

# JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 48th Street / New York, New York 10036

Vol. LIX - 64th Year

Tuesday, April 14, 1981

No. 72

## REPORT SYRIA WAS INVOLVED IN A TERRORIST ATTEMPT AGAINST ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 13 (JTA) — Israeli security circles said today that Syrian authorities were deeply involved in all aspects of a terrorist attempt to infiltrate Israel by gliders last month to carry out sabotage missions. Details were supplied by the two terrorists captured after their glider crash-landed in Israel — one a Syrian and the other a Turk.

Under interrogation, the terrorists indicated that the Syrians spared no effort to provide logistical assistance for the mission. They established a special base for the purpose south of Homs in southwestern Syria, provided the terrorists with gliding instructors from their own commando units and placed Syrian army technicians in charge of maintaining the gliders and balloons which were also placed at the disposal of the terrorists.

The Syrians appointed special liaison officers and made a point of operational coordination between the gliders and the Syrian Air Force, the security circles said. Intelligence officers and Air Force officers frequently visited the base and followed the training closely. The captured terrorists also claimed that their base was visited occasionally by Soviet officers dressed as civilians but escorted by senior officers of the terrorist organization conducting the mission, known as the Liberation Front.

The security circles said that interrogation of the terrorists revealed that the Liberation Front became in fact an arm of Syrian intelligence and that the Syrians wanted to use it against Arab elements and Palestinians unpopular in Damascus as well as against Israel.

The terrorists said they were assured by the Syrians they were not being sent on a suicide mission but that they soon realized they would not be able to return to Syria.

## SENATORIAL DELEGATION IN ISRAEL TO STUDY ISRAEL'S OBJECTIONS TO U.S. ARMS SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 13 (JTA) — Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker (R. Tenn.) arrived here today for a two-day visit at the head of a Senatorial delegation that has been touring the Middle East. He told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport that the purpose of their visit is to study Israel's objections to the Reagan Administration's proposed sale of advanced weaponry to Saudi Arabia, including Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) aircraft. Baker said he and his colleagues would also look into ways to advance the Middle East peace process.

The Senate leader is scheduled to meet with Premier Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and top Defense Ministry officials. Baker said that as of this moment the Senate is undecided on the weapons sale to the Saudis and the purpose of the present trip was to provide a "Senate perspective so that we will be in a better position to make a better judgement on those and other matters."

Baker did not express his own opinion on the Saudi arms package. However, before leaving Saudi

Arabia yesterday, he told reporters in Jeddah that he was sympathetic to the deal but was unsure which way the Senate would vote.

## Explains Situation To Saudi Leaders

Baker and his party reportedly tried to impress upon King Khalid and other Saudi leaders that the Reagan Administration does not have the power to ensure that the Saudis will receive the advanced weaponry they have requested because the Senate, which must approve such sales, has the final say.

According to some American press reports, members of Baker's group were privately concerned that Secretary of State Alexander Haig may have minimized that point when he visited Saudi Arabia last week because of his eagerness to convince his hosts that security of the Persian Gulf region against Soviet interventionism has equal priority with finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

In addition to the AWACS, the Saudis have asked for extra fuel tanks and Sidewinder air-to-air missiles to improve the combat capabilities of the 62 F-15 jet fighters they have ordered from the U.S. According to reports from Washington, a majority of the Senate is opposed to both aspects of the deal, but especially to the supply of the highly sophisticated AWACS to the Saudis which is vehemently opposed by Israel.

Baker is reported to have said in Jeddah that the Reagan Administration is prepared to be flexible on the final shape and form of the arms package. He is said to have suggested, as a means of easing Israeli and American fears, the joint manning of the AWACS by Saudis and Americans, sharing of the intelligence gathered by the planes and limits on their use.

## UN, ISRAELI OFFICIALS CONFER ON WAYS TO END FIGHTING IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 13 (JTA) — United Nations Undersecretary General Brian Urquhart conferred today with Premier Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir on the situation in Lebanon but remained non-committal as to what measures should be taken to end the fighting in that country. He and Begin agreed on the urgent need for a durable cease-fire. The UN diplomat made no formal requests of Israel nor did he raise the question of Israel's pre-emptive strikes against terrorist targets in south-Lebanon.

Urquhart was sent to the region by UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim before the latest eruption of fighting between Syrian forces and Lebanese Christians in Beirut and Zahle village. He visited Beirut and spent two days with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) before coming to Israel.

He told reporters here that he brought no specific proposals but that he and the Israeli leaders had discussed the French suggestion to create an international peacekeeping force as a buffer between the opposing sides in Lebanon.

Urquhart did not appear enthusiastic about the French proposal. "It is not a new idea by any

manner or means," he said. "It has been bandied about by a number of parties over a period of years, to my knowledge. We certainly discussed that and the possibilities, but I think it is very premature -- we covered the whole problem," Urquhart said without further elaboration.

#### UN Official Suggests Quiet Diplomacy

According to aides, Begin had stressed to the UN emissary that the Syrians who head the all-Arab "peacekeeping" force that entered Lebanon to end the civil war in 1976 are not peacekeepers but "bloody killers who were slaughtering Christians in Lebanon." Shamir told Urquhart that he should seek the expulsion of the Syrians and the Palestinian terrorists from Lebanon. Urquhart replied that the only way to reach a peaceful solution was through quiet diplomacy "not through confrontation."

He said the recent tension between UNIFIL and the Christian forces in south Lebanon led by Maj. Saad Haddad seems to have abated and similarly, the tension between Israel and UNIFIL. He expressed confidence in UNIFIL commander Gen. William Callaghan of Ireland who, he said, "is doing an excellent job that is well understood by all the people he deals with and I think that is certainly true of the Israeli authorities."

Begin assured Urquhart that Israel would do all it could to ensure the safety of UNIFIL personnel but added that he expected UNIFIL to prevent terrorists in Lebanon from attacking Israel.

Meanwhile, Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori met in Jerusalem today with Gen. Emmanuel Erskine, former commander of UNIFIL and presently commander of all UN peacekeeping forces in the Middle East and a personal representative of Waldheim. Aides said they discussed the situation in south Lebanon, Zahle and Beirut. Both stressed, after the meeting, that there has been a marked improvement in cooperation between UNIFIL and all elements operating in south Lebanon.

#### KENNEDY URGES ADMINISTRATION TO CALL FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN FORCES AND THE PLO FROM LEBANON

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 13 (JTA) -- Sen. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.) urged the Reagan Administration today to call for the withdrawal of Syrian forces and the Palestine Liberation Organization from Lebanon. "On this, the sixth anniversary of the war in Lebanon, the U.S. must press for a full cease-fire, an end to the siege of Zahle and the withdrawal of Syrian and PLO forces from Lebanon," Kennedy said in a statement issued here.

"We must not permit a peacekeeping force to be transformed into a force for keeping up the violence," he declared. Kennedy also said that the U.S. and other countries "must condemn in the strongest terms the Syrian and PLO violence against the Christian community in Lebanon."

He accused the Syrian military forces which, he noted, had gone into Lebanon as a peacekeeping force, of having "remained in fact to occupy the land and to cruelly shell the Christian sections of Beirut and the Christian city of Zahle. They have joined with the PLO in a brutal assault on the very integrity of Lebanon and its people."

Kennedy added that the U.S. must do all it can "to ensure that this war-torn country becomes again a secure, stable and pro-Western democracy in the Middle East."

#### STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL DISCLOSES ROLE OF PLO IN CENTRAL AMERICA

WASHINGTON, April 13 (JTA) -- A leading State Department official has disclosed that the Palestine Liberation Organization is supporting terrorists in El Salvador and other Central American countries "to harass and hassle the United States and create pressure in a vulnerable area."

James Cheek, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, told the National Leadership Development Conference of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith at a meeting here that the PLO, at little or no cost, derives many benefits from its involvement with extremist revolutionary movements in Central America.

He said one of the objectives of "the radical Palestinians" is to obtain political leverage with the United States so that they can proffer a quid pro quo, "If you accommodate us in the Middle East, we'll get off your back in Central America."

In its involvement, Cheek went on to say, the PLO also acts as a "surrogate" for the Soviet Union which, therefore, does not have to utilize its own people. A further benefit is that the PLO support for leftist revolutionaries pleases not only the USSR but "fulfills obligations" to other friends such as the Cubans and the radical Arab states.

Pointing out that the PLO presence in the various Central American countries is "not massive," Cheek noted that the training cadres sent to the area are rotated periodically. He also observed that the PLO trains Central American terrorists in its camps in Lebanon and other Middle East areas and help supply arms to the terrorist bands through its contacts with Libya.

While the United States is monitoring the situation throughout Central America closely, Cheek admitted that the full extent of PLO involvement may not be known because of its "clandestine" nature. However, he stressed that the United States is trying to impress on Central American governments "the peril of permitting a PLO base to be established." He added that if a base is set up, "the country permitting this could expect trouble with us."

#### HOUSE UNIT REJECTS ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL TO RESCIND FUNDS TO AID SOVIET JEWS TO SETTLE IN ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 13 (JTA) -- The House Appropriations Committee's subcommittee for operations has rejected the Reagan Administration's proposal to rescind a \$12.5 million appropriation this year to help Soviet Jewish refugees settle in Israel. The subcommittee's action must be approved by the full committee.

Rep. Clarence Long (D. Md.), subcommittee chairman, said the original \$25 million grant in the 1981 budget will remain "as is" to provide "assistance to refugees from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe who seek religious freedom in Israel." Long noted that through his subcommittee, Congress has supported the resettlement of refugees since 1973. "We want the Soviet government to know we are standing by those trying to escape Communist oppression," Long said.

The funds go to the Jewish Agency in Israel for resettlement costs which include temporary maintenance in absorption centers, language training, housing, job training and placement and required medical and social services.

**EXHIBIT ON ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA**

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 13 (JTA) — An exhibit of anti-Semitic propaganda, including newsletters, calling cards and bumper stickers distributed by the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazi organizations are on display this week at Yeshiva University.

Rabbi Israel Miller, vice president of the university, said the exhibit, initiated by the Jewish Identity Center in cooperation with the Joseph Dunner Political Science Society with material contributed by the Jewish Defense League, is "to create an awareness in the university community of a crisis situation and to acquaint students with problems at home." In this regard he mentioned the attempt by members of the American Nazi Party to stage a march in Skokie, Ill. in June 1978. He added that students are not sufficiently involved in understanding and preserving the lessons of the Holocaust.

The exhibit contains an assortment of propaganda ranging from Hitler's "Mein Kampf" to National Socialist People's Party calling cards bearing slogans such as "White pride, White power, White Unity." Also on display is "White Power," a newsletter of the American Nazi Party published by Matt Koehl in Arlington, Va., and "New Order," another neo-Nazi publication out of Lincoln, Neb.

Among the strident headlines in these and other publications are: "Israeli aggression threatens world peace" and "There was no Holocaust." Stickers carrying swastikas state "Communism is Jewish," "Inflation is Jewish," and "Dump Israel."

**Legislation Is Being Prepared**

New York City Councilman Ted Silverman, who was present at the opening of the exhibit, said he is proposing legislation to make it illegal in New York to display emblems which incite people to violence. He was referring to swastikas which were on display at the exhibit. Silverman said "these symbols of bigotry, hatred and destruction are not protected under the First Amendment." He noted that 23 states now have active Klan and Nazi chapters.

Shifra Hoffman, executive director of the Jewish Identity Center, said, "It is time for Jews to come home to their own land, for these negative reasons. We challenge the Jewish leadership to speak out about this threat and stop minimizing an issue of the greatest magnitude."

**WORLDWIDE PROGRAM TO PROMOTE****JEWISH EDUCATION WILL MARK THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE'S 80th BIRTHDAY**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 13 (JTA) — The Lubavitch movement will mark the 80th birthday of their rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, Wednesday by launching a worldwide program to promote Yiddishkeit and Jewish education as well as education in general.

The Rebbe's birthday has been the date for the last several years proclaimed by the President and Congress as "Education Day — U.S.A." This year, the proclamation was made by Secretary of Education T.H. Bell at a ceremony last week at the Dirksen Senate Office Building attended by several hundred persons, including 35 Senators and 40 to 50 Representatives. Bell praised the Lubavitch movement for being instrumental in establishing Education Day. "The Jewish people have survived, by passing down through the generations,

the love and sweetness of learning," he said. Bell quoted Schneerson as saying that "education is the cornerstone not only of Jewish life but of humanity at large."

President Reagan, who was still in George Washington University Hospital at the time, sent a message to the gathering for prayers offered in his behalf. "Please know that I am deeply grateful for your thoughts and for the sentiments expressed by my fellow citizens," Reagan said.

Rabbi Abraham Shemtov, director of American Friends of Lubavitch, sponsor of the program, said that 38 of the Lubavitch regional directors in the United States attended the ceremony. Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R. Minn.) was chairman of the event.

**JDC RETURNS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

NEW YORK, April 13 (JTA) — Henry Taub, president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and Ralph Goldman, JDC executive vice president, recently visited Prague, Czechoslovakia at the invitation of the Czech Council of Jewish Religious Communities, it was announced by Taub at a meeting of the JDC's Executive Committee.

Taub said that "JDC was pleased" that he and Goldman "had had the opportunity to renew its association with the Jewish community of Czechoslovakia for the first time in thirty years." The JDC office in Prague was closed in 1950. Goldman said the visit, which took place Feb. 10 to 13 was a "beginning of connections" with the 12,000-member Czech Jewish community.

The renewal of the JDC contact with Czechoslovakia follows by a year the reopening of JDC direct programs in another Eastern European country, Hungary. During their stay in Prague, the JDC officials met with the leadership of the Jewish community of Czechoslovakia, including representatives of the Czech and Slovak communities, as well as government officials Karel Hruza, head of the Church Secretariat of the Federal Prime Minister's Office, and Frantisek Jelinek, head of the Church Secretariat of the Ministry of Culture. Also attending the meetings was Dr. Lavoslav Kadelburg, president of the Jewish community of Yugoslavia.

**JEWISH EDUCATION IN ARGENTINA**

NEW YORK, April 13 (JTA) — More than 20,000 Jewish students are enrolled in 68 Hebrew schools in Argentina, according to Dr. Eliezer Tavín, head of the Education and Culture Department in the Diaspora of the World Zionist Organization, who has recently returned from a visit to Argentina and other South American countries.

In an interview in the Passover issue of Olam Hadash, the only Hebrew magazine for children and young adults published in the United States, Tavín said that in addition to general studies the Jewish students in Argentina's Hebrew schools are also taught Hebrew language and literature, Jewish history and Bible. Presently there are 300,000 Jews in Argentina.

Tavín said that in the Jewish Institute for Teachers in Buenos Aires, named after the late Israeli President Zalman Shazar, and the Agnon seminary for kindergarten teachers, there are presently 300 students.

"We believe that teachers who were born in the country can influence the parents and their children and therefore increase the number of Jewish students in Argentina's Hebrew schools," Tavín told Asher Wolk, the editor of Olam Hadash.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE FEWS OF HUNGARY

By Rochelle Seidel-Walk

(Part Two Of A Four-Part Series)

BUDAPEST, April 13 (JTA) — The Central Board for Hungarian Jews (MIOK) coordinates most of the Jewish activities and institutions in Hungary. MIOK, the national body which speaks for all Hungarian Jews and also conveys official government policies on religious affairs to all Jews, has 300 elected members who elect a 47-member governing council.

Perhaps the most important Jewish institution in Hungary is the Jewish Theological Seminary in Budapest, the only one in Eastern Europe. The seminary not only trains rabbinical students from Hungary, but also from other Soviet Bloc countries. There are currently four Soviet students, one from Czechoslovakia and two from Bulgaria.

Rabbi Sandor Scheiber, head of the seminary, is Hungary's leading scholar and historian. He is an expert on the rare volumes in the Jewish library housed in the seminary, and also on the Kaufman collection in the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. (The Kaufmann collection contains illuminated Hebrew manuscripts dating back to the 13th Century.)

### Judaism In Practice

Every Friday evening after Kabbalat Shabbat services at the seminary sanctuary, Scheiber hosts an Oneg Shabbat for some 200 people and discusses Jewish history or philosophy. Since adult religious education and most ethnic cultural activities are discouraged by the government, these popular lectures are a time for both socialization and learning.

MIOK leaders describe the seminary and synagogues as "Conservative," but they are more traditional than American Conservative congregations. Men and women sit separately, divided by the middle aisle. There is no female participation on the bima.

The Dohany Street Synagogue is the largest in the world, with 3400 seats and four balconies. The American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), which administers a \$1 million per year social welfare budget in Hungary, is seeking donations earmarked for the repair of this 122-year-old structure.

Because it costs too much to heat the huge synagogue during the winter, the 200 Shabbat morning worshippers meet in the adjacent Heroes' Synagogue. This small sanctuary was built in 1931 to honor the Jewish heroes of World War I.

### The 'Ghosts' Of The Holocaust Victims

Both synagogues are part of a complex of buildings that were in the center of the Budapest Ghetto during World War II. MIOK headquarters and the Jewish Museum are also here, as is a courtyard cemetery for 200 to 300 victims found dead on the ghetto streets on the day of liberation, January 18, 1945. In this courtyard is a special plaque commemorating native Hungarian Hannah Senesh, the 22-year-old Jewish heroine shot by the Nazis as a spy. In 1943 she parachuted into Yugoslavia from (then) Palestine in a vain attempt to organize resistance and rescue Hungarian Jewry.

The JDC official responsible for Hungary spoke of a Yom Kippur he spent in the Dohany Street Synagogue as "my most moving experience as a Jew." In addition to the 6,000 people crowded

into the synagogue, "there were also 600,000 ghosts" of the Hungarian Holocaust victims. "You could virtually feel them," he said. "Everyone in this country over the age of 50 lost first degree relatives in the Holocaust."

At the Jewish old age home, the Jewish hospital and the kosher kitchen for the poor and elderly, there were also the "living ghosts" of solitary Holocaust survivors. These victims, mostly women, are impoverished, old and alone. They lost their families, homes and money over 35 years ago, and continue to live a solitary and nightmare-filled existence.

### Facilities For The Jewish Community

The kosher kitchen, which is 90 percent subsidized by the JDC, prepares 250,000 meals a year for these survivors. In June, 1981, a \$650,000 modern facility will replace the outmoded kitchen now in use. (JDC will provide \$300,000 for the project.)

Food from this central kitchen is delivered to various depots throughout the city, free of charge for people unable to pay. Unlike most institutions in Hungary, the kitchen is totally Jewish-operated, with no government subsidy or control (except for hygiene standards). The JDC representative explained this was a government "concession to the Jews," because of the large number of survivors who are in need of the service.

Relief and welfare services are technically the responsibility of the Central Committee for Social Assistance (KSB), rather than MIOK. KSB's social welfare activities are totally supported by JDC, and even MIOK funds from JDC are allocated by way of KSB. Dr. Mihaly Borsa, 75, administers such KSB programs as the kosher kitchen, winter relief, free clothing and medical equipment. Borsa seems to rule his domain with an iron fist, afraid of neither MIOK nor government officials.

Charismatic and feisty, Borsa was interned in Auschwitz and Dachau, and holds the highest rank in the Hungarian anti-Fascist Resistance Fighters organization. After the war, he was for a time the Secretary of Economic Affairs for Hungary. When the 2500 elderly Holocaust victims now serviced by KSB are no longer alive, Borsa said he expects that the organization will cease to function. Normal welfare problems will then be assumed by the state.

In addition to MIOK and KSB, there is a separate Orthodox community of some 3,000. The Orthodox group has its own chief rabbi, yeshiva and synagogue. This community operates the Budapest kosher restaurant, and also separate meat and poultry shops, kosher salami and matzo plants, and the mikveh. Matzo and other kosher products are exported to other Communist countries, including the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

(Tomorrow: Part Three)

\*\*\*

● TORONTO (JTA) — Dr. Joseph Joffre of Montreal is 106 years old and recently underwent minor surgery at Montreal's Jewish General Hospital. But age will not stop him from participating in the annual "March to Jerusalem" May 3. "I have to get better now, he frets, "in time for the march. Joffre, a retired chemist, who is now convalescing, insists that his step is firm, his eyes are clear and his personality unruffled by time.

\*\*\*

REMINDER: There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated April 20 and 21 due to the Passover holiday.