

2 ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILLED IN LEBANON

JERUSALEM, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Two Israeli soldiers killed in a south Lebanon road ambush yesterday were buried today. The deaths of Sgt. Dan Philip of Haifa and Cpl. Mordechai Drei of Beit Shean, brought to 524 the number of the Israeli fatalities in the Lebanon war.

According to a military spokesman, the two soldiers died when their vehicle was hit by automatic fire and grenades as it passed the Shabritha village and refugee camp on the coastal road near Tyre. An army dragnet failed to find the assailants who escaped through the banana plantation that borders the road.

NO MASSIVE ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTEST VOTE REGISTERED IN ISRAEL'S MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Labor made some gains and Likud held its own in yesterday's municipal elections in Israel which drew a relatively low voter turnout despite being a workers holiday.

Local issues and personalities predominated, frustrating those who had hoped to spot a national trend pointing toward the possible outcome of the next Knesset elections.

Pundits agreed that there was no massive protest vote against the Likud government's economic or other policies. Shevach Weiss, a Labor MK and leading political analyst, observed that those who expected large-scale "punishment" of Likud "were disappointed."

Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres professed to be "encouraged" and spoke of "the beginning of a political turnaround in this country." But all he could cite in support of that assessment were Labor gains in some Negev development towns which were swept by Likud in the 1977 and 1981 national elections.

But Likud candidates won in some Labor strongholds, leading Likud MKs Haim Kaufman and Ehud Olmert to observe with some credibility that the opposition leader didn't have much to be "encouraged" about.

Kollek Wins In Jerusalem, Lehat In Tel Aviv

In the local elections mayoral candidates run as individuals and town council members are elected from party lists. This results more often than not in split votes.

A case in point was the sweeping victory of Jerusalem's ever popular Mayor Teddy Kollek who was re-elected with 63 percent of the vote in a city that is traditionally a Likud-Herut stronghold. But Kollek's "One Jerusalem" (Laborite) list emerged with a bare one-vote majority in the new city council. It will have 16 seats in the 31-member body.

Incumbent Likud Mayor Shlomo Lehat of Tel Aviv, took 58 percent of the vote in a city where Labor usually dominates in Knesset elections. His Labor Party rival, Dov Ben-Meir, got a bare 22 percent and maverick independent Abie Nathan, the perennial peace advocate, finished third with a respectable eight percent. But Likud won less than 50 percent of the Tel Aviv city council which places

Lehat at the mercy of his small coalition partners. The two biggest upsets occurred in Herzlia, a wealthy suburb north of Tel Aviv where Likud challenger Eli Landau defeated incumbent Labor veteran Yosef Nevo for Mayor; and in Rishon LeZion, south of Tel Aviv, where Labor challenger Meir Nitzan unseated the incumbent Likud Mayor Hananiah Gibstein.

Labor incumbents were re-elected in Holon and Petach Tikva. In Haifa, Israel's third largest city, its major seaport and a seat of Labor strength since the State was founded, Laborite incumbent Mayor Arye Gurel was re-elected with 63 percent of the vote.

The vote was very close in Ramat Gan, an affluent Tel Aviv suburb where Likud incumbent Mayor Yisrael Peled may face a run-off election against his Labor challenger, Uri Amit.

Results for Tami, NRP

Tami, a coalition partner which represents a low income Sephardic constituency, re-elected its candidate, Eli Dan, Mayor of Ashkelon, a seaport town with a large Sephardic population. Dan increased his majority over the last election and Tami picked up additional seats on the town council.

The rapidly declining National Religious Party, riven by internal strife, managed to elect only one of its candidates to the Jerusalem City Council. The NRP entered the election with two rival lists, one representing its "Young Guard" and the other its Lamifne faction.

Barely 50 percent of the eligible voters cast ballots yesterday, compared to an 80 percent turnout for Knesset elections. This led analysts and politicians to agree that the decision to hold municipal elections separate from national elections was an unsuccessful experiment.

Communists Flunk In Most Arab Towns

Communist candidates did poorly in most Arab population centers of Israel. The Democratic Front, a surrogate for the Moscow-oriented Rakah (Communist) Party, lost control of five large Arab villages in Galilee. Their most serious setback was in Sakhnin near Acre in lower Galilee where a Labor-backed candidate triumphed. Sakhnin has a population of 14,000.

In Umm El Fahem, the largest Arab village in Israel, with a population of 20,000, the election was close and a run-off will be held in what was until now a major Communist stronghold.

But the Communists strengthened their grip on Nazareth, the largest Arab city in Israel. Incumbent Mayor Tawfik Zayyad was re-elected with 70 percent of the vote and his list won 11 of the 17 city council seats.

Nevertheless, Raanan Cohen, head of the Labor Party's minority division, said the election results showed a significant deterioration of Communist strength among Arab voters. Uzi Burstein, a Rakah spokesman, stressed the Communist victory in Nazareth. He said that despite some losses, there were Communist gains in other Arab villages.

CUOMO URGES BI-PARTISAN MIDEAST POLICY

NEW YORK, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Governor Mario Cuomo of New York, in an address to 800 Israel

Bond leaders here, yesterday called on the Reagan Administration to convene a meeting of top Republican and Democratic leaders of the Senate and the House to formulate a bi-partisan policy for the Middle East.

Pointing out that he proposed the meeting in letters sent to Senators Daniel Moynihan (D. N.Y.), Howard Baker (R. Tenn.) and Robert Byrd (D. W. Va.) as well as other Congressional leaders, the Governor asserted that there is serious confusion about what the United States should do next, following the tragic loss of lives of American marines in Lebanon.

"The President should consider immediately convening a bi-partisan Middle East Task Force," he stated. "Such a body would gather all of our foremost elected leaders, as well as policy makers responsible for the region, around the same table to seek a solution that can be adopted by both our major parties. Such an approach is paramount when we are dealing with issues of life and death."

Cuomo made his remarks at an Israel Bond testimonial luncheon honoring real estate developer Larry Silverstein, president of Silverstein Properties, Inc., at the Pierre Hotel. Silverstein was the recipient of the Israel Peace Medal in recognition of his support of the Bond program which aids Israel in its continuing efforts to build a strong economy as a means of achieving peace.

A total exceeding \$7.2 million in the sale of Israel Bonds and other Israel-related securities was announced by Jack Weiler, chairman emeritus of the Real Estate, Builders and Allied Industries Division of State of Israel Bonds, which sponsored the event.

Says U.S. Policy Must Be Defined

In his remarks, the Governor said that he disagreed with all those who say we must pull out of Lebanon now but he indicated that what we do in the future in another matter.

He stated that the confusion about the Middle East policy is compounded by the varied opinions of the members of Congress, some of whom argue that we should pull out all of our troops from Lebanon immediately, while others suggest we send in more forces and still others propose solutions in between.

"If the United States is serious about maintaining a military presence in Lebanon," he said, "we must arrive at a bi-partisan consensus of opinion. We must define just what is our policy and how it must be executed. To do less is to only risk a repeat of last Sunday's tragedy in Beirut."

Cuomo also called on the Reagan Administration to clarify this country's relationship with Israel, which he termed "Israel's only indispensable ally in the Middle East." Emphasizing that, in his opinion, the "even-handed" policy of the United States has not worked, he urged that Israel, as an ally, should not be treated in the same manner as other countries in the region.

"Our government must make it clear that Israel will have the weapons to defend itself," he emphasized. "So long as Israel's enemies continue to call for its destruction, the U.S. must see to it that Israel is militarily superior."

MK HAILS U.S. INVASION OF GRENADA

JERUSALEM, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- The Israeli government had no official comment today on the U.S. invasion of the Caribbean island of Grenada yesterday. It was praised, however, by Mordechai Ben-Porat, a Minister-Without-Portfolio, as a move to "protect the democratic and free world."

Ben-Porat, a rightwing hardliner and former member of the defunct Telem faction founded by the late Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, told a group of Canadian radio and television reporters that the U.S. incursion into the 133-square mile island state was comparable to American action in Lebanon.

B'NAI B'RITH LEADER REFUTES CLAIMS OF U.S. JEWISH SILENCE DURING WWII

NEW YORK, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Claims that American Jewry remained silent while German Jews suffered Nazi persecution are untrue and constitute a "sacrilege and a defamation of good human beings," Dr. Daniel Thursz, B'nai B'rith International executive vice president, said. He refuted those claims at a breakfast held here to mark B'nai B'rith's 140th Anniversary.

He said more research is needed to refute charges regarding American Jewish conduct during the Holocaust. "Obviously we all agree that more should have been done, but in the context of the American society at the time, there were many courageous efforts," Thursz said.

"Today you hear over and over again that the American Jewish community was asleep at the switch, that it did nothing during the Nazi years and during the Holocaust. You hear it over and over again, and if you repeat something enough, people will believe it."

Nevertheless, Thursz said, B'nai B'rith records of this period reveal "a very different picture." They document "hundreds of meetings between the B'nai B'rith leaders in the United States and the United States government, pleading for intervention on behalf of German Jews. Our files indicate frequent meetings and correspondence with Cordell Hull, then Secretary of State."

'Anguish And Action'

The correspondence he said, indicates both "anguish and action." When the German government began confiscating Jewish property, B'nai B'rith members held mass rallies and signed hundreds of petitions, Thursz recalled. All told, he said, 1.5 million signatures were obtained asking for American intervention.

Whether the U.S. government did enough, he said, is open to question, but one point is clear: "B'nai B'rith records reveal the existence of a consistent, enormous effort to try to get action on behalf of our brethren."

President Reagan and the First Lady, as well as New York State Governor Mario Cuomo, and New York Mayor Edward Koch sent letters congratulating B'nai B'rith on its many accomplishments.

VIENNA'S OLDEST JEWISH CEMETERY RE-DEDICATED

VIENNA, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- The oldest Jewish cemetery in Vienna, dating back more than 400 years, has been completely renovated and rededicated at a ceremony attended by the president of the Viennese Jewish community and the Mayor of the city, the World Jewish Congress reported today.

According to the Jewish Welcome Service of Vienna, an associated institution of the WJC, the cemetery, which had been completely destroyed during the Hitler regime, was restored with funding by the city of Vienna in cooperation with the local Jewish community. About one-third of the total number of original tombs and headstones destroyed during the Nazi era were restored and replaced on the original sites.

Dr. Leon Zelman, director of the Jewish Welfare Service, pointed out that "the history of this cemetery is the history of Jews in Vienna." The oldest tombstone is dated 1582 with the last funeral taking place there in 1783, following which the cemetery became a historical monument. Among those interred there were Samuel Oppenheimer along with other famous 18th century Jewish financiers, as well as S. Michael Pressburg, grandfather of Heinrich Heine.

In 1943, before the Nazis had destroyed the entire cemetery, members of the Jewish community secretly removed all existing headstones in one night and brought them to the central cemetery in Vienna. There, hidden in the ground, some 250 stones were saved.

Zelman noted that "it was thanks to the determined efforts of the two past presidents of the Jewish community of Vienna, Dr. Anton Pick and Karl Lazar, along with the Lord Mayor of Vienna, Leopold Gratz, and the Minister of Culture, Dr. Helmut Zilk, that the restoration of this remarkable, historical monument was possible."

Dr. Ivan Hacker, the current president of the central representative body of Austrian Jewry, and Gratz headed the delegation of prominent Jewish and civic personalities who attended the re-dedication ceremonies.

JUDGE EXTENDS RESTRAINING ORDER TO HALT INS EFFORTS TO DEPORT TWO IRANIAN JEWISH BROTHERS By William Sapphire

NEW YORK, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- A federal judge has extended until Friday a 48-hour restraining order he issued last Sunday halting efforts by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to deport Faramaz and Behrooz Sedgh, 23-year-old Iranian-Jewish twin brothers.

Judge Leo Glasser, of the U.S. Federal Court for the Eastern District, who issued the restraining order, has indicated that unless the INS can prove by Friday that it has found a country which will admit the brothers, a writ of habeas corpus will be issued. David Pollock, assistant director of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of New York, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today.

The JCRC and other Jewish and non-Jewish groups have intervened on behalf of the twins whose deportation was ordered because they entered the U.S. 10 months ago on false passports. According to Pollock, attorneys for the Sedgh brothers believe that if the INS cannot come up with a country that will receive the deportees, the court will release them on bond.

Judge Acted on Humanitarian Grounds

Judge Glasser acted on humanitarian grounds Sunday after the brothers were twice flown to Spain and twice refused admission to that country and flown back to New York, between last Thursday evening and Sunday afternoon. The INS had placed them on a flight to Spain because that was their final country of departure before reaching the U.S. on January 22, 1983. The Spanish authorities had informed the INS beforehand that they would not be admitted.

The young men were spared, at the 11th hour, from a fifth trans-Atlantic flight to Spain by the court order. They were taken from John F. Kennedy Airport Sunday to the INS detention center at the old Brooklyn Navy Yard. But they have since been trans-

ferred to the Manhattan Correctional Center, a city jail, Pollock told the JTA. He could not state the reason for the transfer.

Meanwhile, Rep. Gary Ackerman (D. NY) and Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R. NY) were conferring with Justice Department and INS officials today to try to resolve the case, Pollock said.

KOTLOWITZ OUSTED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE JEWISH AGENCY ALIYA DEPARTMENT By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- The long and bitter battle over the continued functioning of Herut activist Rafael Kotlowitz as chairman of the Jewish Agency aliya department ended today when the Agency's Board of Governors voted to remove him from the post. The vote was 36-6 with 12 abstentions.

Formally it means that he will no longer be chairman of that department but he will continue as chairman of the World Zionist Organization aliya department -- until or unless otherwise decided by the WZO.

The breakdown between the two organizations -- which in practice broadly overlap in personnel -- is that the Jewish Agency deals with immigrants from lands of distress while the WZO deals with immigrants from free lands.

The move to oust Kotlowitz was led by American Board members representing the "non-Zionist" (fund-raisers) section of the Jewish Agency. They claimed that Kotlowitz "could not communicate" with American Jewry.

The South African-born Kotlowitz, a lawyer by profession and a long-time Betar-Herut loyalist, tenaciously fought the move to oust him. Recently he obtained a temporary injunction from a Tel Aviv district court forbidding the Agency's Board from appointing anyone else in his place. But, as Board legal aides pointed out, the injunction did not prevent the Board from ousting Kotlowitz.

Last summer, when the Agency's Board made an inconclusive move against Kotlowitz, then-Premier Menachem Begin retaliated by boycotting a planned briefing session with the Board. Premier Yitzhak Shamir is scheduled to meet with the Board tomorrow, and Agency sources said today there were no signs that he intended cancelling.

NEW JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER IN PARIS

PARIS, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- A new Jewish Community Center has been inaugurated in the old Paris Montmartre area. The Center consists of some 40 double rooms to serve as an old people's home and a nursery which can take in 75 children on a day-care basis. It will also serve some 600 kosher meals a day.

Some two-thirds of the center's budget was provided by the City of Paris social services agency and part of the rest by an association comprising some of the veteran Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe or their descendants.

The president of the association, advertising tycoon Marcel Blaustein-Blanchet, said that many of the early postwar Jewish immigrants landed in Montmartre where the Center was originally opened in 1932 in two small rooms. Blaustein-Blanchet said that the Center will also cater to the needs of many of the area's non-Jewish old or needy.

FCC FIELD TEAM INVESTIGATES RACIST KANSAS RADIO STATION

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26 (JTA) — The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) sent a field team to investigate a hate-mongering radio station in Dodge City, Kansas, it was announced here by Sen. Robert Dole (R. Kansas). The controversial radio station KTLT has broadcast programs urging its listeners to kill Jews and Blacks. The racist programming aired by the station has focused attention on the renewal of the station's broadcasting license. The FCC is expected to take some action in six to eight weeks, Dole said.

The two-man FCC team was supported by personnel from Kansas state agencies, including the KBI. The one-day, on-site inspection last week was ordered following allegations that listeners did not have access to the station's public files and that potential access was shut off by intimidation, Dole said.

The team conducted a standard "technical inspection" of KTLT's facilities, including a search of the public files, the Senator reported. He said that initial reports from the FCC in Washington indicate the investigating team was allowed full access and treated cordially.

"I am pleased that the FCC has taken this significant step to determine whether KTLT should continue to operate," Dole said. "Expedient action on this controversial radio station is in the best interest of all involved and has been assured by the FCC."

An Important Step

The investigation, he continued, "is highly appropriate in light of the KTLT's questionable programming. Although it will be six to eight weeks before the full Commission takes further action on this matter, the investigation serves as an important step in the licensing deliberation. I am glad the FCC is taking a hard look at KTLT's handling of their responsibility to the public and their right to continue transmission of such threatening programs."

In May, Dole wrote to FCC chairman Mark Fowler, informing him of the racist remarks and threats that had been broadcast on the radio station, and to urge the Commission to determine whether the station's performance could withstand the test of FCC law.

Dole submitted testimony to the House Telecommunications Subcommittee on August 4, in which he said that in his view "violence is not in the public interest," a reference to federal statutes under which radio stations must operate "in the public interest."

KTLT is currently involved in four broadcast license-related processes. The FCC team's investigation paves the way for Commission hearings regarding the future of the station, the Senator noted.

Petitions and objections have been filed against the station by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Jewish Community Relations Bureau of Kansas City, Mo., National Black Media Coalition, Dodge City Citizens for Better Broadcasting, Jewish War Veterans, and Kansas Attorney General Bob Stephan. KTLT's frequency is being challenged by a competing license application from Community Service Broadcasting.

TWO U.S. HOOPSTERS WHO CONVERTED TO JUDAISM ARE REJECTED BY THE ISRAEL BASKETBALL FEDERATION

NEW YORK, Oct. 26 (JTA) — Two American basketball players, Phil Dailey and Chris Rankin, who

were converted to Judaism by a three-member rabbinical Beth Din in New Jersey prior to their departure for Israel earlier this month, have been rejected by the Israel Basketball Federation as being ineligible to play for the Maccabi Petach Tikvah team in the Division Two Basketball League.

Earlier, when Dailey and Rankin first arrived in Israel they were advised that their conversion was acceptable but one of the members of the Basketball Federation Board insisted that he cannot accept any conversion signed by one of the three rabbis, whom he, apparently, knows.

The upshot of the Federation's reversal resulted in the two players circumventing the Board's rejection by leaving for Cyprus with two Israeli women who have agreed to marry them. A civil marriage in Cyprus is apparently sufficient to make Dailey and Rankin acceptable to the Basketball Federation, if not to the religious sector in Israel.

Dailey was an all-American college basketball player in Salem College in West Virginia while Rankin has had considerable experience as a semi-pro player in the New York Summer Basketball League.

A Successful Conversion

Meanwhile, Daniel Steinberg, a soccer star from Argentina, whose father is Jewish but whose mother is not, had no difficulty in proving that his conversion by an Orthodox Beth Din in Philadelphia, composed of three of the leading scholars in that city, was in keeping with halacha (Jewish law).

Steinberg, who is familiar with Jewish law and practices, underwent conversion after learning that his services were desired by some of the Israeli soccer teams. He is now in Israel and is working out with two or three of the leading soccer teams in the Soccer Division One League.

Steinberg, 23, played for the Argentina Junior National Team prior to moving to the United States. During his three-year residence in the U.S. he played for the Albany, N.Y. team in the American Soccer League and was a member of the New York Greek-American eleven. His outstanding play with the Greek-American team won him a spot with Yonina, one of the leading professional teams in Athens, Greece.

BRITAIN'S BAN ON NORTH SEA OIL TO ISRAEL IS TO BE CHALLENGED

LONDON, Oct. 26 (JTA) — The British government's ban on North Sea oil supplies to Israel is to be challenged in the High Court on the grounds that it infringes the law of the European Economic Community (EEC). The case is also likely to involve the European Court of Justice.

The oil had been sold in April 1981 by Sun International and Sun Oil Trading Company to a company called Bulk Oil registered at Zug, Switzerland. The sale contract contained the words "destination free but always in line with exporting country's government policy."

Since early 1979, the British government has limited oil supplies to other EEC countries, members of the International Energy Agency and to other countries with which there is an existing pattern of supply. This latter clause includes Finland but excludes Israel.

The policy was restated earlier this month following a meeting between Israeli Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i and his British counterpart, Peter Walker.