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SPECIAL TO THE JTA ISRAEL EMBASSY IN QUITO HIT BY TERRORIST BOMB

QUITO, Ecuador, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- The Israeli Embassy here was rocked by a powerful explosion this morning that left two people dead and a third seriously wounded. Israeli Ambassador Eliezer Armon, who was at work in his office but escaped unharmed when the dynamite charge went off, denounced the bombing as a "criminal act which has caused innocent victims."

The Embassy was cordoned off by the national police immediately after the 10:40 a.m. explosion, while bomb experts from SIC, the Ecuadorian security agency, and Interpol searched the building for more explosives.

According to eyewitness reports, a young man entered the four-story building, in which the Israeli Embassy occupies the top floor, carrying a suitcase. On the third floor, he opened the suitcase and to the astonishment of the people who were in the corridor at the time, he lit several sticks of dynamite and started to climb the staircase towards the Embassy offices.

Raising the alarm, they scared the terrorist who abandoned the suitcase and ran downstairs and into the street. In the ensuing panic, Ambassador Armon and the rest of the Israeli diplomatic staff, along with the employees of several commercial offices, escaped from the building.

Two Policemen Dead, One Passerby Wounded

Two Ecuadorian national civil policemen, Manuel Gilberto Jimenez Soto and Vicente Ramon Jimenez Torres, who were posted in guard stations at the buildings entrance, ran back into the building in search of the dynamite when the first workers reached the street yelling, "Bomb, Bomb."

The policemen retrieved the smoking suitcase on the third floor and descended to the lobby in an attempt to throw it out into the street. The high power charge, smelling strongly of sulfur, exploded when they were 15 feet from the door. The impact killed Jimenez Soto instantly and seriously wounded his comrade, Jimenez Torres, and an unidentified woman passerby in the street. The second policeman, Jimenez Torres died later in the day at the Military Hospital while having his legs amputated in an attempt to save his life.

After the bombing, Armon stated to the press that he did not want to speculate as to who was responsible for placing the bomb in the building but indicated it shouldn't be difficult to figure out. The Ecuadorian government dispatched Ambassador Cesar Valdivieso to the scene of the bombing to express its rejection of terrorism and to emphasize that relations between the two countries will continue to be based on mutual respect, friendship and mutual cooperation.

Extra security measures have been taken to ensure the continuing welfare of the Israeli diplomatic staff. (By Jaime Reibel)

CABINET AGREES TO MODIFY ISRAEL'S TERMS FOR TALKS WITH LEBANON

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- The Cabinet agreed today to modify Israel's terms for negotiations with Lebanon for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from that country and security arrangements north of the Israeli border. Israel will no longer insist that the talks be on the ministerial level.

But the resolution adopted by the Cabinet affirmed an earlier decision that the negotiations must be of a political as well as security nature and that the two teams be headed by duly appointed civilian officials. It also specified that the talks must take place in Beirut and Jerusalem, the respective capitals of the two countries.

Compromise Proposed By Begin

The resolution was Israel's response to the latest terms proposed by the Lebanese government which were brought here from Beirut by U.S. special Ambassador Philip Habib last Thursday. The compromise over the level of the talks was proposed by Premier Menachem Begin after 10 of his Cabinet ministers balked at demands by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Israel adhere to its original terms.

They were backed by Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan who attended today's Cabinet session. He observed that Israel had won all of its wars militarily and this time it should reap the political gains. Had that been the case in the past, the political situation would be much different, Eitan said.

The compromise agreed to was seen here as meeting the Lebanese halfway. Beirut, however, has already announced the appointment of a Brigadier General to head its negotiating team, which would also contain some ranking civilians. Habib suggested, at his meetings here last Thursday that the talks be held outside the two capitals, in places such as Haifa, just south of Beirut, and Maale Hahamisha, a kibbutz near Jerusalem.

He apparently was reflecting the Lebanese position on venue.

Habib arrived in Cairo today for talks with Egyptian leaders. He was in Amman yesterday to meet with King Hussein of Jordan about recent Middle East developments and the status of peace efforts in the region. U.S. Embassy sources in Amman said President Reagan's Mideast initiative and the Arab peace plan adopted at Fez, Morocco figured prominently in the talks. They also discussed Hussein's scheduled visit to Washington next month, the sources said.

The U.S. sources stressed that Habib did not meet with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat who also arrived in Amman yesterday to see Hussein. Reagan's plan, announced last September 1, proposed that the West Bank and Gaza Strip be governed by Palestinians in association with Jordan. Arab participation in negotiations over the plan appears to hinge on whether Arafat will agree that Hussein serve as spokesman for Palestinian interests in negotiations with Israel and the U.S.

But the PLO's Central Council, a 60-member consultative group, issued a statement in Damascus Thursday night denouncing the Reagan plan for Palestinian self-rule because it specifically rejected a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The PLO group claimed the American position does not "satisfy the inalienable national rights of our people." But it did not say the Reagan plan was unacceptable in its entirety, as the most extreme elements of the PLO insist.

(In Washington, the State Department had no immediate comment on the Council's statement on Reagan's plan. Department spokesman John Hughes said the U.S. would first have to study the full text of the Council's statement. However, Hughes said that President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt had given the PLO "sound advice" last Thursday when he urged it to recognize Israel even if Israel would not recognize the PLO.

"There is no doubt that the willingness to recognize Israel" and the acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 "are essential first steps to be taken by anybody that wishes to promote the peace process" and to pursue "Palestinian rights," Hughes said.)

HABIB IN CAIRO TO DISCUSS TROOPS WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON, PROSPECTS FOR RESUMING MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS

By Judith Kohn

CAIRO, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- U.S. special envoy Philip Habib arrived today in Cairo on the fourth stop of his most recent Middle East tour aimed at securing the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon and the resumption of the peace process.

Habib, who will meet tomorrow with President Hosni Mubarak, conferred with Foreign Minister Kama Hassan Ali immediately upon his arrival.

According to Foreign Ministry spokesman Raouf Ghoneim, the American envoy briefed Ali on the results of his talks last week in Beirut, Damascus, Tel Aviv and Amman, and discussed "several formulas" for achieving the early withdrawal of Israeli and other foreign forces from Lebanon.

The two also discussed prospects for resuming the Middle East peace process on the basis of the Reagan initiative and reviewed formulas that could secure "the participation of all parties concerned" in any future negotiations, Ghoneim said. He added that Ali called upon Israel to adopt "confidence-building measures" on the West Bank aimed at creating a suitable atmosphere for continuing negotiations.

The Issue Of Taba

The meeting scheduled for tomorrow between Mubarak and Habib is expected to cover the questions of Lebanon and the peace process, as well as steps toward resolving the dispute between Egypt and Israel over Taba, the territory south of Eilat which Israel and Egypt each claims as its own.

Egypt has been pressing for an early resumption of negotiations over Taba, with U.S. participation, something which Israel has rejected as long as Egypt refuses to discuss bilateral relations within the same framework of talks.

Ghoneim told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that a U.S. proposal for a tripartite meeting to resolve the Taba dispute and draw up an agenda for future talks on Israeli-Egyptian relations had been forwarded to Israel. But he would not confirm a recent report which said that Egypt had itself accepted the proposal. "We are waiting to hear from the Israeli side," Ghoneim said.

The meeting suggested by the U.S. would serve as a compromise between Egypt's insistence on discussing Taba as an isolated issue and the Israeli position.

From Cairo, Habib is expected to fly to Rabat for a joint meeting with King Hassan of Morocco and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on the Arab League's East peace initiative introduced at Fez, Morocco last September.

JACKSON, ISRAEL'S INQUIRY PANEL HAS HAD 'REAL IMPACT' ON CONGRESS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- Sen. Henry Jackson (D. Wash.) said today that Israel's official inquiry into the Beirut refugee camps massacres has had a "real impact" on members of Congress who had earlier considered reducing U.S. aid to Israel. At the same time, he indicated that if Jordan does not join the Camp David peace process, it might not receive the weapons it is seeking from the U.S.

Jackson, answering questions on the NBC-TV "Meet the Press" program, noted that he had urged a commission of inquiry into the Beirut massacres. "If the Israelis follow through in a decisive manner, I think it's going to make a lot of difference," he said. "Here is a democracy willing to take tough steps, if necessary to punish the government if they are wrong. That is unusual."

As for Jordan, Jackson noted that it has "waited a long time" to enter the peace negotiations. "Congress feels strongly that Jordan has a responsibility to come into the talks. That is a must." He added that whether Congress approves the weapons Jordan is seeking is "dependent on their willingness to fully participate in the Camp David talks."

Issue Of West Bank Settlements

When columnist Rowland Evans asked if American taxpayers should continue to "subsidize" Israel's establishment of settlements on the West Bank, Jackson replied that "I personally feel that it would be wise for the Israelis to stop further settlements at this time."

But, he added, "Let us remember that when we are talking about Israel, that it is the only ally we have out there that has credibility ... Israel is a very important ally, democracy, that we can rely on in the event that the situation in the Persian Gulf should fall apart. The other Arab countries have no credibility in terms of a deterrent force in the area."

On the West Bank, Jackson said he supports a "self-governing arrangement" for the Palestinians but that "sovereignty and defense and national security" should be kept in Israel's hands. "Otherwise there is no way you can have defensible borders," he said.

LIKUD MK REBUKED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR CALLING FOR THE RESIGNATION OF THE INQUIRY PANEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- A Likud member of Knesset who publicly called for the resignation of the commission of inquiry into the Beirut camps massacres after the commission sent warning notices to Premier Menachem Begin and eight other senior officers, has been sharply upbraided by Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir.

Zamir called MK Yitzhak Zeyger's statement a "prima facie act that requires a police criminal investigation." But the MK's parliamentary immunity prevents this.

Zeyger, a member of the Liberal Party wing of Likud, argued in his statement that the Cabinet and its ministers were not subject to the jurisdiction of the commission which was part of the jud-

icial branch of the government and could not therefore pass judgement on the executive branch. In addition to Begin, warnings were sent to Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Lawyers Rebut Zeyger's Assertions

But Zamir and other top academic lawyers flatly rebutted Zeyger's assertions. Some of them maintained that Zeyger plainly fails to understand the basic nature of a judicial commission of inquiry. A commission, these jurists pointed out, is not part of the judiciary, but a sui generis institution, set up by the government itself under statute to conduct an objective inquiry into an issue which the government determines to be worthy of such inquiry because of its public interest and importance.

Zeyger's statement, according to Zamir, was an apparent offence against the sub judice law which forbids the publication of anything calculated to influence a commission of inquiry in its work.

Several of the men formally warned by the commission last week that they "may be harmed" by its findings have started legal advice in preparation for rebuttal efforts.

Begin To Forego Statutory Right

Begin, however, has let it be known that he will probably not avail himself of the statutory right now offered to all nine men to reappear before the commission, to review all relevant material pertaining to themselves, to cross-examine witnesses and to adduce evidence and witnesses of their own to strengthen their own cases.

Begin, according to sources close to him will send a letter to the commission explaining once again why his government approved the entry of the Lebanese Christian Phalangists into the Sabra and Shatila camps despite the danger of "acts of revenge and bloodshed" in the wake of the assassination two days before of their leader, President-elect Bashir Gemayel.

The sources close to Begin point out that the commission plainly accepted his version of the facts pertaining to himself; that he knew nothing of the massacre while it was in progress, since none of the reports that did come in were relayed to him.

Begin must answer for what may be adjudged a lapse or failure of judgement. He is not in the position of having to buttress his own testimony in the face of contradictory testimony from another witness.

Beyond the Premier's decision on how to handle the commission's formal letter of warning, the sources close to him stress that he will demand early elections if the commission in its findings attribute any negligence or wrongdoing whatever to him. These sources say Begin is confident and would be returned with an increased majority.

See Validity In Begin's Approach

Neutral observers say there is a certain validity in this approach, in terms of pure principles of democracy. They doubt, though, whether the majority of the electorate would in fact restore Begin to power if he were faulted by this prestigious inquiry commission. Some observers contend that a political response to findings of a judicial nature is essentially misplaced.

Begin's political defense line has been echoed already by both Sharon and Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Both these men insist that the commission's findings would not lead to the downfall of the government -- and certainly not the creation of an alternative, Labor-led government, without elections. Mordechai was not among the nine who received the warnings. (See November 26 Bulletin for the nine officials, involved and the warning each received.)

DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER AND BEGIN HOLD FRANK DISCUSSION ON FOUR OUTSTANDING MIDEAST ISSUES

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- The Foreign Minister of Denmark, Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, had what was described as a "frank" discussion with Premier Menachem Begin here this morning on Israeli policies which have alienated many of its friends and supporters abroad.

Ellemann-Jensen, current chairman of the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community (EEC), spoke on behalf of its 10 member-nations and according to Danish sources here "pulled no punches" in what they said was a head-on collision between the two men on four outstanding issues in the Middle East. Begin apparently was equally forthright in defending his government's policies.

The issues involved Israel's settlement program on the West Bank; its treatment of the Palestinians there, specifically academic freedom; President Reagan's Middle East initiative which Israel has rejected; and Israel's continued military presence in Lebanon.

The Danish diplomat reportedly urged Begin not to waste time on procedural issues but move ahead with talks aimed at the speedy withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. Begin, for his part, stressed that Israel has no territorial claims whatever on Lebanon.

The colloquy continued at a luncheon given in the Danish diplomat's honor by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and at a working session with Shamir at the Foreign Ministry. Ellemann-Jensen said the "deep feeling of attachment to Israel obliges me as well as other friends of Israel to speak out whenever the State of Israel infringes on the rights of others."

He said that despite the "traditional sympathy" in Europe for Israel and the Jewish people, "I ought not to conceal that certain aspects of present Israeli policies are looked upon in our countries with grave concern ... Danish public opinion has been painfully divided over recent events in the Middle East. Some who usually side with Israel in every dispute have voiced their reservations at this time," Ellemann-Jensen said. He said the 10 EEC countries embraced the Reagan plan and showed "understanding" for the Arab League summit resolutions adopted at Fez, Morocco.

Shamir said Israel was honestly trying to find a solution for the Palestinian population on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and sincerely believes that the autonomy plan within the framework of the Camp David accords is the best hope for peace. He said there is a national consensus that Israel cannot withdraw to its 1967 borders and will not negotiate with the PLO.

Shamir also said that the destruction of the PLO bases in Lebanon improved the prospects for peace in the region and weakened terrorism on the West Bank and Gaza.

At the working session, Israeli officials stressed their concern over punitive measures the EEC has taken against Israel since the war in Lebanon began last June and which are continuing. They mentioned specifically the denial of credits and refusal to implement joint consultation projects.

Shamir observed that these sanctions were not substantial "in economic terms but are considered here to be "annoying and troublesome and they sour the atmosphere."

Shamir urged the Danish-Foreign Minister to have the EEC lift the sanctions. He also asked his guest to raise before the EEC ministers the problems Israel will face when Spain officially becomes a member of economic community. Both countries export citrus to the European market.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF BOLIVIA

By Morton Rosenthal

(Editor's note: Morton Rosenthal is the director of the Department of Latin American Affairs of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.)

NEW YORK, Nov. 28 (JTA) — Thousands of Jews fleeing from Nazi persecution made their way to the remote, mountainous and landlocked country of Bolivia. The Jewish population of 250 swelled to almost 30,000 in the years prior to World War II, because Bolivia was the first country in Latin America to open its doors to Jewish refugees.

The vast majority came with the intention of moving from there to neighboring Argentina or other countries. Others who hoped to sink roots in the land found it too difficult. Thus, for these and other reasons, there are little more than 1,000 Jews in Bolivia today, mainly in the capital of La Paz and in Cochabamba.

The tranquility which marked life for the 250 Jews in Cochabamba was terminated abruptly in mid-October by threatening phone calls and physical attacks on Jewish institutions. A few members of the community received anonymous calls demanding huge sums of money to insure that their synagogue would not suffer the same fate as the synagogue in Rome. Subsequently, many members of the community received phone calls threatening the lives of their children. Bolivian police were unable to identify those responsible for the telephoned threats.

The unprecedented bombing of the Circulo Israelita, a Jewish community center, on October 16 sent tremors of concern throughout the small community. Two Molotov cocktail bombs were detonated in the kitchen of that institution, fortunately causing little damage. Four days later, the bushes and trees surrounding the synagogue were drenched with gasoline and set afire. Once again, the damage was minimal and the flames were extinguished before the fire penetrated into the interior of the synagogue.

PLO is Source of Concern

Although the extortionist demanded money in the name of the PLO, it is generally believed that the PLO is not involved in the plot. However, the PLO is very much a source of concern for the Jews of Bolivia.

Among those who came to La Paz for the October 10 inauguration of President Hernan Siles Zuazo was the PLO representative in Peru, Issam Bessiso, who was warmly welcomed by many members of the Congress.

The warm reception for Bessiso and the new government's political orientation have stirred concern that the PLO will receive permission to open a PLO office in La Paz; previous governments have firmly opposed this, despite intense PLO lobbying. The fact that leftist governments in Latin America have generally been supportive of the PLO lends credence to these concerns.

President Siles Zuazo came to power by means of a coalition of three parties — his National Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNR), the Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MIR) led by Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora, and the Bolivian Communist Party. Moreover, the Bolivian press has carried recently an increasing number of articles supportive of the PLO.

Continuing Threat By The Extreme Right

The Jewish community is also concerned about the continuing threat posed by the extreme right in Bolivia. Pro-Nazi elements were permitted to operate paramilitary training camps and publish anti-Semitic articles while the country was ruled by the previous military government of Gen. Luis Garcia Meza. The most visible symbol of Nazi power in Bolivia is Klaus Barbie, a convicted war criminal whom the French gov-

ernment unsuccessfully sought to extradite after his true identity became known in 1979.

Many Latin American observers feel that President Siles could assuage the anxieties of Bolivian Jews by clearly signalling the extremists of Left and Right that attacks upon Jews will not be tolerated. Although it is not known who was responsible for the anti-Semitic bombings, the timing — just days after the inauguration — may reflect the belief of extremists that they had a green light. Denial of permission for a PLO office would indicate that the country does not wish to become a center of terrorism.

The extradition of Barbie, these observers also point out, would send a strong message to Nazis in Bolivia. The Bolivian government has yet to act upon the request for Barbie's extradition filed by the German government in May, 1982. Although recent press reports state that government officials have made it known they consider Barbie's presence a disgrace, Barbie and his lawyer are confident that he will not be extradited. "He has no reasons to hide, leave or fear for his security in Bolivia," attorney Constantino Carrion told the press on October 15.

While in exile, President Siles Zuazo, speaking at a press conference in New York in 1980, denounced Barbie's open appearances in government offices and his influential role as a source of weapons and a link to the paramilitary groups. In the view of many who follow events in Bolivia, the extradition of Barbie to Germany, or to France, where "The Butcher of Lyons" was sentenced to death in absentia for the murder of French citizens, could be the prelude to a housecleaning of Nazis in Bolivia.

STATE DEPT. IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH RUMANIA OVER EDUCATION TAX

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28 (JTA) — The State Department said it could not confirm a report that Rabbi Moses Rosen, Chief Rabbi of Rumania, said that the education tax the Rumanian government had imposed last month on would-be immigrants does not affect Jews. But Department spokesman John Hughes noted that the U.S. government is keeping close contact with the Rumanian government on the issue and the problem is "essentially a serious one for United States-Rumanian relations."

Rosen said that the education tax, which requires all emigrants to reimburse the government for the free secondary and higher education they had received, does not affect Jews because the Rumanian government, for many decades, has made a distinction between "emigration" and "aliya." A Jew seeking to go to Israel is not viewed as an "emigrant," Rosen reported.

The State Department had earlier warned Rumania that the tax could affect U.S. approval for a continuation of the most favored nation trade status for Rumania.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Three Israeli soldiers were wounded today when the armored personnel carrier in which they were travelling went over a mine north of Bhamdoun on the main Beirut-Damascus highway held by Israeli forces. The wounded soldiers were evacuated to hospitals in Israel. Israel radio said that Druze and Christian forces resumed their mutual shelling and firing in villages in the Bhamdoun area.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Some 2,000 members of the Peace Now movement attended three rallies on the West Bank Saturday, protesting government settlement policies in Arab areas.