

SHULTZ HOPEFUL HE CAN CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS BY THE WEEKEND

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 4 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz was locked in high level discussions with Israeli leaders here today after an overnight visit to Beirut where he held further talks with President Amin Gemayel and other Lebanese leaders.

Reporters accompanying Shultz on his shuttles quoted him today as saying he hoped to conclude the negotiations by the weekend when he plans to fly to Paris for a NATO meeting. According to observers here, Premier Menachem Begin is likely to call the Cabinet into special session if an agreement seems imminent, in order to make the final crucial decisions. Shultz met with Begin, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

Less Optimism In Beirut

But reports from Beirut were less than optimistic today after Shultz's latest round of talks there. Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem was quoted as saying last night that as one born in the Middle East he was less sanguine than the Secretary of State over the prospects of reaching an agreement quickly. He reportedly said that a miracle was needed to wrap up an accord now but added that miracles happen some times.

Meanwhile, Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy, briefing the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee today, confirmed that Syrian forces in eastern Lebanon are still in a state of preparedness. He said it was difficult to read Syria's intentions.

The almost daily casualties suffered by Israeli forces in Lebanon are adding to pressure on the government to make a decisive move: either conclude an agreement or, failing that, unilaterally pull back to the Awali river line, the boundary of the 28-mile security zone in south Lebanon.

12 ISRAELI SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN LEBANON IN A 24-HOUR PERIOD

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 4 (JTA) -- Twelve Israeli soldiers were wounded in Lebanon during the past 24 hours. Three were wounded today when their personnel carrier hit a mine in the Ein Zahalta sector of the central front and six others were wounded earlier in the day when an explosive charge detonated on a roadside as their vehicle passed by.

Three soldiers were wounded yesterday by a remote-controlled bomb that exploded near their vehicle in the Nabrah region of the Shouf mountains in central Lebanon.

An Israeli tank on patrol struck a mine near Kamad Al-Luz in eastern Lebanon yesterday. No casualties were reported. Army sources have attributed the escalation of attacks on Israeli forces to efforts by the Palestine Liberation Organization to disrupt the current negotiations between Israel and Lebanon.

IRC VISITS TWO ISRAELI SOLDIERS CAPTURED BY TERRORISTS IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 4 (JTA) -- Two Israeli soldiers taken prisoner by a terrorist group in Lebanon last summer were visited by an International Red Cross representative this week, for the first time since their capture.

An IRC spokesman in Geneva confirmed that the agency's representative in Damascus delivered food parcels and mail to Nissim Salem and Yosef Gross. They are held prisoner by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, a radical breakaway faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization, headed by Ahmed Jibril.

The IRC said it was not the agency's policy to report publicly the state of prisoners or the conditions under which they are held. But it confirmed that the two men were visited by a doctor in addition to the IRC representative and were given news of their families.

"The prisoners sent news of themselves to their families via the delegates and the delegates gave each prisoner one parcel from their family," the IRC spokesman said.

The first proof that Salem and Gross were alive was contained in video-taped interviews released by the Jibril group to the Austrian government and televised here this week. The IRC spokesman told Israel Radio today that the prisoners would be visited again but no date has been set. He said the IRC would report officially to the Israeli authorities and the prisoners' families would receive letters from the men through the IRC in Damascus.

Six other Israeli soldiers held prisoner by El Fatah, the main branch of the PLO, have been visited periodically by the IRC but the last visit took place March 15. The IRC spokesman said it was hoped that another visit would be allowed shortly.

DRUCKMAN QUILTS NRP, SETS UP NEW RIGHTIST RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 4 (JTA) -- Rabbi Haim Druckman, the ultra rightwing patron of the Gush Emunim, formally removed himself from the National Religious Party yesterday and set up his own Knesset faction called "Matzad" which expects to draw its support from the Orthodox settlers and yeshivas on the West Bank. His defection, which he announced some time ago, leaves the NRP with only five Knesset members deeply divided among themselves.

Matzad is an acronym for "Mahane Zionut Datit" which denotes a rightist religious movement. Druckman's associates in the new party are Rabbi Moshe Zvi Neriah and Yosske Shapiro, the latter a former member of the Jewish Agency Executive. Neriah is the head of the Bnei Akiva yeshivas.

The NRP, meanwhile, riven by factional disputes, is struggling to remain a cohesive political party. Lengthy discussions between Interior Minister Yosef Burg, who heads its Lamifne faction, and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, leader of the Young

Guard, narrowly averted a split over the upcoming party elections. The two ministers agreed that 55 percent of the NRP leadership would be elected by internal ballot and the remaining 45 percent coopted from among yeshiva and university personalities not previously involved in party affairs.

The Hammer faction considers it essential to bring in new faces if the NRP is to survive the next Knesset elections. The party suffered a devastating defeat in the 1981 elections when it was reduced from 10 to six Knesset mandates. Polls show that if elections were held now, it would suffer further losses.

Political pundits say the NRP's problem is its lack of a definitive image within Premier Menachem Begin's Likud-led coalition. Likud is more strongly nationalist than the NRP and the Aguda Israel is more absolutist in its orthodoxy, they point out.

A minority within the Young Guard, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Meir, favors a split with the Burg group on grounds that the feuding with Lamifne is endless. Waiting in the wings to return as "savior" of the faltering NRP is Yitzhak Raphael who was ousted from the party some years ago and has since reconstituted his Likud Utemura faction.

FRANCE ASKS PLO TO CANCEL THE PALESTINE CONFERENCE SLATED FOR AUGUST IN PARIS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 4 (JTA) -- France has asked the Palestine Liberation Organization to voluntarily cancel the international Palestine conference slated to be held here in August. Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson met with a prominent Palestinian leader, Hani el Hassan and asked him to convey to PLO chief Yasir Arafat and the PLO executive committee France's opposition to have the United Nations-sponsored conference in Paris.

The UN General Assembly last summer voted in favor of the meeting. France at the time lobbied against the Arab-sponsored resolution calling for the conference, but when the voting on the resolution took place France aligned itself with other European countries and abstained.

UN officials in Paris told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the meeting will be held in the UNESCO building, which formally belongs to the UN, and that France is bound by its international agreements not to interfere with meetings sponsored by the UN and held on UN-controlled areas. The UN spokesman also said that France cannot legally bar delegates from attending the meeting.

Protests By Jewish Organizations

Most Jewish organizations in France have vigorously protested against the meeting, which will practically coincide with the first anniversary of the terrorist attack on a Jewish restaurant in the old Jewish quarter of the city in which six people were killed and 22 wounded. Theo Klein, president of the Representative Council of Major French Jewish Organizations, called on the government to do whatever it can to prevent the meeting from taking place. He said holding the conference so close to the anniversary of the attack "would be tantamount to provocation."

The Socialist Administration of President Francois Mitterrand, which enjoys the support of a large part of France's 700,000 Jews, has been ser-

iously embarrassed by the scheduled conference. It is especially worried by the prospect that Arafat might personally head the Palestine delegation. France has refused for the last 10 years to invite Arafat to Paris.

ISRAEL'S NEW PRESIDENT TO BE INAUGURATED THURSDAY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 4 (JTA) -- President Yitzhak Navon and his wife, Ophira, moved out of the Presidential residence here today to a rented apartment on the eve of handing over the Presidential reins to Chaim Herzog. The official inauguration ceremony will take place in the Knesset tomorrow.

The Herzogs themselves will not actually move in at once. They will take hotel accommodation in the capital while some redecoration work is done in the living quarters of the Presidential residence.

Monday night, Premier Menachem Begin hosted a dinner for the members of the Cabinet and the Navons to mark the end of the Presidential term. The Premier presented the President with a wood-covered edition of the book, "Great is Peace," an anthology of Talmudic writings on peace compiled in connection with the Israel-Egypt peace treaty.

Last night, the Navons themselves gave a dinner -- for the staff of the Presidential residence.

One of the President's first official meetings will be with the Ambassador of Ireland, Sean Ronan. Ronan is a non-resident Ambassador, stationed in Athens. He has come especially to attend Herzog's inauguration and will meet with him privately Friday. In Ireland, Herzog's birthplace, there is much public and media interest in the new Israeli president.

13,176 OLIM ARRIVED IN ISRAEL IN 1982, A 14% INCREASE OVER 1981

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 4 (JTA) -- A total of 13,176 new immigrants arrived in Israel during 1982, a 14 percent increase over the previous year. But most were from Western countries. The Soviet Union, the largest reservoir of potential olim remained virtually dry, the Knesset was told as it opened its summer session Monday with a debate on aliya.

The immigration figures were provided by Aharon Uzan, the Minister of Absorption. The paucity of aliya from the USSR was the subject of a separate report by Rafael Kotlowitz, head of the Jewish Agency's immigration and absorption department.

Knesset members spoke of an aliya "crisis" because, despite the marginal increase from the West, overall figures were low relative to the Soviet immigration boom of the middle and late 1970s.

Kotlowitz reported that of the 114 Jews allowed to leave the Soviet Union last month, only 11 came to Israel. He said that was the lowest monthly figure since the mid-1960s when the Soviets first opened their gates a crack. "In effect, a month after the Jerusalem Conference on Soviet Jewry, we are now facing the total end of Soviet emigration," Kotlowitz said.

Dulzin Warns Of Measures Against HIAS

Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, continued to blame HIAS for the high neshira (drop-out) rate. HIAS aids Soviet Jewish emigres who opt to settle in countries other than Israel even though they leave Russia with Israeli visas, ostensibly to reunite with relatives in Israel. Dulzin said he would propose "tough measures against HIAS" when the Jewish Agency Assembly convenes here next month.

Uzan said his ministry was sponsoring a "door-to-door" aliya encouragement campaign in France. He also said one of the chief deterrents to aliya -- the high cost of housing in Israel -- was being ameliorated. He said an immigrant could now buy an apartment on the private market with a mortgage loan covering up to 95 percent of the price.

But opposition MKs sharply criticized the government's immigration policies. Dov Zakin of Mapam warned of possible wholesale resignations from the Knesset's immigration and absorption committee to protest the ineffectiveness of Uzan's ministry.

REAGAN ASSERTS THAT HIS PEACE INITIATIVE IS STILL ALIVE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 4 (JTA) -- President Reagan reiterated today that his Middle East peace initiative is still alive and that to allow it to be blocked by a decision by the Palestine Liberation Organization is "giving them too much importance."

"The Arab nations are very serious about the continuation of the peace talks," Reagan stressed in a press conference with six reporters in the White House Oval Office. The press conference was piped into the press briefing room.

When Reagan was asked if he was urging that the PLO have its veto power removed from efforts by Jordan's King Hussein to represent the Palestinians in negotiations with Israel, he replied that it has to be the Arab states "agreeing to go forward in negotiations with the PLO."

At the same time, he seemed to be urging the Palestinian people themselves to reject the PLO. "Are they going to stand still for their interests being neglected on the basis of an action taken by this group, the PLO...which was never elected by the Palestinian people?" he asked. When a reporter suggested a referendum by the Palestinian people on who should represent them, Reagan replied that this would be too difficult since they are scattered throughout the Arab world and it would not be easy to give them the necessary information.

Reagan said that after Hussein rejected the conditions put by the PLO on the agreement he had worked out with Yasir Arafat, the PLO chief, he spoke to all the leaders of the Arab world "and none of them wanted to back the PLO in that new proposal."

Reagan added that he was told Arafat objected to the proposal but was overruled by the PLO "council." After Hussein rejected the PLO proposal, he announced he would not enter the negotiations under any circumstances.

Cites Foreign Policy Success

When it was suggested that the Reagan Administration, now past its half-way mark, has had no foreign policy successes, Reagan replied this is a "distorted picture." He noted that "Beirut is no longer being shelled on a daily basis." He said except for some incidents, "we're down to negotiating the withdrawal of foreign forces after eight years of combat and invasion and harassment from outside as well as inside Lebanon."

The President also said his Administration was moving the Camp David process forward toward an overall Mideast peace. He said that the Carter Administration with the Camp David process "simply" began the negotiations. "After we got in the principal step between Israel and Egypt was carried out which was the return of the Sinai."

Reagan omitted mentioning the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty which was signed during the Carter Administration.

Reagan said his Administration was now trying to bring about negotiations on the West Bank agreed upon in the Camp David process. "We're the ones who have gone a step beyond that with regard to trying to have an overall peace in the entire area. That had never been proposed," he said.

Reagan apparently was referring to his peace initiative which he proposed last September 1. The Carter Administration was seeking an overall peace agreement and was planning for a Geneva conference when the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat made his historic trip to Jerusalem and brought about efforts for a step-by-step negotiation.

CLUES LINK TERRORIST ATTACK ON PARIS RESTAURANT, VIENNA SYNAGOGUE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 4 (JTA) -- Clues linking the August 9, 1982 terrorist attack on a Jewish restaurant in Paris with a terrorist attack a year earlier on a Vienna synagogue, brought French investigators to Vienna today.

Judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere, the Paris magistrate heading the investigation of the machinegun attack which killed six persons and wounded 22 at the Jo Goldenberg restaurant on the Rue des Rosiers in the old Jewish quarter of Paris, will interrogate three Palestinian terrorists held in a Vienna prison. He and the two French police officers accompanying him, will also examine weapons the Austrian police seized from the terrorists.

The three are serving sentences for killing two people and wounding several others when they opened fire on worshippers leaving a Vienna synagogue on August 29, 1981. Two of the men, Hassan Marwan and Yunis Bahij, admitted to membership in the Abu Nidal group, a Palestinian splinter organization believed responsible for most terrorist attacks against Jews and others in Western Europe in recent years, and assassinating officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The terror squad which struck in Vienna used WZ-63 Polish-made submachineguns similar to those used in the Rue des Rosiers attack. Police sources here said there were other similarities between the two attacks. The sources described the linkage as a possible breakthrough in the year-long investigation of the restaurant attack and indicated that the three terrorists incarcerated in Vienna might agree to cooperate.

Bruguiere has also visited Rome and Brussels where terrorists have attacked synagogues in recent years and has conferred with police officials in those cities in the course of his investigation.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed this week that two men who might have been connected with an explosion near a Marseilles synagogue last March 8 were arrested in Paris this week for questioning. The suspects were reported to have been in the company of the alleged perpetrators on the night of the explosion. The latter, Daniel Scotti and Jean Chicin, were killed when a bomb in their car detonated as they were fleeing police who had spotted them near the synagogue.

Scotti and Chicin were both known racketeers with long prison records. The two men picked up here, identified only as Monge and Marcel, also have police records for racketeering and armed burglary. Marseilles police believe the bomb incident was related to gang warfare although it may have been the work of an anti-Semitic group which contracted with underworld elements to bomb the synagogue.

CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS EXAMINED AT A NATIONAL CONCLAVE

BOSTON, May 4 (JTA) -- Anti-Semitism, the Middle East conflict and Christian understanding of what Israel means to Jews were leading topics at the 7th National Conference on Christian-Jewish relations which just ended here.

The five days of dialogue, seminars and workshops drew some 900 Catholic, Protestant and Jewish participants, compared to the 60 who attended the first national conference held 10 years ago in Dayton, Ohio.

The Rev. Edward Flannery, who was the first director of the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, declared that "no one today realizes the magnitude or intensity" of the problem of anti-Semitism and asserted that "the debt (of understanding) is entirely on the Christian side."

Msgr. William Murphy, Undersecretary of the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace, outlined the Vatican position on Israel, the Palestinians and the status of Jerusalem. Rabbi Walter Wurzbarger, president of the Synagogue Council of America, the umbrella organization of the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox branches of Judaism, said that positive Vatican statements on Judaism have failed to go far enough.

Rev. J. Warren Jacobs, head of the United Methodist Church's forum on Christian-Jewish relations, stressed that the issues of racial bigotry, human rights, religious liberty and the preservation of religious pluralism in America were the concerns of both Christians and Jews.

Says Anti-Semitism Is Prevalent

According to Flannery, anti-Semitism is prevalent "to some degree unconsciously in all of us." He noted that in the last 10 years, three high U.S. government officials have been quoted as making anti-Semitic remarks, "one of them in the highest seat of government," and suggested that there was a whitewash to try to disavow the impact of such remarks.

Flannery asked, "Is anti-Zionism anti-Semitism? ... I would say not always, but often ... To most Christians (Israel) was just another small Mediterranean state in trouble with its neighbors. To Jews it meant everything. To talk about a people or a nation without a land is a chimera."

Murphy said the Vatican does not offer "a technical solution" to the Palestinian problem but "asserts that there is a pressing need to find a solution." He said "The Holy See recognizes that the Palestinians have a self-identity as a people and that they have the right to have their legitimate aspirations realized."

Outlines Vatican's Position On Israel

Regarding Israel, he said "The Holy See recognizes the factual existence of Israel, its right to exist, its right to secure borders and to all other rights that a sovereign nation possesses. The Holy See would have no problem 'in principle' with establishing diplomatic relations. However, there are certain difficulties and problems the Holy See would first want to have resolved."

He did not elaborate on those problems but referred to "the importance of Jerusalem for all three religions," Christianity, Judaism and Islam, and said this "must be recognized by all the parties."

"The status of the city must be clarified," Murphy said. "The shrines, the resident populace and the pilgrims of all three religions must be taken into account ... It does not matter to the Holy See who has political dominion over Jerusalem."

"However, whoever does have political dominion, and especially a state, it is not enough that the possessor of political dominion offer guarantees by itself. Rather, given the particular status of Jerusalem, that status must be ensured by international guarantees."

YESHIVA U. PRESIDENT-URGES THAT TWO ORTHODOX CONGREGATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BE MERGED

SPRING GLEN, N.Y., May 4 (JTA) -- Dr. Norman Lamm, president of Yeshiva University, called on the Rabbinical Council last night to "take the initiative in bringing about the merger of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and Young Israel."

Lamm told the 47th national convention of the Rabbinical Council of America, a national organization of Orthodox rabbis, that "there is enough talent and commitment and goodwill in both groups, and in both the laymen and professionals involved, to make any effort by you worthwhile" to bring the two Orthodox congregational organizations together.

Lamm said he had proposed the idea in talks at conclaves of both congregational groups but that "inertia and entrenchment have prevailed. Centrist Orthodox laymen plod along in two organizations when one well-run organization could be twice as strong and influential."

He also told the 500 rabbis at the convention that "if you do not feel inspired by the vision of all the good that can come out of a united Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America-Young Israel, consider the damage that can come from disunity."

Assails CCRR Resolution

Lamm also assailed the resolutions adopted for the Reform movement by the March convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, proposing changes for the Reform movement in the transmission of Jewish identity to children of mixed marriages.

He commented that "as usually happens with such anti-halachic 'innovations', plays undertaken for purely practical reasons are paraded for the public as acts of moral piety and ethical heroism. Hence, the halachic principle of recognizing only matrilineal descent in establishing Jewish identity is compromised" by the proposal of the Reform rabbis and "under the guise of equality -- and the meretricious synonyms which together constitute the sacred vocabulary of Reform heterodoxy."

However, Lamm added, "the fig-leaf is too thin to cover the nakedness of a movement which has countenanced intermarriage, even without the benefit of conversion Reform-style, so that there is today in Reform temples a very large number of children of Jewish fathers and non-Jewish mothers. It is no easy matter for a Reform rabbi to tell them that they are not Jewish, according to Jewish law. It is easier to change Jewish law."

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- The Congressional Wives for Soviet Jewry, an affiliate organization of the National Conference for Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), and the Canadian Parliamentary Spouses Association, issued a joint statement in Ottawa urging the Soviet Union to re-open the gates of emigration for Soviet Jews. The two parliamentary wives groups agreed to meet next year in Washington with other parliamentary spouse groups from around the world.