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TWO BOMBS BLAST JEWISH-OWNED SHOPS IN THE CENTER OF ROME

ROME, March 29 (JTA) -- Two powerful bombs exploded last night outside Jewish-owned shops in the center of the city, causing severe damage but no casualties. A third bomb found outside the El Al office in Rome was defused by sappers before it detonated. Police sources said leaflets found at the site of the bombings indicated that they were the work of Palestinian organizations in retaliation for "Israeli violence on the West Bank."

INTERIM BUDGET BILL GETS 59-57 NOD

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 29 (JTA) -- An interim budget bill squeaked through the Knesset today by a vote of 59-57, ensuring Premier Menachem Begin's shaky coalition government of survival at least beyond the April 25 deadline for Israel's withdrawal from Sinai.

A repetition of the 58-58 vote deadlock on a no-confidence motion two weeks ago was avoided due to the abstention by Mordechai Ben-Porat of the two-man Telem faction. The other Telem member, former Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz, voted against the government. The Labor opposition, with one Knesset member abroad, was unprepared to block the measure's passage on its second and third readings.

The interim budget will enable the government to function when the new fiscal year begins April 1, pending Knesset approval of the regular budget. The Knesset, which starts its Passover recess this week, will not convene again until May.

EEC LEADERS EXPECTED TO CONDEMN ISRAEL BUT TO REFRAIN FROM CALLING FOR SANCTIONS OR NEW M.E. INITIATIVE

BRUSSELS, March 29 (JTA) -- Leaders from the 10-member European Economic Community (EEC) are expected to condemn Israel at their current summit meeting here but will refrain from calling for sanctions against Israel or from issuing a new joint diplomatic initiative in the Middle East.

The 10 West European leaders, including President Francois Mitterrand of France, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain, and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, are scheduled to start tonight their discussion on the Middle East.

The EEC has twice in the past—in Venice in June 1980 and again in Luxembourg last December -- adopted joint statements of policy on the Middle East. This year, diplomatic sources say, Mitterrand has called on his West European partners to refrain from any new initiative which, the French believe, could only serve to accentuate tensions in the area and hurt the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. Mitterrand is due to report tomorrow on his recent trip to Israel, the first by a European head of state.

Meanwhile, 21 Arab states today called on the European leaders to vigorously condemn

"Israeli terror." The Arab states, in a cable addressed to the 10 EEC leaders said "verbal condemnations are no longer sufficient." The Arab states seemed to imply that they want Europe to impose some form of sanctions against Israel.

European sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Arabs had also exerted economic pressures on the eve of the EEC summit. The sources said that Western Europe seems determined, however, to follow France's advice, "at least until Israel's withdrawal from Sinai is completed April 25."

MAJORITY OF ARAB, DRUZE MAYORS IN ISRAEL SAY THEY WILL NOT JOIN STRIKE TUESDAY TO MARK LAND DAY

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, March 29 (JTA) -- The degree to which the continuing unrest on the West Bank has affected Israel's 670,000-strong Arab population will be tested tomorrow by the manner in which Israeli Arabs observe Land Day, an annual event protesting Israel's seizure of Arab lands in Galilee six years ago.

A call for a general strike by the Committee for the Protection of Arab Land which organizes the Land Day observances, got only a lukewarm response from the National Council of Arab Mayors, the highest political body of Israeli Arabs.

Of 54 Arab and Druze mayors in Israel, 31 have announced that they and their local councils would not join a strike. The Council as a whole agreed unanimously to "welcome" a strike decision and expressed "understanding" for the reasons.

But this was an oblique way of indicating neither approval nor disapproval. Individual mayors were left free to interpret the Council's position in whatever way they choose.

Israeli experts on Arab affairs predicted today that a strike would be at least partially successful. The question was whether the participants would refrain from violence. Binyamin Gur-Arye, Premier Menachem Begin's advisor on Arab affairs, warned yesterday that the government would act firmly against anyone who disturbed the peace.

An Agonizing Decision

The 31 mayors who have opted against a strike said their's was an agonizing decision because they are fully aware of the suffering of their Arab brethren in the occupied territories. But they concluded that a strike would only worsen relations between Jews and Arabs.

Gur-Arye urged Israeli Arabs not to be drawn into provocation. He claimed that the strike call was initiated by the Hadash (Communist) Party to retrieve some of the support that it lost among Israeli Arabs in the last Knesset elections.

The first Land Day demonstrations were initiated by the Communists in 1976 when the government expropriated 5,000 acres of Arab land in Galilee for the purpose of developing the Jewish towns of Carmiel and Upper Nazareth. The general strike called at the time turned violent and six Arabs were killed in clashes with Israeli security forces. It was the deaths more than anything else which turned Land Day into an annual event.

Over the ensuing years, however, the organizers ruled out strikes and Land Day was marked by regional parades and rallies, all of them peaceful. As long as that continued, Israeli police refrained from showing a presence in the Arab towns during the demonstrations.

But the Land Day observances spread to the West Bank where they were marked by strikes and incidents of violence. Extremists among Israeli Arabs who wanted to emulate the West Bankers were restrained by the Communists. The latter believed that an image of moderation would strengthen their influence in the normally peaceful Arab sectors of Israel.

But in last June's Knesset elections, the Communists lost nearly 30 percent of their Arab voters and as a consequence dropped one seat in the Knesset. Most of the Arab votes went to the Labor Alignment which Israeli Arabs regarded as the lesser of two evils compared to Likud.

Gur-Arye predicted two months ago that the Communists would adopt an extremist line as a result of their electoral defeat. The Land Day organizers denied this at the time and adopted a resolution ruling out any work stoppage.

Role Of Young Arab Radicals

But recent events on the West Bank have had a strong impact on Israeli Arabs and pressure has been mounting for more vigorous demonstrations on Land Day. Pushing hardest for a general strike are "The Village Sons," a relatively small body of young Arab radicals, mainly students, who unlike the Communists would not be satisfied with a Palestinian state alongside Israel but demand such a state without recognizing Israel's right to exist.

This group scored a victory when the organizing committee called for a strike. The events tomorrow are expected to be a show of strength between "The Village Sons" and the Communists and possibly a confrontation between Israeli Arabs and the police. Above all, observers believe, it will indicate to what degree the bitterness on the West Bank has spread to Israel's Arab population.

Israel's Policies Condemned

Meanwhile, the mayors of eight towns on the West Bank and Gaza Strip signed a statement yesterday condemning Israel's policies in the occupied territories. The statement characterized Israel's new civil administration in the territories as "a step toward annexation" and the mayors vowed not to cooperate with it. The statement also called for an independent state under the Palestine Liberation Organization.

But one of the signatories, Mayor Rashad Shawa of Gaza, met yesterday with Gen. Yosef Lunz, the governor of the civilian administration in the Gaza Strip. Shawa explained that the civil administration was only a continuation of the military occupation. "As people have to live in the occupied territories, we have to be in touch with the military authorities because everything is in their hands," he said.

PREPARING SINAI FOR EVACUATION By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 29 (JTA) -- With two days to go before Sinai must be cleared of all Israeli civilians, the army and workers employed by the Jewish Agency continued today to dis-

mantle structures and equipment for relocation inside Israel. Resistance is also continuing to Israel's withdrawal from Sinai, scheduled to be completed by April 25.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, a leader of the National Religious Party, visited the Yamit area today to talk to squatters, most of them members of his own party. The squatters have taken over buildings abandoned by the original settlers. In Talmi Yosef, near Yamit, a group of women have been spending the daylight hours on the roof of one such building for the past two weeks. So far they have succeeded in preventing the structure from being taken down and loaded in trucks.

Hammer climbed to the roof to confer with them. As has been the case with other government officials who have come to the region, he apparently listened rather than talked. Wherever he went, the squatters urged him to influence the government to cancel its plans to withdraw from Sinai, even if that meant abrogating the peace treaty with Egypt.

While the minister was so engaged, truckloads of furniture and household effects were moving northward from Yamit and surrounding villages to relocation sites in Israel. The army hired the trucks to help the residents transport their moveable property.

Although the army has set March 31 as the deadline for evacuation, the government may give some residents permission to stay on until mid-April if their new homes in Israel are not ready for occupancy. Those who do remain would be without electricity and running water.

MARK 40th ANNIVERSARY OF NAZI DEPORTATION OF FRENCH JEWS TO DEATH CAMPS OF EASTERN EUROPE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 29 (JTA) -- Two ceremonies yesterday marked the 40th anniversary of the first Nazi organized deportation of France's Jews to the death camps of Eastern Europe. Some 80,000 people, including 11,000 children and infants, less than three percent of whom survived, were deported aboard 72 death trains which left France for Nazi-occupied Poland.

Several hundred people, including France's Chief Rabbi Rene Samuel Sirat, Mayor Jacques Chirac of Paris and Presidential advisor Jacques Attali, gathered on the site of the Drancy camp, where the Jews were held before their deportation, and at the Royallieu railway station from which the first death train left on March 27, 1942 with 1,112 Jews aboard.

Sirat said that "40 years later we still fail to grasp the full horror of the Holocaust. The memory of the victims continues to haunt us." Paris Chief Rabbi Alain Goldmann warned, "We must remain vigilant if we want to make sure that history does not repeat itself."

3 TERRORISTS EXPELLED FROM GERMANY

By David Kantor

BONN, March 29 (JTA) -- Three Arab terrorists, arrested in Stuttgart March 1 for illegal possession of explosives and guns, were expelled from West Germany yesterday without standing trial. The decision to release them was taken in face of Palestine Liberation Organization threats to kill German officials and destroy German property in Beirut.

The expulsion order was believed to have been given by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt on the advice of Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Only last week, West Germany's Ambassador to Lebanon was summoned home and reportedly brought fresh threats from PLO headquarters in Beirut. The German school and

German cultural center there were closed last week.

The three terrorists ousted were believed to have been planning the murder of a score of Moslem fundamentalists living in West Germany who are opposed to the regime of Syrian President Hafez Assad. They entered the country with Syrian passports.

STATE DEPARTMENT DENIES HAIG BLAMED JORDAN FOR VIOLENCE ON THE WEST BANK

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 29 (JTA) -- The State Department sought to deny today that Secretary of State Alexander Haig had placed some of the blame on Jordan for the violence on the West Bank.

Haig, appearing on the NBC-TV "Meet the Press" program yesterday, said that "measures taken by Jordan helped 'trigger' the events in the occupied territories. When Department spokesman Dean Fischer was asked to name the measures Jordan had taken, he replied instead that the Secretary's remarks "were made in the context of our abhorrence of the recent violence on the West Bank and our repeated calls on those who can influence the situation to help calm it."

When a reporter pointed out that this was not the context in which Haig's remarks were made, Fischer replied, "I think what he (Haig) was suggesting is that along with others, Jordan has an influence on the situation."

Text Confirms Haig's Statement

But the State Department's own text of the NBC interview showed that the Secretary made his charge against Jordan after denying that the Israeli policy, which he said included "measures" that "have not been a source of comfort to this government," was not one of de facto annexation.

"Also, it is important that we keep the whole issue of this contemporary violence on the West Bank, which we abhor, in proper perspective," Haig went on to say. "I think you will recall there were some measures taken also by the government of Jordan which tended to trigger the events that we are faced with today. And I think it is important, whether we are in the United Nations or here in our nation's capital, that we attempt to maintain a level of objectivity on these very vexing questions."

Meanwhile, Gen. Abdel Halim Abu Ghazala, Egypt's Defense Minister, told reporters at the State Department that at his meeting with Haig this morning he told the Secretary that Egypt was "worried about the West Bank" situation. But he expressed hope that it would not affect the autonomy talks. Abu Ghazala stressed that Egypt is "looking for peace and we are going to stick to peace. There is nothing to be done to stop the peace process."

LATE NEWS DEVELOPMENT

CRISIS OVER 'WHO IS A JEW' ISSUE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 29 (JTA) -- The Knesset and country were suddenly thrown into yet another "Who is a Jew" political crisis today when Agudat Israel, on orders of its sages, introduced a bill requiring halachic conversion. During the evening Knesset members of other parties joined their names to the bill and it will be given a preliminary reading tomorrow with the

result hard to predict. Labor Party leaders Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin tonight rejected Aguda pleas that their party abstain or at least give its members a free vote on the bill. Labor will meet tomorrow morning and was expected to order its MKs to oppose the bill which is opposed to Labor's election pledge to support religious pluralism in Israel.

If all of Labor opposes the bill, it will probably not pass because there are some half dozen Likud-Liberals who will also vote against it. But political observers said some Laborites might stay away, with or without the faction's permission.

The Aguda's sudden presentation of the bill came at the insistent urging of the Hasidic Rabbi of Gur who sought action on this issue before the Knesset adjourns for Passover recess this week.

UN TO RESUME DEBATE ON WEST BANK

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, March 29 (JTA) -- The Security Council will resume tomorrow its debate on the situation on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but diplomats here said they do not expect the Council to vote tomorrow on an Irish draft resolution which was circulated over the weekend.

As Council members met for private consultations today, sources said the United States did not indicate what position it will take regarding the Irish draft resolution. The draft is a watered-down version of a draft circulated last week when the debate began, by the Arab Group at the UN.

The Irish draft does not call for condemning Israel because of the violent clashes between Palestinian Arabs and Israeli troops. However, it calls on Israel to rescind its decision to disband the town council of El Bireh and to reinstate the ousted mayors of El Bireh, Ramallah and Nablus; to abide by the 1949 Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in occupied lands; and demands that Israel end its occupation of the territories.

The main difference between the Irish and the earlier Arab draft resolutions is that the Irish draft does not call for sanctions against Israel in the event that it fails to comply with the resolution. The Arabs agreed to the change, the sources said, in the hope that the U.S. will support the resolution.

The sources said the vote will probably be taken Wednesday when U.S. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick finishes her tour of duty as Security Council President. Although it is not a UN rule, it is customary to conclude a debate in the Council with the same President under which the debate began.

Some diplomats here said that the conclusion of the debate in the Council is linked to the upcoming meeting later this week of the Arab Foreign Ministers in Tunisia.

BONN (JTA) -- A Bundestag member who compared West Germany's school system unfavorably with that of the Nazi era has drawn angry protests from a variety of groups in the state of Hesse. Walter Picard, a member of the opposition Christian Democratic Union said at an election rally that political indoctrination in today's schools in Hesse is even worse than it was under the Nazis. Protests came from the Association of Hesse Teachers, the Social Democratic Party and several other organizations. One statement noted that Picard ignored the fact that under the Nazis, Jewish pupils were expelled from German schools as a matter of policy.

FAILURE OF PRO-ARAB LOBBY IN BRITAIN

LONDON, March 29 (JTA) -- A detailed study just released here finds that "the pro-Arab lobby in Britain has not achieved much in terms of influencing British public opinion" and that the Palestine Liberation Organization "has been unable to enlist a broad-based grassroots movement in the country."

The study, published here by the Institute of Jewish Affairs, the research arm of the World Jewish Congress, examines 10 anti-Israel/pro-Arab organizations which are active in Britain. Among the groups covered by the survey are the General Union of Palestine Students, the British Anti-Zionist Organization, and the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding.

The study finds that the pro-Arab information campaign is backed by large resources and that increasingly sophisticated propaganda techniques are being used. The PLO, for example, employs polished public relations methods to put forth its case and has even acquired the services of a professional public relations firm, "The Main Event," to do its design and printing as well as to advise them on the type of materials to use.

Strategy Of The Pro-Arab Lobby

In their informational activities, the pro-Arab lobby has opted for a "soft line" as a means of gaining recruits by promoting "issues with which the British public can identify," the study reports. As a consequence, the initial maximalist position that Israel must be replaced by a Palestinian state, has given way to efforts aimed at highlighting positive aspects of the work of the PLO, such as its factories, hospitals and schools.

Because "anti-Zionism is not a mass movement in Britain," the study detects a strategy on the part of the pro-Arab lobby directed toward influencing policy makers and opinion formers. Even in this respect, the report notes, their success has been moderate. In Parliament, for instance, the pro-Israel MPs organized in the various political parties' Israel friendship groups, outnumbered pro-Arab MPs by over four to one. To date, the pro-Arab lobby "has not succeeded in drawing any of the major political parties or trade unions into its camp."

The study warns that it would be false to conclude that "there exists a monolithic pro-Arab lobby in Britain." What the survey shows, "is that the groups which currently promote an anti-Israel/pro-Arab policy are very varied in strength, motive, nature and scope, and that they are potentially dangerous far beyond their actual size."

DRUZE LEADERS VOW TO CONTINUE STRIKE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 29 (JTA) -- Druze leaders on the Golan Heights said they would not call off their general strike, now entering its seventh week, despite a promise from the Israeli government that the army would end its blockade of Druze villages on April 1 and would not force the Golan Druze to accept Israeli identity cards.

The Druze strike was called to protest Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights last month and the extension of Israeli law to the territory. All but a handful of the 14,000 Golan Druze refused to accept Israeli identity cards and were therefore confined to the four villages where the Druze population is centered.

A Defense Ministry spokesman said last Friday that the military identification documents previously issued would be cancelled on April 1

and that no Druze would be required to take an Israeli civilian identity card. The spokesman pointed out, however, that the Golan Druze, like Israelis themselves, would have to forego certain services for which the law requires prior identification.

These include obtaining or renewing drivers licenses and picking up mail at the post office. The spokesman said Israel has no intention of forcing the Golan Druze to accept Israeli citizenship or serve in the army.

Tension Spreads To Israel

The tension over the situation on the Golan spread to Israel yesterday when a group of Israeli Arabs disrupted a Druze memorial meeting near Tiberias. The Druze were gathered at their holy site of Nabi Shueib to mourn one of their leaders, Sultan Basha Atrash, who died in Syria Friday at the age of 95.

After Sheikh Amin Tarif, the spiritual leader of Israeli Druze, read a message of condolences from President Yitzhak Navon, a Golan Druze, Muhsein Abu-Salah, rose to speak but was shouted down as a friend of Israel and a traitor to the Druze cause.

As the memorial service continued, the crowd shouted "The Golan is Syrian," "We will free the Golan with blood and spirit" and other slogans.

SOVIET JEWISH ACTIVIST RELEASED FROM LABOR CAMP; ANOTHER ARRESTED

NEW YORK, March 29 (JTA) -- Soviet Jewish activist Kim Fridman was released from a Soviet labor camp on Saturday after completing a one-year sentence for alleged "parasitism," it was reported by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Fridman, 47, returned to his old apartment in Kiev. He hopes to emigrate to Israel to join his wife and daughter who emigrated in 1976. His future, however, remains in doubt, the Conference reported.

Meanwhile, another Soviet Jewish activist, Mikhail Tsivin, 18, was arrested yesterday in Moscow's Red Square for stating publicly that he wanted to emigrate to Israel. Tsivin, of Leningrad, had previously been subjected to constant harassment and was expelled from school last year and prohibited from pursuing educational opportunities in the future after he allegedly waved a sign that read "Let me go to Israel," the Conference reported.

WEST BERLIN ANTI-SEMITISM CENTER TO BE HEADED BY N. Y. PROFESSOR

BONN, March 29 (JTA) -- The Technical University of West Berlin's Anti-Semitism Research Center is to be headed by Prof. Herbert Strauss of the City University of New York. Strauss, an expert on German-Jewish history, is expected to take up his new post sometime this summer, according to an announcement by the university.

Born in Wuerzburg (Bavaria) in 1918, Strauss later became an assistant to Leo Baeck, one of German Jewry's spiritual leaders during the Nazi period. During World War II he escaped to Switzerland and earned his Ph.D. in 1946 at the University of Bern. Strauss then came to the United States and taught at Columbia University and the New School of Social Research before moving to City College in 1960. Since 1964 he has served as the executive director of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe.