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FOIL TERRORIST ATTEMPT TO INFILTRATE ISRAEL FROM LEBANON

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15 (JTA) — Israeli forces foiled a terrorist attempt to infiltrate across the Lebanese border last night. One terrorist was killed and an Israeli soldier was wounded in a brief exchange of fire near the border settlement of Zarit in western Galilee. According to Israeli officials, the infiltrators reached the border through territory controlled by a Dutch battalion of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

However, the same force disarmed and turned back three other terrorist groups making for the Israeli border at about the same time. They were ousted from the UNIFIL zone. Meanwhile, three Lebanese villagers were killed by a land mine in the area controlled by Maj. Saad Haddad's Christian forces. The latter retaliated by shelling Palestine Liberation Organization strongholds in the coastal towns of Sidon and Tyre.

Last night's incidents were cited by Premier Menachem Begin at a meeting this morning with Gen. Erkki Kaira, commander of the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO). The meeting, arranged some time ago, was a courtesy call by the Finnish officer on Begin in his capacity of Defense Minister. Israeli sources said their discussion was of a general nature.

Kaira questioned Begin about his visit to the U.S. last month and his impressions of the new American Administration. He was quoted as citing the cooperation between UNTSO and the Israeli army. This has not always gone smoothly but there seems to have been an improvement lately.

UNTSO is also trying to improve its relations with Haddad. Kaira lunched with the Christian commander recently. Israeli sources reported increased tension between UNIFIL forces and PLO units in south Lebanon. They said there has been a sharp rise in clashes and other incidents between them and a concomitant decline in the number of incidents between UNIFIL and Haddad's "de-facto" forces.

HIGH BRITISH OFFICIAL HOLDS SECRET MEETING WITH ARAFAT

LONDON, Dec. 15 (JTA) — Sir John Graham, the British Foreign Office official in charge of the Middle East, had a secret meeting this month in Beirut with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat, as part of Britain's move for closer ties with the PLO. Strenuous efforts were taken to keep the meeting secret. A British journalist claims that on the day the meeting took place, he was told that Sir John was visiting south Lebanon.

Sir John and Arafat met Dec. 2. Sir John, a Deputy Under-Secretary, is the most senior Foreign Office man to have officially met with Arafat. Last night the Foreign Office said the encounter did not signify a change in Britain's general Middle East policy or in its attitude to the PLO.

The Israeli Embassy today said that it was awaiting instructions from Jerusalem on whether to protest to the Foreign Office. Israeli officials, meanwhile, described the Beirut meeting as "deeply disappointing and very unhelpful" to Middle East peace prospects.

The Beirut meeting was also attended by Ben Strachan, the British Ambassador to Lebanon, and by PLO Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddouni. The Foreign Office said that Sir John was on a "familiarization visit" to the area and also visited Jordan, Syria and the West Bank.

Meeting Reflects Britain's Commitment To EEC

The meeting reflects Britain's commitment to the European Economic Community's Venice declaration of last June that the PLO must be associated with further Mideast peace negotiations. Next month, Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington will hold important talks on the EEC initiative when he pays official visits to Egypt and Morocco.

Morocco is sympathetic to the Egypt-Israel peace agreement and Carrington's visit to these two moderate Arab countries is probably intended to show that the British and European peace moves supplement rather than contradict, the Camp David peace framework.

The Carrington tour, coinciding with the change in administration in Washington, will also portray the clarity of Europe's Middle East approach at a time of uncertainty about President-elect Reagan's policy.

2 NAZI PARTY MEMBERS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH TEMPLE ARSON

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 15 (JTA) — Suspicions that a recent synagogue fire in the Los Angeles area was motivated by anti-Semitism were confirmed by the arrest of two members of the American Nazi Party announced by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's office yesterday.

Detectives said that Michael Canale, 35, and Eugene Neilson, 24, were booked last Friday on suspicion of having set the blaze that caused an estimated \$130,000 in damage to Temple Beth David in the San Gabriel Valley during the early hours of Saturday, Dec. 6. Canale is being held in \$100,000 bail, Sheriff's deputies said.

The fire gutted the sanctuary of the Reform temple, destroying many of the Torahs. The County Arson Squad reported at the time that it was a clear case of arson. Suspicions of anti-Semitism were aroused because of previous incidents of vandalism against Jewish houses of worship in the area. During the Rosh Hashanah holidays, a swastika was burned on the lawn of Temple Beth Torah 2 1/2 miles away and anti-Semitic and racist pamphlets were found strewn in its parking lot.

BEGIN: JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON STATUS OF AUTONOMY TALKS DUE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin said today that Israel, Egypt and the U.S. will publish a joint communique on the status of the autonomy talks when U.S. special envoy Sol Linowitz completes his present visit to the region. Linowitz met with President Anwar Sadat in Cairo

today and is due in Israel tomorrow. Briefing the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Begin disclosed that Israel had rejected a proposal that the three countries publish a report specifying the areas of agreement and disagreement in the autonomy negotiations to date. He said such a report would have required lengthy talks and negotiations between the parties.

Reagan To Support Camp David Process

It was reported from Cairo, meanwhile, that Linowitz delivered a message to Sadat from President-elect Reagan containing assurances that the new Administration will support the Camp David process in the search for peace in the Middle East and that no changes would be made without the agreement of both Egypt and Israel. Linowitz also delivered a message to Sadat from President Carter but did not disclose its contents. He reportedly received messages from Sadat for the President-elect and for Begin.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX UP BY 9.4 PERCENT DURING NOVEMBER

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15 (JTA) — The consumer price index rose by 9.4 percent during November, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported today. The increase raised the average rate of inflation for the first 11 months of this year to 120 percent but the rate has been running much higher in recent months.

The November increase, however, appeared less alarming than the 11 percent cost-of-living rise recorded in October, the second highest monthly price rise in Israel's history. It means that cost-of-living allowances of up to 1500 Shekels will be added to salaries as of January.

Histadrut Secretary General Yeruhim Meshel demanded an immediate 100 percent increase in the allowances paid to the dependent children of wage earners. He also said the trade union federation would demand additional cost-of-living compensation, beyond that given quarterly. If his demands are met, a situation could arise in which salaries go up month by month.

Avraham Shavit, chairman of the Manufacturers Association, declined comment on the latest price index rise. But Treasury officials seized upon it as further proof of the urgent need to cut government spending. Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz is expected to use the November figures to press harder for the adoption of his \$8.24 billion austerity budget for fiscal 1981 when the Cabinet meets in special session tomorrow to consider the budget.

Sharp Differences Over Budget

The Cabinet began its deliberations at yesterday's regular weekly meeting. But sharp differences were reported over Hurwitz's proposal for drastic cuts in the defense budget as well as in public services. He has yet to persuade Premier Menachem Begin and a majority of his colleagues that tough restraints on spending are needed lest inflation soars to 200 percent next year. There was considerable speculation today as to whether Hurwitz would resign if the Cabinet rejects his budget and whether his resignation would topple Begin's government.

David Neumann, an official of the Central Bureau of Statistics said today that government-controlled price rises in November were responsible for the higher price index. He mentioned specifically the increased price of fuel, which automatically triggers hikes in the costs of transportation, home heating, electric and water bills, and the higher prices for government-subsidized basic food stuffs such as bread, meat, cooking oil and margarine. He said the increased cost of food alone accounted for 2.2 percent of the 9.4 percent figure.

ABU-HATZEIRA ASKS KNESSET UNIT TO LIFT HIS IMMUNITY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15 (JTA) — Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzeira, indicted on three counts of bribe-taking, asked the Knesset's House Committee today to lift his immunity as a Knesset member so that he may face trial and clear himself of a "political blood libel" aimed at destroying his public career.

His hour-long emotional appearance before the committee has made it virtually certain that the members will vote overwhelmingly to deprive the 42-year-old Moroccan-born minister of his Knesset immunity as requested earlier by Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir. Abu-Hatzeira had refused to waive immunity voluntarily on grounds that it would be interpreted as a confession of guilt.

There had been some doubt last week as to whether a majority of the committee would support Zamir's request. Although the indictment of Abu-Hatzeira was based on extensive police dossiers, committee members representing the religious factions contended that there was insufficient evidence to convict the minister.

Other committee members object to the fact that the chief prosecution witness is Yisrael Gottlieb, a former associate of Abu-Hatzeira and a member of a rival faction of the National Religious Party. That lent credence to Abu-Hatzeira's argument that he was the victim of a political vendetta.

DULZIN SAYS ISRAEL CANNOT AFFORD RECESSION TO BRING DOWN INFLATION

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (JTA) — Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, said here yesterday that Israel "cannot afford" to go into a recession in order to bring down inflation. A recession, he told nearly 200 Zionist Organization of America leaders attending the organization's national executive committee meeting, "would bring about a large number of unemployed, and while it would help bring down inflation it would be at the expense of new immigrants and aliya."

In a wide-ranging discussion on economic and political issues, Dulzin, a veteran leader of Israel's Liberal Party, said that the high price of oil and Israel's steep military budget is a tremendous burden "no matter which government is in power." Referring to the upcoming national elections in Israel, he predicted that "no matter who wins the elections, a government of national unity will be formed."

Dulzin also said that there is a broad consensus in Israel against a Palestinian state and against negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization. In addition, he said that no one in Israel "is for dividing Jerusalem."

He emphasized that Zionist groups in the United States must insist on unity to face the challenges ahead. He called for an educational campaign to explain the meaning of Zionism, noting that its enemies are identifying Zionism with "everything that is bad in the world." This was apparently a reference to the 1975 United Nations General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism and the program of action adopted by the world conference of the United Nations Decade for Women in Copenhagen last August which listed Zionism as one of the world's main evils, along with colonialism and apartheid.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT PRAISED FOR ITS STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS

By Michael Solomon

MONTEREAL, Dec. 15 (JTA) — The Canadian B'nai B'rith has praised the government of Canada for its refusal to overlook the violation of human rights wherever they occur, especially "in light of the recent incidence of anti-Semitism and the rise of neo-Nazi and other racist groups throughout the world."

The B'nai B'rith praise was contained in a telegram to Louis Rogers, Canada's Ambassador-at-Large to the conference in Madrid which is reviewing the Helsinki accords on human rights. Rogers, in an address to the conference, reiterated that Canadian public opinion will not close its eyes to human rights problems and it will compel Canada to raise this issue at future meetings should the Soviet Union refuse to respond to this concern.

Rogers referred specifically to, and expressed concern about, the Soviet Union banishment of dissidents, harassment of persons seeking emigration visas and officially inspiring anti-Semitism in the USSR.

GOVERNMENT COALITION SHARPLY DIVIDED OVER THE GOLAN BILL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin briefed the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee today on a proposed bill to apply Israeli law on the Golan Heights — tantamount to annexation. Reactions among committee members indicated Begin's coalition is sharply divided over the wisdom of such a move.

The issue was raised by Yossi Sarid of the Labor Alignment who demanded to know the government's attitude toward the proposed bill before the Knesset is asked to act on it. He recalled that in the case of the controversial Jerusalem Law, which proclaimed united Jerusalem as Israel's capital, the government remained non-committal and allowed the Knesset to bear the brunt of adverse international reaction when the law was passed. The government can no longer hide its own intentions "behind the apron of the Knesset's sovereignty," Sarid said.

Begin replied that the government had never avoided the issue on the Jerusalem Law and the same would apply to the Golan bill. "The Cabinet will discuss the subject in due course," he said. The Golan bill was drafted by MK Geula Cohen of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya faction who was also responsible for the Jerusalem Law. Cohen is expected to submit the bill to the Knesset next week.

Differences In The NRP

All members of the committee shared Sarid's view that the government should make clear its position on the issue before it comes up in the Knesset. Zerah Warhaftig, of the National Religious Party, said the Golan bill would be a terrible mistake made through political blindness.

But his NRP colleague Haim Druckman, insisted that the legislation was necessary for the sake of the Golan settlers who feared the same fate as the Yamit settlers. Yamit, in northern Sinai, is to be evacuated next year in compliance with the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

Yehuda Ben-Meir of the NRP said he hadn't made up his mind on the Golan bill and wanted to hear the government's position. Two Likud MKs, Menachem Savidor and Avraham Katz, opposed the bill. Savidor said it was contrary to Likud's election platform which called for unconditional negotiations with Syria. But another Likud MK, Yosef Rom, claimed the timing and the international situation were ripe for annexation of the Golan Heights.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY SAYS RESOLUTION 242 "DOES NOT PROVIDE" SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 15 (JTA) — The General Assembly today adopted five resolutions reaffirming Palestinian rights, calling for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and expressing "grave concern" that Security Council Resolution 242 "does not provide for the future and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people."

The major resolution, which requested the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all "occupied territories" including Jerusalem and the establishment of a Palestinian state, was adopted by a vote of 98-16 with 32 abstentions. Among the 16 negative votes were those of Israel, the United States and all of the West European countries, except France which abstained. The resolution also requested a meeting of the Security Council to take effective measures including sanctions to make Israel comply with the resolution.

Israeli diplomats at the UN noted that during last year's General Assembly a similar resolution received broader support with a vote of 117-14 with 19 abstentions. According to Israel's UN Ambassador Yehuda Blum today's vote showed that support for the Palestine Liberation Organization is declining here.

Another of the resolutions adopted today was devoted to Jerusalem and condemnation of Israeli moves concerning the Holy City. With Israel alone casting the negative vote, the Assembly adopted the Jerusalem resolution by 143 votes with four abstentions — the U.S., Malawi, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic. The resolution decided "not to recognize" Israel's recent Basic Law declaring the city as the united capital of Israel. It also sharply denounced Israeli measures taken to change Jerusalem.

Another resolution adopted today attacked the Camp David accords, declaring them "null and void."

NEW YORK, (JTA) — One million Chanukah kits were distributed by the Lubavitch movement to nations on four continents, including Israel, Australia and South Africa, according to a report by Rabbi Shmuel Butman, director of the Lubavitch Youth Organization. Each kit contained a menorah, 44 candles, a brochure with the Chanukah calendar and the laws and blessings of the holiday.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**A 'LOVE CANAL' IN ISRAEL**

By Rochelle Saidel-Wolk

ALBANY, N.Y., Dec. 15 (JTA) — Ramat Hovav may become the "Love Canal" of Israel, according to some environmental experts. The Israel government has proposed a national hazardous waste facility at this site, 12 kilometers from Beersheba. Dr. Philip Alkon told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Alkon is senior research scientist at the Desert Ecology Center of Ben Gurion University of the Desert in Sde Boker.

Dr. Uri Marinov, director of Israel's Environmental Protection Service (EPS), has stated that "Israel is (already) sitting on a bombshell of waste." In an interview last month with this reporter, he said: "The sites are full and there are no new ones available. Since 1973, I've been pushing for using waste for energy."

In addition to the potential threat of hazardous waste at Ramat Hovav, there are already four chemical companies in the area. Alkon's unit is planning to study the impact of these industries on the soil, vegetation, wild life, air and water quality. A New Yorker who made aliya in 1978, Alkon is project supervisor for Ben Gurion University's Ramat Hovav research.

Nature of the Study

"Our study is to find out what the Ramat Hovav pollutants are, by taking measures of air and water quality," Alkon said. "We will begin to measure as soon as we have the right equipment and support. There have been incidences of illnesses among the workers at Ramat Hovav. Right now no one lives there but Bedouins, and animals also graze in the vicinity. Our plan is for at least a three-year study, to see if we can deduce what in the environment is responding to pollutants."

Two of the Ramat Hovav offenders, the Dead Sea Bromine Works and Makhteshim, a manufacturer of insecticides and other agricultural chemicals, also threaten the residents of Beersheba with air pollution, according to American environmental engineer Jack Lauber.

Lauber, chief of the Toxic Technology Section, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in Albany, spent two months in Israel last year, as a consultant to Israel's EPS. He is a member of the advisory board of the U.S. Committee for the Israel Environment, a group of American scientists, engineers and environmentalists who for the past six years have devoted time and professional expertise to improve the environment of Israel.

The U.S. Committee for the Israel Environment was founded and is largely supported by P.E.F. Israel Endowment Funds, Inc. The group provides expert independent recommendation for environmental concerns in Israel, brings Israeli environmentalists to the U.S. for training, and educates the public here and in Israel about Israel's environment. Dr. Haim Gunner, a professor of environmental science at Amherst University, Mass., is secretary, and Joshua Morrison, a director of the Israel Discount Trust Co., in New York, is chairman.

Trouble Spots Discovered

When Lauber was in Israel he discovered trouble spots that range from mere nuisances to

potential killers. After he returned to the U.S., one industry he had called a major offender, the Frutaram chemical plant in Acre, made headlines in Israeli newspapers.

In April 1980, residents of Acre and members of a nearby kibbutz, Ein Hamifratz, became ill and several were hospitalized with respiratory ailments caused by emissions of large quantities of toxic gases from a series of accidents at Frutaram. The plant manufactures vinyl chloride, a building block for vinyl plastics.

Describing vinyl chloride as "an invisible but lethal gas that can cause a rare form of liver cancer," Lauber said "the Frutaram facility has some controls, but I suspect there may be losses of ten tons or more of toxic gas per day."

Lauber recommends education here and in Israel about environmental hazards, to motivate the public and the government of Israel to take effective action. He further finds "much apathy and ignorance" about these hazards, both here and in Israel, and he urges major Jewish American organizations to put environmental education on their agendas.

Israel's Basic Problem

Asked to sum up Israel's basic problem regarding pollution, Marinov said, "The legislative approach is geared to nuisance control rather than an attempt to prevent or reduce various types of pollution through planning and strategy. Even the comprehensive water pollution laws stress economic rather than environmental concern." As examples, he cited inadequate legal coverage of industrial waste problems, and no direct coverage of systems for handling disposal and recovery of solid waste.

For the future, Marinov is concerned with the environmental consequences of possible new sources of energy. Israel is exploring reservoirs of oil, natural gas and coal, and also researching alternative fuels such as solar energy, hydro-electric power and energy from shale, peat, waste and algae. "If any of these options becomes commercially profitable, we will have to carefully evaluate the effects on animal, plant and human life," he explains.

Along with dangers of air pollution and hazardous waste, the water supply is scarce and vulnerable. "Israel's water management has developed dramatically, but the severe shortage of water and the often irreversible pollution of its sources are still a threat," Marinov said.

In addition to air and water quality, other areas, some not now regulated by EPS, require environmental control. Solid waste, noise, pesticides and chemicals, land use planning and urban transportation are yet to be dealt with sufficiently.

Despite activities in Israel and here to preserve Israel's environment, experts such as Marinov, Lauber, Alkon and others concur that much more needs to be done. Lauber warned: "The toxic chemicals in Israel's environment will not kill anyone in days, weeks or even years. The lesson of New York State's Love Canal has taught us, however, that chemical wastes and toxic substances can be time bombs for future generations. Environmental protection is not a luxury that Israel can afford later, but is a necessity now."

AMSTERDAM, (JTA) — More than 10,000 people staged a peaceful march through the city Sunday to protest against anti-Semitism, fascism and racism. The march was organized by some 80 organizations, including political parties and immigrant groups who called on Parliament to take initiatives to combat fascism.