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ISRAEL HITS TERRORIST TARGETS FOLLOWING ROCKET ATTACKS ON TOWNS IN NORTHERN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, July 16 (JTA) -- Israel launched massive air attacks on Palestinian terrorist targets in Lebanon today following the terrorist rocket barrage which killed three persons and wounded 13 in Nahariya yesterday and wounded 12 more in Kiryat Shemona. Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori warned settlers in northern Israel that they must consider themselves to be in the "front line" alongside the soldiers stationed there.

Military sources described the rocket attack as the heaviest since the Yom Kippur War. United Nations sources said yesterday that more than 120 rockets rained down on Kiryat Shemona and Nahariya and in areas between the two towns. Today a UN spokesman revised the figure on the number of rockets fired to nearly 300.

Terrorists Receiving Sophisticated Arms

Today's air strikes were the fourth in less than a week. Air attacks on Palestinian terrorist bases in Lebanon were carried out last Friday and on Sunday and Tuesday. Zipori said the escalation was in response to reports that the Palestinians have recently acquired sophisticated arms from the Soviet Union, Libya and Syria, including multi-barrel Katyusha rockets. Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan said the Palestinians have recently obtained tanks.

The targets of today's raids were not immediately disclosed. They are believed to have included Damour, 12 miles south of Beirut and Nabatiyeh inland from where the rocket attacks were launched yesterday. Zipori said the Palestinians appear not to have "learned their lesson" and promised that even tougher measures would be taken against them. Two terrorist organizations operating in Lebanon have claimed credit for yesterday's attacks. (See late report Pg. 3).

Meanwhile, settlers in northern Israel angrily criticized the government for not providing sufficient bomb shelters or giving proper training to the home guard. But none are planning to leave the area. As one settler said, "The Nazis couldn't get me out of my home in London during the blitz and the Palestinians won't get me out of my home here," in Nahariya.

STATE DEPT. SAYS VIOLENCE ON THE ISRAEL-LEBANON BORDER WILL NOT AFFECT U.S. DECISION ON RESUMING DELIVERY OF F-16s TO ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 16 (JTA) -- The State Department rejected today suggestions that the continued violence across the Israeli-Lebanon border would affect the Reagan Administration's decision whether or not to resume the delivery of F-16 warplanes to Israel.

The decision to deliver the aircraft depends on the outcome of the Administration's "review" of whether Israel violated its arms agreement with the U.S. by using American planes in its at-

tack on Iraq's nuclear reactor last month, Deputy State Department spokesman Alan Romburg reiterated today.

As late as early afternoon, Romburg could give no idea of when the decision on delivery would be announced, although he said it would be today or tomorrow as promised. Most observers here expect the Administration to announce that all 10 F-16s -- the four embargoed after the Iraqi raid and six scheduled for delivery tomorrow -- would go to Israel.

The Washington Star said in a story published today that the decision to deliver all 10 planes has already been made. The paper said it was decided when Secretary of State Alexander Haig and State Department Counsellor Robert McFarlane met last night with White House Counsellor Edward Meese III and other top White House aides.

McFarlane was briefing Congressional committees today on his talks in Israel earlier this week about the use of American-supplied weapons for defense purposes under the U.S.-Israeli arms agreement.

Meanwhile, Romburg said the U.S. expressed "regret" over the continued violence across the Israeli-Lebanon border, although he stressed he was not making a judgement on any of the actions. He repeated the U.S. position that "violence begets violence" and that "continued violence solves nothing."

Romburg said the escalation of violence hampers diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving Lebanon's problems. But he refused to discuss the plans of U.S. special envoy Philip Habib who is in the Middle East to help solve those problems. Habib has been in Saudi Arabia since Monday.

DRAFT ACCORD ON SINAI PEACE FORCE TO BE INITIALED FRIDAY

LONDON, July 16 (JTA) -- The draft agreement on a multi-national peace force to police Sinai following Israel's full withdrawal next year will be initialed tomorrow by senior Israeli, Egyptian and American officials at the U.S. Embassy in London.

David Kimche, Director General of the Israel Foreign Ministry, will represent Israel; the U.S. is sending Michael Sterner, head of the State Department's Middle East section; and Egypt will be represented by Ambassador Al-Shaah, Parliamentary Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs. Diplomats say London was chosen because it is the central point between the three signing countries.

Under the Camp David agreements, a United Nations force was to have replaced Israeli troops in Sinai. This was opposed by the Russians, and after months of discussions Egypt and Israel agreed to a mainly American force but also including some Commonwealth troops. The force will contain 2,000 lightly armed troops backed by 1,000 communications and logistics personnel.

CHIEF RABBINATE REJECTS ANY COMPROMISE ON 'WHO IS A JEW' AMENDMENT TO THE LAW OF RETURN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 16 (JTA) -- The National Religious Party was thrown into a quandry today when the Chief Rabbinate issued a communique re-

jecting any compromise on the controversial "Who Is a Jew" amendment to the Law of Return. The communique said the law must be amended because "This is da'at Torah (a Torah opinion). Halachic conversion is a problem touching the core of Israel's Torah."

The issue is bound to effect the coalition negotiations between the NRP and Likud inasmuch as Premier Menachem Begin has stated flatly that he cannot commit himself to force his non-Orthodox colleagues in the Knesset to vote for the amendment which would disqualify conversions made by other than Orthodox rabbis "according to halacha."

Were the NRP to join a Likud-led government on those terms it would be disobeying a ruling of Israel's supreme rabbinical authority, a position it wants to avoid. On the other hand, some NRP circles maintain that the question is a political one since it requires amending a law and the Chief Rabbis should not be consulted on political matters.

Hammer Suggests A Possible Solution

Zevulun Hammer, a NRP leader who serves as Education Minister in the outgoing government, suggested in a radio interview today that a Knesset vote on the "Who is a Jew" amendment could be avoided if the Chief Rabbinate was simply authorized to approve all conversions performed overseas, just as it has final authority on the validity of conversions performed in Israel. However, the Chief Rabbinate made it clear in its communique today that it insists on the amendment.

Hammer also indicated that he may not serve in the new government, assuming the NRP is a partner, because he wants to devote his time to rebuilding the party which sustained a major defeat in the June 30 elections.

WZO PONDER'S 'WHO IS A JEW' ISSUE

JERUSALEM, July 16 (JTA) -- The World Zionist Organization Executive discussed several cables from the United States reacting to the possibility that the Law of Return will be amended as part of the ongoing bargaining between the religious parties in Israel and Premier Menachem Begin in the effort to establish a new coalition government.

At issue is the demand that the "Who is a Jew" amendment to the Law of Return be adopted by the next Knesset that would define a Jew as any person born of a Jewish mother or converted by an Orthodox rabbi "according to halacha." Some Conservative and Reform Jewish leaders in the U.S. have expressed opposition to the amendment while leaders of Orthodox Jews in the U.S. have been urging the religious parties in Israel to insist on its adoption as a precondition for entering the new coalition government. Cables by these groups have been sent to Begin and the WZO.

Leon Dulzin, chairman of the WZO Executive, commenting on the cables, said: "The Zionist movement is pluralistic. It includes various trends in Judaism and treats them all with respect as equals. One must make sure that all Jews continue to work together."

RACIST INCIDENTS IN SUBURBAN MD.

WASHINGTON, July 16 (JTA) -- A spate of racial incidents, aimed mainly at Jews and Blacks in suburban Montgomery County, Md., has aroused County Executive Charles Gilchrist.

He has urged the prosecutor's office to transmit the "unmistakable message that this kind of conduct will not be tolerated in Montgomery County."

Gov. Harry Hughes of Maryland has also called on state prosecutors to crack down on "misguided hate-mongers who seem to emerge during times of economic stress and emotional strain."

Until recently, many local officials were reluctant to address the issue publicly for fear that this sort "of ugly news" could engender even more trouble. But the list of racially motivated vandalism and provocation has grown in recent months to a point where they cannot be ignored.

Series Of Incidents Described

On June 25, five white teen-agers sprayed a caustic material from a fire-extinguisher on a group of Blacks in Wheaton. On June 7, a Rockville man found his car tarred and daubed with anti-Semitic graffiti. Less than two weeks earlier, anti-Semitic slogans were written on the door of a Rockville school and a day earlier a swastika was painted on the sidewalk in front of a local synagogue.

Leaflets urging youngsters to join the "Klan Youth Corps" have been distributed openly at county schools. In all, 39 incidents of cross-burning, harassment, vandalism and assaults have been reported to the police during the first six months of this year compared to fewer than 25 during all of last year and less than a dozen the year before. According to Gilchrist, "These are not pranks ... These are savage assaults on the sensibility of our fellow citizens."

Police report that the pattern of racial incidents varies from one locale to another. In Wheaton it is usually whites against Blacks; in Silver Spring, Blacks against Hispanics and in Rockville and Potomac, Jews are the principal targets. Many of the incidents seem to be the work of teenagers, police say.

In addition to vigorous prosecution of the perpetrators, when caught, local officials and the media suggest that the county schools initiate discussions aimed at countering bigotry while at the same time carefully monitoring the activities of outsiders on school grounds.

2.7% RISE IN CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR JUNE IS LOWEST SINCE FEB. 1979

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 16 (JTA) -- The modest 2.7 percent rise in the consumer price index in June -- the lowest increase since February, 1979 -- was hailed by government sources this week as a vindication of Finance Minister Yoram Aridor's economic policies. He succeeded in bringing the annual inflation rate slightly below 100 percent, his stated goal when he replaced former Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz last year.

But the June decline, aided by an unexpected 13 percent drop in the price of fruit and vegetables, was seen in opposition circles to be the result of a government freeze on prices initiated as an election campaign ploy and only temporary. According to Yeruham Meshel, Secretary General of Histadrut, "We have yet to see whether the government will be able to keep its election promises of moderate price rises."

Avraham Shavit, president of the Manufacturers Association, said he was not and never has been impressed by the consumer price index whether it goes up or down. "Everything in Israel is linked to the index and therefore nobody really suffers. Only the State is not linked to the index ... the problem is dollars, not the index," he said.

Although consumer prices have declined somewhat since Aridor took office, they did so at the cost of unprecedented government spending. The Treasury

printed some 3.7 billion Shekels in April, May and June in an effort to keep prices stable.

Moreover, the downward trend may not last. The retail price index went up five percent in June, a relatively high rate likely to affect consumer prices in the coming months. There was also a moderate increase in the cost of petroleum, including gasoline, which could cause a nine percent increase in the price of electricity which would affect the entire economy.

ISRAEL CARRIES OUT HEAVIEST STRIKE AGAINST TERRORIST BASES IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 16 (JTA) -- The Israel Air Force carried out its heaviest attacks in recent years on Palestinian bases in Lebanon today. According to a military spokesman five bridges spanning the Litani and Zaharani rivers were destroyed as were the regional headquarters of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Arab Liberation Front, terrorist groups based in the Damour and Sidon areas.

Beirut radio broadcasts today confirmed that the bridges were completely demolished and extensive damage was sustained by the Palestinian bases.

Today's air raids, unlike the preemptive attacks Israel has been carrying out on a regular basis for many months, was in direct retaliation for yesterday's barrage of Katyusha rocket fire that killed three people in Nahariya and wounded 25 others there and in Kiryat Shemona. A military spokesman said the bridges destroyed had been used by terrorists to carry equipment toward the Israeli border. He said all planes returned safely to their bases.

A Beirut radio report said the Israeli planes released balloons to draw off SAM-7 anti-aircraft missile fire. The Beirut reports also said Israeli artillery heavily shelled Palestinian troop concentrations in south Lebanon during the day.

REAGAN ANNOUNCES POLICY TO AVOID THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 16 (JTA) -- President Reagan announced a policy today to avoid the spread of nuclear weapons by encouraging the export of nuclear material, including breeder reactors, to countries which have an advanced nuclear power program as long as there are safeguards to prevent the material from being converted into weapons.

Administration officials stressed that such a policy would give the U.S. greater "influence" to persuade other countries not to build nuclear weapons. "We must establish this nation as a predictable and reliable partner for peaceful nuclear cooperation under adequate safeguards," Reagan said in a statement issued by the White House.

"This is essential to our non-proliferation goals. If we are not such a partner, other countries will tend to go their own ways and our influence would diminish. This would reduce our effectiveness in gaining the support we need to deal with the proliferation problem" the statement said.

Not Triggered By Israel's Attack

At a White House briefing, Administration officials denied that the policy announcement was triggered by Israel's air attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor last month. Since the June 7 raid, both those in Congress who have denounced Israel's action and those who have supported it have been

urging the Administration to fashion a strong non-proliferation program. Administration officials said today that the new policy had been "many weeks" in the drafting.

Both the President and the officials who explained his statement emphasized that the non-proliferation program was a continuation of the policies of past Administrations. This included a declared need to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, support of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and support for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The officials conceded that the IAEA needed strengthening both in the number of inspectors and its inspection procedures. At Congressional hearings on the Israeli raid, a former IAEA inspector, Roger Richter, said the inspections could not prevent a country from diverting fuel for nuclear weapons. The Administration officials noted today that the IAEA is a "burglar alarm" which alerts the international community when such a diversion occurs.

Reagan's Program Is Different

The officials stressed today that what makes Reagan's program different from past programs is that it encourages working with friendly countries for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. They said this will allow the export of material, including breeder reactors, to countries with advanced nuclear energy programs. The officials denied that the new program was designed to "enhance trade" but said the President had ordered the expedition of export requests once the legal requirements are met.

During today's briefing, officials refused to discuss any specific country although many questions were aimed at Pakistan with which the Administration recently concluded a major arms deal. Pakistan is developing a nuclear reactor which many fear might be used to build atomic weapons.

The officials conceded that the Administration might use the American supply of conventional weapons to a country to prevent it from turning to nuclear weapons.

JEWISH GROUPS URGED TO TAKE NEW INITIATIVE ON RUMANIAN JEWRY

NEW YORK, July 16 (JTA) -- Organizations comprising the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations are being asked to take new initiatives on Rumanian Jewish emigration before the July 27 Senate hearings on the renewal of most-favored-nation status for Rumania. Such renewal is dependent on Congressional determination whether Rumania is making satisfactory progress toward freer emigration under the Jackson Amendment.

In a letter to the constituent organization of the Presidents Conference, Jacob Birnbaum, director of the Center for Russian and East European Jewry, cited the "outrageous drop" in annual Rumanian Jewish emigration from over 4,000 in the years before Bucharest received American economic benefits to barely 1,000 in recent years. He noted that during the first six months of 1981 only 329 Rumanian Jews received exit visas. "This monthly average of 55 contrasts dramatically with the monthly 250-350 before 1975," Birnbaum said.

Birnbaum contended that "since Bucharest has established an annual emigration flow of approximately 11,000 Rumanian Germans to West Germany and about 3,000 other citizens to the U.S., similar arrangements could be made for Jewish emigration to Israel to revert to the annual 3,000-4,000 figure of only a few years earlier." Birnbaum urged that "a comprehensive strategy should include: firm signals to Bucharest that the present immigration rate is totally unacceptable; detailed monitoring of the migration flow and close followup of individual cases."

FOCUS ON ISSUES NEW PROGRAM TO BOOST JEWISH EDUCATION IN THE DIASPORA

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 16 (JTA) -- "Jerusalem Fellowships," an educational project which its creators believe will have major and sustained impact on Jewish education in the diaspora, was launched here this week at a ceremony at the World Zionist Organization headquarters.

"This program embodies the obligation of the State of Israel to the spiritual survival of the diaspora," said Prof. Nathan Rothenstreich, the leading Israeli philosopher and savant. "It is the profound responsibility towards Jewish society that motivated our bank," said Ernst Japhet, chairman of Bank Leumi, which has put up the initial \$1 million to fund the bold venture.

Jerusalem Fellowships will get under way at the start of the 1982-83 academic year. Ten promising young Jewish educators from diaspora countries will come to Jerusalem with their families to embark on three-year intensive, individually tailored courses designed to mould them into top leaders and administrators in the fields of Jewish education and teacher-training.

Will Be Encouraged In Fields Of Interest

Each of them will be taken under the personal tutelage of ranking Israeli academics in various scholarly and pedagogic disciplines. They will have access to, and benefit from, all of Israel's universities, teacher-training colleges, research centers and some yeshivot. Each of them will be encouraged to deepen his/her knowledge and expertise in the field of his/her particular interest -- while at the same time broadening their horizons to encompass studies in other areas.

For instance, explained Prof. Seymour Fox, head of the Hebrew University School of Education, a diaspora educator whose penchant is for Talmud will be given every opportunity, at the highest academic levels, to enrich his knowledge in this field, while also being exposed to such pedagogic essentials as child psychology, administration, and Israel-related studies.

The result (hopefully) at the end of the three-years will be a fully rounded Jewish educator qualified to take his/her place in the forefront of Jewish education back home.

The one requirement -- beyond basic suitability and promise, which will be meticulously examined by an admission panel -- will be the Fellow's undertaking to give at least the next five years of his life to Jewish education in his home country. After that, he is welcome to return to Israel as a permanent *oleh* -- and would certainly be pounced on by educational institutions here.

Initial Idea Was Dulzin's

The initial idea, Fox told the inauguration ceremony, was that of Leon Dulzin, the WZO chairman, who for years has warned world Jewry of the desperate need to improve educational opportunities offered to its next generation. Dulzin himself reiterated his dire warnings at the ceremony. "Only 42 percent of Western European Jewish children today receive any form of Jewish education whatsoever, and intermarriage rates are soaring ..."

One fundamental fault, Dulzin continued, was the almost total lack of serious, high-level Jewish teacher-training. And it was this lack that the Jerusalem Fellowships program would seek to supply, at least to some extent.

The program begins with 10 fellows, but within three years -- if all goes according to plan -- there will be 30 (all on three-year individual courses), and the aim is to maintain this level.

Candidates will need to have academic degrees (preferably doctorates) or equivalent rabbinical qualifications in order to be considered by the admission panel chaired by Rothenstreich. The savant envisaged the Fellowship program itself as "akin to a doctorate program" with its stress on specialization and on individual tuition.

New Era For Jewish Education

One overall stress that Rothenstreich underscored was the stress on Israel as a powerhouse of Jewish culture and scholarship whose task and purpose must be to assist the diaspora in spiritual matters.

Dulzin praised Bank Leumi for its "vision." He said reaction among Jewish communities to the Fellowship scheme had been uniformly favorable and enthusiastic. "A new era, a new source of energy for Jewish education" was how the WZO chairman described the project.

CONSERVATIVE RABBI DIFFERS WITH COLLEAGUES ON 'WHO IS A JEW' ISSUE

NEW YORK, July 16 (JTA) -- Rabbi I. Usher Kirshblum, spiritual leader of the Jewish Center of Kew Garden Hills and chairman of the Committee for the Preservation of Tradition within the Rabbinical Assembly, became the first Conservative rabbi to state that "I cannot accept the logic of those of my colleagues who argue that by amending the Law of Return the existence of the Jewish people would be threatened."

In a telegram to Israeli leaders, Kirshblum said he regretted "that so religious a subject" as "according to halacha" has "become a political football." Continuing to deal with the issue, he reiterated "my strong feelings" that the adoption of the "Who is a Jew" amendment to the Law of Return "would unite rather than divide the Jewish people."

"We must painfully admit that there are quite a number of rabbis -- Orthodox, Conservative and Reform -- who perform conversions in full violation of halacha. What confusions and heartaches such improper conversions cause to many a Jewish family in the United States!

"Do we wish to export this very aggravating problem to the State of Israel? Do we desire to dis sever the Jewish community into two religious camps -- where children of one camp will not be allowed to marry the children of the other camp?"

He concluded by stating: "Once and for all, let the Knesset put an end to this very acrimonious debate by amending the Law of Return. By doing so it will make sure that every convert accepted in Israel has entered the Jewish fold through the halachic process of conversion."

FIRST CHOLERA FATALITY ON WEST BANK

TEL AVIV, July 16 (JTA) -- The first death from cholera in the current outbreak in Jordan was reported from the West Bank today. A 60-year-old resident of the Kalandia refugee camp north of Jerusalem died in a Jerusalem hospital today. He first showed signs of the illness over a week ago, after returning from a visit to Jordan. Health Ministry sources said three other cases had been identified on the West Bank. All had been in contact with people recently in Jordan. Travellers arriving in the area from Jordan say the cholera outbreak there is "more than four times the official figure of 600 cases reported in Amman."