

TWO PERSONS KILLED, MORE THAN 100 INJURED OUTSIDE SYNAGOGUE IN ANTWERP

ANTWERP, Oct. 20 (JTA) -- Two people were killed and more than 100 injured when a car bomb exploded outside a small Sephardic synagogue here today shortly before Shemini Atzeret services were to begin. The synagogue, located in the heavily Jewish populated diamond district in the heart of the city was severely damaged and windows within a radius of several hundred yards were shattered.

The dead were not immediately identified. One victim was described as a 35-year-old woman who was killed instantly and the other was a man who died in a hospital.

Belgian Prime Minister Mark Eyskens left Brussels for Antwerp shortly after the bombing. He issued a statement denouncing the attack and assured the Jewish population of Belgium that security measures would be tightened to protect them. "Our country must not be dragged into an escalating cycle of violence and intolerance," he said.

The Belgian news agency, Belga, reported an anonymous telephone call from a previously unknown group called "Direct Action Group" which claimed responsibility for the outrage but denied that it was motivated by racism. Police dismissed the call.

Palestinian Terrorism Denounced

The Israel Embassy in Brussels condemned the bombing which it blamed on "blind Palestinian terrorism" that "strikes at Jews wherever they are, in Europe or Israel." But the Palestine Liberation Organization office in Brussels also condemned "this attack on innocent victims."

The synagogue bombing here was the latest such attack on Jewish houses of worship in various European countries. Last August a bomb blast at Vienna's main synagogue killed two persons and injured 18. In October, 1980, four persons were killed and 32 were injured by a bomb explosion outside the Rue Copernic synagogue in Paris. The perpetrators of both bombings have not been apprehended.

Antwerp was the scene of another terrorist outrage directed against Jews in July, 1980 when terrorists hurled hand grenades at a bus being boarded by children bound for a Jewish summer camp. One teen-aged youth was killed. Two years ago bombs exploded at Brussels airport where passengers were waiting to board an El Al flight to Israel. Two Palestinians were arrested in that attack.

TOP NSC MILITARY MEMBER WARNS THERE MAY BE A BACKLASH AGAINST ISRAEL IF AWACS DEAL IS KILLED

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 (JTA) -- A National Security Council spokesman said today that the NSC's top military member was "speaking for himself" when he warned yesterday that there might be a "backlash" in the U.S. against Israel if Congress vetoes the Reagan Administration's proposed sale of AWACS reconnaissance aircraft and other military equipment to Saudi Arabia.

The warning was sounded by Maj. Gen. Robert Schweitzer, chief of the NSC's Defense Policy Cluster, in a speech to the annual meeting of the Association of the U.S. Army. The speech, in which Schweitzer also warned of "a drift toward war" with the Soviet Union, was not cleared by the White House before it was delivered and has been repudiated by the White House. (Late development, P. 3)

In discussing the Middle East, Schweitzer noted that if the Saudi arms package is blocked, the U.S. would lose \$8.5 billion in sales and tax revenues. He said the Saudis would then buy Nimrod radar warning planes from Britain and Mirage jet fighters from France. He said that when this happened, Israel would then ask the U.S. for help to meet the new threat, present a "list" of weapons it wanted and ask for the "50 percent grant aid that you've given us in the past."

Schweitzer added, "I wonder if there isn't going to be some backlash in the U.S." because Israel will be asking American taxpayers "to buy them out of a threat" that they helped bring about. Peter Daly, the NSC spokesman, said Schweitzer was speaking for himself and that his views on a possible backlash did not reflect the views of the NSC.

Percy Condemns Criticism Of Jewish Community

Meanwhile, Sen. Charles Percy (R. Ill.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who supports the Administration's arms package sale to Saudi Arabia, has issued a statement saying that criticism of the American Jewish community for lobbying against the arms sale to Saudi Arabia is "patently unfair." He said that members of the Jewish community have both the "right" and the "responsibility" to make their views public.

"I feel that members of the Jewish community and other ethnic communities have an absolute right to lobby and that this right is wholly legitimate and consistent with American political tradition," Percy said in a statement released by his office.

"While pressures brought on every Administration and on members of Congress are intense, nevertheless, there is no reason why ethnic groups should not present their views with all the enthusiasm and sincerity that they can muster. In fact, they have a responsibility to themselves and to their communities to present their views effectively, just as the Administration and Congress have a responsibility to consider their views and the views of others before reaching their own individual judgements on major issues."

STATE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES FRANCE'S WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE TROOPS TO SINAI FORCE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 (JTA) -- The State Department today welcomed French President Francois Mitterrand's statement yesterday that France would be willing to participate in the multinational force that is to patrol the Sinai after Israel's final evacuation in April, 1982.

"We warmly welcome and deeply appreciate President Mitterrand's positive attitude toward French participation" in the Sinai force as expressed in an interview with five reporters in Williamsburg, Va.,

State Department Deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said. He said that French participation would be a "significant contribution" to the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO).

Romberg refused to say whether the French government had made this attitude officially known to the U.S., saying he was only commenting on the Mitterrand interview.

The U.S. has been trying to get nations to join the MFO. The U.S. will contribute more than 1,000 of the estimated 2,500 troops and civilian observers. So far, only Fiji, Colombia and Uruguay have agreed to contribute personnel to the MFO.

See Reversal Of France's Former Policy

Mitterrand's remarks on France's participation in the multinational force were seen as a reversal of France's previously negative attitude toward the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

The French President, who met with President Reagan at Yorktown, Va., Sunday, declined to be quoted directly. But his offer of French troops to help oversee peace in Sinai was reported to have been "firm." It was seen, in addition, as an offer to help the U.S. in the difficult task of putting together the multinational force which it is committed to do within the Camp David framework.

Observers speculated that French collaboration might extend to influencing other Western European governments willing to contribute to the Middle East peace process to do so by participating in the Sinai force.

Under Mitterrand's predecessor, Valery Giscard d'Estaing, France had been hostile toward the Camp David agreements and was the leading proponent of the counter-initiative undertaken by the European Economic Community (EEC) foreign ministers at their Venice meeting in June, 1980.

REPORT GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES MAY HAVE INFILTRATED THE PLO OFFICE IN BONN

By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 20 (JTA) -- West German intelligence services may have infiltrated the Palestine Liberation Organization office here, obtaining information on PLO activities in the planning stage or already carried out. According to the West German daily, Die Welt, the Bonn authorities may have been informed in advance of recent PLO activities in Austria, although that remains unclear.

A well placed source indicated that the disclosure of secret service operations in the PLO office may have been the outcome of a recent expose in official publications of military cooperation between the PLO and neo-Nazi groups in West Germany. The disclosures, by Interior Minister Gerhart Baum, were a major blow to Bonn's policy of wooing the PLO and trying to associate it with the Middle East peace process.

Meanwhile, according to Die Welt, the PLO office is in disarray over reported leaks. Arab diplomatic circles here have been unusually outspoken in describing what they allegedly termed a "confidence crisis" in the PLO office.

The newspaper reported yesterday that the head of the office, Abdalla Frangi, has accused one of his subordinates of spying for the West German secret services. But unidentified circles have cast suspicion on Frangi himself of being on the payroll of a foreign intelligence organization. Die Welt reached Frangi but he refused to comment.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF SWITZERLAND

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Oct. 20 (JTA) -- Like Switzerland itself, for centuries a traditionally neutral haven while wars periodically ravaged the rest of Europe, no basic changes have taken place in the peaceful life of the Swiss Jewish community; nor has it grown much. One hundred years ago there were 20,000 Jews in Switzerland. Today there are 24,500.

They live mainly in the five major cities. They keep a low profile. Most are engaged in business. They stay away from public life.

But some of the concerns shared by Jews in many other parts of the world are beginning to intrude here. These include new manifestations of anti-Semitism, a somewhat ambiguous attitude toward Israel by the Swiss government, and the rising wave of intermarriage. This year mixed marriages accounted for 55.7 percent of all marriages entered into by Jews.

The signs of anti-Semitism follow a pattern familiar in neighboring countries: desecration of Jewish cemeteries; a swastika painted in an elevator in the building housing the Israeli Consulate in Zurich; an Israeli dentist assaulted and wounded in Geneva.

Jews Angered By Foreign Minister

Foreign Minister Pierre Auber aroused indignation among Jews when he received Farouk Kaddoumi, the Palestine Liberation Organization's foreign policy spokesman earlier this year. The Swiss Foreign Ministry refused to sign a welfare agreement with Israel because it would have had to be signed in Jerusalem.

On the other hand, the Defense Ministry contracted to buy weapons from Israel's military industry for 36 million Swiss Francs. Israel Bonds sell well in Switzerland; \$4.8 million worth have been sold this year.

On the local level, the Jewish community in Zurich is proud of its new school, "Noam," which opened this year. It has eight primary classes and an initial enrollment of 34 children. The Zurich community has also opened a school for retarded Jewish children. It has an enrollment of 50.

The Major Problem Is Intermarriage

But according to Rabbi Mordechai Piron, who recently arrived from Israel to take the post of Chief Rabbi of Zurich, the major problem of Swiss Jews is intermarriage. To tackle the problem, an office was opened in Zurich to serve all Europe. It is called, unabashedly, "AMI--International Matrimonial Agency." It organizes special "weekends" where young people -- ages 20-35 -- meet to discuss "Jewish matters."

The Jews of Zurich also try to establish contacts with Jewish communities in the Eastern European bloc. It already has ties with Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania and through his influence, hopes to contact other eastern countries. The Swiss Jewish Committee for Jews in the USSR has already made several appeals on behalf of Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate.

Zurich has the largest Jewish community in the country, numbering 6,500. There are 3,100 in Geneva; 2,600 in Basel; 2,100 in Bern; and 1,300 in Lausanne. The rest are scattered among the 23 cantons. The smallest Jewish community is in the Canton of Uri. There are six Jews there, not enough for a minyan.

THRONGS AT LUBAVITCH SUCCAHS

NEW YORK, Oct. 20 (JTA) -- Throngs of people from all walks of life have visited the "international succah" by the Isaiah Wall across the street from the United Nations, and the succah at Herald Square

across from Macy's department store, built by the Lubavitch Youth Organization.

"The visitors varied," said Rabbi Shmuel Butman, director of the Lubavitch Youth Organization, "from a stock broker eating his lunch to a foreign ministry attache 'benching esrog,' to a curious spectator."

Concerning the international succah across from the United Nations headquarters, Butman said, "From this 'Succas Shalom' -- this Tabernacle of Peace -- we will take the Jewish strength to overcome the forces of hatred from across the avenue."

The succah at Herald Square also did a "thriving business," with Jews from local stores and offices bringing their lunches so that they could fulfill the Mitzvah of eating in the Succah, Butman reported.

In addition to the stationary succahs, the Lubavitch Youth Organization sponsored a fleet of mobile succahs built on flatbed trucks. The "succahs on wheels" visited hospitals, nursing homes, colleges, youth groups, shopping centers and street corners. The Lubavitch Youth Organization also built stationary succahs at the maximum-security prison at Green Haven and at the Otisville State Prison.

LATE NEWS DEVELOPMENT: NSC OFFICIAL DISMISSED

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 (JTA) -- Richard Allen, President Reagan's National Security Advisor, announced this afternoon that he has dismissed Maj. Gen. Robert Schweitzer as chief of the National Security Council's Defense Policy Cluster for making an unapproved speech yesterday.

Schweitzer was transferred back to the Pentagon from where he had joined the NSC. Allen said that while he had high regard for Schweitzer, he broke NSC rules by not clearing beforehand his speech before the annual meeting of the Association of the U.S. Army.

The speech created a furor because Schweitzer said, "The Soviets are on the move, they're going to strike." He also spoke of "a drift toward war" with the Soviet Union. Allen told reporters that the speech had not been cleared by him or anyone else in the NSC nor did he know of its contents, even in general, before it was delivered.

STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS IT CAN'T PREVENT LIBYA FROM CONSTRUCTING BUILDING IN N.Y.C. BUT WARNS IT WILL NOT TOLERATE ILLEGAL ACTS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 (JTA) -- The State Department said today that it cannot prevent the Libyan government from constructing a building for its Mission to the United Nations in New York as long as the building is used for diplomatic purposes.

"Under the Headquarters Agreement between the United States and the United Nations, member nations of the UN are entitled to establish offices," the Department said in a statement read by deputy spokesman Alan Romberg. "Libya is a member nation of the UN and, therefore, has a right to establish offices that are determined to be appropriate for the purpose of conducting official activities with the UN."

But Romberg warned, "We will not tolerate any illegal acts or abuse of privileges granted the Libyan Mission under the Headquarters Agreement.

In the event of any such intolerable incident, the U.S. government would act decisively to expel the abusers." The U.S. last spring expelled Libyan diplomats from the United States for terrorist activities but under its agreement with the UN it must admit all diplomats accredited to the UN.

The State Department statement also noted that the tax status of the new Libyan Mission will not be determined until it is known for what purpose all of the space in the building will be used. "Those portions of the missions property used solely for diplomatic purposes (including the housing of the Chief of the Mission, his family and personal staff) will be tax exempt. Those portions used for commercial or staff housing purposes will be subject to taxation by New York tax authorities," the State Department explained.

Libyan officials said the building will have 10 stories of apartments, 13 floors for office space and two stories set aside for "education and training." They did not elaborate on the nature of the education and training.

GEORGES VAJDA DEAD AT 73

ATLANTA, Ga., Oct. 20 (JTA) -- Prof. Georges Vajda, dean of European scholars of Judaica, died of a heart attack at his home in Paris on the eve of Yom Kippur, it was reported here by friends. He was 73 years old. Educated in Budapest and Paris, Vajda is credited with having single-handedly restored after World War II whatever now exists of European Jewish scholarship.

Vajda published the *Revue des Etudes Juives*, the most prestigious journal of scholarly Jewish content outside of Israel. He worked towards, and eventually occupied, the first and only Chair of Hebrew Studies at the Sorbonne. He trained two generations of scholars in medieval Jewish philosophy and mysticism. He served as a member of the faculty of the Ecole Rabbinique. Vajda was the author of numerous works dealing with Jewish and Islamic history and philosophy.

ALBERT COHEN DEAD AT 86

GENEVA, Oct. 20 (JTA) -- Albert Cohen, a prize-winning Jewish author who won the French Academy's Award in 1968, died here last Saturday at the age of 86. His writings, which were in French, have been compared to the works of Rousseau.

Cohen was born on the island of Corfu where his father was the leader of the Jewish community. His family moved to Marseilles and Cohen later studied in Paris and Geneva where he settled in 1926. He worked as a diplomat for the League of Nations while pursuing a writing career.

In 1940, when France surrendered to Nazi Germany, Cohen was in England representing the Jewish Agency. He was a close associate of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, and, after World War II, served as a liaison between Jewish organizations and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Cohen remained a Swiss citizen. His best known books are "La Belle Du Seigneur", "My Mother's Book," and "Solal." He also wrote a play, "Yechezkiel."

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- Former Vice President Walter Mondale said Tuesday that he opposes the Administration's proposed sale of AWACS radar planes to Saudi Arabia. The sale, Mondale claimed, will only escalate the arms race in the Mideast. Addressing some 300 people at a Foreign Policy Association luncheon at the Pierre Hotel, Mondale said the U.S. should pursue the Camp David peace process in the Mideast because "it is essential" for reaching a settlement there.

CHRISTIAN COALITION URGES BOYCOTT OF MOBIL CORP. BECAUSE OF ITS CAMPAIGN FOR THE SALE OF AWACS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 (JTA) -- A national coalition representing all major segments of American Christianity has proposed a boycott of the Mobil Oil Corporation because of what the coalition has termed its aggressive media campaign on behalf of the sale of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia.

The proposal was made by the 150 participants who attended a two-day National Christian Congress for Israel held at the Capital Quality Inn here last week. The Congress was sponsored by the National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel (NCLCI).

The Congress called upon "all fair-minded Americans to join with us in a boycott of Mobil Oil products" and drew attention to the company's "use of paid political advertising supporting the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia." A resolution adopted by the Congress stated that such a sale "would place American security and Middle East peace prospects in serious jeopardy. We strongly object to the use of excessive corporate profits to sway American public opinion with such paid political propaganda."

Seeks 'Quadrilateral' Peace Process

Rep. Jack Kemp (R. NY) told the gathering that Saudi Arabia should not be given such sophisticated military hardware until it agrees to the Camp David peace process and certain other conditions of mutual interest to the U.S. and Israel.

In response to questions, Kemp, who last week voted against the sale of AWACS, said he would like to see the Camp David process move from a trilateral process involving the U.S., Israel and Egypt to a "quadrilateral" process including Saudi Arabia and, ultimately, the Sudan and Chad, among other Middle East states.

"This quadrilateral process would assure the survival of Saudi Arabia," Kemp said. "But it would involve reciprocity by the Saudis of the Camp David process." In acknowledging the importance of the Saudis to the region's security, the New York lawmaker said he opposed the controversial AWACS proposal at this time because Saudi Arabia was not, in his opinion, the "moderate" Arab state it was presumed to be.

The Holocaust And Christians

At another session, the Rev. Robert Drinan, a former Democratic Congressman from Massachusetts, who is now professor of international law at the Georgetown University Law Center, said that anti-Zionism was the new code word for anti-Semitism.

"The Holocaust and the establishment of the State of Israel both occurred in our time," Drinan said. "Only Christians and Jews believe God intervened in history and spoke to Abraham and his descendants. If we adore the same God, can we sit back and allow Israel to be jeopardized or destroyed in our time?"

A similar note was sounded by Dr. Franklin Littell, NCLCI president and an internationally known expert on Jewish-Christian relations, who noted that his travels throughout the U.S. had demonstrated that those who were concerned about the lessons of the Holocaust were also those who showed concern for the survival of Israel. He said that many had "dreamed for years" of bringing together representatives of all segments

of American Christianity in a united demonstration in support of Israel, such as the Congress had done.

The Thrust Of The Conference

In defining the thrust of the Congress, Mary Rose Black of Berkeley, Calif., chairperson of the California Christian Committee for Israel, said that many Christians consider it "a slap in the face that our voices are not heard in the media."

Following the closing session, participants held a prayer vigil outside the Soviet Embassy on behalf of persecuted Jews and Christians in the Soviet Union. According to Littell, Congress participants represented Roman Catholics, Orthodox, and mainline and evangelical Protestants from across the country.

WOMEN'S PLEA FOR SOVIET JEWRY TO TAKE PLACE ON DECEMBER 10

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 (JTA) -- The Women's Plea for Soviet Jewry will take place in more than 80 cities in the United States and Canada Dec. 10, Human Rights Day, it was announced by Sylvia Bermack, B'nai B'rith Women national chairperson for the 11th annual Women's Plea. This is the second year B'nai B'rith Women serves as national convenor for the Women's Plea.

"Not only has there been a radical curtailment of emigration" from the Soviet Union, Ms. Bermack said, "but the number of Jews permitted to apply and begin the long process also have been drastically reduced. Soviet authorities have again curbed the possibilities of emigration by severely restricting the eligibility of applicants."

She noted that during August, only 430 Jews left the Soviet Union, the smallest monthly figure in a decade. Few permissions were being issued, making it likely that the year's total also will be the lowest in 10 years.

Taking the theme, "Our Concern, Their Hope," the Women's Plea will dramatize and publicize the sharp decline in emigration figures, the news of increased harassment of refuseniks by the authorities, and the continued plight of the Prisoners of Conscience.

The Women's Plea is under the auspices of the Leadership Conference of national Jewish women's organizations, in cooperation with the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council.

PLO OFFICE IN MOSCOW UPGRADED TO FULL DIPLOMATIC STATUS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 (JTA) -- The Moscow office of the Palestine Liberation Organization has been upgraded to full diplomatic status, according to a report today in the official Tass news agency. Up to now the three-man PLO office had been accredited with the semi-official Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee. Tass reported that Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev personally informed PLO chief Yasir Arafat of the move at a meeting in the Kremlin today.

The meeting between Brezhnev and Arafat, who arrived in Moscow last night at the head of a Palestinian delegation, was described as warm and friendly. Both reportedly agreed that the present tension in the Middle East was caused by the United States and Israel.

According to Tass, Brezhnev assured Arafat that the Soviet Union would continue to give full support to the Palestinian cause and praised the role of the PLO as the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people." The Kremlin meeting was attended by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and by the head of the PLO's political department, Farouk Kaddumi.