

JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036-2574

Vol. LX - 65th Year

Friday, November 12, 1982

No. 214

BOMB BLAST DESTROYS ISRAELI MILITARY HQ. IN TYRE, 27 INJURED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- A powerful car bomb destroyed the building housing Israeli military headquarters in the port city of Tyre in south Lebanon this morning. Reports as of noon local time said 25 Israeli soldiers and two other persons described as prisoners had been injured and were receiving treatment at hospitals in Israel.

Unconfirmed reports from various sources said at least eight people were killed and 50 injured in the explosion. Lebanese army sources were quoted as saying the dead and injured included Lebanese and Palestinian civilians who were in the building seeking information about relatives detained by the Israeli authorities.

Soldiers are searching the rubble of the seven-story structure for additional victims but no further information was immediately available. The blast, at 7 a.m. local time, sent the upper floors of the building crashing into the lower floors. All of the injured brought out were on the lower floors. The building served as headquarters of the Israeli military command in south Lebanon, the military administration, military police and border police units. The area is heavily guarded by border police and all approaching vehicles are routinely stopped and searched.

After the explosion the coastal road was closed to traffic. Vehicles were halted at the Rosh Hanikra border crossing.

BEGIN LEAVES FOR U.S. FOR TALKS WITH REAGAN AND MEETINGS WITH AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin left for the United States this morning for talks with President Reagan and other Administration officials the basis of which, he said, "will be the community of interests and the deep friendship which binds our two countries." Before going to Washington he will meet with the American Jewish leadership, currently attending the annual General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF) in Los Angeles.

The Premier departed in an Israel Air Force jet transport. Heavy rains forced cancellation of farewell ceremonies. Begin told reporters at the airport terminal that he was going to the U.S. "at the invitation by the Jewish communities on the West Coast of America."

He said, "We will be meeting with members of the Jewish communities there, and also with the Christian friends of Israel who are wholeheartedly devoted to Israel's just cause. We will also go to Washington at the kind invitation by the President with whom I shall meet and as I know, there will also be talks with the Secretary of State."

"I believe that the basis and the source of these exchanges of views will be the community of interests and the deep friendship which binds our two countries," Begin said.

(United Jewish Appeal National Vice Chairman Jerome Dick announced in New York today that Begin and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Malcolm

Baldrige will be the featured speakers in the UJA's "Inside Washington" program in Washington November 17-18.)

CJF PRESIDENT SAYS U.S. JEWS REMAIN UNITED WITH ISRAEL IN POST-LEBANON PERIOD

By Murray Zuckoff

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Reports of a schism between world Jewry and Israel in the wake of the war in Lebanon and the massacre of Palestinians in west Beirut refugee camps have been grossly exaggerated. In fact, just the reverse is true, Martin Citrin, president of the Council of Jewish Federations, said here last night.

Addressing some 3,000 Jewish leaders and activists from the United States and Canada at the gala 50th anniversary General Assembly of the CJF, meeting through Sunday at the Bonaventure Hotel here, he declared:

"What we have lived through in the last several months has strengthened us. Let those who feel otherwise understand clearly that there is not now, never has been and never will be a single crack in the support of all of world Jewry where the continuing strength and security of the nation of Israel is imperiled."

Citrin, whose address dealt with "insuring the commitment of the next generation," emphasized that to assure that commitment, it is necessary to create a joint agenda "for the people of Israel, the Jewish people, with the nation of Israel." Furthermore, he said, the basic element in that agenda "is to do what we can to help insure peace for that beleaguered land."

Elements Of Joint Agenda

But, Citrin pointed out, there is another side to this joint agenda. "As American Jews we must work with our Israeli brothers and sisters to help them understand us and we them," he said. "As we salute the saga of their accomplishments -- unequalled in modern times -- as we seek to continually understand and share their fears and concerns, so must we help them understand us -- our love of country, home and birthplace to most of us."

He added, however, "This does not in one iota lessen the centrality of Israel in our spiritual and cultural lives. This does not lessen the resolve and energy that we hold ready to pour out in full measure for the security and fulfillment of every single one of our Israeli brothers and sisters."

Another element in the joint agenda, Citrin said, "are our deep concerns about anti-Semitism and relationships here in North America and world-wide. We have recently lived through -- and continue to live through, a period of violence and shocks that have caused us to take a new and sobering look at the ugly turn that world events have taken -- the very real effort to delegitimize the State of Israel, to equate racism with Zionism, terrorist acts in France and Italy which seek to put the Jewish communities of the world at peril of their very acceptance and safety."

While Jews around the world find themselves in a generally perilous situation, "the prophecy of Abraham has come to full fruition here in North

America, for the people of Israel," Citrin pointed out. "At no time or place in their history have Jews as a people -- a group -- been so free, affluent, accepted, influential and satisfied as now in North America."

Their status and impact in North America is even greater than it is in Europe, Citrin said, where the Jewish legacy includes two Premiers of France, a Prime Minister of Austria, a Mayor in Ireland, Germany's most famous poet, and intellectual and scientific giants like Sigmund Freud, Albert Einstein, Marc Chagall, Jonas Salk and Martin Buber.

The strength of the North American Jewish community has in no small part been due to the work of the communal Federations in organizing and institutionalizing "an incomparable network for human services for our own people and for the disadvantaged of this continent and beyond," Citrin said.

To show how well the Federations system has done, Citrin offered some comparison data -- 1932 versus 1982. "As a base line reference," he said, in 1932, the Jewish population in North America was 4,380,000; in 1982, 6,263,000, an increase of some 43 percent. In 1932, there were 125 Federations although the majority of these were welfare funds only and not full-fledged Federations. Today, there are 200 full-fledged Federations in North America.

Continuing, Citrin pointed out that there were 3,500 synagogues in North America in 1932 and 5,400 today; 2,000 Jewish schools in 1932 and 2,500 today. Within those numbers, there were 12 day schools in 1932, compared to 600 today; student enrollment numbered 200,000 in 1932, compared to 360,000 today.

In 1932, Citrin said, Jews in North America raised \$17 million in their annual campaign; in 1982, Jews in North America will have raised through Federation campaigns, including Project Renewal, \$640 million. Starting from an organization of 13 Federations in 1932, it has grown to 200 Federations today.

First Priority Is Education

What of the next 50 years? Citrin asked. What will be the North American agenda and how will it be implemented? The approach to this will require "a new element of creative and expansive thinking." It will require, Citrin added, experimentation, blazing new trails, taking risks and bringing to bear "the full force of our people and dollar resources" in "new and daring ways."

The first priority on the agenda of total concerns is Jewish education, Citrin said. "Without Jewish education, there is no Jewish people," he observed. "Our best bulwark against assimilation, our best nourishment for healthy Federations and healthy Jewish communities is Jewish education."

What would it mean, Citrin asked, "if we could provide a free Jewish education for all Jewish children and adults? Suppose we had in North America Jewish day schools of all persuasions of the caliber of an Etan or Exeter in every major Jewish community? What an impact this would have for our future."

Another priority on the agenda of Jewish concerns, Citrin said, is the relationship between North American Jewry and Israel once "true and enduring peace" has been established in that land. "Think about the possibilities of our understanding and working with each other in the context of peace and not war," he told the delegates

"First, of course, to save the threatened Jewish communities of the world wherever they now are or might be in the future -- Ethiopia, Syria, Soviet Russia -- who can hear what we have heard? The longing, the courage, the privation, the reaffirmation of their resolve -- that strengthens us in our commitment to aid and support heroes like Anatoly Shcharansky in their struggle. That is our struggle, to save these imprisoned people and bring them to Israel before it is too late, before a spiritual cultural Holocaust will have lost for us -- for all time -- this great chance."

Continuing, Citrin also called upon the audience to "think about the possibility of developing the network of know-how and investment between the affluent and experienced Jewish communities of the world and Israel to help bring to full fruition the industrial and economic opportunities available there -- a people-to-people link, not just a dollar link. We have our first glimpse of the power of this kind of relationship in Project Renewal."

In the final analysis, Citrin said, the agendas for the years ahead, "in reality, are the same agendas that we have had for the last 4,000 years: a yearning to exist, not by sufferance but with pride and hope and worth, with comfort and meaning in our lives."

NO AGREEMENT YET ON FORMAT OF ISRAEL-LEBANON TALKS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Talks between Israel and Lebanon did not begin today despite optimistic reports from Beirut yesterday that they would. U.S. special envoy Morris Draper held a long session with Israeli ministers last night but apparently failed to settle the key issues of the "character" and "level" of the talks.

Draper told reporters afterwards that he was still "confident all the problems can be resolved" but he would not commit himself to a specific time frame. Some observers believe a breakthrough will come during Premier Menachem Begin's visit to Washington next week.

Israeli officials say the central dispute is over the character of the talks. The Lebanese want negotiations on the withdrawal of Israeli forces and security in a military framework. Israel insists on political negotiations over what Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir called "peaceful relations" between the two countries in the absence of a formal peace treaty.

Govt. Position Criticized

According to the Israelis the "character" and "level" of the talks are aspects of the same question. If the talks are to be political, Israel wants the delegations headed by civilian personalities and has suggested that they be held on the ministerial level. Lebanon insists its delegations be headed by a military officer although it is prepared to include ranking civilians. Draper is due to return to Beirut today for further talks with Lebanese officials.

The government's position on the format of the talks was sharply criticized by former Premier Yitzhak Rabin in an Israel Radio interview. Rabin, a leader of the opposition Labor Party, said the government should dwell less on formalities and more on substance. Israel must lower its sights and focus on the twin aims of obtaining a 40-45 kilometer security zone north of its border and ensuring the total withdrawal of Palestine Liberation Organization and Syrian forces from Lebanon. "Any attempt to instill additional (political) aims in the talks will be a mistake," he said. "Delaying withdrawal for months in order to achieve political goals would be unjustified."

Shamir indicated to a group of visiting U.S. Congressmen here this week that there was little prospect of an early withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. Asked if there was a chance of an agreement by the end of the year, he replied that it would take "a number of months." He blamed Syria which he said showed no signs of pressing the PLO to pull the remainder of its forces out of Lebanon.

RABIN URGES 6-MONTH SETTLEMENT FREEZE TO INDUCE JORDAN TO ENTER AUTONOMY TALKS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Former Premier Yitzhak Rabin proposed last night that Israel undertake a six month freeze on new settlements in an attempt to induce Jordan to join the long stalled autonomy talks. According to Rabin, interviewed on Israel Radio, there is little chance of progress in the talks unless Jordan enters the peace process.

A settlement freeze could provide King Hussein with the extra measure of strength he needs to resist hardline pressures from within the Arab world, said Rabin, a leader of the opposition Labor Party. He maintained that there is a "precedent" for a settlement "freeze," citing Premier Menachem Begin's agreement to a three month freeze during the Camp David talks as a gesture toward other Arab parties.

Rabin's remarks were especially significant in view of reports from Washington that President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz will press Begin hard for a settlement freeze when they meet with him next week. Reagan said in his September 1 Middle East initiative statement that "the immediate adoption of a settlement freeze by Israel, more than any other action, could create the confidence needed for wider participation in these (autonomy) talks."

U.S. officials have stressed this week that the President still very much believes in the validity of that position.

GOVT. CHALLENGED ON FALASHAS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- The government was challenged yesterday to implement measures on behalf of the Falashas, Ethiopia's Jewish community now reportedly confined to "ghetto" camps in that country and neighboring Sudan. The issue was addressed in an urgent agenda motion presented to the Knesset by Labor Alignment MK Moshe Shahal.

Shahal told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he wanted to raise the matter four months ago but refrained at the government's request because of the delicacy of the situation. He said he has since received information from a Canadian television crew which visited Ethiopia recently that the plight of the Falashas has worsened.

According to Shahal, 25,000 Falashas are confined to four camps guarded by soldiers in the pay of Libyan President Muammar Qaddafi. They are subject to constant harassment and terror, receive no assistance from any outside institutions and fear to identify themselves as Jews, Shahal said.

He said he will demand a report from the government of what it has done for the Falashas. According to Shahal, the government is not enthusiastic about rescuing Falashas because it fears there may be some non-Jews among them.

Shahal said he learned of a young Falasha who escaped to West Germany but was denied an Israeli immigrant visa and returned to Khartoum in Sudan where he committed suicide.

15 UNIVERSITY INSTRUCTORS ORDERED TO SIGN ANTI-TERRORIST PLEDGE OR BE OUSTED FROM WEST BANK

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- The civil administration on the West Bank has threatened to oust 15 foreign lecturers at Arab universities unless they sign a document dissociating themselves from any terrorist organization, specifically the Palestine Liberation Organization. A spokesman for the lecturers said they refused to sign because "Singling out the PLO was purely political and on political and ethical grounds this was unacceptable to them."

The civil administration has already forced 19 lecturers to leave the territory because they refused to sign such a document. They included a British lecturer at Bethlehem University and 18 Jordanian nationals, among them the president of Najah University in Nablus.

Two Americans and a Jordanian who teach at Beir Zeit University near Ramallah have been ordered to leave by next Monday. The spokesman warned that "If the deportations continue, the entire academic educational system in the territories will collapse."

JERUSALEM SYMPHONY LIFTS BAN ON RICHARD STRAUSS' WORKS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra has decided to lift its longtime ban on performing the works of the German composer, Richard Strauss who once held an official position in the Nazi regime. The Jerusalem Symphony is the orchestra of the Israel Broadcasting Corp. The latter has broadcast recordings of Strauss but the orchestra would not perform his works at concerts.

The change of policy was by unanimous decision of the orchestra's music committee after visiting guest conductor Igor Markevitch convinced them that Strauss was neither a Nazi nor an anti-Semite. At times, the maestro was guilty of weakness and passivity, Markevitch said. He noted that Strauss quit his Nazi post after two years because of his friendship with Jewish composers. Strauss, who died in 1949, was best known for his opera Der Rosenkavalier which annually opens the season of the Metropolitan Opera Co. in New York.

But the Jerusalem Symphony and the Broadcasting Authority still refuse to perform the works of Richard Wagner whose anti-Semitic sentiments are a matter of historical record. A storm of controversy was raised last year when the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Zubin Mehta, performed Wagner in concert in Tel Aviv.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Seven of the world's greatest violinists will perform at a week-long "Hubermania" here between December 12-19 to mark the centenary of the birth of Bronislaw Huberman, the violin virtuoso who founded the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra 50 years ago. The violinists who will perform under the baton of Zubin Mehta, Musical Director of the IPO, are Isaac Stern; Pinhas Zuckerman; Yitzhak Perlman; Shlomo Mintz; Henryk Szeryng; Ida Handel; and Nathan Milstein.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The first shipment of American coal -- some 87,000 tons from Virginia -- was delivered to the new Hadera power station this week.

Special Report ISRAELI SOLDIER RE-VISITS SCENE OF HIS BAR MITZVAH -- IN LEBANON

By Gil Sedan

BHAMDOUN, Leb., Nov. 11 (JTA)--

The Israeli Colonel mounted the steps, slowly examining the building as if he was afraid of the reunion. Never in his wildest dreams did he believe that someday he would return to the synagogue in which he celebrated his Bar Mitzvah -- as an officer of a victorious army.

It has been 37 years since the Bar Mitzvah of Raphael (Rafi) Sutton, 34 years since he last visited the building. As he admired every stone, every curve of the house of worship which once served a thriving Lebanese Jewish community, he was convinced that it had acquired beauty with age.

Bhamdoun -- a Phoenician name -- is a summer resort on the Beirut-Damascus highway, close to the point where the Israel Defense Force and the Syrian army face each other. The town was captured last July in the Israeli drive toward Beirut.

Memories Rekindled

During the peak of the summer season Bhamdoun is overflowing with people. There are about 100,000, most of them wealthy Lebanese from Beirut, only 20 miles to the west. When Sutton first visited the synagogue as an advisor to the IDF civil administration in the area, the town was humming with vacationers. When he revisited the place with this writer, earlier this month, the town looked deserted. Only some 4,000 local residents remain as winter approaches. These include three Jewish families, who usually spend most of their time in Beirut.

As he entered the synagogue vestibule, Col. Sutton immediately spotted the three plaques, which he remembered from the old days, paying tribute to those who had contributed to the building of the synagogue in 1945.

Three beautiful chandeliers were still hanging down from the vestibule ceiling. But as he entered the sanctuary itself, he noticed that the 12 crystal chandeliers which were once there, were no more. The Holy Ark was wide open, with no scrolls in it. For a moment Sutton feared that the synagogue had been vandalized by Syrians or terrorists who had occupied the town before the Israeli army ousted them.

He did notice, however, that the furniture was in perfect condition, the mikve (ritual bath) was in good order, prayer books were intact in their racks. The soldier even found the list allotting seats by names. Later he discovered that the Holy Ark was opened by community leaders to save the scrolls. The reader's desk was still in good shape. Sutton even found a few teffilin strips.

No Vandalism

"I can state categorically," said Sutton, "that there was no malicious vandalism against the synagogue, despite reports to the contrary." Local Moslem families kept a close watch over the building in recent years when a Fatah unit was stationed in one of the flats opposite the synagogue.

It was in a nearby building that young Rafi would spend summers with his uncle. One of the neighbors then was Abdallah Al-Yaffi, Lebanon's Premier, who would make a point of visiting the

synagogue on every festive occasion. That cordial atmosphere characterized relations with the local population which was mostly Christian.

When Sutton met recently in his capacity as advisor to the Mayor of Bhamdoun, the Mayor, Dr. Louis Ghussun recalled that although the Jews were always a minority, they were always the driving force behind the town.

Although neither efforts, nor money, were spared building the synagogue, there was no permanent Jewish community as such in the town. The 4,000 Jews who resided there during the summers did not own any real estate. They would rent their summer lodgings from local owners. The synagogue in fact served only the summer vacationers.

This was the case until the early '70s, when the Palestinian presence increased and the Jews preferred to spend their summers in the nearby Druze town of Alei, closer to Beirut.

The vast majority of the Jewish summer residents were, of course, among the wealthy in Beirut's Jewish community, which until 1947 numbered about 10,000. In that year the Jews of the Syrian town of Halab suffered a pogrom, and most of them fled to Beirut, more than doubling the size of the community. They engaged in business, specializing in stocks, gold and diamonds.

Family Origins

A large part of Rafi's family, the Djamouss family, on his mother's side, emigrated from Halab to Lebanon in the 1930s. The Djamouss, who were goldsmiths and diamond dealers, settled in Beirut.

When he reached Bar Mitzvah age, Halab was in the midst of bloody events as the Syrians fought to get rid of the French Mandate. The Bar Mitzvah was celebrated at the local synagogue hastily, with no ceremony; and on the same day, Rafi was sent by bus to Beirut. His relatives insisted that the Bar Mitzvah be celebrated properly and it was, in the Bhamdoun synagogue on the next Saturday, attended by the Chief Rabbi of Lebanon.

In March 1948, when the Syrians were about to draft Rafi into their army, he fled from Halab and went to Lebanon again. He spent six months there before immigrating to Israel illegally, in a boat with 170 other immigrants. His family followed the next year.

Sutton had no contact with his Lebanese past until the Lebanon War. Only when he returned to Bhamdoun did he learn that the synagogue was inactive ever since 1975. With the growing presence of the Palestinians and Syrians, the few remaining Jews of Beirut preferred to stay home during the summer. A number of families immigrated to Israel recently.

REPORT TRIFA SEEKS HAVEN IN SWITZERLAND

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Valerian Trifa, the Rumanian Orthodox Archbishop in the U.S. who was recently ordered deported for lying about his Nazi past to obtain American citizenship, plans to settle in Switzerland, the Swiss Jewish weekly La Gazette Juive reported yesterday. Trifa, now 68, has lived in the U.S. since 1957. He was stripped of his citizenship in 1980.

A Foreign Office spokesman, queried on the matter, said the Swiss government has not yet received a request for asylum from Trifa. But there have been many inquiries from people and organizations troubled by the prospect that he will come to this country, the spokesman said.

The Rumanian cleric, once a leader of the pro-Nazi Iron Guard in his country, directed a pogrom in Bucharest in January, 1941 in which 120 Jews were killed.