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ISRAEL MOURNS DEATHS OF ALIZA BEGIN AND 75 ISRAELIS KILLED IN TYRE BLAST

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- Aliza Begin, wife of Premier Menachem Begin, was buried on the Mount of Olives today. The private service, attended by family members and close friends, coincided with a national day of remembrance for the 75 Israeli military and civilian personnel killed in an explosion which destroyed Israeli military headquarters in Tyre, south Lebanon last Thursday.

Mrs. Begin died early Sunday morning of heart failure at the age of 62. She had been hospitalized for a respiratory ailment. News of her death reached Begin in Los Angeles where he was about to deliver a major address at the 50th anniversary General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations. He flew home immediately for the funeral and is in mourning.

Aides said that during the 20-hour flight he remained secluded in his compartment on the Israel Air Force jet, and silent. He was greeted at his Jerusalem home by President Yitzhak Navon who expressed condolences and left.

Although the rites were not public, the congregation attending Mrs. Begin's funeral was large. It included Cabinet ministers, Knesset members, the Chief of Staff and several senior army officers as well as many of Begin's former underground comrades in arms. As the cortege wound through the streets from the Sanhedria quarter to the Mount of Olives, it was joined by many ordinary Jerusalemites.

Meanwhile, messages of condolences to the Begin family poured in from around the world. Many were from heads of states, diplomats and American Jewish leaders.

Condolences And Prayers For The Victims

Navon also offered condolences today in the name of the people and the State of Israel to the families of the Tyre blast victims. He observed that they include Druze, Circasians and Bedouins as well as Jews. Navon spoke at a ceremony of the Falasha community on Mount Zion as they were celebrating the ancient festival of Sigd, marking the desire of Ethiopian Jews to return to Zion. Later he joined other officials to visit the homes of some of the victims.

Prayers for the blast victims were recited this morning at the Western Wall and psalms were read. At 10 a.m. local time, sirens sounded all over the country and at all military bases and outposts to signal a minute of silence in memory of the dead. All places of entertainment were closed and newspapers were filled with black-border accounts of the deaths and with death notices.

A special memorial session was held by the Knesset, attended by Navon. It was opened by the Speaker, Menachem Savidor, who said that Israel had gone into Lebanon "to root out evil" but apparently had been "affected by the curse and the sins of that land and its internecine violence."

Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, speaking for the government, used the occasion to reply to the wave of doubts and questioning of Israel's presence and purpose in Lebanon that have spread in the wake

of the Tyre disaster. The nation of Israel has been through far worse vicissitudes he said "but people did not keep asking 'how long more?' and 'what will be?'" If there was questioning in the past, "people then knew the answers," he said. "They knew that Israel had to stand firm and not concede its just cause."

Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres, speaking for the opposition, said he would not enter into polemics during this mourning session. "The bonds of death and bereavement bind the nation strongly together," he said. "We are united around our freedom, and this is no mere literary conceit."

Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan issued an order of the day pointing out that the soldiers, border police and security officials who died in Tyre had been on a mission to ensure the security of Israel and normal life in Lebanon.

The death toll stands at 89 -- 75 Israelis and 14 Arabs. There were 56 injured in the blast. Sixteen Israelis and two Lebanese were still under treatment today at a Haifa hospital. The cause of the explosion which leveled the seven-story building housing Israeli military and civil administration headquarters in south Lebanon remained a mystery. Although experts who examined the blast site are inclined to believe it was accidental, sabotage has not been ruled out.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

AFTER BREZHNEV

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- West European experts believe the new Soviet leadership will continue the late Leonid Brezhnev's cautious policy in the Middle East but will crack down harder on dissidents at home, especially Jews seeking the right to emigrate.

Yuri Andropov, the former head of the KGB who succeeded Brezhnev as First Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, and Konstantin Chernenko, the Politburo member who nominated him for that office, are both known to lack confidence in the ability of the Arab countries to unite and act together. It is their conviction that the main external danger to the Soviet Union lies in the West.

Consequently, the experts say, the new leadership will continue Brezhnev's policy in the Middle East of carefully avoiding any major confrontation either with Israel or the U.S. The Soviet Union will continue to supply Syria and other Soviet client states in the area with arms. But the flow will not be increased nor will it be upgraded qualitatively.

According to one French intelligence source, "It now seems even more unlikely than before that Syria will obtain the top grade combat planes and missiles which it had been demanding in Moscow."

Arabs Complained About "Tepid Support"

Even before Brezhnev's death last Wednesday at the age of 75, Syrian and Egyptian diplomats and army officers complained of "tepid support" of the Arab cause in the Kremlin. Andropov and Chernenko were often named in that connection. In general, the successors to Brezhnev are elderly men and loathe to undertake "an adventurous course." They are expected to try to calm the bellicose instincts of their Syrian and Libyan clients.

The experts believe that for the time being, Moscow will try to achieve a status quo in the Middle East to preserve its interests and influence in the region without expanding them. Some Western diplomats believe that Brezhnev's death has given the U.S. and Israel a chance to attempt to find a global solution to the Middle East conflict without Russian interference. But given the unpredictability of Soviet politics, the "period of grace" may not last longer than a year.

Andropov's Background

The prompt succession of Andropov in fact surprised many Kremlin-watchers who had expected a prolonged war of succession between Brezhnev's heirs for the top leadership post. Some predicted that a nominal successor would be appointed until the power struggle was resolved. But Andropov appears to be a strong man. At 68, he is known to be backed by the military establishment, the secret service and the police.

From 1967-82 he headed the Soviet Security Committee which is responsible for the KGB and the police. Recently, he bested Chernenko, 71, for the No. 2 spot in the Soviet establishment, the post of Central Committee Secretary left vacant by the death of Mikhail Suslov earlier this year.

Andropov is known to have been among those Politburo members who frequently complained of the relatively "moderate" course Brezhnev tried to steer on human rights. He believed those "lenient" policies allowed the dissident movement to flourish. Experts believe that given a free hand, he will ruthlessly suppress any internal challenge to the Soviet system.

His top priority is said to be a quiet, stable social and political climate within the USSR. Accordingly, dissidents are expected to suffer even more than in the past, particularly if they are perceived to be connected to any foreign interests, such as Zionism.

AIDE TO EITAN CONTRADICTS BEGIN'S TESTIMONY AS TO WHEN HE FIRST LEARNED OF THE BEIRUT MASSACRES By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- An aide to Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan contradicted testimony given by Premier Menachem Begin last week to the commission of inquiry investigating the West Beirut refugee camps massacres of September 16-18.

Lt. Col. Zeev Zahcharin, head of the Chief of Staff's Bureau, told the commission yesterday that Eitan had informed him, by telephone on Saturday morning, September 18, that he had talked to Begin that morning and briefed him on events in the Sabra refugee camp of the two preceding days. Begin testified when he appeared before the panel last Monday, that he had not spoken to Eitan until late Saturday because he had spent the entire day at his synagogue for Rosh Hashanah services.

Zahcharin also contradicted earlier testimony by Brig. Gen. Amir Drori, commander of the northern sector, that he had first heard that Christian Phalangist units were to be allowed to enter the Sabra and Shatila camps on Wednesday, September 15, a day after the assassination of Lebanon's President-elect Bashir Gemayel, the Phalangist leader.

According to the aide, Eitan received his orders for the Phalangist actions from Defense Minister Ariel Sharon at 8 p.m. Tuesday, September 14, shortly after Gemayel's death was ascertained,

and had transmitted them immediately to Gen. Drori. Two senior military officers gave conflicting evidence to the commission last Thursday on the flow of information from army intelligence to the Defense Minister's Office regarding the massacres. Col. Moshe Hevroni, assistant to military intelligence chief Gen. Yehoshua Sagui, said he briefed Sharon's office on Friday, September 17.

But Col. Reuven Guy, a member of the Defense Ministry's national security unit, supported earlier testimony by his superior, Avi Dudai, that he had no such report that Friday. Guy said that he first heard of the Beirut massacre "by way of rumor" Friday morning, September 17, not through proper channels, and passed the rumors on to Dudai. He said when he checked them with operations he was told that nothing exceptional had happened in the camps.

KOHL WILL DEFINITELY VISIT ISRAEL NEXT YEAR, MK SAYS By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- West Germany's new Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, has a sympathetic attitude toward Israel, according to Knesset Speaker Menachem Savidor who met with the German leader last week. "He told me he wanted to renew the tradition of good relations started by Konrad Adenauer and I am sure that he seriously meant exactly that," Savidor told a press conference here.

He said Kohl will definitely visit Israel next year but the timing has yet to be decided. It will not take place before West Germany's general elections due to be held on March 6, 1983. Nevertheless, the Likud MK said he discussed with the Chancellor the itinerary and the issues that will be raised at political talks with Kohl in Jerusalem.

Asked if Premier Menachem Begin is likely to get an invitation to come to Bonn, Savidor said it was too early to talk about that. "Right now we are in a stage of preparations for Kohl's visit. Let us first concentrate on this."

According to Savidor, the basic philosophy of the new Bonn government, a coalition of Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the smaller Free Democratic Party (FDP), favors good relations with Israel. He suggested that ties between the two countries are likely to be "closer than under the previous Social Democratic government" headed by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

Savidor said he did not discuss with Kohl specifically the issue of West German arms sales to Arab countries. "What we did discuss was the need for the western world to see to it that no sophisticated weapons will fall into the hands of unreliable dictatorships." He said the issue of Jewish settlements on the West Bank was not raised during his talk with Kohl. He claimed however that the Chancellor largely shares the Israeli view that the war in Lebanon was essentially beneficial to peace prospects in the Middle East and for the West.

PERSONAL PRESSURE ON BEGIN BY REAGAN ADMINISTRATION TO FREEZE SETTLEMENTS IS OFF FOR A WHILE By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin's sudden return to Israel because of the death of his wife Saturday has prevented the Reagan Administration from putting personal pressure on the Israeli Premier to freeze the establishment of Jewish settlements on the West Bank. Begin is not expected to return to the U.S. soon.

Reagan made it clear at his nationally televised press conference last Thursday night that he would discuss his request for a settlement freeze with Begin when the two were to meet this Friday as scheduled. "I'm

sure that he and I will have some talks on that as well as other subjects," Reagan said in response to a question on the settlements. "We do think that it is a hindrance to what we are trying to accomplish for the peace movement."

He outlined these objectives as bringing the Arab states and the Arab leaders and the Israeli leaders together at the negotiating table to resolve the differences between them and that begins with them recognizing Israel's right to exist."

The American effort received support from Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, who after a two-and-a-half hour meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz at the State Department last Friday, said he hoped that Begin's visit to Washington would "mark a beginning of a change in policy and action."

Ali said that "It is unfortunate that at a time when the United States government was actively seeking broader participation in the peace process, Israel rejected the President's (September 1 peace) initiative and declared its intention to build new settlements in the occupied West Bank." He said that Israel plans to settle 1.3 million people on the West Bank over the next 30 years and charged this would result in the "annexation" of the territories.

Reagan Rules Out Using Sanctions

Meanwhile, Reagan at his press conference again ruled out using sanctions against Israel to force a freeze. "I don't think it would be good diplomacy to be threatening or anything," he said. "And I don't believe it is necessary. I think that all of us recognize that peace is the ultimate goal."

When it was suggested that the U.S. cut its aid by the amount Israel spends on its West Bank settlements, estimated at \$100 million by the questioner, Reagan said he did not know what the figure was although he could find out. But he said, it would be neither "helpful" nor "fruitful" to discuss this possibility.

He noted that "progress" was being made in bringing more Arab states into the negotiations as demonstrated by what he called the "unique" visit to him by a delegation of the Arab League last month. "There's a need now for Israel to itself recognize that they must play a part in making it possible for negotiations," he said. He indicated that a settlement freeze would also help Lebanese President Amin Gemayel in his task of reconciling Lebanese Moslem groups to his new government.

Ali, after the meeting with Shultz, said that Egypt wants the peace process started at Camp David to "flourish and widen as to encompass every one in the area." He said Egypt was "deeply concerned over the loss of momentum" but praised Reagan's peace initiative as a "positive step toward a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

Habib Named Special Representative

Reagan at his press conference said that he is still "optimistic" and that is why he had named Philip Habib earlier Thursday as his special representative to the Middle East. Habib will work with Morris Draper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, who is now in Beirut, on the negotiations for the removal of foreign forces from Lebanon, and with Richard Fairbanks, who has been dealing with the autonomy negotiations, on these negotiations as well as the Reagan peace initiative.

Meanwhile, it was unclear today when Habib would be going to the Middle East. Originally he had not been scheduled to go there until after the Begin visit to Washington.

Two Goals In Lebanon

On Lebanon, Reagan said he could not say when the U.S. marines could leave that country. He said they and the other members of the force, the French and Italian troops, would stay there until the U.S. could accomplish two goals, first, when it was clear that the Gemayel government was able to "stabilize and be able to take charge of its borders," and secondly, the withdrawal of the Syrian, Palestine Liberation Organization and Israeli forces from Lebanon which Reagan said the U.S. was working to accomplish as "fast as we can."

Ali, who said he discussed the Lebanese situation with Shultz, told reporters that Egypt "would like to see a speedy withdrawal of Israeli and other foreign forces from Lebanon. It is imperative that no obstacle be put in the implementation of this undertaking."

He said the Egyptian Ambassador to Israel had been recalled to Cairo after the September Beirut massacre and would return to Israel when there was a change in the "atmosphere" and it was "clear" that Israel would withdraw its forces from Lebanon.

Ali, who called briefly on Reagan Friday to give him a letter from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, said he and Shultz also discussed the Taba dispute. He said Egypt wants a "peaceful settlement" of this dispute with Israel and hopes it can be accomplished with the help of the U.S.

The Egyptian official said he also urged Shultz that the U.S. should begin talks with the PLO. But he said that during his meeting with a PLO official in Paris recently, the PLO had not offered to recognize Israel in return for Israel recognizing it as has been reported.

IRANIAN PERIODICAL SAYS 'ISRAEL MUST BE DESTROYED'

GENEVA, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- A monthly periodical called "Imam" which is published by the information department of the Iranian Foreign Office has been sent to the United Nations correspondents in Geneva. The title on the cover reads, "Israel Must Be Destroyed."

The editorial states: "The deliverance of the Islamic countries from the international imperialism headed by the United States of America is dependent upon the destruction of Israel which is the symbol of that superpower in the region."

It adds: "It is sad to be reminded of the fact that had the war with the aggressive regime of Iraq not been forced on Iran, our brave people would have directed their struggle and resources towards the achievement of that objective."

PARIS (JTA) -- Israeli-made computers are being marketed in France and have already been bought by several large public and private corporations including France's national security ministry and Air France. The Israeli "Elbit" factory last year sold \$2 million worth of sophisticated computers and electronic devices on the French market, according to the head of the French company dealing with the sales, Jacques Benillouche. Elbit now plans to start building the computers in France itself in order to be able to compete on better terms with various West European manufacturers of similar products, Benillouche said.

FOCUS ON ISSUES RABBI WARNS AGAINST MISUSING THE TRAGEDY OF THE HOLOCAUST By Murray Zuckoff

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- A leading rabbi warned that "the politicalization of the Holocaust as an instrument with which to deal with the gentile world" and as an instrument of international diplomacy "has boomeranged." He also warned that the fixation on past catastrophes that befell the Jewish people and the view that Jews continue to face destruction at any time and anywhere -- that "all roads lead to Auschwitz" -- is self-defeating and negates any plea to non-Jews to live in peace with the Jewish people.

Furthermore, Rabbi Harold Schulweis, spiritual leader of Valley Beth Shalom in Encino, told a plenary session of the 51st General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations, misusing the memory of the Jewish peoples' past by invoking the Holocaust to induce guilt in the new generation of both Jews and non-Jews and employing false equations between past anti-Semites and current political figures who disagree with policies of the government of Israel or the Jewish community on specific issues is to indulge in a "desperate fantasy."

'A Perilous Mind-Set'

"It is a perilous mind-set to conduct diplomacy by false analogy," Schulweis said. "It is dangerous to our future to invent new enemies in the image of unreachable barbarians who burned our children. In fact, rational men and rational women know the cast of characters is not interchangeable. The fantasy of history relived, re-written, re-fought and reversed can only confuse our goals; it tends to make foes out of friends, turns potential allies into implacable enemies; it twists the possibilities of the future into hopeless repetition of the past."

In this context, Schulweis referred specifically to Israeli Premier Menachem Begin who, in response to a letter from President Reagan during Israel's siege of west Beirut, wrote: "I feel as a Prime Minister empowered to instruct a valiant army facing 'Berlin' where among innocent civilians Hitler and his henchmen hid in a bunker beneath the surface ... What happened in Berlin will never happen again."

The rabbi also referred to the media's "own form of time-reversal and expiation" in its use of the "perverse equation" of Beirut=Lydda and Beirut=Warsaw ghetto, and by employing Holocaust metaphors such as "genocide," "final solution" and "pogrom" in reporting about Israel's military operation in Lebanon and the consequences of this on the civilians of Beirut.

The danger in misusing history is that "catastrophic thinking, fixated on trauma can only distort the full memory of the past and the opportunity of our future," Schulweis said. "The Jewish future is not written in the past. The world is not eternally bifurcated into Jews as victims and gentiles as haters."

There are, he pointed out, friends to be won, allegiances to be formed, alliances to be gained, and new options to be sought. To politicize the Holocaust, as some "on our side" have done, has made it harder "to mention the Holocaust, massacre without some stammering," Schulweis said.

Schulweis, who was speaking on the theme, "Federation's Role and Responsibility in Insuring the Commitment of the New Generation," asked:

"How does the Holocaust relate to our children and our children's children in our role as transmitters to the next generation?" He observed that "For our generation the Holocaust was and remains the ultimate argument against mixed marriage, against low fertility rate, against threat of apostasy, against neglect of Jewish piety and education."

Moreover, Schulweis declared: "Auschwitz serves us as the clinching argument after all else fails. It was the surest short cut to successful fundraising for yeshivot or chairs of Judaica, homes for the aged and orphans, and for Israel. Not giving is deemed more than stinginess. It is betrayal of the six million."

The rabbi said he feared "the fallout from that catastrophic thinking" which sees the world as "an eternal rent in the fabric of the human species; them and us, goyim and Jews, Amalek and Israel; they, the persecutors, and we, the inevitable victims."

Continuing, he said: "If we teach our children that the whole world seeks our destruction, if we teach them that the whole world always has, still does and will always hate us, we visit the iniquity of a paralyzing cynicism upon the third and fourth generation." What, he asked, "is the point of hasbara, of interpretation and explanation of Jewish, of Israeli belief and behavior if all roads lead to Auschwitz? What is the sense of influencing public opinion if a priori we maintain that they, 'goyim,' will hate us no matter what?"

Schulweis questioned whether the view of endless victimization is the authentic Jewish interpretation of history. What is required "to transmit Jewish faith to the next generation" is "another mentality, another philosophy, another morality," he observed. "We will not transmit a Jewish will to live through a fear of death. We cannot frighten our children to life. We cannot build healthy Jewish identity on the pillars of fear and anger and guilt." The immortality "of our martyrs is bound up with our Jewish vitality, not our melancholy," he added.

Wams Against Historic Amnesia

Despite all this, the rabbi cautioned his audience not to misunderstand the role of the Holocaust in the history of the Jewish people. The Holocaust, he declared, "is our sacred memory. Whoever counsels amnesia betrays our elementary reverence to our martyred people. Whoever counsels less than eternal vigilance against anti-Semitism is a fool or rogue. Whoever denies the reality of anti-Semitism is dangerously naive."

What is called for, Schulweis added, "is neither denial nor obsession with anti-Semitism. The Holocaust is a critical part of our memory. It cannot be made to provide our whole meaning. The Holocaust is our tragedy. It is not our rationale." Commitment for the next generation, he said, "must be based on Jewish vitality, hope, trust, love, joy."

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The cost of living index rose by 8.4 percent during October, the government's Central Bureau of Statistics announced Monday. During the first 10 months of the year the index rose by 106 percent, and at the present rate the index will have risen by 138 percent this year, the Bureau said. At the beginning of the year, Finance Minister Yoram Aridor said he hoped to reduce inflation this year to below 100 percent.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Labor Party MK Chaim Herzog, who suffered a heart attack last Thursday, was reported as improving Monday. Herzog is hospitalized in the intensive care unit at Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer. Herzog is a former chief of military intelligence and a former Israel Ambassador to the United Nations.