

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. LX - 65th Year

Monday, December 27, 1982

No. 244

TWO ISRAELI SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26 (JTA) -- Two Israeli soldiers were wounded in Lebanon last night when their vehicle was attacked with small arms and bazooka fire near Aley village in the Shouf mountains south of the Beirut-Damascus highway. They were flown to a hospital in Israel.

Aley and the surrounding area has been the center of sharp fighting between Druze and Christian Phalangists for the past month. Israeli forces have attempted to persuade the warring factions to agree to cease-fires. But when they were arranged, they quickly broke down.

The artillery and mortar exchanges spread last week to the area of Khalde, just south of Beirut, where negotiations between Israel and Lebanon are expected to begin in a few days.

Today ended the 27th week of Israel's presence in Lebanon, making the war which started last June the longest in Israel's history.

ISRAEL-LEBANON TALKS BEGIN TOMORROW, CABINET ANNOUNCES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26 (JTA) -- The Cabinet announced today that Israel will begin negotiations with Lebanon this Tuesday, despite reports from Beirut of sharp differences over the nature of the talks between President Amin Gemayel and his Moslem Prime Minister, Shafik Al Wazan.

The talks are to be held alternately in Khalde, a seaside resort just south of Beirut and Kiryat Shmona, an Israeli town near the Lebanese border. The opening round is set for Khalde but the Cabinet did not mention that site in its communique today, apparently to allow for last minute changes. The area around Khalde has been the scene of sharp fighting between Druze and Christian Phalangists in recent days.

The United States will participate in the negotiations which are aimed at the speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon -- the Israeli and Syrian armies and the remnants of the Palestine Liberation Organization. But a wide gap still remains between the Israeli and Lebanese views of the talks.

Gap Over Scope Of Talks

Lebanon wants to focus on the withdrawal of forces and security arrangements. The Israelis insist that the negotiations cover normalization of relations and an end to belligerency, amounting to a de facto peace between the two countries that would lead to a formal peace treaty at a later stage.

Defense Minister Ariel Sharon brought home a working paper to that effect after meetings with undisclosed high ranking Lebanese officials in Beirut December 16. But he failed to secure a Lebanese official signature on the paper. Wazan charged over the weekend that Israel had presented substantial new demands which could delay the start of negotiations.

Cabinet secretary Dan Meridor denied this to reporters after today's Cabinet session. "There is no new Israeli position," Meridor said. He said the Cabinet last week had approved the draft Sharon brought

from Lebanon and considers it to be the document which will guide the talks.

According to Israeli sources, Sharon held his meetings with President Gemayel's "associates" without the immediate knowledge of Wazan. The situation is similar to the one faced by Israel when it pressed President-elect Bashir Gemayel to sign a peace treaty last September. Bashir, Amin's brother, was assassinated on September 14.

President Gemayel is believed to be confronted by the dilemma of proceeding with the negotiations on the basis of his understanding with the Israelis and thereby distancing himself from the Lebanese Moslem leadership which backed his election. Observers here noted that this is the first time since Gemayel's election that differences have surfaced between the Christian President and the Moslem Premier.

Shamir Discusses Latin American Trip

Reports from Beirut today said Gemayel was determined to go ahead with the talks this week despite heavy pressure from the Arab world. Saudi Arabia warned him specifically last weekend not to make any commitments to Israel. If the talks open at Khalde Tuesday, they will be continued at Kiryat Shmona on Thursday.

The Cabinet was also briefed today by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir on his recent trip to Argentina and Uruguay. He discussed his talks with officials of those countries and with local Jewish leaders. He also briefed the ministers on his conversation in New York last week with Nicholas Veliotis, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs.

BEIRUT MASSACRE INQUIRY PANEL OPENS SECOND ROUND OF HEARINGS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26 (JTA) -- The commission inquiring into the Beirut refugee camps massacre began its second round of hearings today. All witnesses testified in closed session. The first to take the stand was Mordechai Gur, a Labor Alignment MK and former Chief of Staff who appeared voluntarily. His testimony lasted for about a half hour.

He was followed by Maj. Gen. (res.) Shlomo Gazit, a former chief of military intelligence. Gazit had been subpoenaed by the head of Mossad, the intelligence agency. The latter, whose identity is an official secret, was one of nine top government and military leaders who were notified by the commission last month that they may be harmed if the panel reached certain conclusions on the basis of their original testimony.

The law allows persons so notified to re-appear to give additional testimony, examine evidence and summon and interrogate witnesses. The Mossad director also wants to question David Kimche, Director General of the Foreign Ministry. But the commission decided that a written statement submitted by Kimche was sufficient for the purpose and he need not appear.

Other witnesses, summoned at the behest of Maj. Gen. Yehoshua Saguy, the present chief of military intelligence, were heard today. Saguy, one of the

nine who received the official warning, has also summoned Defense Minister Ariel Sharon for cross-examination. Sharon is expected to appear at a later date.

200,000 CIVIL SERVANTS ON STRIKE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26 (JTA) -- Nearly 200,000 civil servants began a strike today which Histadrut warned would last "until the government signs new wage contracts."

The walk-out affected virtually all government employees, including those of municipalities, town councils and rural and urban agencies. Teachers were not affected. But kindergarten teachers sent their young charges home at noon while they remained at their desks until the close of the school day to avoid any loss of pay.

The strike, which Histadrut said was "open-ended," followed by ten days a 48-hour walk-out by some 400,000 government employees, a third of the country's work force. Wage negotiations were resumed today. Histadrut spokesmen said if an agreement is not reached quickly, more workers would be called out on strike.

SOVIET EMIGRE CLAIMS HE TALKED WITH WALLENBERG

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26 (JTA) -- Asher Hanukaiev, a recent immigrant from the Soviet Union, claims he met and spoke with missing Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg in a Sverdlovsk prison more than 10 years ago. He said Wallenberg told him he was arrested because he had helped save Jews.

Wallenberg was sent to Budapest during World War II on a special diplomatic mission. He is credited with saving the lives of thousands of Hungarian Jews by giving them shelter at the Swedish Embassy and by other means that enabled them to avoid deportation and almost certain death in Nazi concentration camps.

Wallenberg was arrested when the Red Army entered Budapest in 1945 and has not been heard from since. The Soviet authorities claim he died in prison more than 30 years ago and strenuously deny that he may still be alive. But over the years, former inmates of Soviet prisons claimed to have seen him.

Hanukaiev, visiting friends in Beersheba last week, told them he spent four days with Wallenberg in a Sverdlovsk prison cell in March, 1972. He said "Wallenberg lay then on a stretcher and he told me he had stomach trouble," according to a report in a Beersheba newspaper today.

VANDALISM AGAINST TEL AVIV MAYOR

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26 (JTA) -- Tel Aviv slum dwellers were allegedly responsible for painting swastikas and slogans denouncing Mayor Shlomo Lehat and Ashkenazic Jews in general on the walls of synagogues and homes in the well-to-do neighborhood where Lehat lives last night.

Slogans were also painted on parked cars or scratched into their paintwork and tires were slashed. The vandalism was attributed to the fatal shooting by police last Thursday of a 26-year-old resident of the Salameh quarter, a slum neighborhood south of Tel Aviv. The victim was a member of a large family the police were trying to evict from an abandoned building slated for demolition. He allegedly fired three shots at police officers before he was gunned down.

The Salameh neighborhood council officially dissociated the residents from the acts of vandalism and condemned the perpetrators. They told reporters that "local hotheads" were responsible. Meanwhile, Mayor Lehat was given a special police guard which he stressed, he did not ask for.

PERES WARNS HUSSEIN HE WILL LOSE WEST BANK IF HE DELAYS PEACE TALKS WITH ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26 (JTA) -- Labor Party leader, Shimon Peres has urged King Hussein of Jordan to enter into direct talks with Israel as soon as possible because "otherwise he stands to lose much."

Addressing a joint meeting of Israeli Jews and Arabs at Shafr Am in Galilee, Peres compared Hussein's position now to that of the late President Anwar Sadat of Egypt before he made his historic visit to Jerusalem in November, 1977. But there is a difference, Peres said.

"The difference is that the Sinai could have gone for another 50 years remaining empty. But in Judea and Samaria (West Bank), new facts are being created" by Jewish settlement. "Sadat could have waited another five years and the Sinai would not have changed, but that is not the case on the West Bank," he said. If Hussein waits, "the sands are running out and he will lose everything."

Peres told his audience that he spoke "as a Jew who does not want to annex the West Bank with its 900,000 Arab inhabitants against their will."

PROSECUTOR URGES REMOVAL OF NAMES ANTI-NAZIS FROM CRIMINAL RECORDS

By David Kantor

BONN, Dec. 26 (JTA) -- Robert Kempner, the U.S. prosecutor at the Nuremberg war crimes trials, has urged the Bonn government to remove from the criminal records, anti-Nazi Germans convicted by the notorious Peoples Courts during the 12 year tenure of the Third Reich. The courts sentenced thousands of anti-Nazis to death and others to long prison terms. But these people are still officially registered as "criminals" in several West German states.

Kempner called on the Bundestag to pass legislation deleting the names of those whose only crime was opposition to the Nazi state. He said such a gesture was long overdue, especially for a legislative body which has been urging the release of one-time deputy fuhrer Rudolph Hess from Spandau prison and the release of other convicted Nazi war criminals serving sentences in Holland and Italy.

CANADIAN JEWISH LEADERS SAY VATICAN'S NON-RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL IMPEDES MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Dec. 26 (JTA) -- The Vatican's refusal to recognize the State of Israel was disputed by two Canadian Jewish leaders with a ranking representative of the Holy See in Canada, McGill University Prof. Irving Cotler, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress and Alan Rose, executive vice president of the CJC, expressed their views strongly at a meeting with The Most Rev. Angelo Palmas, the Vatican Ambassador, at the Vatican Embassy in Ottawa.

They met with Palmas to reiterate Jewish protests against the audience granted Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat by Pope John Paul II last September. According to the CJC officials, by its refusal to recognize Israel, the Vatican was signaling the PLO and the rest of the Arab world that their refusal to recognize Israel was not an impediment to their reception at the Vatican.

Palmas replied that the reason the Vatican does not recognize Israel is because it is in a "conflict area." He said that "As soon as there is peace between Israel and her neighbors, we shall recognize Israel."

But Cotler and Rose took a different view. Cotler told the envoy that "In all of my meetings with Jordanian, Syrian, Lebanese, Egyptian and other government leaders over the years, they all pointed to the non-recognition of Israel by the Vatican as a reason for their refusal to accept the existence of the State of Israel."

He added that the Vatican's position that Israel will be recognized when peace is achieved turns the issue on its head because the fact of non-recognition by the Vatican impedes the peace process. He cautioned that the continued non-recognition of Israel by the Vatican was detrimental to improved Catholic-Jewish relations.

SHARON SAYS 1983 WILL BE 'YEAR OF PEACE' BETWEEN ISRAEL AND LEBANON

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26 (JTA) — Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon declared today that 1983 "will be a year of peace between Israel and Lebanon." Sharon was interviewed on the ABC-TV "David Brinkley Journal" program via satellite from Jerusalem. He appeared along with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Ashraf Ghorbal, the Egyptian Ambassador to the United States.

The discussion centered on the upcoming negotiations between Israel and Lebanon and the issue of Israel's settlement policies on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Kissinger said that "as a general proposition, the Israelis should suspend the settlements after the peace process is started." But he saw no reason for them to do so in advance of negotiations.

Sharon devoted most of his remarks to the negotiations with Lebanon. "I believe we have got good news for all peace-loving people in the world from Jerusalem and Beirut today where it was announced that we are to start negotiations this coming Tuesday," he said. (See story on P.1.)

According to Sharon, "The negotiations will be on normalization of relations between Lebanon and Israel, about security arrangements and about withdrawal of Israeli forces which will be part of the withdrawal of all external forces in Lebanon. I believe that the new year of 1983 will be a year of peace between Israel and Lebanon which will move forward all the peace processes in the Middle East," he said.

Israel Will Not Insist On Treaty Now

Asked whether Israel would demand that Lebanon sign a peace treaty before it withdraws its forces from that country, Sharon replied, "We do not insist on a direct or immediate peace agreement between Israel and Lebanon ... But Israel, in order to move forward and understanding the difficulties ... decided not to insist on an immediate peace treaty now. What we are doing now is a kind of 'corridor' to a peace treaty in the future," he said.

He said Israeli troops would not remain in the 40-45 kilometer border security zone "forever" but that matter would be decided at the negotiations beginning Tuesday. The most important security arrangement is to prevent Lebanon from ever becoming a base for "local, regional and international syndicated terrorism," he said.

Ghorbal said Egypt "would like to see everyone in the Arab world at peace with Israel." But he thought Lebanon should sign a treaty with Israel through "free will" and not while the Israeli army is in the country as an "occupying force." With respect to the West Bank settlements, the Egyptian envoy said "All of us in the area feel that we are in a race and that a fait accompli is being established by Israel in a way." Egypt and the other Arab states must find a solution before the fait accompli becomes "the order of the day," he said.

Kissinger's View

Sharon, for his part defended the Israeli government's settlement policies. They are, he said, "a national security concept. We never regarded the settlements as an obstacle to peace. They are not in contradiction with the plan that was decided at Camp David ... and we will move forward on the autonomy plan."

Kissinger observed that the settlement policy of Premier Menachem Begin's government has been rejected by two American Presidents. "I don't know of any administration that will accept it," he said. He added that he saw "no reason" why the Israelis should not continue what they are doing "as long as King Hussein has not agreed to enter negotiations. But once negotiations start, then we should return to the Camp David formula and ask Israel to suspend settlements," he said.

\$6 BILLION MARK IN CASH RECEIPTS PASSED BY ISRAEL BONDS

NEW YORK, Dec. 26 (JTA) — Cash receipts of the Israel Bond Organization since its inception in 1951 passed the \$6 billion mark following a nationwide cash collection effort in honor of Sam Rothberg, its General Chairman, for his 40 years of service to Israel. It was announced here by Rabbi Leon Kronish, National Campaign Chairman.

The special campaign, which began on November 1 produced more than \$91,289,000 in cash. The \$6 billion cash figure was reached on Tuesday, December 21. Cash receipts of the Bond Organization for the 1982 campaign, which will be completed on December 31, are expected to exceed \$500 million.

Kronish declared: "This accelerated cash campaign, which achieved our \$6 billion milestone, was the most meaningful possible expression of our deep appreciation to Sam Rothberg for his leadership of our organization and his lifetime of service to Israel. There is not a single Jewish community in the United States, Canada, Europe and Latin America which has not been touched by his dynamic leadership and his forcefulness in behalf of Israel."

Of the \$6 billion in Israel Bonds which have been sold since 1951, a little over \$3 billion has been repaid by the State of Israel. Every Israel Bond which has matured has been redeemed fully and on time, and all interest payments have been made promptly. It took 16 1/2 years for the Bond Organization to raise the first billion dollars and only slightly more than two years to produce the sixth billion.

QUINTUPLET BOYS BORN IN TEL AVIV By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26 (JTA) — Malka Glazel, a 31-year-old school teacher, gave birth to quintuplets here. Doctors at Assaf Harofeh Hospital said the mother and infants, all boys, are doing well.

Mrs. Glazel, whose husband, Yaacov, is a construction foreman, underwent hormonal treatment during her pregnancy. She said she had known since the second month that she would have a multiple birth but did not expect quintuplets. According to the hospital, the birth of quintuplet boys is rare.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF ITALY

By Ben Frank

(Editor's note: This is another in a series on Jewish communities in Italy.)

FLORENCE, Dec. 26 (JTA) -- It is not difficult to find the Jewish community of Florence. Head for Via Luigi Carlo Farini No. 4, not far from San Marco Square. Located in a large single compound is probably the most beautiful synagogue in Europe, a Jewish day school, the offices of the Jewish community, the headquarters of B'nai B'rith and other organizations, and a kosher restaurant.

The synagogue, now 100 years old, has been designated a historical landmark -- "a la citta degli uffizi." The construction is pure Moorish style capped by three green cupolas. The walls inside are completely covered with frescoes. There are mosaics around the ark.

Within the synagogue there are also memorials to Jewish soldiers who died fighting for Italy during World War I. There is also a memorial to the 242 Jews who in 1943 were dragged from their homes by the Nazis and who never returned from the German concentration camp to which they were taken.

Still visible are the bayonet marks the Nazi soldiers left when they tried to defile the Aharon Kodesh (Holy Ark). Also visible is the high water mark of the flood levels of 1966 which destroyed Torahs and rare books, many of them commentaries on Italian Jewish history.

Some say that the Moorish architecture of the synagogue recalls the Golden Age of Spain. Many who have visited it compare it to the main synagogue in Moscow. Everyone is impressed. Several hundred visitors, Jews and non-Jews come to the synagogue each day. Many of them are young students.

There are guided tours, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, except Saturday and Sunday. No fees are charged, but American Jews help with their donations, according to Ariel Massimo Bacelli, the executive director of the Jewish Center. Last year, donations amounted to 40 million Lira, or \$28,572.

A Monument To Emancipation

Florence is one of the few places in Europe where the synagogue is conspicuous, unlike in many European cities where it is difficult to distinguish the synagogue from other structures. This temple was built to be seen, to fit in with the architecture of the city, such as the Duomo or the Signoria.

The Jews began to think about building a new synagogue for Florence just after they were freed from the ghetto in 1848. They wanted it to be a monument to their emancipation. After all their repression, the Jews created this temple to show their liberation at last.

The money for the synagogue was put up by David Levi. He was the president of the Council of the Jewish University and in his will, dated March 15, 1868, he requested that his assets be utilized to build a monumental temple worthy of Florence. More than a million dollars of his money went into the building which was inaugurated on October 24, 1882.

In many ways, the Jewish history of Florence was the history of a people living in the ghetto. The Jewish community in this city of art was established in 1437 when some Jewish financiers were invited to open loan banks. During the time of

Lorenzo de Medici (1449-1492), Jewish intellectual life corresponded to the rich attainments of Florentine culture. The Medici in Florence were well disposed toward the Jews.

History Of Italy's Jews

The 15th and 16th centuries were fruitful periods for Jewish literature and poetry and other branches of Jewish learning, even though there were no more than 100 Jewish families. Later, the establishment of the ghetto restricted the Jewish renaissance. In 1759 Napoleon and his army freed the Jews in Italy, but when the former left, there again was a period of repression.

In 1859, when Tuscany (the province in which Florence is located) became part of the Kingdom of Italy, the Jews were recognized as citizens of the new kingdom which was and still is the cradle of Italian art and civilization.

Italy is, among other things, a museum. And Florence is perhaps the greatest collector of human artistic achievement. Florence is the city of art, the city of the lily, the city of the flower, the city where in one year alone, 1505, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Machiavelli and Raphael were working at the same time within a few blocks of each other.

As the Italians have said for centuries: "Italy is the garden of Europe, Tuscany is the garden of Italy, and Florence is the flower of Tuscany."

Today, Jews are active in the cultural events and life of Florence. And most of the famous museums -- the Accademia, the Pitti Palace, the Uffizi Gallery, and more -- contain art on Jewish themes.

There are presently some 1,200 Jews in Florence. Only about one-third are active within the community, which is strongly assimilationist and where mixed marriages are numerous. Only 33 to 34 youngsters attend the elementary Jewish school. It is difficult to obtain a minyan, although one is scheduled. On Saturdays, only a part of the large synagogue sanctuary is used. However, on holidays it is packed.

WIESENTALH BOYCOTTS CANADA

By Arnold Ages

TORONTO, Dec. 26 (JTA) -- Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal has refused to set foot in Canada for the past decade because of what he believes is the reluctance of the Canadian government to prosecute Nazi war criminals living in Canada.

Wiesenthal, head of the war crimes documentation center in Vienna, has been invited to speak by the Canadian Jewish Congress and other Jewish institutions since his brief visit to Vancouver in 1972. But he will not enter the country and has explained his reasons in an interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. and in communications with Jewish leaders in Canada.

Wiesenthal contends that despite information about known Nazi war criminals living in Canada, the government in Ottawa has refused to act. He decried the inertia of the government and what he called "empty promises" by a representative of Canada's Solicitor General that the Nazis would be prosecuted.

Last month, Canadian officials did move against Albert Rauca, an alleged Nazi executioner who murdered Jews in Lithuania and presently lives in Toronto. After a hearing, a Canadian judge ordered Rauca extradited to West Germany where, presumably he will stand trial. But Wiesenthal was not impressed by that action.

He has pointed out that what was involved was an extradition hearing, not a trial and that the impetus came from Bonn, not from Canada. Rauca's attorney meanwhile is appealing the extradition order.

REHOVOT (JTA) -- Eight Indian scientists are among the 110 overseas visitors from 15 countries spending the 1982/83 academic year at the Weizmann Institute.