

Israel Exonerated; U.S. DOCTORS ATTRIBUTE WEST BANK ILLNESS TO 'ANXIETY' By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 26 (JTA) — The State Department has released a report in which two U.S. government epidemiologists find that "anxiety" caused the mysterious illness that broke out among more than 600 West Bank high school girls.

"We conclude that this epidemic of acute illness was induced by anxiety," Drs. Philip Landrigan and Bess Miller of the U.S. Public Health Services' Center for Disease Control in Atlanta said in their report after studying the illnesses on the West Bank.

"It may have been triggered initially either by psychological factors or by sub-toxic exposure to H₂S (Hydrogen Sulfide). Its subsequent spread was mediated by psychogenic factors. Newspaper and radio reports may have contributed to this spread. The epidemic ended after West Bank schools were closed."

State Department deputy spokesman Alan Ramberg had no comment in releasing the 36-page report and its 12 pages of supplementary material yesterday except to read the conclusions by the two American epidemiologists.

Essence Of The Report

Landrigan and Miller said that the epidemic began March 21 when "approximately 50 cases of acute illness of unknown origin occurred among adolescent girls in a secondary school in the village of Araba, northern West Bank." They noted that among the characteristics of the illness were headaches, blurred vision, vertigo, nausea, abdominal pain and weakness of the limbs.

By April 3, when the epidemic ended, there were 943 cases in widely separated towns on the West Bank; 660 of the cases were among high school girls. The others who were ill were adults and a small number of Israeli soldiers on the West Bank. The two Americans stressed that "no one died" and that none of the illnesses were reported in refugee camps.

Landrigan and Miller began their study on April 2, after Israel had asked the Atlanta-based center to evaluate the problem. Also making a study at the same time were Dr. Ian Carter, an epidemiologist, and Dr. Anthony Veterozzi, a toxicologist with the World Health Organization in Geneva, who are making a separate report to the United Nations. The findings by the two American epidemiologists are also being sent to the UN.

Extensive Studies Conducted

The Americans visited the five hospitals where most of the patients were taken and were able to talk to and examine some 20 patients from eight different villages who had been ill from two to 14 days. They talked to hospital physicians and local public health officials and to numerous Israeli and West Bank officials. They studied both

blood samples and samples of the air at two schools where outbreaks had occurred.

In interviews at two affected villages, they found that the illness was preceded by an unpleasant odor, most commonly described as rotten eggs. They said they found no common exposure to food, water or agricultural chemicals.

The two American epidemiologists said that in examining the patients in the hospital they found all of them had symptoms that were "manifestations of anxiety" such as dilation of the pupils, cold blue hands and rapid heart rate. They found no evidence of pesticide poisoning, or infectious disease. The laboratory studies bore this out, too.

At the same time, "We encountered no evidence that patients had deliberately or consciously fabricated their symptoms," Landrigan and Miller stressed.

They also noted that "we observed no evidence which led us to conclude that affected women would either be rendered sterile or left with permanent psychiatric impairment as a result of their illness."

The two epidemiologists said they spent "a great deal of effort in reassuring village residents and their leaders" about this because "there was widespread concern among Palestinian villagers about these possible consequences, presumably as a result of exaggerated press reports."

SHULTZ TO GET A 'CHECK LIST' OF POINTS ON WHICH ISRAEL AND LEBANON HAVE FAILED TO AGREE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 26 (JTA) — Secretary of State George Shultz will receive a "check list" of all points on which Israel and Lebanon have failed to agree so far when he arrives here tomorrow to attempt to break the negotiating impasse.

The list was prepared yesterday at a meeting of the Israeli, Lebanese and American negotiating teams at Khalde, Lebanon to serve as a guideline for Shultz and for the Israeli and Lebanese leaders he will be meeting with over the next few days. The negotiating teams decided to hold no further sessions this week because of Shultz's visit.

The Secretary of State said in Cairo yesterday that he was prepared to remain in the region as long as necessary and to engage in shuttle diplomacy between Israel and Lebanon in an effort to achieve an agreement on security and the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. According to Shultz, his mission is "a very doable thing" because a withdrawal agreement is "in both Israeli and Lebanese interests."

Hectic Schedule For Shultz

Shultz is due at Ben Gurion Airport tomorrow morning. He will go to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem for a private meeting with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, to be followed by a working session at which both men will be accompanied by their aides.

After a brief courtesy call on President Yitzhak Navon, Shultz will have his first meeting with Premier Menachem Begin since becoming Secretary of State. He will be the guest of honor at a dinner hosted by Shamir and his wife tomorrow night. Shultz will also visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial.

He is scheduled to fly to Beirut Thursday morning but beyond that his plans have not been disclosed and are said to be flexible. Observers here expect him to return to Jerusalem, possibly Thursday night, for further talks. He is expected to visit Jordan and Saudi Arabia over the weekend and, possibly Damascus.

Israel Wants Mission To Succeed

Foreign Ministry officials stressed at a press briefing today that Israel intends "to cooperate with all our might" to help Shultz succeed in his mission. The Israelis apparently hope the American diplomat will exert pressure on the Lebanese government to be more flexible and hint that Israel too would be capable of greater flexibility. Shamir remarked pointedly that the U.S. has "a very deep involvement and very great influence" in Lebanon.

One outstanding issue blocking an agreement is the role of Israel's ally, Maj. Saad Haddad. Israel has insisted that Haddad be assigned command of a brigade consisting of his 2,000-man Christian militia and Lebanese army regulars to maintain security in south Lebanon after Israeli forces have withdrawn.

The Beirut government, which considers Haddad a deserter, has balked at this. There are indications, however, that Israel is prepared to "give" somewhat on the question of Haddad's role and rank within the Lebanese military.

Other outstanding issues with which Shultz will have to grapple concern the future role of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL); the matter of joint Israeli-Lebanese patrols in south Lebanon to ensure that terrorists do not return to the region; the establishment of Israeli liaison offices in Lebanon and Lebanese counterparts in Israel; and such aspects of normalized relations as open borders and direct communications between the two countries.

Win Or Fail, Talks Will Continue

If agreements in principle can be achieved on these matters, the tripartite negotiating teams are expected to resume their meetings next week to work out the precise details of an accord and prepare it for signing. But if Shultz fails to achieve a breakthrough, Israeli sources said today that the negotiations will have to continue as before, chipping away at the various obstacles.

In that eventuality, pressure is expected to increase inside Israel for a unilateral pullback of Israeli forces to a 28-mile security zone in south Lebanon. Such proposals were discussed by the Cabinet last Sunday but no decisions were taken in view of Shultz's impending visit.

Apart from the terms of an accord with Lebanon, Israeli officials are expected to review the problem of Syria's intentions with the Secretary of State. There is concern in Israeli government circles that the Syrians, with the support of their Soviet patrons, might try to sabotage any agreement reached between Israel and Lebanon.

The Syrians could do this by refusing to withdraw their own forces from Lebanon. The rising tension between the Israeli and Syrian armies along the Bekaa valley front in eastern Lebanon during the past week is seen in some quarters as an indication that Damascus does not intend to cooperate.

During his stay in Cairo, Shultz had meetings with President Hosni Mubarak and Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali. He also met with

seven American Ambassadors to Middle East countries. Reports from Cairo today spoke of new American ideas emanating from that meeting, including an increased American role and an American "guarantee" of the security of Israel's northern border.

HILEL STORCH DEAD AT 80

NEW YORK, April 26 (JTA) — Hilel Storch, who negotiated the safe delivery during World War II of thousands of concentration camp survivors and refugees to the Allied armies, died yesterday in Stockholm just short of his 81st birthday, it was reported here today by the World Jewish Congress.

One of the unsung heroes in the rescue of Jews during the war and after, Storch arrived in Stockholm as a refugee from Riga. In Stockholm, as the official representative of the WJC and of the Jewish Agency, he devoted all of his time, energy and resources to the work of preserving Jewish life.

His initiatives during the war led to the liberation of several thousand concentration camp inmates and their transfer to Sweden. In subsequent efforts, Storch played a crucial role in obtaining the admission to Sweden of 20,000 camp survivors, 10,000 of whom suffered from tuberculosis.

Throughout the post-war period he campaigned to secure political and material support for Israel, particularly in the intensely critical period immediately preceding and following the creation of the State of Israel.

Last year, the WJC established a fund in honor of Storch's 80th birthday to enable a comprehensive study to be undertaken of the rescue work in Sweden during and after World War II and to make possible thereby the proper historical recording of Storch's role and accomplishments during that fateful period.

2 FRENCH NATIONALS HELD BY LIBYA ACCUSED OF ESPIONAGE FOR ISRAEL

PARIS, April 26 (JTA) — The Foreign Ministry announced today that it is trying to obtain the release of three French nationals arrested by Libyan authorities last January 13 and held incommunicado in a Tripoli jail since then. Two are construction company technicians accused of espionage for Israel. No specific charge has been leveled against the third man.

The Foreign Ministry said the French Consul in Tripoli has visited the prisoners, identified as Christian Dionisi, 52, Jean-Luc Bachman, 45 and Jean Pichon, 35. Their incarceration was disclosed when the Libyans released a fourth French engineer they had arrested at the same time but later allowed to leave the country.

3 MAJOR JEWISH GROUPS SEEKING FULL, POSTHUMOUS PARDON FOR LEO FRANK

NEW YORK, April 26 (JTA) — The American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the Atlanta Jewish Federation have submitted an application to the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles seeking a full and complete posthumous pardon for Leo Frank, exonerating him and declaring him innocent of the murder of Mary Phagan 70 years ago.

The Frank case, involving one of the most disputed trials in American history, was brought to light again last March when an 83-year-old Virginian, Alonzo Mann, gave a sworn statement to the Nashville Tennessee newspaper declaring that Frank was innocent.

According to the three groups, "Leo Frank was an innocent man convicted in a trial permeated with perjury and prejudice, and lynched by a mob inflamed with anti-Semitism." The trial led to the founding of the Anti-Defamation League in 1913.

The three groups said that in connection with their application for pardon, they submitted "new evidence not available at the time of the trial in Fulton Superior Court. A major part of the new evidence is the testimony of Alonzo Mann, who at the time of the murder was an office boy in the National Pencil Company, managed by Leo Frank. Mann's testimony first brought to public attention by Nashville Tennessee reporters Jerry Thompson and Robert Sherborne, shows conclusively that the crime could not have been committed as described by prosecution witnesses at the trial."

Describing the conviction and lynching of Frank as one of the worst episodes of anti-Semitism in the history of the United States, the AJ Committee, ADL and the Federation said "it continues to be a blot on Georgia's criminal justice system. By issuing a full and complete pardon, the Board of Pardons and Paroles can repudiate the twin evils of prejudice and mob rule and right an historic wrong."

ISRAEL'S BALANCE OF PAYMENT DEFICIT AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 26 (JTA) — Israel's balance of payment deficit has reached the highest point in the history of the State, including the difficult times right after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, according to figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics yesterday.

Paradoxically, the deficit grew last year despite an overall improvement in Israel's exports. It amounted to \$4.72 billion in 1982, an increase of \$400 million over the previous year. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, Israel's income from overseas trade decreased by \$300 million or 11 percent compared to 1981 even though improved exports injected \$530 million into the economy and security related imports declined by \$640 million.

Without those two elements, the deficit would have reached \$5.9 billion, the Central Bureau reported. As matters stand now, Israel has become more dependent than ever on loans which increased during the past year by \$2 billion, for a total outstanding of \$28 billion. Israel has paid some \$300 million on the interest alone. It was noted that since Yoram Aridor became Finance Minister two years ago, Israel's foreign debt increased by 25 percent.

LEVY: RESOURCES ISRAEL IS INVESTING ON THE WEST BANK ARE NOT AT EXPENSE OF SOLVING SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 26 (JTA) — David Levy, Israel's Deputy Premier and Minister of Housing, said here today that the resources Israel is investing on the West Bank are not at the expense of solving social problems in Israel.

"Whoever is against settlements in Judaea and Samaria would find a pretext against this (settlement) policy. The question is whether Israel governments in the past invested more in solving Israel's social problems than the present government. The answer is no," Levy said at a press conference.

Levy, who was invited to the U.S. by Jewish organizations to be guest of honor at the "Salute to Israel" parade this Sunday, said Israel will establish only six new settlements on the West Bank this year while it will establish in

Israel proper, 10 new settlements. He claimed that the sums for the rehabilitation of disadvantaged neighborhoods in Israel have been increasing meaningfully in the last few years, under Premier Menachem Begin's government.

Furthermore, Levy said, the present government's policy of finding and building housing for the poor is expanding. He said that in the last five years the government has found housing solutions for about 260,000 families.

In response to a question on the situation in Lebanon, Levy said that it seems that the American Administration is ready "to achieve a settlement in Lebanon." He claimed that "The pressure so far was on Israel and this pressure on only one party has created a stalemate. It has been proven that if the U.S. wants, she can move the Lebanese toward settling the conflict," he said.

Levy said, however, that Israel will not make any compromise on security but it is adhering to its policy that all foreign forces, including the Israel army, should leave Lebanon and security arrangements should be established to prevent a new outbreak of war.

Levy warned that the continuing stalemate in Lebanon poses major dangers, especially in view of the increasing involvement of the Soviet Union in Syria. "This must worry the Americans. This is one of the reasons I believe there will be a movement toward a solution in the near future," he said.

Urges U.S. Jews To Support Israel

Levy met this morning with American Jewish leaders and briefed them on recent developments in Israel and its relations with the U.S. He told them that Israel will not compromise on anything involving its security. He also emphasized that there is a national consensus in Israel against a Palestinian state.

Levy called on American Jews to stand behind Israel and to join in its "hasbara" (information) efforts. Asked about criticism among American Jews of Israeli policies, Levy said that this kind of criticism is used against Israel. He said Israel is the only one to decide its policy. "If anybody wants to give advice he can do it discreetly, without using slogans," Levy said.

During his eight-day visit to the U.S., the Israeli minister will meet with various Jewish groups, including the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. He said he does not have any meetings scheduled so far with U.S. officials in Washington.

Asked about new elections in Israel, Levy said he personally favors them because the present government does not have a stable majority and in order to govern efficiently, a comfortable majority is needed. He said the problem is that not all of Likud's coalition partners want early elections.

Asked about the ethnic gap in Israel, Levy referred to a recent series in The New York Times which he claimed was exaggerated and not written "out of love" for Israel. He said Israel did have social problems but "we are overcoming them. The situation is not as bad as it was in the 1950s. To present the problems as if there is apartheid in Israel is a distortion that leads nowhere."

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israeli army patrols in south Lebanon were attacked by Palestinian terrorists this week in several separate incidents, but there were no casualties.

On Sunday night a bomb was exploded by remote control on the coastal road north of Sidon as an IDF convoy passed by. Small arms fire was also directed at the vehicles. An IDF convoy was also fired on in an attack inland later in the day.

STATE DEPT. OFFICIAL SAYS DECLINE IN SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION IS NOT DUE TO U.S. ANTI-SOVIET RHETORIC

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 26 (JTA) — A State Department official rejected the argument that the Reagan Administration's anti-Soviet rhetoric is partially responsible for the decrease in the emigration of Soviet Jews.

"You don't help Soviet Jewry by being quiet or toning down criticism or refusing to say exactly what is happening to them," Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs declared. "If they are going to tell lies about Jews, as they do every day, let all Jews and let all Americans respond by very loudly telling the truth about them."

Abrams spoke yesterday at a human rights session at the annual three-day leadership conference of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) which began Monday night at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel. He was introduced by Stanley Lowell of New York, a former chairman of the NCSJ, who noted that during the first three months of this year only 306 Soviet Jews emigrated.

Lowell said that when a delegation of former NCSJ chairman met with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Debrynin two years ago, he said that emigration would only improve when relations between the USSR and the U.S. improved. Lowell blamed the deterioration in relations on the "harsh or undiplomatic words" used by the Reagan Administration against the Soviet Union which he said feeds the "mutual paranoia" of the leaders of both countries.

The 'Chattel' Factor In Emigration

But Abrams said that decreased emigration began in 1979 during the Carter Administration which he said had been reluctant "to go public" with criticism of the Soviet Union. He said the Soviet Union considers the emigration of Jews and others as "chattel" to be used to trade for objectives which they want from the West. He said emigration began dropping in 1979 when the Soviets realized they would not get the SALT II treaty ratified, they would not get trade benefits in the U.S., and the invasion of Afghanistan turned public opinion against the USSR.

But Abrams said the Soviets are "conscious of their image" abroad and "we can use their concern for public opinion to pressure them and embarrass them into more civilized behavior," improving human rights and increasing emigration.

Abrams was critical that the European countries have not made human rights in the Soviet Union a major concern. William Korey, director of International Policy Research for B'nai B'rith International, in discussing the Madrid conference on the Helsinki accords, also said the European countries seem willing to agree to Soviet pressure for a conference on disarmament "without regard to an adequate quid pro quo. It suggests that human rights may be less important to them (the Europeans) than security considerations."

At another session yesterday, Sen. Edward Kennedy (D, Mass.) noted that the Soviet Jewry movement is now in a "time of great difficulty." He talked of the courage of Soviet Jewish refuseniks with whom he met on visits to the Soviet Union in 1974 and 1978 and who face day to day harassment. "Can we have any less in our own effort, in our own determination to continue this struggle?" he declared.

I REFUSENIK CHARGED, ANOTHER DETAINED

NEW YORK, April 26 (JTA) — Lev Elbert, a 34-year-old engineer of Kiev, has been officially charged with failure to report for Red Army reserve duty, according to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (UCSJ).

The nine-year refusenik had declined to report on the grounds that further military service would again subject him to a "secrecy" designation which would deny him emigration to Israel, the two Soviet Jewry groups said. Elbert's original exit application was rejected on the grounds that he knew "secrets" from an army stint 10 years ago, during which he dug out earth for swimming pools. He faces up to a year in a labor camp.

In another development, the SSSJ and UCSJ reported that in Moscow, Dr. Naum Meiman, one of the most senior scientists to have applied to emigrate, has been detained by the KGB. The 72 year-old mathematician and physicist has been refused emigration since 1975. Meiman was a member of the now-disbanded unofficial Helsinki Accord monitoring group in the USSR.

The SSSJ and UCSJ also reported that Kharkov Prisoner of Conscience Yuri Tamopolsky, arrested March 17, is on a hunger strike, as is Moscow refusenik Nadezhda Fradkova, a 36-year-old computer engineer. The home of Tamopolsky's friend, David Soloveichik, was searched by the secret police after the latter was dismissed from his job.

Meanwhile, in Moscow on April 21 the Soviet government officially established the "Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public" after three weeks of intense pre-publicity, the two groups said. Former Gen. David Dragunsky, the USSR's "token" high-ranking military Jew, is chairman. In Soviet bookstores, a new poster is being sold which proclaims that "Zionism is the fascism of today."

COURT CONFIRMS SENTENCE IMPOSED ON UNIVERSITY LECTURER WHO DENIED THE HOLOCAUST TOOK PLACE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 26 (JTA) — The French Court of Appeals today confirmed the sentence imposed by a lower court on Rene Faurisson, a senior lecturer at Lyon University who has denied, in public speeches and writings, that the Holocaust ever took place. He had been sued originally by several Jewish organizations.

Faurisson, convicted by a Paris court in July, 1981, of "insulting the memory of Nazi victims" was ordered by the Court of Appeals to pay one Franc (15 cents) in damages to organizations of former deportees and resistance fighters plus 14,000 Francs (about \$2,000) in legal costs to the plaintiffs. Although the fine is a symbolic token, the verdict was hailed as a timely reminder to other apologists for the Nazis.

The Court of Appeals stressed in its ruling that the defendant and other persons un-named were trying to deny wartime Nazi atrocities as well as the Holocaust and the existence of death camps.

NEW YORK (JTA) — The leadership of the organized Orthodox, Conservative and Reform synagogue movements have agreed to work together in a unified appeal for Americans to make aliyah, marking the first time aliyah has been the focus of such a national effort, according to Moshe Shechter, director of the Israel Aliyah Center of North America.