

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL ACCUSES THE U.S. OF EXAGGERATING AN INCIDENT BETWEEN A U.S. MARINE AND ISRAEL TANK SQUAD

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 3 (JTA) — Israel accused the United States today of exaggerating an incident yesterday in which a marine officer brandishing a loaded weapon prevented an Israeli tank squad from advancing toward a marine check point on the southern outskirts of Beirut.

The State Department said it viewed "such incidents very seriously" and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger told the House Armed Services Committee that it was his "continuing worry" that such incidents could escalate and cause "serious loss of life."

But Israeli officials insisted today that the alleged confrontation was of minor consequence and occurred because the marine officer was unfamiliar with the demarcation line between the zone patrolled by the marines and that in which the Israeli Defense Force operates. They expressed anger at what they termed American "over reaction."

### The Pentagon Version

According to the Pentagon version of events, Marine Capt. Charles Johnson approached an advancing column of three Israeli tanks near a marine checkpoint at the Beirut University's science faculty at Reihan. The lead tank allegedly halted within "a foot" of the officer who asked to speak to the squad commander. The latter, an Israeli Lt. Col. not immediately identified dismounted after several minutes and asked to speak to a superior officer.

When the Israeli tanks indicated they would continue to advance, the marine officer leaped on top of the lead tank, loaded and cocked his 45 pistol (some versions said he carried a rifle) and warned that the tanks would advance only "over my dead body." After several minutes, the Israeli tank column withdrew.

Weinberger was quoted saying that Capt. Johnson, commander of L Company, would receive a commendation for bravery.

### Israel Denies Gun-Point Confrontation

The Israelis deny that a gun-point confrontation occurred. They said the marine officer apparently was unaware that the tanks were operating legitimately in the zone which Israeli and American officials had agreed only a day earlier was within the Israeli sector. They denied as well that the tank column was attempting to approach or pass through the marine checkpoint.

Israeli officers and marine officers, accompanied by the Military Attache of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut toured the area of yesterday's incident today and redetermined the demarcation line. But the Israelis charged that the marines had neglected to follow procedures aimed at avoiding confrontations such as have occurred between Israeli and marine forces in recent weeks.

Those procedures, including a telephone "hot line" between marine headquarters and the Israeli command post, were agreed to at a meeting earlier this week between Col. Thomas Stokes, commander of the 1,200-man marine contingent, Gen. Amir Drori, Commander of the Israeli forces in Lebanon and U.S. special envoy Morris Draper. Arrangements were also made for calling meetings of local officers on both sides to avoid future misunderstandings. But the telephone or radio link was not used yesterday, the meeting of officers never took place and Col. Stokes refused to join Israeli officers on a tour of the demarcation line, the Israelis complained. For that reason, apparently, local commanders such as Capt. Johnson were unfamiliar with its precise location. The line runs several hundred yards east of an abandoned railroad track which parallels a highway where Israeli patrols make regular sweeps in search of ambushes from which Palestinian terrorists have been harassing Israeli military traffic in recent weeks causing some casualties. The marines and Lebanese army units jointly occupy the Beirut University campus which constitutes a "bulge" into the Israeli zone. The Israelis said they agreed to this as long as Lebanese army soldiers are present to prevent the possible use of the buildings by the PLO.

### Israeli Version Confirmed By Eye-Witness

The Israeli version of yesterday's events was confirmed by Philadelphia Inquirer staff writer David Zucchini who claimed in a dispatch from Beirut today that he had witnessed the incident from about 400 yards. According to Zucchini, the Israeli tanks were circling within their zone and not approaching the marine outpost. Capt. Johnson approached the tank column and conferred briefly with an Israeli officer after which the tanks left the area Zucchini reported.

("Israeli soldiers patrolling near the site of the incident paid little attention to it and the marine commander here, Col. Thomas Stokes, did not mention it at a news conference more than six hours later," Zucchini wrote.)

### U.S. Views Incident With 'Gravity'

But in Washington last night, acting Secretary of State Kenneth Dam summoned the Israeli Charge d'Affaires, Benjamin Netanyahu "to discuss this incident and the gravity with which we view it," State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg told the media.

Romberg said, "The recurrence of challenges to the marines by Israeli Defense Forces is unacceptable. We view such incidents very seriously because they endanger the safety of the troops involved and hamper the peace keeping efforts of the multinational force" which the marines constitute along with French and Italian units.

According to Romberg, "Our information is that U.S. marines halted three Israeli tanks which had attempted to cross into territory within the operational responsibilities" of the multinational force.

The Israel Embassy denied, in a statement issued last night that "there was any attempt to cross the

American lines or to challenge the marines... there was no such attempt."

According to the Embassy statement, "After completion of the patrol, a U.S. marine officer approached the Israeli unit and claimed that it should not be in this area. The Israeli commander explained that he was operating in territory previously agreed upon and left."

#### Incident Termed A 'John Wayne Operetta'

The Israeli officer in charge of the sector described yesterday's incident as "absurd." Israeli officials were reported to have spoken sarcastically of Johnson's action. They were quoted as describing it privately as a "John Wayne operetta" or a scene from a "wild west film." They expressed surprise at the official publicity given to what was "only a storm in a teacup."

But Weinberger, at his appearance on Capitol Hill, called the incident "basically damaging to the President's efforts to secure peace in the whole area." He said Capt. Johnson acted with "total correctness and extreme courage," adding, "I've asked that he be commended."

#### Version By Col. Stokes

Stokes gave his version in a press interview several hours after the press conference at which he had reportedly failed to mention the incident. He said Johnson "went down on the road by himself to try to tell these folks (the Israelis) to turn around and go home. He stood in the road as the tanks came up and the Israeli (lead) tank came within one foot of him, at pretty high speed and then slammed on the brakes."

He said Johnson demanded to speak to the Israeli commander who emerged from his tank after a few minutes and said he had orders to go to the railroad tracks. Stokes said Johnson told the Israelis that he was approaching a Lebanese army checkpoint and that the Lebanese had orders not to let the Israelis through.

According to Stokes' version, the Israeli officer said "I'm coming through and Capt. Johnson said at that point 'No you're not. The only way you're going to get there is to come through me.'"

#### U.S. ISRAELI OFFICIALS MEETING IN LEBANON TO AVOID FUTURE INCIDENTS By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- American and Israeli officials are meeting "on the ground" in Lebanon to try to avoid future incidents such as the one yesterday when a Marine Corps Captain brandished a weapon at three Israeli tanks, said State Department spokesman today.

The spokesman, Alan Romberg, refused to say anything about the incident except to declare that he stood on the statement he made yesterday that the incident was an Israeli challenge to the marines. He would not comment either on Israel's denial that its tanks were attempting to cross American lines.

But Romberg indicated that the two conflicting statements demonstrated that there is a "misunderstanding" of an agreement between the Israelis and marines on the demarcation line between the area held by Israel and the zone patrolled by the marines.

Romberg said it was not useful to discuss the past nor was the problem a "legal issue." He said the issue now is one of "trying to prevent incidents" in the future. The spokesman also would not comment on a report in the Philadelphia Inquirer

today by its reporter who was 400 yards from the scene of the alleged clash and challenged the U.S. version of the incident. Romberg said the view from 400 yards "is not something we would respond to."

#### FRANCE PLANNING TO BEEF UP THE MNF By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- France is planning to send additional troops to Beirut to reinforce the multinational force. The decision was reportedly taken as a result of the recent attacks against members of the French contingent. In the latest of a series of such incidents two Frenchmen were wounded yesterday morning in the city's seafont.

Defense Minister Charles Hernu has asked the Foreign Legion command to prepare for the dispatch of several companies which will join the 1,654 French marines already in Beirut.

The French are reportedly also worried by recent incidents between Israeli soldiers and members of the multinational force. Hernu last night reviewed the situation with U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. The two men had a lengthy telephone conversation to assess the situation.

Official sources in Paris said that any reinforcement will take place only with the agreement of the Lebanese government and in cooperation with the military commanders of the various national forces already serving in Beirut. Four countries have supplied troops to the force: America, Italy and France, with a small British unit which arrived in Beirut earlier this week.

#### ALAN CUNNINGHAM DEAD AT 95

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- Sir Alan Cunningham, the last British High Commissioner in Palestine, died this week at the age of 95. He held the post together with that of Commander in Chief from 1945 until May 1948, when his ceremonial departure by sea from the shores of Palestine signalled the birth of Israel and her full-scale War of Independence.

Although he headed the Mandatory Administration of Palestine during a period of mounting Jewish hostility to British rule, Sir Alan retained the respect of the leadership of the yishuv, thanks to his straightforward dealing and his serene, decisive character.

This image was reinforced by his singular refusal to be drawn into the polemics between Israel's supporters and detractors which have raged ever since and despite the initial legacy of bitterness which Britain left behind in Palestine.

As High Commissioner, Cunningham had succeeded another distinguished British soldier, Field Marshal Viscount Gort (1944-45) -- regarded by Palestinian Jewry as one of the most sympathetic men to have held that office since the days of Sir Herbert Samuel (1920-25), its first incumbent.

Cunningham had achieved fame as commander of the southern invading force in the brilliant British offensive in Abyssinia in 1941, which liberated that country from the Italians.

Soon after that campaign, Cunningham was given command of the British Eighth Army in the western desert, where Rommel's Afrika Korps was preparing to invade Egypt. He was relieved of the command by Gen. Auchinleck, the supreme Middle East commander, who felt he was being too defensive in his military plans.

Other High Commissioners in Palestine were Field Marshal Baron Plummer (1925-28); Sir John Chancellor (1928-31); Sir Arthur Wauchope (1931-38); and Sir Harold Macmichael (1938-44).

## EXPERT ON TERRORISM SAYS LOSS OF IDENTIFICATION AMONG JEWS IS GREATER THREAT THAN TERRORISM

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- Yehoshafat Harkabi, one of Israel's leading experts on Palestinian terrorism, warned today that the loss of identification among Jews is a greater threat to world Jewry and Israel than terrorism.

"Terrorism is not a major problem for Israel," Harkabi, a Hebrew University professor, said in a discussion on international terrorism in the final day of the four-day biennial meeting of the Board of Governors of the World Jewish Congress. "You cannot destroy a state by terrorism."

But Harkabi warned that there is a problem in maintaining Jewish education. He said where once identification was cemented by religion, it is now based on support of Israel. But he added where Israel had been a "source of pride" to Jews around the world it is now "embarrassing them."

Harkabi said now was the time to seek a settlement with the moderate Arab countries. He said if this does not occur, the radical Arab states which realize they cannot destroy Israel will now turn their attention to seeking to radicalize the moderate Arab states. He said they believe that if this can be accomplished they will have a united Arab world against Israel.

It is better to make a realistic "compromise" now than "wait for the showdown in the future," Harkabi said.

Both Harkabi and Frank Perez of the State Department's Office for Combatting Terrorism agreed that terrorist attacks against Israel and Jews will rise again as a result of the Palestine Liberation Organization's defeat in Lebanon. They both said the recent attacks against Jews and Jewish institutions in Europe were not done by the PLO but Palestinian splinter groups.

### Warns That Anti-Semitism Is Not A Passing Phase

In introducing today's discussion, Kalman Sultani, a WJC vice president, said that anti-Semitism is not a "passing phase." He said no country lacks anti-Semitism no matter the size of its Jewish population nor the make up of its political and economic structure. He said it is in the democratic countries where anti-Semitism is most seriously manifested because "any statements of democratic governments that criticize Israel play in the hands of anti-Semitism."

In a discussion yesterday of anti-Semitism, Dr. Stephen Roth, director of the London-based Institute of Jewish Affairs, said that "after the events of the past nine months, we have a right to be alarmed -- but not alarmists."

He said that according to figures compiled by the Institute, which is operated by the WJC, there was a record 104 terrorist attacks against Jews in 1982, half of them in West Europe. He said 25 persons were killed and 400 were wounded. In more than 75 percent of the cases, the terrorist acts were committed by Palestinian terrorists occasionally helped by local gangs, Roth said.

### Major Threat To American Jewry Is Cited

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg of Englewood, N.J., a WJC vice president, said that while most Jews believe anti-Semitism is "more menacing today than it has been since the end of World War II," he expressed belief "the comforting probability is that the institutions of American democracy will withstand future shocks -- and that anti-Semitism, despite Jewish fears, is not likely to burgeon in the United States."

He said the major threat to Jewry is that unless major population trends are soon reversed, "American Jewry will soon lose a million people, or perhaps more by the end of the century." Hertzberg declared that the American Jewish community "cannot afford such losses. Such large energies will be mustered in the efforts of self preservation."

### VATICAN PRESENTS DIRECTIVE TO BE FOLLOWED BY CATHOLICS IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH JEWS OF ROME By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- The Vatican has presented, for the first time, precise and detailed directives to be followed by Catholics in their relations with the Jewish community of Rome. The directives, part of a pastoral letter addressed to the Diocese of Rome, were broadcast by the Vatican radio station yesterday.

The announcement stated: "The Diocese of Rome has placed itself in an avant-garde position in the dialogue between Catholics and Jews ... in the promotion of a deeper knowledge of Jewish culture and in the consequent commitment to act as barrier against the resurgence of phenomena of anti-Semitism."

The letter, titled "An Outline for An Ecumenical Pastoral," was several years in preparation and was completed under the leadership of Msgr. Clement Riva, president of the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission. Its special section on relations with the Jews is clearly aimed at improving the climate between the two faiths in the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the main synagogue in Rome last October 9 in which a two-year-old child was killed and 33 persons were wounded.

### Recognition Of Spiritual Affinities

A theme running through the pastoral letter is recognition of the spiritual affinities between Christianity and Judaism and respect for their differentologies. "The dialogue is seen not in terms of a relationship between majority and minority, between the three million baptized Romans and the 15,000 Jews in one of the most ancient communities in the world, but in a spirit of profound respect and equal dignity in a reality whose history is closely interwoven with that of Christians," the Vatican Radio stated.

This is elucidated in the section on intermarriage. It states that the Roman Catholic spouse of a non-Catholic Christian is expected to "sincerely promise to do all that is possible to have his or her partner baptized and educated within the Roman Catholic Church." But speaking of marriages between Catholics and Jews, the letter calls for emphasis on "the human and religious values common to Judaism and Christianity ... in full respect for the consciences and freedom of the partners."

It also cautions that "there should be awareness of the possible difficulties in these marriages" and notes that there is a special office at the Vicariate which can give permission for dispensing with the impediment on marriages between Jews and Catholics.

### ISRAEL, HUNGARY SIGN ACCORD FOR THE SALE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- The Paris correspondent of Maariv reported today that Israel and Hungary have concluded a cartel agreement for the sale of agricultural products -- almost entirely goose liver -- to France. The paper said that Hungary exports to France some 800 tons of goose pate, while Israel sells about 250 tons a year, but obtains a higher price.

Under the new agreement, both countries will unify their prices and market their product under joint agreement. Israel is said to be one of the world's major producers of goose liver. It is also said to be one of the few countries in the world where the geese are force-fed to fatten them to the maximum. Force-feeding has been banned in most other countries.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES TO ISRAEL WITH LOVE

By Ben Gallob

(Editor's note: This is another in a series of occasional reports on groups organized by Christian evangelical and fundamentalist churches and individuals in the United States to educate other Christians about the special status of the Jewish people and Israel in the Bible and to raise funds for Jewish and Israeli causes.)

NEW YORK, Feb. 3 (JTA) -- A 42-year-old pastor of a 2,000-member San Antonio, Texas church, described as denominationally non-aligned, is the organizer of a growing movement which raises funds and "love and support" for Israel and the Jewish people through a project he calls "A Night to Honor Israel."

John Hagee, pastor of the Church of Castle Hills, says he was shocked into action for Israel and for Jews by the hostile general media reaction to Israel's bombing of Iraq's nuclear reactor in Baghdad in June, 1981.

Hagee, who said his father, a Methodist minister, taught him that Jews were God's chosen people, also said the hostility expressed over the attack on the reactor spurred him to conceive of the idea of the program of a night to honor Israel. He proceeded to organize the project after the idea was approved by the church's executive board and its board of deacons.

### An Outspoken Minister

The outspoken young minister has asserted publicly that "if the Arabs ask us to crucify the Jewish people on a cross of oil, then we will tell them to keep their oil and we'll ride bicycles."

Hagee has been described as being just as fervent about Jerusalem remaining the undivided capital of Israel, asserting that "God specified the land boundaries, including Jerusalem, for Abraham and his seed, forever."

He said he and his church had sent a letter to President Reagan protesting the sales in 1981 of five AWACS reconnaissance planes to Saudi Arabia.

The minister has also publicly declared that "it is not possible for a man to read the word of God and say that he hates the Jews." Another "unquestioned truth" for him is Israel's absolute right to exist.

He has described himself as a "pre-millennialist," a term to describe Christians who believe that the creation of the State of Israel is a fulfillment of prophecy and indicates the second coming of Christ is near.

He said the Christian community had been guilty of silence during the persecution of the Jews, particularly by the Nazis. His associates reported his views have brought him death threats from Arab factions and white power advocates.

### 'Night To Honor Israel' Project

The "Night to Honor Israel" project was organized by Hagee and the content of each event is determined by Christians. But Hagee has hired Saul Silverman, a former director of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio and an early admirer of Hagee's efforts, to serve as national director for the programs.

The format for each "Night to Honor Israel" is ecumenical but dominated by Christian elements. Silverman reported, in a letter to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, that the program began more than a year ago in San Antonio and that last

September 12, a second "Night" was held in San Antonio before an SRO audience.

He reported that since the first event in San Antonio, the program has been presented in Houston, Fort Worth, Tulsa, Dallas, a second time in San Antonio, and in Phoenix.

Silverman reported each "Night" is held in the major auditorium of the city, following a basic format. There is no admission charge but a "love offering" is taken, in accordance with the fact that it is a Christian group sponsoring the event. All proceeds go to an Israeli beneficiary. The beneficiaries to date have been the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem and the Israel Emergency Fund.

A printed program for each event has the same page one format -- the word ISRAEL appears on the cover above a blue line with a blue-colored Mogen David below and then another line. Below that line appears the slogan, YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

Below that is a drawing of hands clasped in brotherhood; on the sleeve of one arm is the flag of Israel, on the other the flag of the United States. In smaller type below appears the line, A NIGHT TO HONOR ISRAEL and the date, time and place.

### Proclaims A New Era In America

The text reads: "The purpose of this program is to give the Christian Community an opportunity to demonstrate their love and support for Israel and the Jewish people. It is my conviction, and the conviction of the members of the Church of Castle Hills, that we have a responsibility to give an expression of our support, particularly in these days of uncertainty and unrest."

The bottom half of the second page contains copy in a box which includes Chapter 12, Verse 3 from Genesis: "And I will bless them that bless thee and curse them that curse thee, and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed." Next to it is Chapter 15, Verse 27 from Romans: "For if the gentiles have shared in their (the Jews') spiritual things, they are indebted to them also in material things."

The reader is then informed that "we are here to introduce a new era in America -- an era of unity, mutual respect and lasting peace -- an era when Christian and Jew stand together hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, and announce to a hostile world that we are united in brotherhood."

The text adds: "and we are here to say that it's time for the Jewish people to hear the voices of their friends loud and clear. It is time for us to speak up for Israel, and it is time for us to stand up for Israel."

On the back page is his famous quotation from Hillel: "If I am not for myself, who will be? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?"

Referring to the 75 percent Christian make-up of the 2,800-member audience for the "Night" presentation at San Antonio on September 11, 1981, the first of the programs, Silverman, then the San Antonio Federation executive director, commented, "If I hadn't seen it myself, I wouldn't have believed it."

Hagee credits part of his passion for justice for Jews and Israel to the fact that "as a young man, in my developing years, Jews were major contributors in my life," including the first football coach in a Houston junior high school.

He was the first non-Jew to receive the San Antonio B'nai B'rith Council Humanitarian of the Year Award. He also was honored by the Hadassah Texas region with its Henrietta Szold Award and by the San Antonio Hadassah chapter as a founder of Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.