

JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

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

Vol. LIX - 64th Year
JTA-EBRARD
JTA-CINCINNATI
JTA-1981

Friday, April 17, 1981

No. 75

ISRAELIS HIT TERRORIST BASES THWART TWO TERRORISTS' EFFORTS TO INFILTRATE ISRAEL BY BALLOON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 16 (JTA) — Israel Air Force planes attacked terrorist bases on the Lebanese coast north of Tyre today and all aircraft returned safely to their bases, a military spokesman announced. The spokesman said the latest raid was in line with Israel's policy of striking terrorist bases in Lebanon to prevent attacks on Israel from being mounted at those bases.

Meanwhile, two terrorists attempting to infiltrate Israel on a hot air balloon were killed by Israeli troops this morning. The balloon was spotted by an army unit on routine patrol near Kibbutz Manera on the Lebanese border and was brought down by ground fire just inside Lebanon. Its occupants were killed after a brief chase. Documents found on the bodies, along with weapons, handgrenades and maps, indicated that their mission may have been to disrupt tourism in Israel during the Passover-Easter holiday this weekend.

Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan praised the swift action by the soldiers which, he said, proved the border patrols were effective and alert against all surprises. According to Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori, Israel's security forces are not surprised by any unorthodox means used by terrorists to attempt to infiltrate the country.

Last month a pair of terrorists was captured trying to cross the border in motorized hang gliders. Under interrogation they disclosed that they were trained for their mission at a top secret base near Homs in northwestern Syria. They said their training included practice with balloons as well as gliders and was observed by Soviet military advisors in civilian clothes. A previous attempt to enter Israel by balloon failed a year ago when the air bag exploded over Lebanon.

ISRAEL MUTES REACTION TO REPORTS THAT REAGAN SENT CABLE TO ASSAD HAILING DAMASCUS FOR ROLE IT COULD PLAY IN ACHIEVING MIDEAST PEACE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 16 (JTA) — Israel had a guarded reaction today to reports that President Reagan sent a personal cable to President Hafez Assad of Syria yesterday hailing the role Damascus could play in achieving peace in the Middle East. The Reagan message was disclosed in Beirut by Beshir Gemayel, commander of the rightwing Christian Phalangists, who accused the U.S. of giving its blessings to the partition in Lebanon. The Phalangists have been battling Syrian forces in Lebanon in recent weeks.

(There was no immediate comment by the White House on Reagan's reported cable sent on the occasion of Syria's National Day yesterday). Observers here said it appeared to be an attempt by the U.S. to balance the sharp criticism of Syria by Secretary of State Alexander Haig when he was in Jerusalem 10 days ago. At that time, Haig de-

nounced the Syrian shelling of the Christian town of Zahle in central Lebanon as "brutal."

Israeli observers insisted, however, that the contradictory statements should not be taken as a sign that the Reagan Administration is following the "zig-zag policy" that the Carter Administration had been accused of. As if to emphasize this view, Premier Menachem Begin, in a television interview last night, hailed Haig's remarks and said he was pleased that the U.S. now regarded Syria as a Soviet base.

Begin claimed that Syria has been supplied with more than 2000 modern Soviet made tanks, that the Soviets have stockpiled over 1000 T-62 and T-72 tanks in Syria for their own strategic use and another 2000 tanks in Libya.

In Washington yesterday, State Department spokesman Dean Fischer denied that U.S. policy was aimed at getting the Syrians to withdraw their forces from Lebanon. At the same time, he said the U.S. wanted the Lebanese army to take over "security functions" in the entire country.

U.S. IS CONSIDERING SELLING ANTI-TANK MISSILES TO SAUDI ARABIA

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 16 (JTA) — The State Department admitted today that it is considering selling TOW anti-tank missiles to Saudi Arabia. Department spokesman Dean Fischer said no decisions had been made on the time nor date and the number of these missiles to be sold to Saudi Arabia.

Fischer was commenting on a news report that the Reagan Administration had agreed to sell the Saudis 10,000 of the anti-tank missiles as well as ground radar stations. He said he knew nothing about the radar stations. The spokesman said the U.S. has an on-going relationship with Saudi Arabia and has already sold Saudi Arabia 5000 of the missiles.

Fischer refused to comment on reports that the Administration is delaying sending to Congress official notification of its decision to sell the Saudis AWACS and enhanced weaponry for the F-15s it previously sold the Saudis because of growing Congressional opposition to the proposed sale. He would only repeat what he has been saying for the past three days, that the Administration would send Congress the official notification when it was ready.

Asked about the Israeli air raid into Lebanon this morning, Fischer said he had seen only news reports but he could only repeat what Secretary of State Alexander Haig said in Paris April 11, which was, that the United States is "opposed to any violence from any of the parties concerned."

BACKGROUND REPORT THE FRENCH-LEBANESE CONNECTION

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 16 (JTA) — France today reasserted its determination to try to strengthen the official Lebanese army in order to obtain a lasting cease-fire in that war-torn country. The French government decided yesterday to dispatch to Beirut later this week a top French delegation to investigate the Lebanese army's needs in modern equip-

ment so as to strengthen it as quickly as possible. In spite of the current election campaign, practically all French parties support the stand taken by President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and the current administration. France has felt a traditional responsibility for Lebanon which, until the end of World War II, was a French protectorate and where French is still the main language. French hospitals, schools and commercial firms operate throughout Lebanon and French public opinion looks upon the country as having "a special organic relationship" with metropolitan France.

France has proposed on several occasions, between 1975-1976, to send a peacekeeping force to supervise the various ceasefire agreements and replace the 25,000-strong predominantly Syrian Arab peacekeeping force which has been stationed in Lebanon since 1975. The Lebanese government, fearful of being accused or inviting the "colonialists back to Beirut" and under strong pressure from the warring Lebanese factions, has refused to request such a force. Paris, however, insists on an official request by Lebanon as a pre-condition for dispatching such a force.

Syria has also traditionally opposed the French initiative and Israel was not over-enthusiastic. The Palestine Liberation Organization has also always opposed the stationing of French troops anywhere in Lebanon, saying that such a move would threaten "not only Lebanon alone but the entire region."

Open Lines Of Communication

France has traditionally refused to become involved with the various warring factions but it keeps open lines of communication with all of them and has always supported the central government of President Elias Sarkis. After recent French proposals for an international peacekeeping force faded away because of lack of support in Lebanon and abroad, France now intends to try to strengthen the 18,000-man Lebanese army of which less than a third is operational.

French sources say that Secretary of State Alexander Haig endorsed both French suggestions sending an international force, or alternatively, strengthening the Lebanese army. During his recent stopover in Paris where he conferred with Giscard, Haig said that "the United Nations will have to play a role" in this process. French officials now believe that UN involvement is dooming the project.

Decision To 'Go It Alone'

This view explains France's decision to "go it alone," to try and smooth over possible regional opposition. The French Ambassadors to Israel, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia have been instructed to explain to the various governments France's "disinterested concern" over the Lebanese situation.

France has already sent to Lebanon helicopters, troop transport and armored vehicles and is preparing to airlift mortars, light artillery and communications equipment.

Most of Giscard's election rivals have accused him of not having done enough for Lebanon during his term in office. Gaullist candidate Jacques Chirac is far more militant on Lebanon's behalf, and maverick candidate Marie-France Garaud has rapped Giscard for having taken a "tentative approach" and a having lacked determination. Socialist candidate Francois Mitterrand, on the other hand, generally supports the Giscard Administration's policy in this area.

EGYPT AGREES TO LOWER PRICE OF CRUDE OIL IT SELLS TO ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, April 16 (JTA) — Egypt has agreed to reduce the price of the crude oil it sells to Israel, its biggest single customer. The \$3 a barrel reduction in the price of top-quality oil will save Israel about \$2 million a month, Finance Ministry officials said.

The price reduction was agreed after two weeks of negotiations between Israeli and Egyptian officials in Cairo. Israel had asked for the price drop in view of falling prices and a glut of crude oil on world markets. Egypt sells two million tons of oil a year to Israel from oil fields in Sinai previously worked, developed or even discovered and exploited by Israel before the area was handed back to Egypt under the peace treaty.

NOVAK: TERRORISM IS A NEW WAY TO DESTROY HUMAN RIGHTS

By Fern Allen

NEW YORK, April 16 (JTA) — Michael Novak, head of the United States delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, charged that terrorism is a "new and sophisticated way to destroy human rights." He pointed out that terrorists are trying to destroy human rights institutions by killing diplomats, judges and legislators.

Novak made his comments at an awards ceremony Tuesday sponsored by the American Jewish Forum (AJF) where he received the organization's Medal of Freedom. The AJF is a group committed to conservative political views, including strong U.S. defense forces, a free market system, preservation of the family and opposition to racial quotas.

In his acceptance speech, Novak recounted the anti-Israel and anti-Zionist statements made by several nations at the UN Human Rights Commission's annual meeting in Geneva last February. "You wonder what world you are in when you hear, again and again, that Zionism is the worst force of anti-Semitism. You hit your head and wonder if you heard it. But then you hear it again and again," recalled Novak.

Shocked At Hatred, Lies

At the human rights meeting, Novak said, "Imagine my shock when I heard, as I did hear in this room, so much hatred, so many lies, such squalid racism, such despicable anti-Semitism — all in the sacred name of human rights."

"I have heard in this chamber attacks upon Zionism in accents of a murderous hatred not heard since the days of the Nazis. It is as though this chamber has retrogressed by 40 years — as though this is not 1981, but 1941, and not in Geneva, but along the Hitler-Stalin axis," he added.

Novak said at the AJF meeting that his speech in Geneva was backed by the Reagan Administration. He added that he was not about to come back to the U.S. without voicing what he felt was the truth about human rights. He also pointed out that the U.S. was concerned that there should be no double standards at the Geneva meeting and that the role of institutions working for human rights be stressed.

CORRECTION: The first part of the series on The Jews of Hungary, in the April 13 issue of the Bulletin, stated that 10 percent of the Jews in Hungary reside in Budapest. It should have stated, correctly, 80 percent.

ARAB NATIONALIST GROUP IN ISRAEL IS DECLARED ILLEGAL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 16 (JTA) -- The Arab National Coordinating Committee, an umbrella organization of a number of nationalist groups among Israeli Arabs, was today declared illegal by Premier Menachem Begin in his capacity as Minister of Defense.

The Committee was established at a meeting of Israeli Arabs in December 1980 and its charter was ratified last February. That charter declares that the Israeli Arabs are part of the Palestinian people, whose sole representative is the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Begin's Arab affairs adviser, Binyamin Gur-Arye, said that although the committee called itself a political group it used terrorist methods to help the PLO aim of destroying Israel and replacing it with a Palestinian state. Gur-Arye noted that one of the groups within the committee had sent its members to Spain to make contact with extremist PLO groups, from where they had gone to Iraq to train. After their return to Israel they had carried out two terrorist acts and were now serving prison sentences.

Another committee member, Salah Baransi, had been a member of the extremist El-Ard movement declared illegal by Israel's Supreme Court in 1964. He had carried out terrorist activities in 1969 and had been sent to prison for 10 years but since his release in 1979 had continued terrorist activities.

BEGIN SURPRISED OVER PLANNED MEETING BETWEEN NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER AND ARAFAT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 16 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin expressed surprise today that Foreign Minister Christoph Van der Klaauw of The Netherlands plans to meet Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat during his current Middle East visit as chairman of the European Economic Community (EEC) Council of Ministers.

Begin told a group of visiting Dutch members of Parliament that the meeting with Arafat would be tantamount to recognition of the PLO. Van der Klaauw, who left Holland yesterday, is to meet with Arafat in Damascus tomorrow or Saturday. A Foreign Ministry spokesman in The Hague stressed yesterday that his contacts with Arafat did not imply Dutch recognition of the PLO but were strictly in Van der Klaauw's capacity as chairman of the EEC which has undertaken its own initiative to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

According to reports from Amsterdam, Van der Klaauw will meet Lebanese officials in Beirut today and return to Lebanon over the weekend before going on to Egypt.

Speaking to the Dutch parliamentarians, Begin also expressed his regret over the "hasty action" by some Dutch soldiers attached to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) who accused Israel last year of mutilating the bodies of five Palestinians killed in a battle with Israeli troops inside Lebanon. The accusations turned out to be false and both UNIFIL and The Netherlands government offered their apologies to Israel.

POLL SHOWS MORE AMERICANS HAVE POSITIVE ATTITUDES TOWARD JEWS

NEW YORK, April 16 (JTA) -- More Americans have positive attitudes toward Jews now

than at any time in recent years, despite the reported increase in anti-Semitic acts such as vandalism against synagogues, according to the results of a Gallup Poll taken last month compared to previous polls.

The poll was conducted among 1601 persons in 300 localities around the country between March 13-16. Forty percent of those polled reported "highly favorable" opinions of Jews as against 33 percent who were asked the same question in 1975. The poll also found that the climate for Jews seeking political office improved dramatically during the last decade. In 1973, 46 percent of Americans polled said they would vote for a Jewish Presidential candidate. In 1978, the figure was 82 percent.

From 1968 to 1978, the proportion of Americans who approved of marriages between Jews and non-Jews rose from 59 percent to 69 percent, according to the poll. Only two percent of the sample interviewed last month had highly unfavorable opinions of Jews.

Favorable attitudes were reported by 46 percent of Catholics and 39 percent of Protestants. Asked if they thought Jews were trying to get too much power in the U.S., 12 percent of Protestants and 13 percent of Catholics replied in the affirmative, compared to 35 percent of Protestants and 33 percent of Catholics asked the same question in 1952.

According to the Gallup organization, the growth of religious tolerance in the U.S. parallels the increase in the number of college-educated persons. Each survey found the college-educated more tolerant than those with less formal education.

FOREST PLANTED BY JNF IN MEMORY OF ONE OF ISRAEL'S LEADING DIPLOMATS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 16 (JTA) -- A forest was dedicated in the Jerusalem Hills in memory of one of Israel's foremost diplomats, Zeev Shek, who died two years ago while serving as Ambassador to Austria. The 5000-tree forest was planted by the Jewish National Fund with funds raised by the Austrian publisher, Fritz Molden, who attended the ceremony.

"Zeev was born and raised in the forests of Czechoslovakia," Molden told the large gathering of Shek's friends and admirers, "and I felt that the most appropriate way of honoring his love for Israel was to plant a forest in his memory to continue the tradition of nation-building with which he so deeply identified."

He continued: "Zeev Shek built a bridge between Jews and the non-Jewish world of Central Europe, tirelessly working for a better understanding by Europeans of his country."

Yaacov Tsur, himself a former senior Israeli diplomat and the past president of the JNF, said Shek had filled many of the most difficult and challenging posts in the foreign service, starting from Premier Moshe Sharett's secretary in the early 1950s and moving to key postings in London, Paris and Rome.

TEACHERS' STRIKE ENDS IN TORONTO

TORONTO, April 16 (JTA) -- A one-week teachers' strike in two Jewish day schools, the first in the history of the Toronto day schools, was ended by an agreement under which 800 students and 38 general studies teachers at Beth Tzedec and Beth Tikva United Synagogue schools here returned to class.

The teachers agreed to accept a 12.8 percent increase for teaching 30 hours weekly in the second year of a new contract. In the first year, the teachers will keep a wage pattern similar to that of public school teachers. Jewish studies were not affected by the walkout.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF JAMAICA

By Jesse Zel Lurie

KINGSTON, Jamaica, April 16 (JTA) -- There are going to be changes in the Jamaican posture at the United Nations, I was told here by knowledgeable officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These sources differ, however, in how major the change will be. The former government of Prime Minister Michael Manley, which was swept out of office in democratic elections last October, voted consistently at the UN with the Soviet Bloc.

The pattern continued at the last General Assembly even though most of the voting took place after the elections -- after the new pro-Western government of Prime Minister Edward Seaga had assumed power. But hold-over Ambassador Donald Mills voted with the Arab-Soviet Bloc on seven of the eight resolutions attacking Israel and the Camp David agreements.

Now that a new Ambassador, Sir Egerton Richardson, has arrived in New York, there will be less concurrence with the Soviet Union, I was told. But that does not mean that Jamaica will vote consistently with the United States. Although the new government is dependent on Washington and the friendship of the American people for financial aid and the restoration of its tourist trade, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hugh Shearer emphasized that his country is not in America's pocket.

He said at a recent meeting: "Jamaica does not take instructions from the United States or any super-power. If it happens that our view coincides with the United States, that's good for them. If it happens that our views and the views of Russia coincide, that's good for them."

Jamaica Supports Camp David Accords

I was assured, however, that one of the major issues on which Jamaica agrees with the United States is in support of the Camp David accords and the Israel-Egypt peace treaty. The General Assembly opposes the peace treaty but Jamaica will no longer vote with its majority on this issue as it did last fall. Shearer is disappointed that the non-aligned nations have not had the guts to demand the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

"Jamaica regards the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan as an assault on the most fundamental principles of the non-aligned movement," he said. In almost the same breath, Shearer went on to support fully "the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the withdrawal of Israel from Arab territories." Like many Black diplomats, Shearer juxtaposes in his own mind, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

Another psychological influence on Jamaican attitudes is Israel's relations with South Africa. Whether you are talking to a cabdriver or a Foreign Ministry official the conversation soon deteriorates into highly-exaggerated blathering on Israel's trade with South Africa.

Jamaica's influential but declining Jewish community is doing what it can to improve Israel's image. A few months ago a new organization was formed named Yadid -- the Israel-Jamaican Friendship Association. The leaders of the Jewish community, Aimeley Henriques, president, and Ernest deSouza, secretary and lay leader, are devoting their time and organizational talents to furthering the aims of the new organization.

Henriques and deSouza are leaders of a community which has seen better times. It is one of the oldest Jewish communities in the Western hemisphere. Two hundred years ago there were half a dozen synagogues all over the island. Now there is only one synagogue in the capital, Kingston.

At a recent Friday evening service in the Kingston synagogue there were 20 residents and a half dozen American tourists, 12 men and 14 women. This was a "fabulous attendance" according to Marion Lopez, one of the residents. The style of the bima and seats was Sephardic and the floor was covered with sand like several other Sephardic synagogues in Amsterdam and the Caribbean. The prayer book was entirely in English with a few Hebrew blessings transliterated.

The congregation's lay reader (the last rabbi left a couple of years ago) is deSouza who was on vacation. This evening services were conducted by Charles Alexander, a 27-year-old attorney, who had just returned from Jerusalem where he represented the Jamaican community. The cantor was Walter deSouza, a cousin of Ernest. He stood in the choir loft next to the organ and led the congregation in old Sephardic melodies and a traditional "Yigdal."

Both Walter deSouza and his cousin, Ernest, who is the de facto "rabbi" of the congregation, had Christian mothers. In their opinion, this did not make them or their families less Jewish. "My father sang in the synagogue choir for 44 years," Walter de Souza told me at the "kiddush" in the social hall. "I sang with him as a boy. Now my eldest son often sings with me." The son's mother, deSouza's divorced wife, is also a Christian.

Charles Alexander, the lay leader, is a different strand in the peculiar weave of Jamaican Jewry. He is a "baal-teshuva" from an assimilated Jewish family. His mother was not Jewish and his father was not interested in the synagogue. Alexander was taught by Ernest deSouza and celebrated his Bar Mitzvah a few years ago.

Alexander adapted rapidly to congregational problems. As the American tourists said good bye, he hinted broadly that they have difficulty getting a minyan on Saturday morning. As the saying goes: the more things change, the more they remain the same.

ORT SCHOOLS IN ISRAEL REPORT RECORD ENROLLMENT

NEW YORK, April 16, (JTA) -- ORT schools in Israel recently reported a record student registration for the 1981-82 school year which begins September 1. More than 10,000 new students are expected to attend the 115 ORT schools throughout Israel, bringing the total enrollment to an estimated 75,000, announced Sidney Leiwant, American ORT Federation president.

"We consider this particularly significant since registration began on April 10, coinciding with the 101st birthday of ORT," Leiwant said. "Clearly, the high level vocational and technical training which students receive at ORT schools is in great demand. ORT schools fill a vital need in preparing young Israelis for places in the country's technologically-oriented industries."

AMSTERDAM (JTA) -- A figure of Anne Frank has been added to the Madame Tussaud wax museum here. Anne is shown at the age of 14 sitting at a desk and writing her diary in a room which is a faithful reproduction of the attic in the house where Anne Frank and her family hid during the Nazi occupation of Holland.