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2 MEN KILLED IN AN APPARENT BOMBING ATTEMPT ON MARSEILLES MAIN SYNAGOGUE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 8 (JTA) -- A powerful bomb exploded early this morning near the main synagogue in Marseilles demolishing a car and killing two terrorists in it who had been transporting the bomb in an apparent attempt to blow up the synagogue.

It was the third attempted attack on Jewish installations in Marseilles in less than two weeks. Ten days ago a bomb was discovered, and dismantled before it could explode, in a hall where Jewish children were planning to hold a Purim festival. Last Friday a bomb was discovered in a Jewish-owned store. It was defused by police.

Policemen guarding the synagogue in the center of the city said two men drove by at 2:30 a.m. and slowed down in front of the building. When they spotted the police patrol they drove away at high speed and turned into a narrow alley. There, they found themselves blocked by another police car.

Police investigators believe that the two men, whose charred bodies were as far away as 20 yards from the blazing car, had triggered off their bomb when they first passed by the synagogue and never managed to stop it from exploding or to escape from the car. As the bomb detonated, one of the men was in the process of jumping out of the car and the other died apparently in the driver's seat, police said.

Mayor Reassures Jewish Community

Marseilles Mayor Gaston Defferre arrived within minutes at the site of the attack and later also phoned the city's Chief Rabbi Joseph Sitruk to assure him that "everything will be done" to ensure the Jewish community's protection. He later told a press conference that the two men were "probably" members of a neo-Nazi group and were planning to attack the synagogue.

Defferre, who faces a difficult run-off in next Sunday's municipal elections, assured the city's Jews of his solidarity and said that as Minister of Interior he had taken "all the precautions to combat violence." Defferre said that his charge against a neo-Nazi organization is still "within the realm of suspicions only."

Sitruk called on the community to remain vigilant but said that nothing is as yet certain and that the bomb explosion might be linked to factors other than anti-Semitism.

Bomb Scare At Israeli Bank

Later today police evacuated the Marseilles branch of Bank Leumi-Israel, a French subsidiary of Bank Leumi, after the bank received a bomb threat from an anonymous telephone caller, bank officials reported. They said no bomb was found in the bank, located two buildings from the headquarters of Defferre's chief mayoral opponent, Jean-Claude Gaudin.

Difficulty In Identifying The Victims

Police later said they had difficulty identifying the victims. The car itself had been stolen in

Marseilles last month and the two men's bodies were practically burned to cinders. An eye-witness said that after the explosion "10-yard-high flames leaped into the night sky." He also said the two men first appeared to be alive and "I saw two living torches run for a couple of feet before collapsing."

Among the few unburned papers found in the wreck are documents belonging to a woman jailed recently in Avignon, a southern city not far from Marseilles, for carrying a loaded gun.

No group or organization has as yet claimed responsibility for the aborted attack but some of Defferre's rightwing opponents in the electoral race hinted that "it was all linked to some electoral maneuver."

Defferre himself lost his temper when told about this charge at his press conference. He said, "they who say such things, assume a heavy responsibility." He said the bombing attempt was an effort to destabilize the government by making it seem that the Interior Minister is incapable of guaranteeing security in France. He added: "There is no doubt that it was an anti-Semitic attack." Defferre made a similar statement after a bomb was found at the hall where a children's Purim party was to take place.

Some Previous Anti-Semitic Attacks

If the bomb attack was in fact aimed at the synagogue, it would be the 12th anti-Semitic attack attempted in France in the last eight months. The most serious was the attack last August 9 against Jo Goldenberg's restaurant on the Rue des Rosiers in the old Jewish district in Paris. Six people were killed and 22 were wounded in that attack.

Five other attacks against Jewish and Israeli installations were claimed by the extreme leftwing Direct Action group and one by an unknown group calling itself "The Red Panthers." Police suspect that the attack on Goldenberg's restaurant was carried out by a Palestinian splinter group headed by Abu Nidel.

Many terrorist attacks not linked to Israel or anti-Semitism have also taken their toll. Some were carried out by Iranians, Iraqis or the Corsican independence movement.

STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS SHULTZ WELCOMES MEETING WITH SHAMIR

WASHINGTON, March 8 (JTA) -- The State Department confirmed today that Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir will come to Washington at the end of this week for discussions with Secretary of State George Shultz but could not give the exact day of his arrival or say how long he will remain here. (See related story from Israel, P. 3)

Department spokesman John Hughes said the main topic would be Lebanon although other issues on the Middle East would be discussed by Shamir and Shultz, including the SAM-5 anti-aircraft missiles the Soviet Union has recently installed in Syria.

Israel suggested the meeting and Shultz "welcomed" it, Hughes said. He said he did not know if it would be a "prelude" to scheduling Premier Menachem Begin's long delayed visit to Washington.

U.S. special Ambassador Philip Habib will return to Washington from California tomorrow and will attend the meetings with Shamir, Hughes said. Habib returned Saturday from the Middle East, where he had been participating in the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon, to accept an award in San Francisco last night.

Shamir is expected to bring with him the reported concessions Israel is prepared to make toward an agreement for the withdrawal of its troops from Lebanon and probably will seek changes in the U.S. position, particularly its opposition to Israel's demands for normalization of relations with Lebanon. (By David Friedman)

GERMANY'S MIDEAST POLICY NOT EXPECTED TO CHANGE FOLLOWING ELECTION VICTORY OF KOHL'S CDU By David Kantor

BONN, March 8 (JTA) -- No changes are expected in West Germany's Middle East policy as a result of the landslide victory of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in last Sunday's election. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, a leader of the Free Democratic Party (FDP), Kohl's coalition partner, is expected to retain his post as Foreign Minister in the new government.

Genscher was largely responsible for the Venice Declaration adopted by the ministers of the European Economic Community (EEC) member-states in 1980. It called, among other things, for the "association" of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Middle East peace process. It was denounced by Israel.

Although Kohl initially rejected parts of the declaration and some of his aides have dismissed it as outdated and unrealistic, Genscher said only a few days ago that it still reflects EEC policy in the area. He spoke as the current chairman of the EEC Council of Ministers. At the same time, Genscher said that no new European initiatives for the Middle East were contemplated.

Shift In SPD Position Toward Israel

While the new CDU-led coalition is expected to be relatively sympathetic toward Israeli positions, the new opposition bloc in the Bundestag poses difficulties. The Social Democratic Party (SPD), traditionally friendly to Israel although it strongly opposed many policies of Premier Menachem Begin's government, has shifted sharply to the left as a result of the elections. Many of its new members have been extremely critical of Israel.

They are re-enforced by the new Green Party, rooted in pacifist and environmental movements which have displayed pro-Arab tendencies far beyond any previously registered within West Germany's "established" political community. The Greens, with five percent of the vote, are represented in the Bundestag for the first time.

BARBIE'S LAWYER DENIES THAT THE EX GESTAPO CHIEF WILL TRY TO GET A PARDON ON MEDICAL GROUNDS By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 8 (JTA) -- Klaus Barbie's court appointed lawyer, Etienne de la Servette, angrily denied today that the Nazi war criminal will attempt to obtain a pardon or Presidential grace on medical grounds. De la Servette, referring to some newspaper reports published today, said "such rumors are baseless."

The papers had said Barbie's daughter, Mrs. Ute Messner, would try to obtain a pardon. De

la Servette retorted that "such rumours only provoke hate against an innocent woman whose only fault is to have Barbie as her father."

Barbie, who underwent surgery last Sunday for an intestinal obstruction, was reported to be recovering "as well as can be expected." His surgeon, Dr. Roger Lombard-Platet, said today "he obviously has a strong constitution for a 69-year-old man."

Barbie was expelled from Bolivia on February 5 and turned over to French authorities. He is awaiting trial on a charge of "crimes against humanity" for his war-time activities while serving as gestapo chief for Lyon in 1942-44.

The investigating magistrate's office said today that the preliminary hearings will have to be postponed until Barbie leaves the hospital and returns to his prison cell at Lyon's St. Joseph's high security jail. He is convalescing at the Edouard Henriot Medical facility, where he is expected to remain for two weeks. Special security precautions have been taken to prevent an attack against him or a suicide attempt.

Report Barbie Freed Bourgiba From Prison

Meanwhile, the semi-official Tunisian daily, L'Avenir, reported today that President Habib Bourgiba was freed from a Lyon prison by Barbie on December 16, 1942. Bourgiba, who had been imprisoned at the time by the French for leading the Tunisian independence movement, was held at the city's Montluc prison where most French resistance fighters were detained by the Germans.

The Tunisian daily said Barbie visited Bourgiba in his prison cell to inform him that "the Fuehrer has decreed your liberation and has permitted your return to Tunisia." Bourgiba was quoted as saying that he clearly understood at the time that the Nazis wanted him free in order to help the Axis war effort and Italy's own ambitions in his country.

L'Avenir stated that Bourgiba turned down all Nazi and Italian offers for help and immediately after his return to Tunis in April 1943 contacted the Free French movement in London headed by Gen. Charles de Gaulle. The paper quoted Bourgiba as having told the Allies at the time: "The enemies of our enemies are not necessarily our friends." France was considered the enemy at the time by the Tunisian organizations fighting for their country's independence.

ARENS: ISRAELI SECURITY FORCES WILL PRESERVE ORDER ON WEST BANK By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 8 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Moshe Arens told the Knesset today that Israeli security forces have the means to preserve law and order on the West Bank and that a small number of Jews who take the law into their own hands do not represent the majority of the Jewish settlers in the territory.

Arens spoke in reply to questions during his first appearance before the Knesset as Defense Minister. He said the government would continue to promote massive Jewish settlement in the territory where unrest among the Arab population continued today.

Arens made no reference to his orders to dismantle a settlement near Hebron set up illegally several weeks ago by followers of Rabbi Meir Kahane's extremist Kach movement. The site was surrounded by Israeli troops yesterday and the settlers reportedly were evacuated without incident. But as of this afternoon, none of the structures had been demolished. The Defense Ministry was reported to be negotiating with leaders of the religious township of Kiryat Arba, adjacent to Hebron for a compromise that would allow some of the Kach settlers to join existing legal settlements in the area.

ISRAELI OFFICIALS DENY A SOFTENING IN POSITION ON RETAINING LOOKOUT POSTS IN SOUTH LEBANON

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 8 (JTA) -- Officials here denied tonight that Israel has softened its position on retaining military surveillance outposts in south Lebanon after its army withdraws from that country. The officials termed inaccurate reports today that Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir had said Israel might waive that demand.

Shamir, who will be going to Washington at the end of this week for talks with Secretary of State George Shultz, was reported earlier today as having told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that Israel would have to make concessions to achieve the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon.

Despite the denials, observers here detect a softening in the Israeli stand and believe it will be given concrete expression during Shamir's meeting with Shultz. The meeting will be attended by U.S. special envoy Philip Habib who has been participating in the Israel-Lebanon negotiations. Shamir may also meet with President Reagan.

No Confirmation Of A Radio Report

Shamir was reported to have told the Knesset committee that Israel would agree to joint patrols by the IDF and the Lebanese army to make sure that terrorists do not infiltrate south Lebanon.

There was no confirmation of a radio report that Shamir spoke of joint Israeli, Lebanese and American patrols to ensure security and observers discount the possibility of American involvement. But they believe Israel will eventually be prepared to forego the manned surveillance outposts if acceptable alternatives are offered.

No Progress In Talks

Meanwhile, the Israel-Lebanon-U.S. negotiating teams convened for their 21st session in Khaldé, Lebanon this morning. No progress was reported on the issue of the outposts and none is expected until Shamir returns from Washington. Israeli sources said there was progress, however, on the matter of the free flow of goods and people across the Israel-Lebanon border and on the formulation of points that have been agreed to in the slowly evolving accord.

David Kimche, head of the Israeli delegation, stressed the importance of normalizing relations between the countries and open borders. Israel's desire to withdraw from Lebanon as soon as its vital security interests are ensured was stressed by Premier Menachem Begin and Shamir at separate meetings this afternoon with former President Jimmy Carter who arrived in Israel on a private visit this morning. (See separate story.)

CARTER IS VISITING ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 8 (JTA) -- Former President Jimmy Carter arrived here today on his first visit to Israel since 1979 when his personal diplomacy helped edge Israel and Egypt toward their peace treaty. Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai paid tribute to those efforts when he greeted Carter on behalf of the government at Ben Gurion Airport this morning.

Referring to the fact that the former President flew to Israel directly from Cairo, Mordechai observed that "whereas our forefathers travelled the same route in 40 years, nowadays the same route can be travelled in a one hour direct flight--thanks to you, Mr. President."

Carter, on a private tour of the Middle East, is in Israel as the guest of Premier Menachem Begin. Although his most recently published book contains some unflattering references to Begin during the Camp David negotiations in 1978, Carter was full of praise for his host today.

"I am looking forward to my conversation with Premier Begin," he said. "I particularly want to pay my tribute to him, as I did in Egypt to President (Anwar) Sadat and President (Hosni) Mubarak, as a man who is searching for peace and who has exhibited great courage in the past to move the first steps towards a comprehensive peace."

Carter met with Begin at the Knesset this afternoon and will be his guest at dinner this evening. All Israeli officials who participated in the Camp David meetings five years ago have been invited.

Carter also met today with Knesset Speaker Menachem Savidor. Carter reportedly said that Israel's relations with Egypt would improve immediately once the Israel army leaves Lebanon. Carter said he did not necessarily link the two issues but "the fact is, they are linked."

Carter is scheduled to hold meetings with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defense Minister Moshe Arens, Shimon Peres, chairman of the opposition Labor Party, and with Palestinian leaders from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Carter confirmed today that he had met with two PLO officials during his visit in Egypt, but declined to identify them.

ISRAEL, EGYPT TO HOLD TRADE TALKS

JERUSALEM, March 8 (JTA) -- Israel and Egypt will open trade talks in Cairo next week aimed at resuming commercial relations frozen since Israel's invasion of Lebanon last June. This announcement followed two days of meetings in Ismailia last week over the disputed Taba region, the first since Egypt suspended negotiations last summer because of the war in Lebanon.

Although the Ismailia meeting adjourned without making progress on the border dispute and without setting a date for the next session, the very fact it was held indicated that a thaw in relations between Cairo and Jerusalem was underway.

That was re-enforced by statements by President Hosni Mubarak's close aide, Osama El-Baz and by Mubarak himself, making it clear that Egypt considers its relations with Israel to be of utmost importance and that it is firmly committed to the Camp David peace process.

The Egyptians moreover bowed to Israel's demands that negotiations over the future status of the Taba region be coordinated with advancing the normalization of relations between the two countries. The upcoming trade talks in Cairo is viewed as a sign of Egypt's compliance with Israel's terms for resuming the Taba negotiations.

Israeli observers say Egypt may have decided to resume the dialogue for fear that the freeze could deepen and lead eventually to a deterioration of relations with Israel which might endanger the peace treaty between them. El-Baz, in an interview with a Saudi Arabian newspaper, warned that it is not in the Arabs' interest to allow the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty to become "fragile" or to collapse because of specific Israeli policies. El-Baz stressed Egypt's commitment to Camp David, noting that it had succeeded in at least one respect -- the recovery of Sinai by Egypt.

Mubarak, who is presently attending the conference of non-aligned nations in New Delhi, also confirmed Egypt's commitment to Camp David in remarks to officials of the ruling National Democratic Party in Cairo before leaving for India.

PUBLIC OPINION POLL SHOWS 'MODEST' INCREASE IN SYMPATHY FOR THE ARABS, NO EROSION IN SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 8 (JTA) -- A survey of public opinion in the United States released yesterday finds that while there has not been "any substantial damage" to the support of Israel by Americans as a result of Israel's invasion of Lebanon, there has been "a modest increase in sympathy for the Arabs and in particular for the Palestinians." At the same time, the study finds that Americans view Premier Menachem Begin much more unfavorably than they do Israel.

The study, "American Public Opinion and U.S. Foreign Policy 1983," was conducted by the Gallup organization for the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations between October 29 and November 6, 1982. It is summarized in the spring issue of the quarterly, Foreign Policy, by John Reilly, president of the Chicago Council.

At a breakfast meeting with reporters yesterday Reilly said he was "surprised" that the report showed no "erosion of support" for Israel since the study was made just after Israel's invasion of Lebanon and after the massacre at the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut. But he said in all areas of U.S. foreign policy, the survey found Americans want a "continuation" of past policy.

The survey is based on a nationwide sample of 1,547 adults plus personal and telephone interviews with 341 prominent persons from government, international business, labor, academia, religious institutions, private foreign policy organizations and special interest groups.

Findings Of The Poll

When the poll asked the question about "Israel's recent actions in Lebanon," 55 percent of the public responded that they disapproved while 21 percent approved. Among the leadership group, 68 percent disapproved, and 27 percent approved.

The survey showed that 48 percent of the public approved of President Reagan's peace initiative while 21 percent did not. Among the public, 17 percent believe aid to Israel should be decreased and 16 percent want it stopped altogether. Among the leaders, 25 percent want to decrease or stop aid.

Forty eight percent of the public said they sympathize more with Israel than they do with the Arabs while 17 percent said they sympathize more with the Arabs. Reilly, in the Council report, noted that various Gallup polls showed sympathy for Israel to drop after the Lebanese invasion in June to an all time low of 32 percent in September. But by the time the Council survey was taken, it was back to where it had been before the operation in Lebanon.

Reilly also noted that while sympathy for Arabs rose to 28 percent last September, by the time the Council survey was taken in November, it was taken to 17 percent, which was still higher than the 10-14 percent it had been before last June.

However, "while the public sympathized with Israel over the Arabs by 48 percent to 17 percent, they supported Israel over the Palestinians by a lesser margin, 40 percent to 17 percent," the Council report said. "Opinion leaders were even more sensitive to the difference in terminology. Their support for Israel over the Arabs (51-19 percent) dropped to 42-26 for Israel over the Palestinians."

The survey also asked the public respondents to give a thermometer rating of how they felt about various countries, with 50 degrees being neutral and anything above being warm and below cool. Israel was rated at 55 degrees, the same as Italy. It had been rated 61 degrees when the Council took its last survey in 1978.

The countries rated above Israel were West Germany, 59 degrees; Mexico and France, 60; Great Britain, 68; and Canada, 74. Among the Arab countries, Egypt and Saudi Arabia were rated at 52 degrees; Jordan at 47; and Syria at 42.

Political Leaders Rated

When the question was asked about political leaders, Begin was rated at an unfavorable 45 degrees; 12 degrees below the favorable rating he received in 1978. But he was above former President Nixon, 38 degrees; the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, 31; PLO leader Yasir Arafat, 28; and the Ayatollah Khomeini, 11.

Those rated above Begin were Pope John Paul II, 70 degrees; British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, 61; Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Secretary of State George Shultz both 55; President Reagan, former President Carter, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, and UN Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, all at 45; Senator Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.) and French President Francois Mitterrand, 49.

ISRAEL'S TWO CHIEF RABBIS TO END THEIR TERMS IN OFFICE THIS MONTH

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 8 (JTA) -- The Knesset voted 47-40 last night to reject a government-sponsored bill that would have deferred the Chief Rabbinate elections scheduled to be held March 15. Defeat of the measure, despite intensive lobbying on its behalf by Premier Menachem Begin, means that Shlomo Goren and Ovadia Yosef, the Ashkenazic and Sephardic Chief Rabbis, respectively, will end their terms later this month.

The present law limits the Chief Rabbis to one 10-year term. Goren and Yosef were elected in 1972. Efforts by the Chief Rabbinate Council to have the law amended so that they could stand for re-election failed.

Defeat of the government's bill was attributed to large scale absenteeism by Knesset members of Likud's Liberal Party bloc who apparently stayed away deliberately. Meanwhile, Shlomo Eliahu, a member of the Sephardi Supreme Rabbinical Court, announced he is running to replace Yosef. A prominent Ashkenazic rabbi from Tel Aviv, Yitzhak Kolitz, is expected to run for Goren's office.

B'NAI B'RITH OPENS CAMPAIGN TO HELP AUSTRALIAN FIRE VICTIMS

WASHINGTON, March 8 (JTA) -- On the heels of its drive to ease the plight of U.S. flood and tornado victims in January, B'nai B'rith International and B'nai B'rith District 21 (Australia) have opened a campaign for the relief of victims of the bushfires that recently swept across the southern coast of Australia.

Announcing the campaign, Daniel Thursz, B'nai B'rith executive vice president, said that \$1,000 had been contributed from the organization's contingency fund and more than 2,500 from members in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra within the first two days of the drive in Australia. Additional sums are expected from lodges and individual members as the campaign expands.