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NEWS WEEKLY CLAIMS PALESTINIAN EXTREMISTS, NOT NEO-NAZI GROUP, BOMBED RUE COPERNIC SYNAGOGUE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 22 (JTA) -- Five Palestinian terrorists belonging to an extremist Palestinian organization were responsible for the bombing of the Rue Copernic synagogue last October in which four persons were killed and 32 were injured, according to the French weekly, *Le Point*, in its forthcoming issue due to appear tomorrow.

The weekly, which attributes the information to its own investigations and to "friendly" foreign intelligence sources, reports that the five terrorists were sent to Paris from Beirut to carry out the attack which at first was attributed to the French neo-Nazi organization, Federation of European Nationalist Action (FANE), which was outlawed later last year.

The weekly says that one of the terrorists, using forged Cypriot identity papers, bought the motorcycle which was used to transport the powerful bomb to outside the synagogue's gate. The paper identifies him only as "Ahmed" but says he is the man who led the terrorist commando group and personally set the bomb. The bombing caused an uproar in France. Mass demonstrations were held throughout the country and more than 100,000 people marched through the center of Paris.

FANE was initially blamed for the attack. Later, however, a 29-year-old former French army paratrooper, Jean-Yves Pellay, confessed that he was responsible for the attack. Pellay, who is half Jewish, has since told police that after infiltrating the neo-Nazi group he made the calls "to discredit" the organization and turn public opinion against it.

GERMAN SECURITY AGENCIES CONFIRM POLLS' FINDINGS THAT ANTI-SEMITISM IS STILL STRONG IN THE COUNTRY

By David Kantor

BONN, March 22 (JTA) -- A public opinion poll showing that anti-Semitism is still strong in West Germany has been confirmed by security services which reported that anti-Semitic incidents have increased alarmingly in the country over the past year.

According to a public opinion poll conducted by sociologist Badi Panahi, 50 percent of those surveyed have negative feelings about Jews and one-third have very strong anti-Semitic prejudices. Just before this poll was published in *Stern* magazine, a government survey published last week in *Der Spiegel* news magazine showed that 18 percent of West German voters believe "Germany had it better under Hitler."

The poll published in *Stern* said that 27 percent of West Germans believe "some races are predisposed to be more immoral than others"; 14 percent believe "you have to keep in mind that Jews exercise a damaging influence on Western Christian culture"; 56 percent did not share this view; 16 percent rejected it "moderately," and 10.5 percent rejected it "weakly." According to *Stern*, despite the disclosure of Nazi murders and the telecasting

of such films as the "Holocaust," anti-Jewish prejudices have still not died out.

Increase In Vandalism, Desecrations

Meanwhile, security agencies reported 42 incidents of vandalism against Jewish cemeteries, monuments and synagogues in 1980 compared to 35 in 1979. There were 44 cases in which Jewish activists were threatened or plots were uncovered to murder Jewish leaders. Most of these developments were concentrated in recent months.

In the Cologne suburb of Deutz, 30 Jewish gravestones were destroyed and others daubed with slogans such as "Adolf (Hitler) Lives." In the old Jewish cemetery in Aschafenburg, 87 gravestones were desecrated last November and partially destroyed. In August, 1980, 152 gravestones were overturned and damaged in the same cemetery and similar crimes were committed in more recent months in Worms and Bad Hersfeld.

Large-scale damage to Jewish gravestones were reported from Frankfurt, the city with the second largest Jewish community in West Germany. Swastikas and Nazi slogans were daubed on the stones. A monument at the site of the old synagogue in Frankfurt and another Jewish site in a public park were defaced with anti-Semitic slogans. Police reported evidence of close cooperation between German and non-German extremist groups, the latter notably Palestinians supporting the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

Security services were increasingly concerned with new evidence of contacts between neo-Nazis in West Germany and El Fatah, the terrorist arm of the PLO. Many members of the outlawed "Wehrsportgruppe Hoffman," a neo-Nazi paramilitary organization masquerading as a sports club, have received training at PLO camps in Lebanon. The leader of the group, Karl-Heinz Hoffman, visited Beirut several times in recent months and was hosted there by the PLO. The government is reported to be playing down these facts for fear of harming its relations with the Arab countries.

Urges New Laws To Combat Extremism

Reacting to this wave of anti-Semitic incidents and to the government survey which showed that 18 percent of West Germans feel that life was better under Hitler, Heinz Galinski, chairman of West Berlin's Jewish community, urged new laws to combat neo-Nazism and rightwing extremism. He noted in a radio interview that his past warnings about a rightwing revival had been dismissed as exaggerated.

EITAN WARNS IF PLO INFLUENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON SPREADS CLOSER TO ISRAEL, IT COULD MEAN A RETURN TO A WAR OF ATTRITION SITUATION

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 22 (JTA) -- South Lebanon was quiet over the weekend but the dispute involving Israel and Maj. Saad Haddad's Christian militia on the one hand and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the Beirut-controlled Lebanese army on the other continued to simmer.

Gen. Rafael Eitan, the Israeli army Chief of Staff, charged in effect that Palestine Liberation

Organization terrorists were working under the cover of UNIFIL in south Lebanon and warned that if their influence spreads closer to the Israeli border, it could mean a return to a war of attrition situation.

Haddad blamed the presence of Lebanese army regulars for the clash last Monday in which his forces shelled Kantara village killing two soldiers of the Nigerian contingent of UNIFIL and wounding 11 other Nigerians, nine local civilians and several Lebanese soldiers.

Gen. William Callaghan of Ireland, the UNIFIL commander, declared on an Israel Radio interview yesterday that the Lebanese army had "a right to be in South Lebanon on sovereign Lebanese territory, anywhere in Lebanon ... I'll meet with anybody, anytime where there is a prospect of improving peaceful progress, but certainly not under threats from anyone. I'm sure there is a modus operandi."

Eitan and Haddad spoke at ceremonies marking the fifth anniversary of the "good fence" -- the opening in the border fence through which traffic passes freely between Israel and Haddad's Christian enclave. The ceremonies were also attended by Gen. Avigdor Ben-Gal, commander of the northern front, who reportedly had a heated exchange with Callaghan in Nazareth last week. Callaghan, however, has denied that his meeting with Ben-Gal had been anything but a courteous one between professional soldiers.

At the ceremonies, Eitan expressed concern that residents of Kantara and other villages may become refugees because of clashes with Lebanese army units who occupied the villages and allegedly forced them to flee their homes.

Israel Ready To Cooperate With UNIFIL

Israel's Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori said yesterday that Israel was ready to cooperate with UNIFIL but that Callaghan first should control the area fully and clear it of terrorists who are not supposed to be there. He said UNIFIL and the Lebanese army should be acting against the PLO. "If the Lebanese government cannot keep order within its own country and within its own capital, why do they look at Israel all the time?" he asked.

Meanwhile, Haddad freed three more Lebanese soldiers his men had captured last week. They were an army doctor and two medical orderlies. He freed a Lebanese soldier last Friday, sending him to Beirut with a message to the Lebanese Chief of Staff, suggesting that the Lebanese army replace the Syrian-led Arab peacekeeping force that occupies most of Lebanon instead of interfering with his activities in the south.

UN COUNCIL CONDEMNS HADDAD'S MILITIA FOR KILLING TWO NIGERIAN SOLDIERS OF UNIFIL By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, March 22 (JTA) -- After several days of private talks, the Security Council met early Friday morning and issued a statement condemning "the outrageous actions" of the Christian militia in south Lebanon led by Maj. Saad Haddad that resulted in the killing of two Nigerian soldiers of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the wounding of other UN troops last Monday.

The Council statement, read by Ambassador Peter Florin of East Germany, who is this month's president of the Council, called on "all those who

share in the responsibility for this tense situation to put an end to any act which might increase the threat to international peace and security and to put an end to military assistance to any forces which interferes with UNIFIL in the exercise of its Mandate."

The "outrageous actions" involved shelling by Haddad's Christian militia last Monday of Kantara village. The statement made no reference to Israel or to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The statement also said "this renewed and barbaric act" against the UN peacekeeping force was "a direct defiance of the authority of the Security Council and a challenge to the mission of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security, which cannot be tolerated."

Members of the Council began informal consultations at the beginning of last week, seeking a consensus statement which would condemn the killings but not single out Israel, as a majority of the 15 Council members wanted it to do. The United States, however, refused to support a statement which singled out Israel for condemnation.

Diplomats here noted that the statement issued Friday referred back to the resolution which established UNIFIL in 1978. That resolution called for "strict respect" for Lebanon's territorial integrity and political independence and called on Israel to cease its military action and withdrawal of its forces from all Lebanese territory. Israel had mounted a brief land and air attack on PLO targets in southern Lebanon.

Israel Displeased With Council Statement

Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, issued a statement, after the Council meeting, declaring the Council statement was "not to our liking." Blum also said it was his understanding that the statement was also not to the liking of Jeane Kirkpatrick, the U.S. Ambassador to the UN. Blum expressed "our appreciation to the United States and to Ambassador Kirkpatrick on the principle and stand" the United States took in the debate on the statement. This was understood to be a reference to U.S. opposition, in the discussions for a consensus statement, against singling out Israel.

He added that "while we unreservedly condemn the killing or harassing of soldiers serving the cause of peace under the flag of the United Nations, we object to the glaring double standard practiced by the United Nations even on this tragic occasion."

Blum noted that according to UN sources, 27 UNIFIL soldiers have died in line of duty. Seven of these died in instances involving the local Lebanese militia and villagers in south Lebanon. The others -- the overwhelming majority -- were killed directly or indirectly by the PLO or its partners. Only on two such occasions has the Council been requested to convene and only on two occasions has it expressed itself in the form of a meeting.

WELCOME BY VATICAN TO PLO OFFICIAL IS DENOUNCED

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA) -- The welcome given at the Vatican last week to an official of the Palestine Liberation Organization was denounced by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the Israel Consulate General.

Abraham Foxman, associate national director of the ADL, said the meeting between Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, the Vatican's Secretary of State, and Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department, was "encouragement" to the PLO terrorists. "Not only is such a meeting ill-considered but it comes at a most inauspicious time," Foxman

said, "a time when international terrorists, spearheaded by the PLO, is on the rise in Latin America and elsewhere, when nuns and a Roman Catholic bishop are senselessly murdered and voices are raised in alarm around the world."

The ADL, which is sending a protest to the Vatican, stressed that "For the Vatican Secretary of State to officially receive a PLO representative is to give these murderers and blackmailers a form of legitimacy and recognition that encourages more barbarism, more blackmail, more hostage-taking — so that none of us, wherever we may reside, can feel safe in our homes, our embassies, offices or in planes."

The Consulate General here issued a statement on behalf of the Israeli Foreign Ministry in which it declared that Israel was "astonished" to learn that the Vatican had received a representative of the terrorist organization that claims credit for the brutal murder of innocent civilians, and has made the destruction of the Jewish State its central objective. This organization, the PLO, plays a central role in the international terrorist community."

The Israeli statement noted with "regret" that the Vatican meeting "cannot contribute to peace efforts but, on the contrary, can only cause damage to these efforts."

In Jerusalem where the Foreign Ministry issued a similar statement, Ministry sources expressed "amazement" that Greek Catholic Archbishop Hilariu Capucci, freed at Vatican urging from an Israeli prison where he had been serving a sentence for gun-running for Arab terrorists, had been active in the airport reception for Kaddoumi when he arrived in Rome. After being freed from prison Capucci was sent to Latin America but then returned to Rome where he has campaigned for the PLO even though he was officially barred from such activity by the Vatican.

LABOR, LIKUD TRADE ANGRY CHARGES OVER PERES MEETINGS WITH ARABS

By Hugh Orgel and Git Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA) — Shimon Peres, chairman of the Labor Party, apparently had meetings last week with King Hassan of Morocco in that country and with Prince Mohammad, brother of King Hussein of Jordan, in London. But the nature of those contacts and their implications, if any, for broadening the Middle East peace process remained obscure as Labor and the Likud government traded angry charges and counter-charges over the propriety of Peres' alleged meetings.

Peres, who refused to confirm the reports of his meetings but would not deny them, accused Begin's office of "leaking" the story and having the State-owned television broadcast a "completely baseless and fabricated" account "for local consumption during the election campaign."

Begin hotly denied Peres' charges at today's Cabinet meeting and accused the opposition leader of "libel." Other Cabinet ministers joined in the attack on Peres today and last Friday. Justice Minister Moshe Nissim assailed Peres for trying to undercut the government by meeting a foreign chief of state (King Hassan) without the government's knowledge or approval. Peres defended his right to meet Arab leaders abroad and denounced Nissim for sounding off about something he knew nothing about.

Sources close to Peres insisted that the Prime Minister's Office was aware of Peres' scheduled meetings and noted that the Labor leader was accompanied by a security agent

which would not have been the case if the government were in the dark. Sources in the Prime Minister's Office confirmed later that Begin and his military aide, Gen. Ephraim Poran, knew of the meeting with Hassan but not of the meeting with Prince Mohammad, believed to have been arranged by Western circles.

While Likud charged treacherous conduct on Peres' part, Labor Party circles hailed the contacts as a great achievement in the search for a wider peace.

Concedes He Had Meetings

When Peres arrived home Friday, he said he had no meetings with Arab leaders in Europe. Observers noted that Morocco is not in Europe. Yesterday, Peres admitted indirectly to the meetings when he charged Begin's office with leaking the story. Morocco issued an official denial last week that the meetings took place. Peres would say only that the denial "stood by itself."

Later, at a press conference, he said, "I have met openly and secretly with Arab leaders. On the occasions where the meetings were secret I respect the promise to keep them secret and I am not ready to refer to them. About the supposed meeting with King Hassan of Morocco, the (Rabat) Palace denied this meeting and I have nothing to add to this denial."

He went on to say, "As the person heading the (Labor) Alignment, the largest political movement in Israel, it is my duty to seriously check what can be done and what cannot be done, with whom one can speak on what, what is real and what is possible, what is serious and what is true, and without fear of anybody come to the people and say: 'This is possible and this is impossible. This has prospect and this does not.' In order to present to the people perspectives for the future of the State which encompass both realism and vision."

Peres insisted that whenever he has met with Arab leaders "I explain to them the position of the Labor Party which negates a separate Palestinian state, which is against negotiation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, which is for a united Jerusalem and which is for defensible borders."

Without referring to any meeting with a Jordanian principal, Peres said he thought the Labor Party's "Jordanian option" was still valid and that King Hussein would be prepared to come to the negotiating table with sufficient preparation and with a government prepared to come forward with a plan he could ultimately accept.

CONGRESS TO CONSIDER SETTING NATIONAL JEWISH HERITAGE WEEK

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA) — A Joint Resolution of Congress (HJ55) to authorize and request the President to designate May 3-10, 1981 as "Jewish Heritage Week" throughout the United States is to be considered in the House of Representatives and Senate, according to New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams, chairman of the Jewish Heritage Week Advisory Council.

The bill, which has been referred to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, was introduced by Rep. Joseph Addabbo (D. NY) and, to date, has 167 co-sponsors of the necessary 217. Jewish Heritage Week, initiated by the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCRC) five years ago, has become an annual celebration in the metropolitan area, co-sponsored by the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York, the New York City Board of Education and the Chancellor of Schools.

The resolution notes that "the months of April and May contain events of major significance in the Jewish calendar—Passover, the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, Holocaust Memorial Day, Israeli Independence Day, Solidarity Sunday for Soviet Jewry, and Jerusalem Day."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF AUSTRALIA

By Joseph Polakoff

(Part Six Of A Six-Part Series)

MELBOURNE, March 22 (JTA) -- Signs of Israel or Jewry catch the visitor's eye in unexpected places in Australia. On the Great Barrier Reef, some 1,400 miles north of Sydney, the flag of Israel flies with nine other national flags, the Stars and Stripes included, above the center court of the excellent Royal Hayman Hotel on tropical Hayman Island.

In Sydney's unique and splendid Opera House, imbedded in a corner of its main corridor, is a small section of a mosaic taken from an ancient synagogue in Gaza. It was presented to the Opera House by the Israeli government. A bronze plaque, with Hebrew and English inscriptions, reports that the mosaic was laid in the synagogue in 508 C.E. and presented to Sydney in October 1976 -- a span of more than 14 centuries.

In a charming little restaurant overlooking Victoria Harbor some 30 miles outside of Adelaide in South Australia, the menu offers "Avocado Tel Aviv." This dessert was listed last among six and the most expensive. The efficient, polite waitress was asked what this dessert was like. "Tel Aviv," she replied with assurance, "means cream." It turned out the dessert was avocado diced with banana, immersed in an orange liqueur, and yes, indeed, rich cream. The restaurant manager said later it was an Israeli dessert published in "a famous French cookbook" that he had found in New York.

China is associated with Jewish personalities in Australia. Hans Mueller, the B'nai B'rith's district president in Sydney, and his wife, Gertie, both came to Australia from Vienna by way of Shanghai where they had met and spent the World War II years. They came to Sydney in 1947.

Mueller proudly and deservedly shows Sydney's handsome B'nai B'rith quarters that were converted from a warehouse and has a fine kosher restaurant. B'nai B'rith initiated a breakfast program in Sydney's public schools that is now conducted as a project by the general community, the B'nai B'rith included.

In Melbourne's "Chinatown," that is part of the city's downtown area, is "Cohen's Alley." No one was found who remembered that particular Cohen.

Jewish Emigration From China

In Canberra, Australia's beautifully planned capital with a population now close to a quarter-million, the president of the Jewish community of some 500 people, is a third-generation Chinese although a Caucasian by race. Ted Whitgob's grandparents came to China from Russia in 1905 -- the year of the Russo-Japanese war. His mother was born in Harbin and his father in Shanghai.

Whitgob, who attended a British school in Shanghai before emigrating to Australia, is the chief ethnics affairs officer in the Australia Department of Immigration. One of its projects is Australia's pilot program to help Soviet Jewish immigrants establish themselves more quickly in their new country.

Among Jewish newcomers to Adelaide that have helped swell the Jewish community's population to about 2,000 are seven Soviet families which arrived in the last year. Other newcomers to Adelaide include some 50 South African fami-

lies and "at least" as many Egyptian families. Robert Phillips, vice president of Adelaide's Jewish Board of Deputies, observed that South Africans are "fully committed" to Judaism and the Egyptians also are "very active" in the community.

Until 15 years ago, Phillips observed, the community was Orthodox. It now has both Liberal and Orthodox congregations. He estimated that as many as 400 to 500 Jews, mainly of British origin, were "lost" to Judaism in South Australia between the two world wars -- "the lean period" in the region's Jewish history. Phillips' forebears came to Adelaide some 70 years ago from Scotland, England and Poland.

MOVE TO GRANT HONORARY AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP TO WALLENBERG

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 22 (JTA) -- Federal legislation to grant honorary American citizenship to Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, who was credited with saving the lives of 100,000 Hungarian Jews from the Nazis, will be introduced in the House of Representatives on Thursday.

Rep. Tom Lantos (D. Cal.) will present the bill, which now has 202 co-sponsors. Lantos and his wife, Annette, both credit Wallenberg with saving them from deportation to a Nazi death camp. Wallenberg was in Budapest in the closing days of World War II. Lantos said Wallenberg went to Budapest at the request of the State Department with a mission to save the lives of those "who had been marked for death by the Nazis."

Wallenberg issued thousands of Swedish passports and created a refuge for thousands more by acquiring apartment buildings, with American funds, and establishing them as Swedish territory, in Budapest, to give the occupants diplomatic immunity from seizure by the Nazis.

Wallenberg was arrested when Russian troops entered Budapest. He was arrested as an alleged American spy and imprisoned in the Soviet Union where, Soviet officials have declared, he died of a heart attack in 1947. But many persons claimed they have seen Wallenberg alive since and as recently as 1979, Lantos pointed out.

The only other foreigners named honorary American citizens by special acts of Congress were Sir Winston Churchill and Samuel Pison, a Holocaust survivor who became an internationally famous lawyer and author.

YAMIT RESIDENTS STAGE PROTEST

TEL AVIV, March 22 (JTA) -- Residents of Yamit, due to abandon their homes next year when the area is handed back to Egypt under the peace treaty, today blocked the main road from Israel to Egypt for five hours, protesting what they term delays in a government decision on compensation to be paid to them and the rate of taxation on any payments made.

They agreed to reopen the road to traffic only after they were informed Premier Menachem Begin had agreed to meet their representatives to discuss the issue. The residents drove slowly along the roadway until halted by a military roadblock set up to stop them. They thereupon declared that they were not blocking the roadway but merely driving along to a meeting, while the military were blocking passage.

Several buses carrying tourists from Israel to Egypt were held up for five hours before being able to continue their vacations.