

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. LVIII - 63rd Year

Friday, November 28, 1980

No. 227

FRENCH JEWRY IN STATE OF ALARM FOLLOWING TERRORIST KILLING OF JEWISH OWNERS OF TRAVEL AGENCY

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- French Jewry is in a state of alarm after an unknown gunman murdered the Jewish owners of a Paris travel agency that specialized in tours to Israel. The assailant walked into the office of IT-Tours Tuesday afternoon and fired eight bullets from an automatic pistol, fatally wounding Edwin Douek, 53, the proprietor. His wife, Michele, 29, was killed instantly and a clerk was slightly wounded. Edwin Douek died of his wounds later in a hospital.

The incident was the first fatal attack on Jews in France since the Oct. 3 bombing of the Rue Copernic synagogue which took four lives. Police immediately took precautionary measures to protect major Jewish institutions. The Rothschild Bank, only a block away from the scene of the shooting, was cordoned off. Cars were not permitted to park on adjacent streets. Other Jewish-owned businesses usually associated with Israel were placed under round-the-clock guard.

The first news reports of the shooting said the killings occurred in the course of a robbery. But no money or valuables were taken from the travel agency, a fact confirmed by eye-witnesses who said the gunman, whose raincoat concealed his weapon, made no attempt to rob the premises. He simply opened fire without saying a word and fled. Same eye-witnesses said he appeared to be an Arab.

Political Motivation Suspected

The chief of the French criminal police, Marcel LeClerc, said yesterday the authorities are convinced the murders were politically motivated and committed on behalf of an Arab country or a terrorist organization opposed to the Camp David agreements.

The police suspicions were based on the fact that the weapon was an Italian-made Beretta 7.65 automatic pistol equipped with a Czech-made silencer. The bullets were of Czech manufacture, the police said. They noted that the same type of weapon and equipment was used in the murder of the Syrian leader, Salah el-Bitar last July 21 and in the attack last summer on former Iranian Premier Shapur Bakhtiar. The killer abandoned the pistol in a Paris street.

Near Panic In Some Quarters

But a member of the Israeli Knesset, Assaf Yagouri, who was visiting Paris at the time, disagreed with the police theory. He claimed the killings were the work of "an anti-Semitic organization." Yagouri said his own investigation and consultations with the "appropriate sources" convinced him that the Doueks were the victims of anti-Semites. The couple was well known in the Jewish community and news of their murder touched off a near panic in some Jewish quarters.

Meanwhile, the police conceded that it will be difficult if not impossible to track down the assassin. They said he probably left the country

immediately after the shooting. Police sources also admitted that the special protection of Jewish institutions cannot be continued indefinitely and the guards will eventually have to be removed.

ISRAEL KEEPING TABS ON BUILD-UP OF SYRIAN TROOPS ALONG JORDAN

TEL AVIV, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- Israel is keeping a close watch on what it regards as a "significant" build-up of Syrian troops on the Jordanian border. While that development appears related exclusively to the growing tension between Syria and Jordan, Premier Menachem Begin considered it sufficiently important, as Defense Minister, to report the situation to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee Tuesday.

The Syrian aim appeared to be to coerce Jordan into cancelling the Arab summit meeting. The meeting opened on schedule in Amman but with the absence of five rejectionist states -- Syria, Lebanon, South Yemen, Libya and Algeria -- and the Palestine Liberation Organization. Those countries opposed a summit meeting at this time because of the divisions in the Arab world arising from the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Jordan ignored the Syrian threat, apparently relying on its very strong armored corps and highly mobile army which are considered quite capable of repulsing any Syrian attack. Nevertheless, Israeli military observers warned that while the Syrian troop concentrations are of a demonstrative nature, the situation could get out of hand. They recalled Syria's attempted invasion of Jordan in 1970 when King Hussein was battling Palestinian terrorists.

Military sources reported that Syrian units deployed facing Israel on the Golan Heights have been unusually quiet, indicating a signal from Damascus that Syria has no intention of moving against Israel.

U.S., Israel Exchanging Views

It was learned, meanwhile, that Israel and the U.S. are exchanging views over the tension on the Syrian-Jordanian border and the large military concentrations on both sides. Skirmishes that may escalate out of control are considered a possibility. Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori and Gen. Abraham Tamir, chief of planning at General Headquarters, will leave for Washington shortly to reopen the strategic dialogue with the U.S. The Syrian-Jordanian border situation is expected to be discussed.

FALWELL; SCHINDLER'S CHARGES AGAINST MORAL MAJORITY ARE FALSE, 'ABSOLUTELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION'

NEW YORK, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- The Rev. Jerry Falwell, head of the Moral Majority, rejected charges by Rabbi Alexander Schindler that rightwing religious-fundamentalist groups foster the growth of anti-Semitism in the U.S. He called the assertion "false and absolutely without foundation."

At the same time, Rabbi Abraham Hecht, president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, called Schindler's charge "both scurrilous and inane." He said that "As one who has met and cooperated with the Moral Majority I can safely state that the ominous threats created by Schindler's fantasy are totally unfounded and devoid of proof."

Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), referred to the "chilling power of the radical right" in an address in San Francisco last week where the UAHC Board was meeting. He observed that it was "no coincidence that the rise of rightwing Christian fundamentalism has been accompanied by the most serious outbreak of anti-Semitism in America since the end of World War II."

Falwell, in a statement from his headquarters in Lynchburg, Va., said Schindler's assertion that "my activities in the Moral Majority movement have helped to create a climate which has led to anti-Semitic incidences in the United States" was "false and absolutely without foundation." "I do not have to prove to Rabbi Schindler or anyone else of my long-standing friendship for the Jewish people in America and around the world, and my strong and continuing advocacy of the cause of Israel," Falwell said.

He noted that two weeks ago he received an award from Premier Menachem Begin of Israel "in recognition of many years of service to Israel and the Jewish people everywhere." The award, from the Jabotinsky Foundation, was also given to 99 other prominent Americans. But one of the awardees, Sen. Frank Church (D. Idaho) refused to accept his because Falwell was one of the recipients. Sen. Carl Levin (D. Mich.) also criticized the award to Falwell.

Orthodox Leader Raps Schindler

In a blistering statement, Hecht asserted that, contrary to Schindler's view that the rightwing Christian groups are a disaster for America, and the security of American Jewry, "these leaders are men of integrity, sharing many traditional beliefs of the Jewish people ... values (which) have long ago been rejected out of hand by Schindler and his ilk."

Commenting on Schindler's view that there is a link between rightwing Christian groups and the increase in anti-Semitic acts, Hecht said "This equation is as valid as stating that inflation is caused by the affluence of the Jew." He added that Schindler's "irreligious policies are a much greater threat to the existence and future of the Jewish people than any other religious group in America, past, present or future."

Schindler was also criticized by Nathan Perlmutter, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, for "looking at the fundamentalists as a monolithic group." He said, "I respectfully remind Rabbi Schindler that the Soviet Union, the prime exporter of anti-Semitism, is neither Christian nor fundamentalist ... There are good Christians and bad Christians, good Jews and bad Jews. To hear some of the talk lately we'd also have to say there are foolish Christians and foolish Jews."

Aiding Italy's Quake Victims: JDC TO CONTRIBUTE \$30,000, B'NAI B'RITH TO GIVE \$1000

NEW YORK, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- Two major Jewish organizations announced today that they are making contributions to the victims of the earthquakes in Italy. The American Joint Distribution Committee's president, Donald Robinson announced a contribution of \$30,000 in its traditional role of representative of the American Jewish community for overseas relief. B'nai

B'rith International's president, Jack Spitzer, said his organization will contribute \$1000 and that additional funds will be forthcoming from B'nai B'rith subdivisions outside the United States.

Robinson, in his announcement, also said that the JDC was making itself available for members of the American Jewish community and others who wish to make donations. Monies received for this purpose will be added to the basic JDC contribution, he said, adding that anyone wishing to donate should send funds to the American Joint Distribution Committee, Room 1914, 60 East 42nd Street, New York City, NY 10165.

Ralph Goldman, JDC executive vice president, said the JDC's office in Rome has been instructed to contact Italian government officials and to make the JDC's Rome office available to the relief effort. In addition, Goldman said, "we are acting in cooperation with HIAS to recruit volunteers from among the Soviet Jewish emigrants in Rome who are awaiting visas to the United States."

Help From Rome's Jewish Community

According to a cable received here from the JDC's Rome office, the Jewish community of Rome has sent three truckloads of blankets and clothing to the collection center in Naples and is making a contribution of three million Lira and started an effort within the community to raise a total of 19 million Lira. The JDC said no Italian Jewish institutions have been directly affected by the earthquakes which have taken several thousand lives and have left hundreds of thousands homeless.

Spitzer, who made the announcement of the B'nai B'rith effort from Hong Kong where he is on B'nai B'rith business, said the presentation of his organization's contribution will be made in Washington next week to the Italian Ambassador.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WILL NOT SEEK RETRIAL OF SUSPECTED EX-NAZI

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- The Justice Department said yesterday that it would not seek a retrial of suspected Nazi war criminal Frank Walus after an appeals court reversed a lower court order to revoke his American citizenship. Walus, 58, a resident of Chicago, was found guilty by a U.S. District Judge in Illinois of having concealed his Nazi activities when he applied for citizenship.

During a four-week non-jury trial in 1978, testimony by 12 witnesses, including six from Israel and the rest from Czestochowa and Kielce in Poland identified Walus as a member of the Gestapo who committed acts of violence against Jews and others in those towns during World War II.

Walus, who is German-born but lived in Poland since the age of 10, contended that the Nazis had pressed him into service as a farm worker when they invaded Poland in 1939 and that he spent the war years near Ulm, Germany, about 1000 miles from the scene of his alleged crimes.

Basis For Reversal

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, which had granted Walus' appeal for a new trial last February, reversed the district court order on grounds that documentary evidence discovered in Bavaria and corroborated by six witnesses, confirmed that Walus spent the war in Germany.

Allan Ryan Jr., chief of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, said, in a joint statement with U.S. Attorney Thomas Sullivan of Chicago, that "The striking absence of corroborating evidence and indeed the undeniable weight of evidence tending to

indicate that Walus spent the war years as a farm worker in Germany compels the conclusion that we could not responsibly go forward with the retrial."

Ryan said the government would recompense Walus for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in his defense but not his attorney fees.

FORMER MINUTEMAN LEADER TO HOLD PARAMILITARY TRAINING SESSION IN INDEPENDENCE, MO, NOV. 28-DEC. 1

NEW YORK, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- The former head of the Minutemen, a rightwing extremist group in the 1960's, is planning to hold a paramilitary training session on guerrilla tactics and firearms this weekend in Kansas City, Mo., the APhi-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith revealed today.

According to Justin Finger, head of ADL's national civil rights division, Robert DePugh, who was jailed for four years on federal weapons charges and now heads the Committee of Ten Million, will conduct a "convention" tomorrow to Monday.

"Seminars," some to be held outdoors, will include instructions on "basics of guerrilla and counter guerrilla warfare, combat use of pistols, rifles and shotguns, booby-traps, sniping, raids, ambushes, infiltrations, sabotage, demolitions and how to change your identity," Finger said. A nighttime training exercise is also on the "convention" agenda.

Disclosure of the weekend paramilitary "convention" comes a month after ADL released a report indicating that the Ku Klux Klan is conducting paramilitary activities in six states.

"This upsurge in paramilitary activities by extremist groups in America," Finger said, "underscores the need for federal surveillance of paramilitary activities by radical organizations with records of lawlessness and violence."

Coalition of Rightwing Groups

The Committee of Ten Million, established in 1978, is a coalition of rightwing groups with a "leadership council" which includes Robert Shelton, Imperial Wizard of the United Klans of America (KKK), and other rightwing leaders. The Committee envisions enlisting ten million American "patriots" in a crusade to "save Western civilization" and "our Christian heritage."

In the 1960's, Finger said, DePugh's Minutemen, a network of small armed bands scattered throughout the country, stockpiled weapons against a perceived "Communist takeover" and on occasion clashed with law enforcement officers and private citizens.

PERES' SUPPORTERS CLAIM WIN IN LABOR PARTY ELECTIONS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- Supporters of Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres claimed yesterday that he scored a landslide victory in Tuesday's Labor Party elections and suggested that his rival, former Premier Yitzhak Rabin concede.

Rabin supporters on the other hand, insisted that the vote for delegates to next month's party convention was close and that while Peres may have a slight edge among decided delegates, the

15 percent undecided could propel Rabin to party leadership and probably make him the next Prime Minister of Israel.

But the claims of both camps appeared premature. The counting of the votes will not be completed until some time tonight, and even then the winner is not likely to be known for several weeks. The reason lies in the nature of party elections. There were 8000 candidates for the 2601 convention seats. Some, but not all, are known to favor one candidate or the other. The inclinations of the majority of the delegates are not known.

It will take some time to sort out all of the elected delegates and find out whether they intend to vote at the convention for the Rabin camp, the Peres camp or possibly someone else. None are bound to any candidate. Therefore, party officials believe that for at least three weeks it will not be possible to evaluate the balance of power.

Peres is believed to have done extremely well in the large cities. Rabin is believed to have scored overwhelmingly in the kibbutzim. While Peres supporters claimed their man polled nearly 70 percent of the votes, Rabin backers insisted their rival received only 45 percent to Rabin's 40 and that the 15 percent undecided could carry the convention for the former Prime Minister. Both sides agree that the turnout was heavy. Nearly 60 percent of the 260,000 eligible voters cast ballots.

ISRAEL MULLING AIRCRAFT DEAL WITH A U.S. MANUFACTURER

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- Israel is considering a proposal by the Northrup Co., the American aircraft manufacturer, for the joint development and production of its projected second generation jet interceptor, the "Lavie." The plane would replace the Kfir, the first combat aircraft designed and manufactured in Israel.

The Northrup proposal would have the "Lavie" based on the latest type F-5 jet equipped with the originally contemplated "Lavie" engine. According to the American firm, Israel would save up to \$300 million in development costs and a half million dollars per aircraft on the production line. It would also acquire advanced technological know-how and a broader access to world markets for export.

Northrup has reportedly built a model of the proposed plane, designated LGI, and tested it in wind tunnels. Israel has made no final decisions as to whether to build the "Lavie" or purchase its next generation warplane abroad.

FIRST BIOGRAPHY OF ZYGIELBAUM READY

MONTREAL, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- The first biography in English of Arthur Zygielbaum, the Polish Jewish labor leader who tried to alert the Allies to what was to become known as the Holocaust, has been published by the Workmen's Circle in Montreal.

"Faithful Unto Death; The Story of Arthur Zygielbaum," is written by Montreal playwright Aviva Ravel and represents a collation of existing Yiddish materials on Zygielbaum, including his personal memoirs and poetry. Proceeds from the sale of the book will go towards the building of a monument to Zygielbaum in the predominantly Jewish Montreal suburb of Cote St-Luc.

The Jewish Labor Bund, the Jewish Community Federation of Greater Montreal and the Workmen's Circle in New York assisted in the publication of the book. Zygielbaum committed suicide in 1943 while serving as a representative in the Polish government-in-exile in London. (By Janice Arnold)

U.S. GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONS AAJE TO DEVELOP JEWISH CURRICULUM FOR ARMED SERVICES PERSONNEL

NEW YORK, Nov. 27 (JTA) — The American Association for Jewish Education (AAJE) has been commissioned by the U.S. government to develop a unified Jewish studies curriculum for Jewish military personnel and their dependents, it was announced here.

The first phase of the project, a 328-page annotated bibliography covering 15 areas of Jewish study, has been completed by the AAJE and is scheduled for publication this winter. It will be distributed by each branch of the armed forces to senior Jewish chaplains assigned to military installations and to Jewish religious and educational leaders servicing such installations.

The second phase of the project will comprise a four-level core curriculum — formulated for the foundation years (kindergarten-grade 3), intermediary grades (4-8), high school (grades 8-12) and adult education — covering the same 15 study areas.

Due for Completion Early 1982

Each section of the curriculum, projected for completion by early 1982, will be designed for use both by trained and volunteer teachers and by Jewish servicemen and women serving aboard ships, at isolated bases and other areas of their activities. It will contain background materials, content recommendations keyed to the bibliography suggested activities and appropriate methodologies applicable to disparate military settings.

Fradle Freidenreich, director of the project, said the AAJE had been contracted by the Office of the Chief of Chaplains to "revise, update and broaden materials for Jewish study into a unified religious education curriculum to meet the needs of Jewish military personnel serving in the United States and abroad."

Mrs. Freidenreich, consultant on methods and materials to the AAJE's National Curriculum Research Institute, said the bibliography — titled "Jewish Curriculum for the Armed Forces: Bibliography" — listed not only texts but audiovisual materials, periodicals, special materials for teachers and, in the five designated social studies subject areas, works of fiction, non-fiction and biography.

The areas of study encompassed in the bibliography and core curriculum are the American Jewish community; Jewish history; the Holocaust; Israel; Jews around the world; Jewish family life; Jewish holidays, customs and calendar; Jewish life cycle; faith; belief; philosophy; values and identity; Hebrew; the creative arts (drama, music, dance and arts and crafts); synagogue, prayer and liturgy; biblical literature; post-biblical literature; and modern Jewish literature.

SPECIAL RADIOTHON DEC. 7 TO AID SURVIVAL OF JEWISH DAILY FORWARD

NEW YORK, Nov. 27 (JTA) — A special Radiothon will take place Dec. 7 on WEVD-FM (97.9) as part of an ongoing effort to insure the survival of the Jewish Daily Forward, it was announced today. Notables from all walks of Jewish life, including Mayor Edward Koch, Zvee Scooler, Clare Barry and Isaac Bashevis Singer will lend their support to one of the oldest institutions in American Jewish life. The Radiothon will be hosted by Art Raymond and Barry Farber.

The Jewish Daily Forward will celebrate its 84th year next April. It is America's only surviving daily Yiddish newspaper. "Over 30,000 devoted readers depend on the Forward as their primary source of news, features and commentary relating to all facets of Jewish life," a statement by the Forward noted.

The statement pointed out that the Forward, "as do many other newspapers, finds that the escalation of its costs for outstrips its ability to generate advertising and subscriber revenues." Last September the Forward embarked on a three-year campaign to raise \$600,000.

"The purpose of this year's Radiothon is to raise as much money as possible in conjunction with Chanukah, and the public is again being asked to support this vital and unique institution," the statement said. "The campaign is a measure of the Jewish community's readiness to keep alive an institution whose survival is so critical to many of its members."

PREPARATIONS FOR WORLD GATHERING OF JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

REHOVOT, Nov. 27 (JTA) — American leaders of the World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors are expected to meet here Dec. 3 after stopping off in European capitals to consult with representatives of Holocaust survivor groups. The names of the 1000 registrants from the United States alone who will be participating in Israel in the June 15-18, 1981 Gathering of Holocaust survivors and their families will be turned over to the Israeli arrangements committee at Kibbutz Nezer Sereni.

Ernest Michel, chairman of the World Gathering's executive committee; Chaim Zlotogorski, representing the Second Generation; and Samuil Mozes, executive director of the World Gathering, are expected in Israel this weekend to begin consultations with government and tourist officials on the arrangements for what is expected to be a major 1981 Jewish event both here and abroad.

Thousands of Holocaust survivors and Second Generation representatives are expected from all over the world to participate in the four-day program of remembrance, testimony and rededication that history will never repeat a Jewish Holocaust.

TERRORISTS AMBUSH SCHOOL BUS

JERUSALEM, Nov. 27 (JTA) — Israeli forces clamped a total curfew on four Arab villages in the Samaria district of the West Bank Tuesday night in the aftermath of a terrorist ambush attack on a school bus carrying children from Kadumim to Elon Moreh, both Gush Emunim settlements.

There were no casualties among the nine children and other passengers aboard the bus, but the driver and an armed civilian escort sustained slight injuries. The driver was credited with saving the children when he ordered them to lie on the floor as machinegun bullets peppered the bus shattering windows. Several bullets lodged in an orange crate behind which passengers crouched. The driver raced the bus away from the scene at top speed while the armed guard returned the fire.

(In Washington, a State Department spokesman, asked to comment on the ambush, said: "My comment is the same as it has been on all of the other deplorable occasions. It is an act of violence which we think is deplorable and which we wish fervently would not happen. I don't think that's the way to solve the problems involved in that area in the world.")