed the committee said Iraq's heavily armored land forces enjoy an advantage in ground fighting. The Iranians have naval supremacy and both sides are about even in the air with possibly a slight advantage for the Iranians, they said.

According to the experts, Iraq had been preparing for the war for many months, militarily and politically. Baghdad moved to improve its relations not only with the Soviet Union which had deteriorated since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, but also with the Western-oriented Arab states, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

Iraq's Three Goals

They said Iraq has three goals in its war on Iran: to acquire supremacy in the Persian Gulf area; to depose the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini; and to take over the Arab-populated, oil-rich area of Khuzistan in southern Iran.

That would give Iraq full control over the Shatt el Arab, the waterway formed by the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, easy access to the Persian Gulf and a substantial increase in its oil producing capacity. The Khuzistan fields have a potential of five million barrels a day.

Views Of Knesset Members

Meir Amit, of the Labor Alignment said Israel's dilemma was how to cause the fall of the Khomeini regime and yet promote an Iranian victory that would prevent the strengthening of Iraq. Amit said Israel should consider possible moves in that direction.

Yehuda Ben Meir of the National Religious Party also spoke of possible Israeli initiatives toward the resumption of relations with Iran. He said Israel was a natural source of assistance to Iran since it could supply that country with spare parts and other equipment of American manufacture which are still in use by the Iranian army.

Yosef Rom of Likud said "Israel's first interest was its own security and therefore any

action in that direction is positive." However, Rom was not sure that arms sales to Iran were feasible under present circumstances or whether the Khomeini regime was interested.

Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban of the Labor Alignment said the Iraqi-Iranian war gave Israel the opportunity to point out to the world that the Arab-Israeli conflict is not responsible for turmoil in the Middle East. "If Israel ceased to exist the Soviet troops would not withdraw from Afghanistan, Khomeini would not release the American hostages, Iraq would not stop the war and the price of oil would not drop one penny," Eban said.

Labor Party leader Shimon Peres stressed that Israel must not become involved in the Persian Gulf war. He said the war could change the map of the Middle East and touch off a new arms race in the area.

THE CELEBRATION OF SUCCOTH

NEW YORK, Sept. 28 (JTA) — More than 5000 Lubavitcher Hasidim gathered in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn last night and sang and danced until early this morning to celebrate Succoth. Several blocks of Kingston Avenue, the main business street of Crown Heights, were closed off by the police as were intersecting streets.

"It was reminiscent of the joy of the Holy Temple in the days of Succos," Rabbi Shmuel Butman, director of the Lubavitch Youth Organization, said. He noted that the Talmud says, "Whoever did not see the joy of Succos did not see joy in his life."

The Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, said that "we have to parallel that joy." In several unprecedented addresses following services at the Lubavitch World Headquarters since the start of Succoth, the Rebbe noted that this year bears particular importance since it is the year of the Hakhel, the year when all men, women and children gathered in Jerusalem for Succos.

The celebration last night was accompanied by a Hasidic orchestra. "It was a natural flow of joy that could not have been contained in the boundaries of a shul however large," Butman said. He said the crowds consisted of guests who had come here for the entire month of Tishrei as well as Crown Heights residents.

MEETING IN WARSAW

TEL AVIV, Sept. 28 (JTA) — Stefan Grayek, chairman of the World Federation of Jewish Fighters, Partisans and Concentration Camp Inmates, left today for Warsaw for a meeting of the International Auschwitz Memorial Committee. Delegates from 18 countries are scheduled to attend this meeting. Grayek is being accompanied by Aryeh Bentov, a lawyer, who was a concentration camp inmate, and Tzvi Barzilai, Deputy Mayor of Haifa.

During his stay in Poland, Grayek is due to meet with prominent Polish officials and to discuss the implementation of a recent agreement between Poland and Israel whereby Israeli researchers will be able to study documents in Polish archives dealing with pre-war Polish Jewry and Jews during the Nazi occupation of Poland. Grayek will also discuss with Poland's Minister of Religious Affairs Jerzy Kobarski the final details of the minister's visit to Israel early next year. Kobarski had said earlier that he would not get involved in Israeli-Polish relations but would go to Israel solely on the basis of dealing with religious matters.