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## New Tensions In Rome's Jewish Community: TWO YOUTHS APPREHENDED IN AN ATTACK ON A SYNAGOGUE

By Lisa Palmieri-Billing

ROME, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- Two 18-year-old youths have been arrested for attacking a synagogue here with Molotov cocktails last Thursday night. The target was a small synagogue on the Via Garfagnana, near Piazza Bologna, a neighborhood inhabited by Libyan Jews since 1967. There were no casualties or damage.

But the incident raised tensions anew in Rome's Jewish community, coming only 17 days after the machinegun and grenade attack on the main synagogue which killed a two-year-old child and wounded 33 men, women and children.

Police identified the suspects as Riccardo Renzoni and Luca Franco. They are charged with "possession of arms" and "hurting inflammable material." An anonymous telephone caller told the Rome daily *Il Messaggero* that the attack was carried out by "The Metropolitan Communist Front ... We hit the Zionist headquarters on Via Garfagnana, occupying the nearby area," the caller said.

According to unconfirmed reports, the police have not yet determined whether the assailants belong to a leftist group of whether they are neo-fascists. Eye witnesses said a group of youths hurled Molotov cocktails at the synagogue at about 8 p.m. local time when the building was empty. They reported seeing "plainclothesmen" shoot several times at the attackers.

A few minutes later the group was seen in the nearby Via Reggio Calabria where they hung a banner stating, "We will destroy the Zionist headquarters."

The banner contained a hammer and sickle and the initials, "MCF." Another Molotov cocktail exploded, damaging a parked car.

### Sees Organized Design In Attacks

Chief Rabbi Elia Toaff of Rome rushed to the synagogue. He told reporters, "The anti-Semitic seeds that were sown are bearing their first fruits." Later, Raffaello Fellah, the Rome representative of the World Sephardic Federation, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency: "It matters little whether the terrorists are from the right or left ... What matters is that there seems to be an organized design to hit Jewish institutions."

The fatal daylight attack on the main synagogue near the banks of the Tiber October 8 was the climax of a series of violent anti-Jewish acts in Rome. Only the night before, four bombs exploded in a supermarket in a heavily Jewish populated neighborhood. The group that claimed responsibility called itself the "Anti-Begin Proletarians."

Several days before the attack on the main synagogue, the Libyan Jewish quarter was the scene of an anti-Jewish demonstration outside a Jewish social center. The demonstration was believed to have been in retaliation for an earlier bombing that wrecked an apartment house where the Radio Onda Rosa (Left Wave Radio) had been broadcasting anti-Israel programs. The leftists blamed the Rome Jewish Defense League for the bombing.

## ISRAEL READY TO RESUME TALKS WITH EGYPT OVER TABA REGION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- The Cabinet indicated today that Israel is ready to resume negotiations with Egypt over the Taba region, a small parcel of land near Eilat which has been in dispute between the two countries since Israel completed its withdrawal from Sinai last April.

But the Cabinet also made it clear that Israel wants the Taba negotiations to be conducted simultaneously with a discussion of other subjects of mutual interest to the two countries, meaning the autonomy talks and the normalization process.

Israel also demands the immediate return of the Egyptian Ambassador, Saad Mortada, who was recalled from Tel Aviv last month in an expression of Cairo's anger over the massacre of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in west Beirut.

The Cabinet devoted much of its weekly session today to a discussion of Israeli-Egyptian relations. The ministers were briefed by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir who received a letter from his Egyptian counterpart, Kamal Hassan Ali, calling for immediate resumption of the Taba negotiations.

### Egyptian F.M. Sends Letter To Shultz

(Hassan Ali also sent a letter to Secretary of State George Shultz asking that the U.S. join the negotiations over the disputed territory, it was reported last Friday by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's Washington bureau chief, David Friedman. State Department spokesman John Hughes, confirming the Egyptian request, said the U.S. "believes it is important to resolve the Taba issue as soon as possible." He refused to make any other comment on the issue which escalated last week when Cairo objected to the opening of an Israeli resort hotel on the disputed land.)

The Cabinet discussed relations with Egypt in light of anti-Israel statements attributed to Hassan Ali recently and reports that President Hosni Mubarak has agreed to meet with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat. Mubarak hitherto has shunned the PLO leader.

Meanwhile, Hassan Ali declared yesterday that Egypt was still committed to the peace agreement with Israel. He said Egypt chose peace with Israel as a strategic choice but would not return its Ambassador until Israel's intentions are known "beyond the Lebanese subject." Israel, for its part, believes that the impending negotiations for withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon would be the appropriate time for the Egyptian envoy to return to Tel Aviv.

### ARENS UNDER FIRE FOR SUGGESTING A SIX-MONTH FREEZE ON SETTLEMENTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Moshe Arens, came under heavy fire in the Cabinet today for allegedly having suggested to Premier Menachem Begin that Israel suspend the establishment of new settlements on the West Bank for a six-month period.

According to a Voice of Israel Radio report today, Arens made that proposal about six weeks ago. He said Israel should announce suspension of further settlements for six months and that Begin should invite King Hussein of Jordan to the negotiating table. The radio report said Arens suggested that such moves would improve relations between Israel and the U.S.

According to the report, Begin responded briefly, saying that Hussein would never agree to talks with Israel and Israel would end up committed to the suspension of settlements.

(The Jewish Telegraphic Agency's Washington bureau chief, David Friedman, reported last Friday that Foreign Minister Marwin al-Kassim of Jordan met with Secretary of State George Shultz. The Jordanian official told reporters afterwards that Jordan finds "positive" elements in President Reagan's September 1 peace initiative but that the Palestinians have to represent themselves in any negotiations involving their future.)

(He noted, in reply to a question, that the Palestine Liberation Organization speaks for the Palestinians. The State Department refused to indicate whether al-Kassim's meeting with Shultz had moved forward the Administration's effort to have Jordan represent the Palestinians in the autonomy negotiations.)

#### Cabinet Hardliners Infuriated

Arens reported proposals appear to be in line with Reagan's initiative. The President urged Israel to freeze settlement activity in the occupied territories and spoke in favor of their eventual status as a Palestinian homeland in association with Jordan. Israel flatly rejected the Reagan plan as a basis for negotiations.

Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor said today that Israel's settlement policy is continuing as usual, including the establishment of new settlements on the West Bank. But Arens' reported remarks infuriated Cabinet hardliners. Minister of Science, Yuval Neeman, leader of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya party, said it was the job of an ambassador to report to his government the political atmosphere in the country where he is posted, not to make policy recommendations to the government.

Tehiya MK Geula Cohen said today that if the report is true, Arens should be recalled from Washington and dismissed from his post. Benny Shalita, a hawkish Likud MK, expressed "great surprise" because he thought Arens wasn't one who "scared easily."

Arens, who was chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee before he was named Ambassador to the U.S. last year, was well known as a Herut hardliner who opposed any compromise over the West Bank and also opposed the return of Sinai to Egypt and the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

#### Labor Urges Policy Change

The opposition Labor Party issued a statement today urging a drastic change of policy in the territories lest the great sacrifices made for peace with Egypt be in vain. Arens' proposals may be a first sign that the government is sobering up, even though they were rejected outright, the Labor statement said.

The Shinui Party proposed a debate on the subject in the Knesset. Mapam MK Imri Ron said Arens now understands that Israel must take advantage of the growing moderation in the Arab world.

#### ISRAEL INSISTS THAT ITS POWS IN SYRIA MUST BE RETURNED BEFORE THE IDF WITHDRAWS FROM LEBANON By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- Israel continues to insist that Syria must return Israeli soldiers captured during the war in Lebanon before there can be any settlement for the evacuation of the Israel Defense Force from Lebanon.

Premier Menachem Begin made this clear in his meeting here last Friday with Morris Draper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, who is a special U.S. envoy for negotiations on Lebanon. Syria has so far rejected all appeals by Israel for information about the fate of the three Israeli POWs.

Draper told Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Syria has also ignored his appeals on the POWs and that it also has prevented International Red Cross Committee representatives from visiting the soldiers. Draper was in Beirut prior to his visit to Jerusalem. According to reports from the Lebanese capital, government officials there and Draper had formulated the basis of future talks on the withdrawal of the Israeli, Syrian and PLO forces from Lebanon.

#### Begin Stresses Simultaneous Withdrawals

The issue of the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon was also discussed by Begin at a meeting of the central committee of the Herut Party last Thursday night in Tel Aviv. Addressing some 1,000 delegates at the party's convention, the Premier said: "The Jewish soldiers will not leave Lebanon until the Syrian soldiers leave." He said there was support in Washington for Israel's plan that both the Israeli and Syrian forces withdraw simultaneously from Lebanon.

Begin's only reference to the massacre of Palestinians in the Shatila and Sabra camps in west Beirut last month, now under investigation by a judicial commission of inquiry, was when he deplored "the blood libel against our party and government."

#### SYRIANS FIRE AT ISRAELI PLANES

TEL AVIV, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- Two surface-to-air missiles were fired by Syrian forces at Israeli aircraft today while on a routine reconnaissance mission over the Syrian-controlled Bekaa valley in Lebanon, an army spokesman reported. None of the planes were hit and all returned safely to their bases.

The spokesman said the missiles were fired from launchers just across the Syrian side of the Lebanon-Syrian frontier. Israel views the incident as a serious breach of the cease-fire agreement, the spokesman said. It was also reported today that an Israeli army vehicle travelling south of Beirut came under bazooka fire. The vehicle was not hit.

#### ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTION WINS AT UN TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT

GENEVA, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- Despite strong diplomatic efforts by the United States, an Arab-sponsored resolution was approved here by the United Nations Trade and Development Board to exclude Israel for the eighth consecutive year from participating in economic and trade negotiations and from receiving funds allocated to Third World nations. The resolution was approved by a 63-22 margin.

The U.S. Ambassador to the UN here, Geoffrey Swabe, said he was concerned at the growing atmosphere of confrontation at the meetings of the Trade and Development Board. He said that less time was being devoted to efficient discussions on the problems facing developing nations. "We must oppose any attempt to alter the United Nations system to support exclusive meetings of any groups," Swabe said.

## GENERAL TESTIFIES AT INQUIRY PANEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- The general in command of Israeli forces during the massacre of Palestinians in west Beirut last month told the commission of inquiry today that an "uneasy feeling" had prompted him to order Christian Phalangist units out of the Shatila and Sabra refugee camps on Friday morning, September 17, a day after the killings began.

Gen. Amin Drori, commander of the northern region, testified at an open session, however, that he had no concrete information at the time of "irregularities" committed by the Phalangists who had entered the camps the day before with the permission of the Israeli army.

He said he heard "definite" reports of the irregularities only later that Friday afternoon. He could not expand on the "uneasy feeling" which, he said, was shared by other IDF officers at the Beirut command post, which led him to call a halt to the Phalangist operations.

Drori said the only indication that something was wrong came from civilians fleeing the camps who told Israeli soldiers they had been physically abused by Phalangist troops. He said these complaints were made by several people who said the Phalangists broke into Palestinian houses with their guns firing and without prior warning.

Says Phalangists 'Had Gone Too Far'

Drori said he telephoned Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan to inform him that he had halted the operation in the camps because "the Phalangists had gone too far." He said Eitan made no reply.

According to Drori, he did not trust the Phalangists to carry out the operation in the camps. But, he stressed, Israeli troops were under explicit orders from the General Staff not to enter the camps. He said every precaution was taken to prevent direct participation by Israeli soldiers or any army personnel with either the Phalangists or any other forces in combined operations in Beirut or any theater of the war in Lebanon.

Drori said that after the assassination of President-elect Bashir Gemayel of Lebanon, he would have preferred that the Lebanese army deal with the reported presence of armed Palestinians in the refugee camps. But the Lebanese field commanders and other high ranking officers refused to move without a green light from Premier Shafiq Al-Wazzan and that was not immediately forthcoming.

Drori said that when the Lebanese army demurred, his personal preference was to have the Israeli army do the job. But since that was not possible, the only alternative was to send in the Phalangists. Drori said he had many reservations about their ability to accomplish the mission and thought that if there was heavy fighting in the camps, the Phalangists could not cope with it.

According to reports from Beirut, meanwhile, Lebanon's official investigation into the massacre has made little headway and has generated minimal public interest. The inquiry has been conducted in secret for the past two weeks. Few witnesses have been called and the military prosecutor, Assad Germanos, has refused to give any information to the media.

The Lebanese are said to regard the episode as just one more incident of bloodletting between

Moslems and Christians which has been going on for years and are anxious to relegate it to the past. The Palestinians prefer to blame the Israelis, the reports said, and the rightwing "Lebanese Forces" militia, dominated by President Amin Gemayel's Phalangist party, the strongest private army in Lebanon, denies any involvement in the massacre.

**RABBI ADVISES ADMINISTRATION NOT TO USE JEWISH CRITICISM OF BEGIN GOVERNMENT AS REASON TO REDUCE AID**

NEW YORK, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration was advised today that it must never use American Jewish criticism of the government of Premier Menachem Begin as a reason to reduce U.S. support for Israel.

"Jewish commitment to the State of Israel has never been stronger," Rabbi Arnold Goodman, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, declared in a statement read on his behalf at an all day social action conference called by the Assembly to discuss U.S.-Israel policy and American domestic problems. Goodman, who was scheduled to address the conference, was unable to attend. He is also the spiritual leader of Congregation Ahavath Achim in Atlanta, Ga.

In his statement, Goodman said: "Our Administration should not be misled by any discussions within the Jewish community regarding Prime Minister Begin's policies. At no time does this imply a reduction of our support for Israel."

Continuing, Goodman stated: "We are deeply gratified by American support for Israel at the United Nations, including the statement made by Secretary of State George Shultz (that the U.S. would withdraw from the General Assembly if Israel were suspended) and President Reagan's recent remarks to the Arab leaders to begin direct negotiations with Israel."

On the other hand, Goodman said, "such a call to the Arab nations must be followed up by intensive U.S. diplomatic discussions, making these nations understand that they must accept Israel without any preconditions."

The conference, which took place at the Park Avenue Synagogue, launched the Rabbinical Assembly's mobilization of its 1,200 Conservative rabbis and 1.5 million members into a more active moral force responding to domestic and international concerns. The program will be directed by Rabbi Myron Fenster of the Shelter Rock Jewish Center of Roslyn, N.Y. He is the chairman of the Assembly's social action committee.

**SCHINDLER SAYS ISRAEL'S OPERATIONS IN LEBANON HELPED THE UNITED STATES**

MONTREAL, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- Israel's operation in Lebanon has given the United States "a political victory of overwhelming proportions," it was asserted here this weekend by Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Addressing the 100th anniversary meeting of Temple Emanu-El Beth Shalom, Schindler declared that "the positive benefits of the Lebanese war to America and to the possibilities of Middle-East peace and stability should not be obscured by the tragedy that occurred in the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila." He listed five direct results of Israel's entry into Lebanon that he said were reasons why "the United States owes Israel a tremendous debt." They were:

"American influence in the Middle East is at an all-time high, and Soviet influence correspondingly low; Lebanon has been given the opportunity to establish its sovereign independence and serve as a center of stability in the area; the PLO, center of international terrorism and Soviet puppet, has been crushed; Jordan is now seeking ways to come to the peace table; priceless information on captured Soviet weapons is being freely given by Israel to our country."

## ADL SURVEY SHOWS 25 PERSONS WERE KILLED, 373 WOUNDED IN TERRORIST ATTACKS IN WEST EUROPE

HOUSTON, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- A wave of terrorist attacks aimed at Jews and Israelis in Western Europe has killed at least 25 persons and wounded 373 others during the past two years, according to a survey released today by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Abraham Foxman, ADL's associate national director and head of its international affairs division, said the recent machine-gunning of Rome's central synagogue -- in which a two-year-old Jewish boy died -- was the 73rd separate incident reported in Western Europe since September, 1980.

The survey, conducted by ADL's European office based in Paris, tabulated incidents involving firearms, other weapons or bombs, or desecrations of Jewish property. Not all of the victims, the ADL official noted, were Jewish. The findings were made public at a session of the ADL's national executive committee meeting here at the Westin Galleria Hotel. The meeting, which opened last Thursday, ended today.

"West European governments," Foxman said, "must be blamed, in part, for helping create a climate for anti-Semitic terror by allowing Palestine Liberation Organization representatives to operate on their soil." He pointed out that, according to the survey, the four nations with the highest totals of anti-Jewish or anti-Israel incidents were those which have been most supportive of the PLO.

### Four Nations With Highest Totals

France, with 29 incidents, including the Rue Copernic synagogue bombing of October, 1980 (which killed four persons), had the highest number, the survey reported. Twelve incidents were recorded in Italy, 11 in Austria, five in Greece, four each in Germany and Great Britain, two each in Belgium and Ireland and one each in Cyprus, Denmark, Holland and Switzerland.

In only one of the terror incidents -- the August, 1981 machine gun attack against a Vienna synagogue, in which two persons died and 19 were wounded -- were the perpetrators apprehended, Foxman pointed out.

PLO operatives or sympathizers, he went on, were believed responsible for most of the attacks. "Unfortunately there has been a tendency on the part of West European law enforcement authorities to view anti-Semitic terror as part of the Arab-Israeli conflict and, in effect, extra-territorial. This has weakened investigative efforts."

Foxman noted that a common thread in many of the anti-Semitic attacks was identical weaponry, such as the Polish WZ-63 machine pistol which was used in August 9, 1982 attack on Goldenberg's restaurant in the heart of Paris' Jewish quarter in which six persons were killed and 22 others injured. Another weapon used in many attacks was the Soviet or Czech-made "Banana" grenade.

"Until the West European authorities view these outrages as domestic affairs, directed strictly at their own citizenry -- Italians, Frenchmen, Austrians -- terror may reach a point where nobody in Western Europe can feel really secure," Foxman said.

### 4,000 HASIDIC SCHOOL PUPILS PROTEST GARBAGE RECYCLING PLANT

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- A spokesman for the Satmar Hasidic movement, who organized

a protest demonstration at City Hall of some 4,000 boy and girl pupils mainly from Satmar schools against city plans to establish an experimental garbage recycling plant near the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, said the movement would mount a much bigger demonstration if the Koch Administration tried to revive the project.

Rabbi Hertz Frankel, a spokesman for the Satmar Hasidim, the major Hasidic movement in the Williamsburg section, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the movement would bring in up to 100,000 demonstrators to a protest demonstration if the recycling project was reconsidered by Mayor Edward Koch.

The Satmar children came in dozens of school buses, carrying identical signs protesting the possible pollution of the recycling plant would bring. The plant would be built in the currently unused Brooklyn Navy Yard, which Frankel described as "practically in our back yard."

Hannah Gratt, a sixth grade pupil at the Beth Rachel School, said "they want to burn garbage in our neighborhood." A classmate, Miny Stern, 11, said "a lot of people live here and it's very dangerous."

Contracts for the proposed \$225 million plant came up for approval as scheduled last Friday. Faced with opposition of the city's Board of Estimate, Koch withdrew the plan. It was to be the first of eight incinerators to be built around the city, replacing the East New York landfill which is scheduled to be closed in 1985. The aim of the plant, which was expected to cost \$226 million, was to convert 3,000 tons of garbage daily to steam which would be sold to Consolidated Edison. The utility firm, in turn, would sell the steam to commercial customers in lower Manhattan.

Frankel cited studies that the plant would produce cancer-causing dioxin, one of the most toxic agents known. He said if the plant was built, "it may mean the end of a very viable" community of 30,000 families. He said the opposition was not to the plant per se but the choice of the site for the first plant, making the heavily Hasidic community "a guinea pig."

He said, "Let them test such a plant somewhere where there is not such a concentration of people as there is in Williamsburg so we can get an idea of what will actually happen to the environment."

"It was not clear what effect the demonstrations had had on the Mayor's decision to withdraw the plan or whether he would try again to get it started in the Navy Yard. The Mayor insisted he would not give up on the project and would submit the contracts again at some future date which he did not specify."

### SHMUEL TENENBLATT DEAD AT 47

NEW YORK, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- Shmuel Tenenblatt, editor of the Jewish weekly, the *Folks-Sztyme*, in Warsaw, died there this morning after being in a coma for four days his sister, Anna Tenzer, reported here. He was 47. Born in Galicia in 1935, Tenenblatt studied philosophy at Warsaw College. During the war, he and his parents fled to the Soviet Union and returned to Poland after the war. In a recent interview with Milton Jacoby for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Tenenblatt said that the *Folks-Sztyme* was a leading unifying cultural force among Jews in Poland.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- A 42-year-old reserve private was killed last Thursday when the vehicle in which he was travelling was ambushed south of Aley village in Lebanon, according to an army spokesman. At the same time, the spokesman reported that a number of bazooka shells were fired at a bus travelling on the Lebanese coastal road north of Tyre. There were no casualties reported.