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FRANCE'S CHIEF RABBI PROTESTS TO TUNISIAN ENVOY OVER ATTACKS ON JEWISH HOMES AND SHOPS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- France's Chief Rabbi Rene Sirat has protested to Ambassador Hedi Mabruk of Tunisia about the attack on Jewish homes and shops in the small cities of Zarzis and Ben Gardane on the eve of Rosh Hashanah and called on the government to take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of the 4,000-member Jewish community.

Sirat also protested to the Ambassador that the synagogues in the two cities had to be closed during the High Holy Days in an attempt by the community to avoid further disturbances. The Jewish homes and shops were looted and set afire, but there were no casualties.

Mabruk told Sirat that all necessary measures have already been taken to protect the two Jewish communities and that his government is sending additional police forces to areas where similar incidents might occur.

President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia, who was in the Embassy building when Sirat called on Mabruk several days ago, gave the Chief Rabbi his personal assurances on the matter. Bourguiba, who is in Paris on a private visit, conferred with President François Mitterrand on Monday and reportedly called for Israel and the PLO to mutually recognize each other.

Effort To Minimize Incidents

The incidents in Ben Gardane and Zarzis took place after pro-Palestinian elements demonstrated in the centers of both cities against the massacre which had taken place in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila in west Beirut. An official Tunisian communique later said that more than a dozen demonstrators were arrested.

Official Tunisian sources quoted by the French news agency, Agence France Press, tried to minimize the incidents which run counter to Bourguiba's policy of Arab-Israeli reconciliation. The sources said the attacks were carried out by opposition elements belonging to extreme right-wing Islamic organizations.

Tunisia's Jewish community has dwindled to some 4,000 people from 60,000 on the eve of the country's independence in 1956. The largest communities are on the island of Djerba, where anti-Jewish incidents took place after the Yom Kippur War and more recently a couple of years ago, and in the coastal Hamamet region, southwest of Tunis.

Most of the remaining Jews are either pensioners or sick and elderly people who could not leave the country for personal reasons.

SHARON ACCUSED OF UTTERING 'PUBLIC LIES' AND SLANDERING PARATROOP RESERVIST BRIGADE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ariel Sharon has been accused of uttering

"public lies" by the military affairs correspondent for Israel's State-owned television. He is also under fire from members of a crack paratrooper reservist brigade who say he slandered them and demand an apology.

The slander charge stems from a remark attributed to Sharon during the war in Lebanon that he had to keep the brigade out of action because of "moral problems arising from internal opposition to the war." The members of the brigade, which has not been identified, say they were in fact called twice during the war. In a 25-day period at the early stages they suffered 11 men dead and about 70 wounded in fighting in Tyre, Sidon and along the Lebanese coast.

After a brief release from service they were called up again and participated for 21 days in the siege of Beirut, the soldiers say. Their commander informed the Chief of Staff that his men would obey orders to fight in the city, but with serious reservations that such battle was justified.

No Apology Forthcoming

Sharon's spokesman said yesterday that the Defense Minister would not apologize. But he amended Sharon's earlier remarks. According to the spokesman, Sharon said he had "at one time" hesitated to call up the brigade in question and did not "mobilize the brigade at the time." But the soldiers are not satisfied and insist on an apology.

The TV military correspondent said yesterday that Sharon's explanation was "the latest in four recent public lies uttered by the Defense Minister." According to the correspondent, Sharon had lied when he told Italian journalist Oriana Falacci in an interview that he had recently spoken by phone to former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Kissinger immediately denied that statement and Sharon subsequently admitted to "an error."

According to the correspondent, Sharon also lied about the chronology of events before and during the massacre of Palestinians in west Beirut last month and when he implied, in the course of a Knesset speech, that Israeli officers were involved at least as by-standers in the massacre of Palestinians by Lebanese Christians at Tel E-Zaatar in 1976 when Shimon Peres, now leader of the opposition Labor Alignment, was Israel's Defense Minister.

PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE LEADER DENIES SPLIT IN U.S. JEWISH COMMUNITY OVER ISRAEL'S POLICIES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- Julius Berman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, denied today that there was any split within the American Jewish community as a result of recent Israeli policy. He also attacked President Reagan's Middle East plan for Israeli-Arab peace as a violation of the spirit of Camp David and accused the President of going back on his election campaign promise to American Jews that he would always support a unified Jerusalem under Israeli rule.

Berman addressed a press conference here following a meeting with Premier Menachem Begin

which he described as an "excellent conversation." He would not disclose the contents of their talk, however, and refrained from making any comments on the internal political situation in Israel, particularly the many calls for the resignation of Defense Minister Ariel Sharon.

Berman insisted that American Jews were, as always, deeply committed to the security of Israel and took pride in Israel's democracy. The commitment to Israel's security went beyond personal and political divisions, he said. "There is no split, no rift, no division of the love for Israel," Berman declared.

He said he had told Begin that the Jewish people in particular were deeply distressed by events in Lebanon, specifically the massacre of Palestinians in two west Beirut refugee camps last month. "Whereas we protest that world public opinion applies a double standard toward us, we as Jews apply double standards toward ourselves," Berman said. "We as Jews were shocked and repelled by what occurred (in Beirut). Ironically, its the reaction of the world that almost gives us a different feeling—a stand, a united approach."

He went on to denounce what he called the shocking hypocrisy of world opinion which rushed to blame Israel for the Beirut massacre whereas it kept silent about those directly responsible for the act and ignored for years similar incidents in Beirut and in Syria. He said American Jewry was deeply gratified by the decision of the Israeli government to set up a commission of inquiry into the events in Beirut.

He said the decision to hold the investigation would improve Israel's deteriorating image in American public opinion and the situation would improve with time and the wounds would heal. "What is critical is to tone down the heat of the debate. The worst is over," he said, adding "It is very important not to repeatedly have confrontations with the U.S. government over every little incident."

However, Berman insisted that Reagan's Mideast plan was not constructive and weakened the American position as an honest mediator in the Middle East. He contended that as a result of Reagan's proposals, the Arabs were now negotiating with the American position rather than with Israel.

He said that Reagan had promised American Jewish leaders before the 1980 elections that he would always support a unified Jerusalem under Israel's rule. His new plan is a deviation from that promise, Berman contended. Reagan, announcing his proposals September 1, said the future status of Jerusalem was to be determined by negotiations.

Claims Consensus On Five Major Points

Berman claimed there was an American Jewish consensus on five major points: "Israel cannot return to its pre-1967 borders and we will strongly oppose any effort that will require it to go back to those indefensible frontiers; We will oppose any change in the long-standing American policy of refusing to deal with the PLO; A unified Jerusalem is the capital of Israel; An independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza will be a dagger pointed at the heart of Israel; American Jews will continue their efforts to ensure continued American support for Israel."

Begin also had a meeting today with Greville Janner, MP, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Janner told reporters later that his delegation wanted it understood that all Israeli actions had a direct effect on Jewish communities abroad. "At this moment it is very difficult to say a good word for Israel without being shouted down," he said.

Janner said he told Begin that "although Israel is tended to regard events here as matters totally of their concern, when there is massive concern in the world over Israel's action, this has an almost immediate reflective impact on the Jewish communities of the world and on peoples' attitudes towards the communities and toward the Jewish people."

GENSCHER INVITES SHAMIR TO BONN By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher extended an official invitation to Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir to visit Bonn next January. The invitation was made yesterday in the course of a meeting here between the two envoys.

According to an Israeli spokesman, Shamir accepted the invitation. The spokesman said Genscher noted that in January he will assume the Presidency of the European Economic Community (EEC) and that he will receive Shamir in Bonn in that capacity.

The meeting between Shamir and Genscher, who are both attending the current session of the UN General Assembly, was held at the UN Plaza Hotel and lasted about 60 minutes. According to the spokesman, Genscher told Shamir that the new West German government, headed by Chancellor Helmut Kohl, is interested in "continuing the friendly relations between the two countries."

Shamir also expressed Israel's interest in improving the ties between the two nations and said it is essential that "the dialogue between the two countries will continue." Shamir and Genscher also discussed the situation in Lebanon and the future prospects for peace in that country.

Meanwhile, Shamir continued today his meetings here with Foreign Ministers of various nations. Today he met with the Foreign Ministers of Ecuador and Argentina.

GAZIT: ARABS NEED PEACE MORE THAN THEY NEED WAR

NEW YORK, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- The Arab nations today have a greater need for peace than to fight a war against Israel, Shlomo Gazit, president of Ben Gurion University of the Negev, told the sixth annual Negev Award Dinner of the university's American Associates last night. He said "the question today is not anymore can there be peace, but what Arab nations will next join the peace process."

Gazit, a former head of Israeli intelligence and one of Israel's foremost authorities on Arab relations, told the 600 guests from the U.S. and Canada, "President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem symbolized the beginning of the end for the Israel-Arab conflict. It was the first time that the Arabs need for peace had the upper hand."

The annual dinner, sponsored by the American Associates of Ben Gurion University (AABGU) honored 84-year-old Col. Jehiel Elyachar and his wife, Anna, for their "devotion and dedication to Israel, its people and peace." Gazit presented the Elyachars with an antique pottery jug from the first Israelite period, 586 B.C.E., before the Persian invasion, mounted on an olive wood base. Elyachar was a former military aid to Generals Eisenhower and Bradley during the Normandy Invasion in World War II.

Dr. John Brademas, president of New York University, the evening's principal speaker, was awarded the Ben Gurion University's Silver Medal of Honor for his "concerns and ideals in strengthening the world through education" by the American Associates president, Robert Arnow, who also served as the dinner chairman.

Jane Fonda received a special tribute presented to her by Bobbie Abrams, chairman of the AABGU executive committee. The noted actress was presented with an ancient Roman perfume bottle inscribed "Humanitarian, Champion of Peace and Friend of Israel and Her People."

In his opening remarks, Arnow told the dinner audience "this is not the time for criticism or evaluation. That must be done in Jerusalem. This is the time to dramatize to the world that Israel represents the most vital and important heartbeat for Jews all over the world and to demonstrate that we stand united on her behalf." He stressed that "in the quest for peace, Ben Gurion University plays a vital role."

HABIB: ALL FOREIGN TROOPS MUST LEAVE LEBANON IN ORDER FOR SOVEREIGNTY TO BE RESTORED

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- Special Presidential envoy Philip Habib stressed today that the U.S. continues to maintain that in order to restore Lebanon's sovereignty, all Palestine Liberation Organization combatants as well as Israeli and Syrian troops must leave Lebanon. But he gave no timetable for the withdrawal of foreign forces.

"It is quite clear that all external forces in Lebanon should, must, leave Lebanon if Lebanon is going to have its authority assured," Habib said after a White House luncheon meeting with President Reagan. "And that includes Israelis, Syrians and the remaining combatant Palestinians in Lebanon. One way or another, that's got to be worked out."

Habib, who has just returned from the Middle East, reported to the President on his recent swing through the region at the luncheon which was also attended by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam, the Presidential Counselor Edwin Meese, National Security Advisor William Clark, and Robert McFarlane, the NSC's Middle East expert.

Says Withdrawal Is Urgent

After the lunch, Reagan accompanied Habib part of the way to the South Lawn but returned to the White House before the envoy met with reporters. Habib said that Reagan had reiterated, at their meeting, America's commitment to restore Lebanon's "integrity, security and independence." He said the U.S. wanted foreign forces to leave Lebanon "as quickly as possible" but he could give no timetable.

Asked if this could be accomplished by the end of the year, Habib replied it could be done sooner but depended upon the negotiations. He stressed that the U.S. felt the matter was urgent because as long as foreign troops are in Lebanon there was always the possibility of "incident escalation."

Habib emphasized that the next step was continuation of the negotiations between the

parties involved. He said that in his recent talks in the Middle East as well as in the talks conducted there by Morris Draper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, they were able to nail down the issues and thus achieve a better understanding by all sides in the negotiations.

Habib said he was returning to his home in California but would be dealing with the issue in Washington. He said he had no immediate plans to return to the Middle East but was always at the call of the President. Draper will continue to represent the U.S. in the negotiations on the scene. Presumably, if a major snag developed, Habib would return to the region.

Safeguarding Palestinians in Lebanon

As for safeguarding Palestinians living in Lebanon, Habib said the return of the multinational force to Beirut was necessary to "restore some degree of order and responsibility" in the Lebanese capital. He said the multinational force and the Lebanese security force are working together to restore "law and order" through the Lebanese authorities.

"The presence of the multinational force permits the Lebanese authorities to exercise their authority and in our view that authority should be exercised with due process," Habib said.

WZO EXECUTIVE SPEAKS OUT AGAINST A RETURN TO CLASSIC ANTI-SEMITISM

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- The World Zionist Organization Executive has spoken out against a "return to the classic forms of anti-Semitism" which it sees manifested in the current wave of anti-Israel feeling in many countries.

In a statement issued here the WZO Executive called on "Jews throughout the world to remain firm in their support of Israel and her humanistic values." The statement was issued after Israel's Cabinet decided on a judicial inquiry to investigate the Beirut massacre, and it cites that decision as "proof of the moral values" of Israeli society.

The statement says, in part: "The Executive of the WZO views with extreme gravity the violent outbursts of anti-Semitism that exploit the shocking tragedy perpetrated by Lebanese murderers in two refugee camps in west Beirut.

"The aggressive onslaught on the State of Israel and indirectly on the Jewish people before the facts have been uncovered, and the total disregard of those that carried out this barbaric deed, indicates the return to the classic forms of anti-Semitism, now accompanied by anti-Zionism, aimed at undermining the moral and ideological foundation of the State of Israel and the solidarity of the Jewish people."

"The manifestation of anti-Semitism in recent days derives from the constant flow of anti-Zionist propaganda that has not been curbed by the nations of the free world . . . We reinforce our Jewish brethren in their communities and call upon them to denounce all anti-Semitic manifestations and firmly fight anti-Zionist propaganda."

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REMINDER: There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated September 11, Columbus Day, a postal holiday.

PROFILES OF THE THREE INQUIRY COMMISSION MEMBERS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- The three members of the commission of inquiry that will shortly begin its investigation of Israel's role, if any, in the west Beirut massacre, represent in many ways, a cross-section of Israeli society.

Chief Justice Yitzhak Kahan, President of the Supreme Court, who will chair the panel, is devoutly Orthodox and an old-time settler, having come to Palestine before World War II. Of the two men he appointed to the commission, Supreme Court Justice Aharon Barak is of secular background and a post-war immigrant; and Gen. (res.) Yonah Efrat is a native-born Israeli and career army officer.

Yitzhak Kahan

Kahan, born in Brody, Galicia, was graduated from the Jewish gymnasium (high school) and from the law school in Lwow, Poland. At the age of 22 he was qualified as a "magister of law" and also held an economics degree. He settled in Palestine in 1935 and was licensed to practice law there in 1940. In 1950 he became a magistrate in Haifa and three years later a district court judge in that city. He was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1970 and was elevated to its presidency early this year.

Kahan is described by his intimates as "very taciturn and very wise." He is considered a jurist of the highest stature and integrity. At the age of 69, his tenure in the Supreme Court will soon end. When he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 70 he will step down.

Aharon Barak

Barak, 46, was born in Kovno, Lithuania. He escaped death in the Holocaust when, at the age of 8, he was smuggled out of the Kovno ghetto in a sack. He settled in Palestine in 1947, combining law studies with military service. He was graduated from the Hebrew University Law School at 22. He also studied economics and international relations.

Barak received a doctorate in law in 1963 and was elected Dean of the Law School in 1974. He rose to national prominence a year later when the then Minister of Justice, Haim Zadok, asked him to serve as Attorney General. During his three years in that post he earned the reputation of a tough prosecutor, handling cases involving such prominent personalities as Asher Yadlin, MK Shmuel Rechtman and former Premier Yitzhak Rabin and his wife, Leah.

In 1978, shortly after his elevation to the Supreme Court, Premier Menachem Begin appointed Barak to the Israeli delegation to the Camp David negotiations. He played a key role there drafting the accords with President Carter and Egyptian lawyer-diplomat Osama el-Baz.

Yonah Efrat

Efrat, 56, began his military career in 1948. He retired from the army in 1977 after serving as commander of the central command and enrolled in a university. At present he is manager of a government-owned oil transport company.

Efrat always shied away from publicity and was little known outside of army ranks. His reputation among soldiers was one of great professional skills and impeccable integrity.

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGIAN SPEAK OUT ON ISRAEL AND MASSACRE IN BEIRUT

NEW YORK, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- A group of 14 Christian theologians, most of them long-time supporters of Israel, issued a joint statement declaring that "the voices of conscience" calling for the "establishment of accountability" regarding the role of Israeli authorities in the massacre of Palestinians in west Beirut refugee camps "are mixed with a chorus of cynicism, hypocrisy and bigotry."

The theologians, members of the Israel Study Group, stated: "The history of anti-Semitism demonstrates that the world has too often remained silent in the face of atrocities except when Israel stands accused. We have observed that people who in the case of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, as in the case of My Lai and Cambodia and the atrocities committed by the PLO have remained silent, are now stridently raising their voices in condemnation of Israel. We have observed also that little or no criticism has been levelled against the real perpetrators of the massacres, the Phalangists, a Christian militia."

Noting that "many of the Jewish sisters and brothers in the U.S. and Israel have called for an accounting for the massacres in Lebanon regardless where the blame may fall," the theologians stated that they stand with "our Israeli friends" as they endure this painful soul-searching and at the same time "we as Christians confess our own sins of silence, hostility and indifference which have so often contributed to these tragic situations."

Among those who signed the statement at the Israel Study Group's semi-annual meeting in Weston Priory, Weston, Vermont, several days ago, were Sisters Rose Thering and Ann Patrick Ware, Prof. John Pawlikowski, Rev. Edward Flannery, and Rev. Isaac Rottenberg.

Lutheran-Jewish Conference Set

In a related development, it was announced today in New York that Jewish and Lutheran religious and academic leaders from all over the country will meet next week to discuss anti-Semitism in the wake of the recent war in Lebanon, Lutheran-Jewish relations, and the differing ways in which the two faiths view major religious and social issues.

The conference, the fifth of its kind, is sponsored by the American Jewish Committee and the Lutheran Council in the U.S. It will be held Oct. 13 and 14 at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio. Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk, president of the college, will be the keynote speaker.

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, the AJ Committee's national director of interreligious affairs and a co-chairman of the conference, said the conference is "particularly important in light of recent events." He expressed the hope that it would "help mobilize moral forces in the world to stand against those who seek to exploit the Lebanese tragedy for bigoted, anti-Jewish purposes."

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The army is said to be digging a deep ditch all along the Israel-Egypt border in Sinai. The trench is not a security measure, but rather a frontier contraband anti-theft device. Army sources said Egyptian vehicles have frequently been driven across the Sinai border at unofficial and illegal crossing points. And in the other direction, cars stolen in Israel have been driven into Egypt where they are sold beyond the reach of the Israeli police. The deep trench, it is hoped, will stop traffic in either direction.