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BEGIN EXPRESSES 'DEEP SORROW' OVER INCIDENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON

Says He Is Prepared To Meet With Lebanese Officials To Seek Ways To Relieve The Tension.
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 17 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin expressed "deep sorrow" today over the "tragic incidents" in south Lebanon yesterday. He was referring to the killing of two soldiers of the Nigerian contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the wounding of 11 other UNIFIL soldiers and nine Lebanese civilians and army personnel in the shelling of Kantara village by Christian forces headed by Maj. Saad Haddad.

Begin said he was prepared to meet with representatives of the Lebanese government to discuss the situation and seek ways to relieve the tension. He was speaking in Kiryat Shemona, the border town that was the target of terrorist rocket attacks from Lebanon last month, where he dedicated two quarters -- one named after Zeev Jabotinsky, Begin's hero and mentor, and the other named after Yigal Allon, a long-time political rival.

Begin said that Israel wanted no incidents with UNIFIL and credited some of the units of the UN peacekeeping force with doing a good job to prevent terrorist infiltration of Israel's border. He said the terrorists in south Lebanon were now equipped with sophisticated weapons, including tanks. Later, Begin attended a memorial service in Tel Hai for Yosef Trumpeldor who died in the defense of that settlement in the early 1920s.

PLO Blamed For Tension In Area

As Begin toured the northern region today, tension continued high in south Lebanon where UNIFIL was reported to be deploying anti-tank weapons in the area of yesterday's clash between the Christian militia and Lebanese army regulars. Moshe Arens, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, meanwhile, blamed the Palestine Liberation Organization for the deteriorating situation in south Lebanon.

Speaking on a radio interview, Arens claimed the tension resulted from an "imbalance" created by the presence of PLO terrorists and units of the Lebanese army controlled by the Beirut government. According to Arens, the soldiers of the 21st Lebanese Army Brigade, mainly Moslems hostile to Haddad's largely Christian force, were sent to south Lebanon following a meeting between President Elias Sarkis of Lebanon and President Hafez Assad of Syria. He charged that the Lebanese regulars were provoking friction.

Arens claimed also that as long as UNIFIL controlled the area between Haddad's Christian enclave in the south and the PLO further north, a balance had been maintained. But now the terrorists have taken up positions in the UNIFIL controlled area, he said.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN URUGUAY

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA) -- Uruguayan police have uncovered an anti-Semitic group in

Montevideo that allegedly had firebombed a synagogue on Duranzo Street, had stoned the headquarters building of Uruguay's Jewish representative political organization, and had painted swastikas on many sites in Uruguay's capital.

This information was reported today by Jacob Kovadloff, director of the South American Office of the American Jewish Committee, who welcomed the action of the Uruguayan police and added the hope that it might be "the first of other such crack-downs in South American countries where Jewish institutions have been the victims of attacks in recent months."

According to the information received here, Yamandu Lopez Sejas, a 49-year-old businessman, and two 19-year-old accomplices were arrested and are being tried under the provisions of a 1942 law against the promotion and incitement of racial hatred and violence. The three could be sentenced to a maximum of five years in jail.

According to newspaper reports in "El Pais" and "La Manana", an anonymous tip led police to the meeting place of the group, where they found, among other things, armbands emblazoned with swastikas and anti-Semitic literature. Lopez Sejas has a previous police record and was a candidate of the Socialist Movement Party in the 1968 elections, a splinter group not to be confused with the Socialist Party.

Uruguay, a country of fewer than two million inhabitants, has a 45,000-member Jewish community, the highest concentration of Jews living in a Latin American country today.

FOCUS ON ISSUES PROSPECTS FOR THE GROWTH OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM IN ISRAEL By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 17 (JTA) -- Two leaders of the Conservative movement in Judaism expressed confidence here that the World Zionist Organization can serve as an efficient tool to bring about religious pluralism in Israel.

Rabbi Seymour Cohen, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, and Mordecai Waxman, president-elect of the World Council of Synagogues, said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that since the movement for traditional Judaism joined the WZO there are growing prospects the organization will serve as a mechanism to increase the understanding in Israel of the needs of diaspora Jewry.

"In theory," said Waxman, "the WZO is such a mechanism, but presently it doesn't have the will or the spirit to work toward this end." He expressed the hope that the Conservatives' endorsement of the Jerusalem Program would speed up this process.

The platform was adopted in an unprecedented convention in Jerusalem of the two main bodies of the Conservative movement -- the World Council of Synagogues and the Rabbinical Assembly.

The delegates became indirectly involved in the current election campaign as Labor Party leaders appeared before the convention and promised to enact a law which would guarantee religious pluralism. However, both Waxman and Cohen did not sound too optimistic about the prospects for a

dramatic change in the status of Conservative Judaism in Israel after the June 30 elections.

Both men rejected the notion that the Conservative movement has become a natural ally to the Labor movement. "Our natural ally is proper behavior by anybody," said Cohen.

As in the past, the main issue of the two conventions which took place earlier this month was the acceptability of Conservative Judaism in Israel. As in the past, the Conservatives rejected the notion that in order to change the present situation the only possible answer is massive aliya of Conservative Jews. "There is a matter of democratic principles," Waxman said. "We should not be denied in Israel anything that is given to us in the United States."

Cohen declared bitterly: "The Chief Rabbi in Israel cannot decide who is a Jew or the status of Jews elsewhere." Waxman observed that "half of organized Jewry in America, probably the bulk of Jews, perhaps in the entire world, would endorse religious pluralism in Israel." Therefore, he noted, one cannot accept the fact that what amounts to a minority of Jews (the Orthodox rabbinate) would dictate the character of religious life in Israel. Waxman added that "we have no political alignments, but we are products of a democratic society. We are a halachic movement. But the Orthodox want only their halachic principles to be accepted."

Basin For Changing The Situation

Both Waxman and Cohen agreed that the practical conclusion of the recent conventions was that only through hard and mainly practical work can the situation be changed. This includes, for example, the establishment of a Conservative kibbutz which is now in the making, and greater involvement of Conservative Jews in all spheres of life in Israel, particularly in the academic and cultural spheres.

Another issue that bothers the Conservative movement is the lack of sensitivity of the Jewish Agency emissaries to their problems. Cohen said that if the emissaries were more familiar with the American scene, aliya from the U.S. would increase. "Things are changing in the States," said Cohen. "There were times when aliya was looked down upon, when all efforts were directed toward sending money. But things have changed, and the world becomes small." Therefore, he suggested, more people may consider aliya, only they need the proper help and the proper incentives.

Potential For Aliya Exists

Waxman recalled a meeting which took place after the Six-Day War between a group of Rabbinical Assembly leaders and the late Premier Levy Eshkol and Education Minister Zalman Aran. The two Israelis were confident that Jews would begin to immigrate to Israel en masse. The Conservatives were less confident. "Aliya was not a part of the political agenda at the time," said Waxman.

Now, however, things are changing. Without the help of Israel or the WZO there is a favorable atmosphere for aliya. "We are in a new state," said Waxman. As the two Conservative leaders put it, the motivation for aliya is more practical than ideological. People are more willing to try new ventures.

Both Waxman and Cohen admitted that this "change" is not yet seen in terms of growing numbers of American olim, but they insisted

that the potential exists. "People think in terms of having two homelands. You are going to see more and more of them," said Waxman. The American Jewish community suffers from complex problems, he said, such as growing divorce rate and intermarriages. On these issues, Israel should develop a dialogue with American Jewry, and not issue directives. "The failure to compromise with our needs is not only a moral failure," he warned, "but also a national failure."

Waxman ended the interview in a more hopeful tone. "With all the problems," he said, "we have never had a better situation for the Jewish people. You never had the same combination of a strong Jewish State and a strong diaspora." To this Cohen added: "With all optimism, there is tremendous work to be done."

POLAKOFF TO RETIRE AS JTA'S WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF; FRIEDMAN WILL ASSUME THAT POST

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA) -- Joseph Polakoff, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's Washington Bureau Chief for the last 10 years, will retire April 3, it was announced today by Martin Fox, JTA president. At the same time, Fox announced that David Friedman, a staff writer for the JTA in its New York office for the last eight years, will be transferred to Washington as Bureau Chief.

Polakoff covered many major stories in Washington, around the country and abroad. These included traveling with President Nixon to Moscow, Kiev and Leningrad in 1972 when the campaign for the freedom of Soviet Jewry reached a crisis state. Polakoff was also with Nixon when the President continued his journey to Warsaw, Salzburg and Teheran and reported on major developments in the Jewish communities in Poland, Austria and Iran.

Polakoff was with President Carter on his journey in 1978 to Cairo and Jerusalem when the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty was signed. He was present daily in Thurmont, Md. during the protracted Camp David discussions that led to the Egyptian-Israeli-American agreements on the Middle East peace process. He was also present at Thurmont in 1973 when Leonid Brezhnev conferred at Camp David with Nixon and he questioned Brezhnev. In addition to his daily coverage of the State Department, White House and Congress, Polakoff also covered Republican and Democratic national conventions in Miami, Kansas City and Detroit.

Known For His Sharp Questioning

During his tenure as Bureau Chief, Polakoff became known for his sharp questioning of the various Administrations' policies as they affected Israel and world Jewry. He always insisted on clear and precise answers from Administration spokesmen and refused to accept glib, off-handed and obscure replies to questions. Polakoff insisted on clarity so that the ramifications of a given policy or its shift could be easily discerned. His pointed questions were also frequently directed to top American foreign policy officials as well as to visiting heads of state, foreign ministers and ambassadors.

Polakoff became the first JTA reporter to receive full and permanent accreditation at the White House, the State Department and Senate and House Press Galleries.

Prior to joining the JTA, Polakoff spent 28 years in the information agencies of the U.S. government. Leaving his post as city editor of the Scranton, Pa. Tribune, he joined the Office of War Information and while on duty in London he was appointed to the State Department and the Foreign Service. His U.S. service included assignment as information policy officer to the U.S. delegation to the special session of the United Nations in 1962 in New York.

Friedman, who has been a newspaperman for more than 22 years, has covered major stories for the JTA, including the 1976 and 1980 Democratic national conventions in New York. He was one of the first reporters in the Jewish media to point out how the elimination of the Electoral College would adversely affect the Jewish community. Recently he has done a series of articles detailing the affect of President Reagan's proposed budget cuts on the Jewish community.

Friedman has written many articles and features dealing with the Holocaust and Soviet Jewry. He has interviewed many of the freed Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience on their first visit to the United States. He has reviewed films and plays dealing with Jewish subject matter and has written numerous articles dealing with the Yiddish theater. Friedman has also reviewed books, particularly on American Jewish life, foreign affairs and the national political scene relating to American Jews and to Israel. Since October 1980 he has written the weekly column, "Panorama."

Before joining the JTA, Friedman spent three years in Israel as a free-lance writer. Prior to that he was a reporter for the Baltimore (Md.) Sun, Asbury Park (N.J.) Press, Pompano Beach (Fla.) Town News, and Bryan (Ohio) Times. He was also an editorial writer for The Trentonian in Trenton, N.J.

Friedman, who was born in New York City and grew up in Newark, N.J., did graduate work in political science and economics at New York University and the New School for Social Research. He holds a BA degree from NYU where he majored in journalism. He is a member of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi and its New York chapter, the Deadline Club. He is married to the former Toby Schwartz of Toronto, Canada.

JEWISH, BLACK GROUPS URGE NEW YORK STATE TO BAN RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS BIAS

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the New York State Council of Urban Leagues have urged New York State to ban racial and religious terrorism.

The organization yesterday called for "speedy enactment" of a bill amending New York's Civil Rights Law to include acts of racially and religiously motivated intimidation and harassment -- and carrying penalties up to five years imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine. The bill was introduced in the New York State Legislature in January.

The proposed law (Assembly Bill 652), spearheaded by Nassau County District Attorney Denis Dillon and sponsored by the Nassau County legislative delegation, is in response to a two-year wave of cross burnings, swastika daubings, arson cases, synagogue vandalism and threats and harassment directed at blacks and Jews.

In a joint statement, signed by Ellen Conovitz and Erwin Corwin, cochairpersons of ADL's Committee on Public Policy in New York State; Hazel Dukes, president of the New York State Conference of NAACP Branches; and Horace Morris, executive director of the New York State Council of Urban Leagues, the groups called the activities "a form of terrorism."

ADL, last December, published an annual audit of anti-Semitic incidents throughout the nation which reported that 120 of the 377 riots occurred in New York State. Police authorities

in New York City, Nassau and Suffolk Counties reported that racial and religious assaults on persons and property equalled or exceeded the cases cited in the ADL survey.

SHCHARANSKY'S MOTHER ASKS BREZHNEV TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEE TO CLARIFY VIOLATIONS DURING HER SON'S TRIAL

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA) -- Ida Milgram, Anatoly Shcharansky's mother, has sent an open letter to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev calling for the "establishment of a committee to rightfully and truthfully clarify all violations of law during Anatoly's case." The text, obtained by the Students Struggle for Soviet Jewry and Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, further stated that "not for one moment will I forget that my son is simply the victim of a political game which has endangered his life."

Coinciding with the completion of four years of Shcharansky's 13-year sentence, the statement characterized the sentence as "unlawful, inhumane and barbaric." Mrs. Milgram has also said that Anatoly has been confined to an internal prison within the camp, that all visits for 1981 have been cancelled and that the majority of her letters to him have been confiscated. Mrs. Milgram continued that "all this is against prison law and is again vile and inhumane treatment of him and myself, his mother."

Mrs. Milgram feels that all appeals will be stand-ard because all replies "will be from the very quarters who were involved in the illegal actions during Anatoly's interrogation, trial and the period after sentence. They are uninterested in a retrial, and would like very little to forget the whole affair."

Meanwhile, the SSSJ reported exit visas have been received by two long-term Leningrad refuseniks. Karl Greenberg, a 51-year-old engineer will join his wife and two sons already in Israel. Another engineer, Alexander Genusov, his wife Larissa and daughter Dalja will reunite with an aunt. Two other refuseniks identified only by their surnames of Kunik and Rosen also received emigration permits, the SSSJ reported.

In another development, Moisey Tonkonogi, a Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience from Odessa, was released from a labor camp after serving a one-year sentence for parasitism, it was reported here by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Tonkonogi, 28, first applied to emigrate to Israel with his parents in 1973. His parents were permitted to leave but he was denied permission on grounds of "secrecy" since he served in the Soviet Army in 1971. The Conference said that Tonkonogi is now expected to renew his attempts to join his parents in Israel.

BAR MITZVAH FOR AN INDIAN CHIEF?

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 17 (JTA) -- El Al is awaiting a reply from the Sioux nation to its invitation to one of its future chiefs to come to Israel to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah in five years time. The Israeli national airline extended its invitation when it heard that the mother of eight-year-old Little Eagle Bordeaux, great-grandson of Chief Crazy Horse who defeated Custer at the battle of Little Big Horn in 1876, was Jewish, originally from Chicago. When she married the incumbent tribal chief she moved with him to an Indian reservation in the southwest.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- A 10-year record low in immigration was registered during February when only 857 newcomers arrived in Israel, according to the Jewish Agency's immigration department.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**THE JEWS OF AUSTRALIA**

By Joseph Polakoff

(Part Three Of A Six-Part Series)

MELBOURNE, March 17 (JTA) -- Almost from the time the first Jews came to Australia a century and-a-half ago, when the distant continent was just begun to be settled by British immigrants, they attained leading positions in the national life. By their industry and acumen, their dedication to the democratic political philosophy, and their intense patriotism in war and peace, Jews became recognized both as staunchly Australian and trusted leaders.

Exemplifying the esteem in which Australians in general regard their fellow Jewish citizens is the fact that since Australia itself 40 years ago began designating the Governor-General who forms the link between the Crown in London and the Parliament in Canberra, Jews have been selected twice for that exalted position. In addition, Jews have ranked among Australia's foremost military commanders.

The present Governor-General is Sir Zelman Cowen, a former law professor and chancellor of the University of Brisbane. Sir Zelman was appointed by the Fraser government in 1977. The eldest son of Sir Zelman and Lady Cowen is in a yeshiva in Israel. Their youngest son last year celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in the Orthodox Synagogue in Canberra which the Cowens regularly attend.

High Positions Held By Jews

The first Australian appointed Governor-General by the Australia government was Sir Isaac Isaacs, who held the post in the 1930s. He was chosen in 1931 by the Labor Government then in power while he was a justice of the high court of Australia. The Government then was headed by Prime Minister J. H. Scullin.

In World War I, Australia's senior military officer was Army Gen. John Monash who commanded Australia's Expeditionary Forces that fought in Europe and the Middle East. An engineer, Monash after the war became chairman of the Victoria (Melbourne) Electricity Commission. Monash University in Melbourne, a major Australian university, was named in his honor. In 1927, when the Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand was formed, Monash was elected its first president. In the majestic War Museum in Canberra, the services of Monash to Australia have established him as a legendary Australian. Sadly, today none of Monash's descendants are known to be Jewish.

The president of the Jewish Welfare Society of New South Wales (Sydney) is retired Army Maj. Gen. Paul Cullen. In the government of New South Wales, the Minister for Consumer Affairs is Sydney Einfeld, a Labor Party member.

Peter Baume, a medical doctor in Sydney, is the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in the new Fraser government. This is a difficult assignment to a long-standing national problem.

Three Jews were in the Labor Party's national "shadow Cabinet" prior to the October election. While they were re-elected to Parliament, the party failed to gain a majority. None of them was returned to the "shadow Cabinet." One version for this development was the defeat of Labor and the swing of a large section of the Jewish vote to the Liberal (conservative) party from the traditional Labor outlook. Another version was that

the failure of reappointment resulted from the internal bickering within the Labor Party and the lowered opportunities for Cabinet places because of fewer members.

Jews Honored Annually

Honors are bestowed annually on Australian Jews both by the British Crown and the Australian Government. In 1980, nine Jews received Queen's Birthday Awards. They included presentation of the Commander of the British Empire to Irvin Rockman of Melbourne and the Order of the British Empire to Rabbi Alfred Fabian of Sydney. Australia Day Awards were given to seven Jews, six of them in Sydney and one in Melbourne. The coveted Order of Australia went to Dr. Early Owen of Sydney.

(Tomorrow: Part Four)

ISRAEL ISSUES COMMEMORATIVE STAMP HONORING ABBA HILLEL SILVER

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA) -- Ceremonies here and in Israel today marked the issuance by the Israel government of a commemorative stamp honoring Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, the American Zionist leader who was the president of the Zionist Organization of America from 1945-47, headed the United Jewish Appeal and played a crucial role in getting the United Nations to adopt the Partition Plan in 1947 which led to the establishment of the State of Israel.

The 3.20 Shekel stamp bearing the portrait of Silver went on sale today in Israel and will go on sale tomorrow in the United States. In ceremonies held in New York at the Jacob and Libby Goodman ZOA House, Ivan Novick, ZOA president, said that Silver, who died in 1963, "personified the decisive political contribution of American Jewry to the State of Israel's struggle for independence."

The official ceremony in Israel took place at Kfar Silver, near Ashkelon, named after Silver and sponsored by the ZOA. Representing the ZOA was its executive vice chairman, Leon Ilutovich, and members of the Kfar Silver board.

In paying tribute to Silver, Novick recalled that as president of the Jewish Agency Executive New York Silver appeared before the United Nations on behalf of world Jewry. "He took upon himself the heavy burden of convincing members of both parties in the U.S. Congress, the Administration, and delegates to the United Nations of the justice of Zion restored," Novick said.

MEDAL FOR UJA MULTI-IMAGE SHOW

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA) -- "Unity of Differences," a multi-image documentary produced by the United Jewish Appeal, was awarded a Silver Medal in the 1980 International Film and TV Festival in New York City. The documentary, written, composed and directed by Issachar Miron, director of the UJA's Creative and Educational Programs Department, won the honor in the category of "inspirational audio-visual documentaries with public message."

"Unity of Differences," was originally produced for presentation to the UJA 1980 International Conference and shown at the Jewish Museum in New York. It relates the story of how the New York City Jewish community was organized and grew to become a source of inspiration to Jews around the world.

Requiring a stereo tape recorder, six slide projectors, two film projectors and three screens, the 17-minute production was narrated by Edward Warburg, a member of the family who donated its Fifth Avenue mansion to house the Jewish Museum. The film segments were executed by Performance Design, Inc.