

Vol. LX - 65th Year

Thursday, January 14, 1982

No. 9

REPORT BOMBS SET OFF AT ISRAEL, OTHER EMBASSIES IN GUATEMALA

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- There was no immediate confirmation here today of reports that unidentified attackers set off bombs at the Israeli, Argentine and Haitian embassies in Guatemala City last night. The State Department and the Israel Embassy told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that they had no information on the attacks.

According to the reports from Guatemala City, guards at the Israeli Embassy opened fire on the attackers who fled in a car. There were no reports of similar action at the two other embassies. A Guatemala City police source was quoted as saying there were no casualties and only minor damage from the attacks.

It was not determined whether the attackers were leftist or members of ultra-rightwing groups which have been involved in political warfare in Guatemala for the past year.

FOUR EEC COUNTRIES INDICATE READINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SINAI PEACEKEEPING FORCE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- The Foreign Ministry today received letters from the Ambassadors of Britain, France, Italy and Holland stating those countries' readiness to participate in the Sinai peacekeeping force. Officials here said the letters would be studied by the Cabinet at its regular meeting this Sunday but gave no other response.

The letters are not identical. But all refer to the "clarifications" each of the four powers sent to Secretary of State Alexander Haig on November 26 in which they stated: "We all recognize that the function of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) is as defined in the relevant Egyptian-Israeli agreements."

That initial statement was acceptable to Israel. But on the following day the four governments simultaneously released statements in which they linked their participation to the European Economic Community (EEC) ministers' Venice declaration of June, 1980, which Israel flatly rejected. The Venice declaration called for the Palestine Liberation Organization to be associated with the Middle East peace process.

On December 3, Israel and the U.S. published a joint statement establishing that participation in the MFO was to be based solely on the Camp David accords and asked the four European powers to endorse it.

No Specific Endorsement

It was learned that the letters received today contained no specific endorsement but carefully avoided reference to other EEC positions. Thus there was no apparent linkage between their offer to contribute to the MFO and the elements to which Israel objected.

Observers here said it was no coincidence that the letters arrived on the eve of Haig's visit to Israel. The Secretary of State met with EEC foreign ministers in Brussels Monday, before coming to the Middle East. He said in Cairo yesterday that the four powers had confirmed to him that they would participate in the MFO. According to the observers, the letters would be found satisfactory from Israel's point of view.

WEINBERGER GOING TO THE MIDEAST BUT HE WILL NOT VISIT ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger will not visit Israel when he goes to the Middle East next month. Pentagon spokesman Henry Catto said that Weinberger has accepted an invitation from Saudi Arabia to visit that country early next month and may also go to neighboring Oman. Catto stressed that Weinberger does expect to go to Israel this year but "Israel has never been considered as part of the itinerary for this particular trip."

Weinberger accepted an invitation to visit Israel this year when he and Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon signed the memorandum of understanding on the strategic cooperation agreement between Israel and the U.S. last November. The U.S. suspended the agreement after Israel extended its civil law to the Golan Heights. Weinberger has been especially critical of the Israeli action.

However, a spokesman for the Israel Embassy said today that Israel does not consider that it is being "snubbed" by Weinberger on his upcoming Mideast trip. The spokesman said that no date has been set for the Weinberger visit to Israel, which is still expected to happen some time this year.

On The Eve Of Haig's Visit: NO BREAKTHROUGH SEEN IN AUTONOMY TALKS WITH EGYPT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- Israelis are displaying no real optimism, on the eve of Secretary of State Alexander Haig's visit, that there will be a breakthrough in the autonomy negotiations with Egypt which have been dragging on fitfully for the last 32 months. Sources here said Israel's position has softened slightly on some outstanding autonomy issues and this will be reflected in the proposals offered to Haig who is due here tomorrow.

But the consensus in official circles is that the substantive concessions must come from Egypt on such key issues as the powers of the self-governing authority and the right of East Jerusalem Arabs to participate in the autonomy elections. Concern has been expressed that the Egyptians are not particularly anxious for progress in the autonomy talks at this time because they believe Israel's negotiating position will be weaker after its complete withdrawal from Sinai next April 25.

That view seemed to be borne out by Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali's remarks greeting Haig on his arrival in Cairo yesterday. "Egypt, on its part, will spare no effort to keep the talks going

until they bring their desired results, either before or after the complete Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, taking into account the current practical considerations," Hassan Ali said. He said Egypt's aim remains "to achieve a real full autonomy for the Palestinians."

View Of Haig's Visit

Haig said today in Cairo that the U.S. was setting no deadline. But he has given no hint of any new ideas he might be bringing with him. Observers here, in and outside the government, believe the primary purpose of Haig's trip is to revive the autonomy talks in order to prevent any new "surprises" by Israel, such as its annexation of the Golan Heights on December 14.

In addition, the observers say, Haig wants to re-engage the parties in the autonomy negotiations to ensure that the Camp David process will retain its momentum after all of Sinai is returned to Egypt. In that way, the challenges posed to Camp David by the Saudi Arabian plan and the European Mideast initiative can be warded off. Those challenges are expected to be pressed anew after Israel's withdrawal is completed.

Washington's Most Serious Concerns

Israeli observers believe Washington's most serious concern now is the possibility of Israeli military action either against the Palestine Liberation Organization in south Lebanon, against the Syrian anti-aircraft missiles in eastern Lebanon — or against both. The Golan annexation, coming unexpectedly and without prior consultation with the U.S., has led the Reagan Administration to a wary watchfulness.

The Administration is said to fear that Premier Menachem Begin, having guessed correctly that he could annex the Golan Heights without endangering the peace treaty with Egypt, might seek to "settle scores" with the PLO and the Syrians on the same assumption.

Another American concern, according to Israeli observers, is that the government might decide to apply Israeli law and jurisdiction to the settlements on the West Bank, the same formula it used on the Golan. Haig, therefore, feels it imperative to demonstrate U.S. commitment and engagement in the autonomy talks in order to forestall such dangerous action.

He is expected to tell both Egyptians and Israelis that they share a common interest in making progress on the talks before the April deadline in Sinai in order to ensure a smooth withdrawal and strengthen the Camp David framework. But Haig was quoted as saying in Cairo today that "there has never been a deadline and we do not visualize deadlines. What we seek is a reasonable outcome."

BEGIN DEFENDS HIS INTERVENTION TO KILL A RADIO NEWS BROADCAST CRITICAL OF THE DEFENSE MINISTER By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin, still confined to a wheelchair because of a hip injury last month, appeared in the Knesset today to defend his intervention to kill a radio news broadcast critical of Defense Minister Ariel Sharon. Motions critical and supportive of the Premier's action were presented for debate.

The Kol Israel news item that aroused Begin's wrath quoted former Chief of Staff Haim Barlev, a prominent figure in the opposition Labor Party, as saying that he could not sleep peacefully while Sharon held the Defense Ministry post because Sharon was mentally "unbalanced." Barlev's remarks were taken from an interview to be published in a forthcoming issue of the Labor Party's monthly magazine Mivgan.

Begin instructed the chief of the Prime Minister's Office, Yehiel Kadishai, to demand an "apology" from Kol Israel for broadcasting the item. There was no apology but the item, broadcast at 2 p.m. Saturday, was not repeated in subsequent newscasts.

Premier Accused Of Censorship

Opposition factions promptly accused the Premier of censorship. Labor MK Ora Namir and Mordechai Virshupsky of Shinui said his intervention threatened to return Israel Radio to the "dark days" of the State's early years when it was a department of the Prime Minister's Office and took its editorial orders from the Prime Minister. They recalled that Begin, as leader of the opposition at that time, bitterly criticized what he called an anti-democratic state of affairs.

Begin told the Knesset today that he agreed that a full-scale debate should be held on "whether a State media should be an anti-government media." He claimed the issue was not "freedom of expression" but "freedom to cast shame and insult."

Israel radio and television is run by the Broadcasting Authority, a quasi-independent agency modeled on Britain's BBC. Funding and statutory responsibility fall on the government. A supervisory body made up of public figures is responsible for content.

In the case of the Kol Israel item, Begin said he had to defend Sharon's honor. He noted that it was Barlev, as Chief of Staff, who appointed Sharon to command of the critical southern front with Egypt in 1969.

EVRON CALLS FOR U.S.-ISRAEL DIALOGUE TO END FRICTION BETWEEN THEM By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 13 (JTA) — Ephraim Evron, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, called today for the beginning of a "dialogue" between the U.S. and Israeli governments to bring an end "to the friction between the two countries."

Evron made his remarks at a farewell luncheon given in his honor by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations at the Hyatt Hotel here. Evron returns to Israel this month after nearly five years of duty in Washington. He will be replaced by Moshe Arens, a leader of Likud.

Evron said that the friendship between Israel and the U.S. is "one of the most vital elements of Israel's security and future" and therefore it "behooves both countries to do everything to maintain this friendship. He said the U.S. should be loyal to its commitments and agreements with Israel, an oblique reference to the U.S. suspension of the strategic cooperation agreement signed recently by the two countries.

Evron said, however, that he is certain that the U.S. "will never turn its back on Israel," noting that Israel is America's only friend and strategic ally in the Middle East.

Some 500 Guests Bid Farewell To Evron

More than 500 guests representing the American Jewish leadership and American and Israeli officials came to bid farewell to the Israeli envoy. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger lauded Evron's ability as an Ambassador, declaring that he had earned "the respect and admiration" of the Administration because of his "honesty" and "effectiveness."

He said that Evron completes his service in Washington "as an enormous success." Weinberger's speech was noted for its lack of any political references, especially to relations between the U.S. and Israel.

Also bidding farewell to Evron were two former Secretaries of State, Cyrus Vance who served in the Carter Administration, and Henry Kissinger who served in the Nixon and Ford Administrations. Vance said that when the time comes to disclose Evron's role in bringing about the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, it will be revealed what a "pivotal role" he played in the negotiations. Vance praised Evron's "superb abilities" as a diplomat in Washington.

Kissinger said that Israel should be kept strong because only a strong Israel can create moderation among the Arabs, meaning that the Arab countries do not have the military option available. Kissinger also said that the next few years would be crucial to relations between Israel and the U.S. claiming that the U.S. must show that it stands by its friends and allies.

Also present at the luncheon were Jeane Kirkpatrick, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Yehuda Blum. Howard Squadron, chairman of the Presidents Conference, paid tribute to the departing envoy. The Conference presented Evron with an original statue by Chaim Gross titled "Isaiah."

U.S. MIDEAST POLICIES UNDER FIRE

HOUSTON, Jan. 13 (JTA) — Sen. Orrin Hatch (R. Utah) sharply criticized aspects of the Reagan Administration's policy in the Middle East, especially its suspension of the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation following Israel's extension of civil law to the Golan Heights.

The Senator, addressing more than 400 delegates at the annual plenum of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) here, said Israel's Golan action was "perfectly justifiable" and he expressed sorrow that the Administration supported Israel's enemies by deploring the act, and "added insult to injury" by suspending the memorandum.

Hatch also criticized what he termed the Administration's reticent responses to Israel's earlier destruction of Iraq's nuclear reactor and the bombing of the Palestine Liberation Organization headquarters in Beirut, by suspending the shipment of military aircraft to Israel for several weeks. He termed the two Israel actions as "highly justifiable military" moves.

Says U.S. Is Pressuring Israel

Prof. Robert Tucker of Johns Hopkins University, a Mideast expert, author of the recently published book "The Purpose of American Power," and a former Defense Department consultant, termed the U.S. attempts at faking a "strategic consensus" against Soviet expansion in the Mideast to be in reality "a one-pillar policy" centered in Riyadh.

Rather than an even-handed policy of cementing ties to both Israel and "moderate" Arab states, Tucker said the U.S. was increasing pressure on Israel to accept Arab demands. He also said that the strategic cooperation agreement had been "a sop thrown by the U.S. to Israel for that one-pillar policy, which has no real substance."

American policy, Tucker observed, is dominated by a fear of losing access to Persian Gulf oil. That fear, he said, stems from a weakening of U.S. power in the area, and an attempt to rely on "surrogate" states to protect the oil's flow. Now, an attempt to build up Saudi Arabia as a replacement for Iran and Washington's chief surrogate has led to a policy of yielding to Arab demands and a "slow but steady backing away" from an emphasis on negotiations, such as in the Camp David accords, Tucker said. He warned

there would be more and more strains in U.S.-Israeli relations in the future if the present American policy orientation continues.

Claims U.S. Policy Is Inconsistent

In his speech, Hatch assessed present U.S. Mideast policy as "inconsistent" because of the contradictions between Reagan's "feelings for the state of Israel," on the one hand and a policy of promoting closer ties to the Arab world, on the other, which Hatch traced to "holdover" advisers in the State and Defense Departments.

The Utah Republican said the situation "leaves those of us in the Senate who wish to support President Reagan in an agonizing position of uncertainty about which 'President Reagan' we should support." But Hatch said he felt that the President has not yet formulated a "definitive approach to the Mideast" that will characterize his Administration and he hoped that a clear, pro-Israel Reagan policy would emerge during the next year.

Hatch termed the present situation critical for Israel because it is engaged in "fierce political warfare" against Arab powers who hope to win politically what they have failed to win by force of arms. He summarized the Arab goals as "the three no's: no recognition, no legitimacy, and no negotiations"; all of which mean a refusal to accept that Israel even has a right to exist. Hatch said he hoped that President Reagan would reject the misguided and mistaken policy of trying to win over Arab states by forcing Israel to bend to unreasonable Arab demands.

SINAI SETTLERS CLAIM VICTORY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 13 (JTA) — Ultra-nationalists determined to block Israel's withdrawal from Sinai next April claimed a "victory" today after the government reached a compromise with Gush Emunim militants in northern Sinai to halt the dismantling of buildings and equipment slated for transportation to relocation areas inside Israel.

According to the agreement, Jewish Agency workers at Moshav Haruvit will remove parts of a greenhouse already taken down but will not dismantle any other structures. Hanan Porat, of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya faction who has demonstratively moved to Yamit, hailed the compromise as "a great victory."

Squatters in northern Sinai, mainly yeshiva students, began reassembling greenhouse frames to prevent their removal. The squatters spokeswoman, Elie Weitzman, said, "This is a great victory. We have stopped the disgraceful withdrawal from Sinai." The squatters warned Gen. Haim Erez, commander of the southern region last night that they would forcibly resist any attempt by the army to halt their activities or remove them from the area.

Army units are at the scene but have not interfered with the squatters despite a government ruling recently that all settlers must be out of the region by March 31. The area is to be returned to Egypt by April 26. This would leave only three weeks to remove houses and equipment. But the Jerusalem Post reported today that a secret agreement has been reached with the Egyptians to allow Israel to remove all structures and facilities from Yamit and elsewhere in Sinai after the final withdrawal date in order to avoid clashes with the settlers.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Israel branch of the Movement for Progressive Judaism will appeal to the Supreme Court to allow two of its rabbis to perform weddings here.

EFFORTS IN MARYLAND TO STOP GROWING NUMBER OF RACIST INCIDENTS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (JTA) — The State of Maryland and Montgomery County (Md.) are trying to stop the growing number of incidents aimed at Jews, Blacks and other minority groups by involving all elements of the community in an effort to combat bigotry.

This was stressed yesterday as Montgomery County Executive Charles Gilchrist received the Torch of Liberty Award from the District of Columbia-Maryland Region of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The award, presented at a luncheon at B'nai B'rith headquarters here, commended Gilchrist for taking the lead to try to eradicate racially, religiously and ethnically motivated violence and vandalism in his county, a suburb of Washington.

"Silence condones," Constance Biems, chairperson of Maryland Governor Harry Hughes' Task Force on Violence and Extremism, said. "To speak out (against incidents of bigotry) does not inflame." Biems said that in appointing the task force, which includes the three branches of the Maryland state government and county and local officials, Hughes said he did not want a report or proposals for new legislation.

Involving The Public, Government Officials

Instead, administrative changes are being made as the need is found for them, Biems said, and the task force is trying to involve both the public and government officials in the problem. She said the task force right now is trying to alert local officials to be prepared for the problem when it begins to recur, probably in the spring.

Biems had particular praise for the Baltimore County police which, she said, are treating such incidents with the same "severity" as major crimes, such as rape and murder. She added that the participation of Baltimore County in the investigation of such incidents includes removing swastikas and crosses from the scene and alerting neighbors to the problem.

Alvin Steinberg, a member of the National Executive Committee of the ADL who presented the award to Gilchrist, noted that the ADL reported that anti-Semitic incidents in the U.S. doubled in 1981 over 1980. But, he said, in Montgomery County, where there were 25 racially, religiously or ethnically motivated incidents in 1980, there were 100 in 1981, including 40 which were clearly anti-Semitic.

Steinberg also warned against silence and stressed that Montgomery County, under Gilchrist's leadership has been trying to involve all sections of the community in the problem. Gilchrist, who was praised for stressing last year that the county would not condone such incidents, noted that "the entire community is committed to standing" by the victims of bigotry. He said some 400 people are members of a committee that seeks to support persons victimized by vandals.

REPORT ROSEN WILL SETTLE IN TEL AVIV

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA) — Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania is planning to settle in Tel Aviv, it was reported today by Yediot Achrnot. The paper said this "emerged from" a luncheon given in Rosen's honor this week in Tel Aviv by Rafael Kotlowitz, head of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department. At first, according to Yediot, Rosen will divide his time between Tel Aviv and Bucharest. At the luncheon, Rosen stressed that

Jewish religious life in Rumania today is conducted "openly and above board" without any of the restrictions that are enforced elsewhere.

EVA SCHOCKEN GLASER DEAD AT 63

NEW YORK, Jan. 13 (JTA) — Eva Schocken Glaser, president of Schocken Books, Inc., died yesterday after a brief illness. She was 63 years old and resided in Scarsdale, N.Y. Mrs. Glaser, the former Chawa Schocken, was born in Zwickau, Germany. She came to the United States from Jerusalem with her family in the late 1930's.

Her father, Salman Schocken, founded Schocken Verlag in Berlin in the 1920's and the American company was established in New York after World War II. In 1934 the firm became publisher of Franz Kafka when the Nazi regime ruled that Aryan publishers could no longer publish Jewish writers.

Keenly interested in Jewish cultural life, Salman Schocken continued to publish Jewish authors, such as Kafka and Martin Buber, until the Gestapo put an end to the publishing house in November 1938. Schocken, who had been living in Jerusalem since 1933, started the concern again in Tel Aviv.

Mrs. Glaser became the head of the publishing house in New York after the death of her brother, Theodore, in 1975. Her only surviving brother, Gershon Schocken, is publisher of Schocken Press, Israel, and Haaretz. Mrs. Glaser expanded the list of books to reflect her interest in education, women's studies, childhood development and psychology.

DULZIN: LACK OF CASH INCOME FROM DIASPORA ENDANGERING PROJECT RENEWAL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA) — Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Executives, warned this week that Project Renewal is in danger of being cut back because cash income from overseas Jewish communities has not kept pace with needs. Addressing the WZO Executive here, Dulzin said the threat to the project loomed in the coming fiscal year, which begins in April, and would be a key issue at the Jewish Agency Board of Governors' meeting here next month.

He said there was now "full agreement" on Project Renewal between the government and the Jewish Agency and that only Premier Menachem Begin's hip injury and convalescence had delayed the convening of the joint coordinating committee. Dulzin also told the WZO Executive that Project Renewal had made great strides in a large number of targeted poverty neighborhoods this past year. Many neighborhoods, he said, were well aware of the Jewish Agency's role in this progress and that this trust was a vital element in achieving this progress.

NEW YORK (JTA) — An American Jewish Congress leadership mission, led by the organization's president, Howard Squadron, will leave January 16 for a 10-day visit to Paris, Cairo and Jerusalem, it was announced today. The group will hold a series of private meetings with French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin. While in Paris, Squadron, who also serves as chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, will receive a coveted Medallion de Vermillion from Mayor Jacques Chirac of Paris. The medal is conferred on visitors "of the highest distinction."