

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. LXI - 66th Year

Tuesday, January 4, 1983

No. 2

SHAMIR INDICATES ISRAELIS IN CONTACT WITH THE PLO IN EFFORT TO GAIN RELEASE OF ISRAELI POWs

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir indirectly acknowledged today that Israel has had contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization in an effort to free six Israeli soldiers being held as prisoners of war in Lebanon by the PLO.

Shamir told a meeting of the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee that Israel was doing "everything" to free the POWs. "Redemption of prisoners runs deep in Judaism," he said. "Israel rejects no means to achieve this end, and therefore initiated steps which we had disapproved of from the political point of view."

Shamir refused to disclose any details regarding the negotiations with the PLO. "As long as there are no substantial results, I will not make any announcements," he said. There had been reports in the media here and abroad during the past week that Israel was negotiating with the PLO over the release of the POWs. Until today, however, there was neither any official confirmation nor denial of these reports. Shamir told the Knesset committee today that some of the reports were "inaccurate," but did not go into detail.

Report USSR Arming Syria

On another matter, Shamir said, in reply to a question by Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres, that Syria was disturbed and concerned about reports that Syria was being armed with the latest sophisticated weaponry from the Soviet Union.

Peres asked Shamir whether the arms now being sold to Syria had ever been sold to any other country, indicating that the USSR was giving Syria a first crack at using the highly sophisticated arms. The Labor Party leader said that according to reports he heard, the weapons will be operated by Soviet experts.

Referring to his recent trip to Latin America, Shamir denied that discussions were held with government leaders in any of the countries about Israeli arms sales.

IDF FINDS SOVIET ROCKET LAUNCHERS IN SOUTH LEBANON AIMED AT THE GALILEE PANHANDLE KIBBUTZ OF MANARA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- An Israeli army patrol on a routine search discovered five Katyusha rocket launchers in southern Lebanon about three miles east of the Galilee panhandle kibbutz of Manara, an army spokesman announced today. The launchers, which were discovered last Friday, were aimed toward the panhandle area where many Katyusha rockets fell in the years before the "Peace for Galilee" operation was undertaken last June.

The launchers were destroyed by the army which has been scouring the area since they were found in an effort to find those responsible for placing the weapons there. It is not known when they were brought to the area.

Israel Radio suggested that the launchers might have been set up to disrupt the Israel-Lebanon talks which were held in Kiryat Shmona last Thursday and are to continue there this week, also. The mobile launchers were placed near the Lebanese village of Magdal Saloum, whose residents were known to have collaborated with the PLO in the past, the radio said.

The village lies within the south Lebanon region controlled by the Ghana unit of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), whose spokesman was quoted as saying today that since the start of the talks in Kiryat Shmona the Israel Defense Force had stepped up its patrol activities in the areas and had interfered with the work of UNIFIL. The UN force therefore, he said, could not be responsible for keeping the area safe.

Israel army sources responded, however, by saying the UNIFIL patrols on Lebanese roads should have prevented the movement of the launchers to the sites where they were found. It is presumed that PLO fighters are still hidden within the area, together with stocks of arms.

Terrorist activity has increased in south Lebanon recently, especially in the coastal area around Tyre and Sidon. There were two separate attacks on Israeli soldiers in Sidon yesterday, but nobody was injured.

In one incident an IDF convoy was fired on as it passed through the town. In the other, an explosive charge went off near an army vehicle. Incidents in the Shouf mountain area have usually involved Israeli forces caught in crossfire between Druze and Christians.

MIDEAST EXPERT CLAIMS HUSSEIN WILL JOIN PEACE TALKS WITH ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- King Hussein of Jordan will announce in a few weeks that he will join the Middle East peace talks with Israel, according to William Quandt, who was the Mideast expert in the National Security Council during the Carter Administration.

Quandt, who is now a member of the prestigious Brookings Institution, is touring the Mideast and arrived yesterday in Israel from Jordan where he met with senior government officials over the weekend.

In a lecture at the American Cultural Center in Tel Aviv yesterday, he said he had "a strong impression" that Hussein would announce his intention to enter the peace talks. Quandt said Jordan would send a delegation which would include Palestinians who are not members of the PLO but are accepted by that organization.

Message From Jordanians

He said he had asked the Jordanians what message he should take with him to Israel, and he quoted the following response: "Tell them that this would be an historic opportunity which should not be missed. After many hesitations, we are now willing to accept Israel and we feel that we can develop much better relations with her than those which now

exist between Israel and Egypt. If this opportunity is missed, we do not know whether our young generation, which is much more extremist than us, will be ready to do in 10 years what we are prepared to do now."

Quandt expressed confidence that Hussein would indeed join the peace talks because he realizes that maintaining a passive attitude would cause him more harm than becoming involved. However, Quandt added, prior to announcing Jordan's participation in the talks, Hussein would seek to obtain maximum support from other Arab leaders -- and at least a tacit agreement from the PLO. The only country which Hussein feels will not support him in this venture is Syria, Quandt said.

He predicted a "big argument" between Israel and the United States, should Hussein decide to enter the peace talks, over the issue of Israeli settlements on the West Bank. Quandt also said he was less optimistic about the prospects for the success of ongoing Jordanian-Israeli talks than about the prospects of beginning the talks.

Hussein's Trip To Washington Recalled

During his visit to Washington last month, Hussein reiterated his support of President Reagan's Mideast peace plan. But after meeting with Reagan, there was no indication that the Jordanian monarch was willing or able to join the U.S., Egypt and Israel in negotiations based on the Camp David accords. Nor was it clear whether Hussein's recent consultations with PLO chief Yasir Arafat resulted in a mandate, direct or implicit, for Jordan to represent Palestinian interests in peace talks with Israel.

Most observers here and in Washington believe that if Hussein joins the peace negotiations, his chances of getting U.S. weapons would improve considerably. Until now, the King has spurned the Camp David peace process. He still considers himself bound by the 1974 Arab League summit conference in Rabat, Morocco, which designated the PLO to be the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The Arab League summit in Fez, Morocco, last September did not rescind that decision.

Meanwhile, in Cairo yesterday Arafat was quoted in the Egyptian political weekly Rose al Youssef as saying that the PLO would continue its military "option" against Israel because the U.S. will not pressure Israel, "even within the limits of the (Reagan peace) plan which it put forward." But he added that "We support every constructive aspect in any offered initiative."

NO BREAKTHROUGH IN TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND LEBANON

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- A third round in the talks between Israel and Lebanon was held today in Khalde, near Beirut, but negotiators for both sides were unable to announce a breakthrough regarding the agenda. An official communique said efforts to reach an agreed agenda would continue in Kiryat Shmona Thursday. The talks, which began last Tuesday, are alternating between the two towns.

The atmosphere at today's negotiations continued to be good, and it was reflected in comments to the media by the head of Lebanon's delegation, Ambassador Antoine Fatale. He said he was confident beyond the shadow of a doubt that a compromise would eventually be found to the problem of the agenda. All beginnings are difficult, he noted, and more time was required.

Israel and Lebanon are at odds over the inclusion of an item on normalization of relations in the agenda. Israel has indicated that it is willing to drop the term normalization as long as the process itself would be discussed.

Fatale made a point of observing that both sides were showing flexibility. He added that even in the absence of an agreed agenda work could begin on tackling several of the basic issues. The parties have already agreed to three agenda items: termination of the state of war, withdrawal of foreign forces and security zones.

Israeli officials say that Thursday's session at Kiryat Shmona might be brightened up by a visit there by Elizabeth Taylor as part of her current solo peace mission to the area.

BRITAIN'S RELATIONS WITH ARAB WORLD IN 1983 BEGINS ON SOUR NOTE

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Britain's relations with the Arab world in 1983 have begun on a sour note, with Saudi Arabia cancelling a visit by Foreign Secretary Francis Pym.

The move is seen as retaliation for the continuing deadlock over a visit to Britain by the Arab League delegation formed last September to explain the Fez summit proposals to the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has refused to meet the delegation if it includes Farouk Kaddumi, a senior PLO official, and the Arabs just as adamantly say he must come.

Some British industrialists have expressed concern that the new strain in Anglo-Saudi relations could endanger trade between the two countries, put at 5.5 billion Pounds Sterling.

Domestic Considerations Involved

In refusing to meet a PLO representative as long as the PLO refuses to renounce terrorism, Mrs. Thatcher is partly motivated by domestic considerations. She accepts that there are similarities between the PLO and the terrorists in Northern Ireland to whom she is implacably opposed. This will also be an election year in Britain and Mrs. Thatcher's grass roots supporters share her aversion to terrorism.

She may also not wish to offend the 400,000-strong Jewish community which, in recent years, has tended to move to the conservative camp from its traditional labor allegiance. She herself has a large Jewish vote in her North London constituency.

ISRAEL'S POPULATION AT 4,055,000

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Israel's population at the end of 1982 was 4,055,000. This figure includes 12,000 residents on the Golan Heights. It is the first time that the Golan Heights residents have been counted as part of the total population.

The total increase in Israel's population last year was 67,500, of which 47,500 were Jews. The non-Jewish population increased by three percent, compared to 1.4 percent increase of the Jewish population.

Altogether there are 689,000 non-Jews, some 17 percent of the total population. About 13,000 immigrants arrived last year, compared to 12,600 in 1981 and 20,400 in 1980.

JEWISH DAILY FORWARD TO GO WEEKLY BEGINNING FEB. 4

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- The Forward Association announced today that, because of continuing increases in operating costs, it was giving up its

"struggle" to continue publishing the Jewish Daily Forward on its current Tuesday through Friday basis and would begin publication as a weekly on February 4.

The Association, noting that the Yiddish daily had begun publication, as a daily, on April 22, 1977, said the last issue of the Yiddish daily would be published on January 28. In its statement, the Association said that the recently-started English-language weekly supplement would continue.

The Association said that, until about 1972, the publication, a non-profit operation, had been managing but that around that time, the Forward began to be hurt by the kind of rising costs which, in the ensuing decade, forced major English newspapers throughout the United States and Canada to cease publication.

Harold Ostroff, Forward general manager, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that staff cuts were under study but that the Forward hoped to keep its present staff writers, although on a weekly basis.

The Association said it had remained "faithful" to the "guiding principle" of its creation "to serve the large mass of Jewish immigrants and to be their teacher in adapting themselves to a new home."

The statement added that "over the course of the years," the Forward had adapted itself "to the many changes in Jewish life both here in America and around the entire world. These past ten years have seen the reserves which were built up during the 'good old days' and other assets liquidated, in order to remain able to publish five times a week."

Cites Loyal Readers And Friends

The Association said "the strongest support for our existence came from the loyal readers and friends and the organized trade union movement in having raised \$1.3 million in the course of four separate fund-raising campaigns."

Ostroff said the campaigns were held in 1975, 1977, 1978 and during mid-1981 to mid-1982. He said that in 1973, the Forward dropped its Saturday issue, and four years ago, dropped its Monday edition, publishing four days a week since.

He said the Association put many other economies into effect, including sale of its building on East Broadway in lower Manhattan. He said current circulation is 20,000 and that the Association hoped to develop that sales figure as a weekly.

The Association said it came to the conclusion that it had only two options -- one, to cease publication, "which was unthinkable," and the other, to become a weekly newspaper. The Association said it had decided to switch to a weekly "with a strong determination to do everything in its power to continue the life of this newspaper."

NAVON, ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON, WILL MEET REAGAN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Israeli President Yitzhak Navon will arrive here tomorrow morning for an official working visit in which he will meet with President Reagan at the White House.

The White House meeting will take place Wednesday morning after which Reagan will hold a luncheon for the Israeli President. Upon their arrival at Andrews Air Force base tomorrow, Navon and his wife, Ofira, will be greeted by Secretary of State George Shultz and his wife, Helena Shultz.

Navon will not have the hectic round of meetings with government officials as is the case when Premier Menachem Begin or other top-ranking members of the Israeli government come here. The Israeli President is head of the state but his duties are largely ceremonial. The Premier is the head of the government.

In addition, there is a feeling here that the Reagan Administration does not want to be accused, in Israel, of seeming to promote Navon as an alternative to Begin. The popular Israeli President, a Sephardi and fourth-generation Jerusalemite, is frequently being mentioned as a Labor Party candidate in the next election.

However, Navon will be making a major address before the National Press Club Thursday, and during the question and answer session at the luncheon, he probably will be asked not only about events in Israel but about his own political future.

Will Address Jewish Communities

Meanwhile, Navon, who has frequently stressed the need for aliya before Jewish audiences, will devote much of his visit in Washington and in Boston and New York to speaking to the Jewish community. A dinner for Navon and his wife is being hosted tomorrow night by the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, which is also sponsoring an address by the Israeli President to the Jewish community at the Washington Hebrew Congregation Wednesday.

Also on Navon's schedule in Washington is a breakfast meeting with Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO, and visits to Mount Vernon, and the Library of Congress, particularly its Judaica collection. Ambassador Moshe Arens and his wife, Muriel, will host a reception for the Navons at the Israel Embassy Wednesday night.

On Thursday afternoon, Navon will go to Baltimore where the Jewish community will sponsor a reception for him at Convention Hall. Later that evening, he will receive an honorary degree from Johns Hopkins University, preceded by a reception hosted by the university's president, Steven Muller.

Navon leaves Washington Friday morning for Boston and goes to New York on Sunday.

SON OF SEPHARDI JEW FROM BOMBAY GIVEN LIFE PEERAGE By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Sir Derek Ezra, former chairman of the National Coal Board, has been given a life peerage in the New Year honors list. He will support the Liberal Party in the House of Lords.

The son of a Sephardi Jew from Bombay, Ezra was born in Tasmania 61 years ago. Brought to Britain as a boy, he was educated at Cambridge University where he was a friend and contemporary of Abba Eban, the former Israeli Foreign Minister.

During World War II he served in the Intelligence Corps, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. On demobilization, he joined Britain's newly nationalized coal industry and headed the coal board's marketing department before becoming its chairman 11 years ago.

Though not an observant Jew, Ezra is a warm friend of Israel, frequently attending Jewish fund raising functions. In the last two years of his chairmanship, the Board became a major supplier of coal to the Israeli electricity industry.

BONN (JTA) -- Israeli exports to Germany amounted to some \$400 million in 1982, a 20 percent drop compared to 1981. The drop was due to various economic and political factors.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES BRITISH JEWRY IN 1982

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- British Jewry has little cause for comfort as it reviews 1982 and little ground for rosy hopes about the year ahead.

The Lebanese war and its aftermath caused divisions in the community concerning Israel of a depth and bitterness not known for generations.

It has been accompanied by a growing intolerance between the different religious factions in the community, now that the unifying influence of Israel has been weakened. Given the highly centralized character of the community, these divisions appear all the more pronounced.

Hit Hard By War In Lebanon

The Lebanese war struck the Jews of Britain more deeply than other diaspora communities. The first shot in the war was the one which severely disabled the Israeli Ambassador to Britain, Shlomo Argov, on the pavement outside the Dorchester Hotel, on Thursday, June 3.

Argov, easily the most forceful Israeli Ambassador to have served in London, had previously played an incalculable role in retaining the community's confidence in Israel at a time when the Jewish State was being turned into an international pariah. To Anglo-Jewry, as well as to his country and family, his tragic plight has been a severe blow. He left a gap which will be difficult to fill.

In the initial days of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, Anglo-Jewry was preoccupied by Argov's protracted fight for life as he lay unconscious in a London hospital. Following his transfer to a Jerusalem hospital, the Lebanese fighting began to totally dominate Anglo-Jewry's attention, as it did the British radio, television and newspapers.

The horrifying massacres in Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut and the storm of dissent in Israel itself caused unprecedented strains among British Jews, many of whom felt moved to dissociate themselves from Israel's action in Lebanon in letters to national newspapers. Some of the writers felt moved not merely to dissociate themselves from Israel but to review their allegiance to Judaism.

Bitter Arguments In The Community

Within the organized community, there were bitter arguments within bodies such as the Board of Deputies of British Jews, a resurgence of support for the Israeli Labor opposition, and the emergence of a British branch of the Peace Now movement. Premier Menachem Begin's highly vocal supporters for once had difficulty making themselves heard.

During the High Holidays, the arguments even spread to synagogue pulpits. At the prestigious Golders Green Synagogue in Northwest London, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, its charismatic emeritus minister, said Israeli complicity in the Beirut massacres was tantamount to "chilul hashem" (desecration of God's name).

Dayan Morris Swift, the fierce septuagenarian custodian of Anglo-Jewish Orthodoxy, immediately followed Sacks to the pulpit and informed the tense congregation that his younger colleague's statement had been invalid.

One of the most acrimonious outbursts of brotherly dislike occurred in mid-December and was all the more remarkable for taking place outside the confines of the community. In a local radio

program, an Orthodox and a Reform Rabbi traded vituperative insults not only at each other but at wide segments of Jewry.

Rabbi Cyril Harris, Glasgow-born minister of St. John's Wood Synagogue, London, referred to Reform and Liberal congregations as "the dustbin" of Anglo-Jewry. Rabbi Hugo Gryn, senior minister of the West London Synagogue, accused his colleague of sinking to the level of "Ayatollahism."

Bickering In the Zionist Community

Bickering also marred the activities of Britain's Zionist Federation, which has long seemed more preoccupied with its own internal disputes than the fundamental issues facing Jewry, let alone Zionist achievement.

Despite its claim to represent 50,000 people in Britain (a figure which has remained curiously constant over the years), it was unable to elect all its representatives to the 30th World Zionist Congress without arbitration from Jerusalem.

In this gathering gloom, the open nature of the monthly debates in the Board of Deputies were a welcome and refreshing exception. It was there that the community's strong feelings about Lebanon were expressed, under the stimulating chairmanship of the Board's president, the Labor MP and lawyer, Greville Janner.

A different issue which arose at the Board in the closing days of 1982 was whether or not the Board should attend next April's 40th anniversary memorial of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising in the Polish capital.

The Association of Polish Jewish Ex-Servicemen pleaded with the Board against participation in the event. Dr. Simon Frisner, its president, accused the military regime in Warsaw of overt anti-Semitic tendencies and said Western Jewish organizations should have nothing to do with it.

However, the majority agreed with veteran communal politician, Dr. S. Levenberg, who pointed out that there was still a tiny Jewish community in Poland and that Western Jewry must not abandon it. This is a controversy which is bound to continue into 1983 right up to the anniversary itself.

4 CANADIAN JEWS AWARDED THE ORDER OF CANADA

TORONTO, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Four Canadian Jews were among the 63 persons awarded the Order of Canada, it was announced by Governor General Edward Schreyer. The four are:

A. Alan Borovoy, general counsel for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. He is also active in the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Jewish Labor Committee; and Allan Gotlieb, senior civil servant and presently Canada's Ambassador to the United States. His family is active in the Zionist movement. His mother was the national chairperson of Hadassah-WIZO. Both Borovoy and Gotlieb were named Officers of the Order.

Marjorie Blankstein of Winnipeg is a past president of the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, chairman of the Canadian Jewish Congress for the Manitoba-Saskatchewan region, and president of the Jewish Community Council of Winnipeg; and Dr. William Feindel, a neurosurgeon, who replaced Dr. Wilder Penfield as director of the Montreal Neurological Institute. Both Mrs. Blankstein and Feindel were named as Members of the Order.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The government will ask the Knesset Finance Committee to provide a guaranty of \$100 million for El Al, the minimum necessary for the resumption of the airline's activities.