

Vol. LXI - 66th Year

Tuesday, November 8, 1983

No. 211

# **AWALI RIVER BRIDGES, CLOSED SINCE LAST FRIDAY'S TERRORIST ATTACK ON ISRAELI H.Q. IN TYRE, ARE RE-OPENED**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- The bridges across the Awali River, closed since Friday, were re-opened today to pedestrians and some vehicles. The relaxation of the restrictions, imposed after Friday's suicide truck bomb attack on Israeli military headquarters in Tyre, apparently ended a heated debate in government circles over whether south Lebanon should be sealed off from the rest of the country as a security precaution.

The consensus among political and military leaders was that the isolation of south Lebanon would be counter-productive and politically dangerous. For one thing it would allow critics to claim an Israeli intention to partition Lebanon and transform the southern part of the country into an Israeli province.

Moreover, Shiite Moslems who constitute the majority in south Lebanon, would have protested fiercely if they were cut off from family and fellow Shiites in the rest of the country.

## **Opponent Of Re-Opened Bridges Overruled**

The most vocal opponent of re-opened bridges was Science Minister Yuval Neeman of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya party. He insisted that the crossings remain closed to protect Israeli forces from a repetition of Friday's attack in which 28 Israelis and 32 Lebanese were killed. Twenty-nine Israelis and 12 Lebanese were injured.

Neeman was overruled, however. Pedestrians were able to cross into south Lebanon today without restriction, apart from routine checks. Vehicles were allowed southward on a selective basis and under strict controls. At the same time, the less sensitive Lebanon-Israel border crossing at Rosh Hanikra was also re-opened for the first time since Friday, allowing Lebanese stranded on business or family visits to Israel to return home.

These developments took place against the background of new attacks on Israeli troops in south Lebanon. One Israeli soldier was wounded yesterday when his patrol came under small arms fire near the Zaharani River. Another patrol was fired on today near Sidon but there were no casualties.

## **Defusing Tension With Syria**

Meanwhile, Israeli authorities acted to defuse tension with Syria as various analysts urged political rather than military measures to extricate Israel from the Lebanese morass. Military sources here stressed today that Israel has no intention of attacking Syria. That assurance came after reports that Damascus has begun mobilizing reserves.

It was intended to calm Arab fears of a sudden hostile call-up of Israeli reservists. Israel is holding a practice mobilization. But according to General Headquarters it is a limited exercise requiring reservists to report to their units from which they will be released and sent home in a few hours.

One analyst, Gen. (Res.) Aharon Yariv, former chief of military intelligence, told a press confer-

ence here today that Lebanon's problems can be solved only by political means, not by war. Yariv, who heads the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, said Israel should limit its objectives in Lebanon and reduce its forces to the bare minimum to ensure peace for Galilee.

Israel must realize, Yariv said, that Syria has vital interests in Lebanon. In that connection, he suggested that an indirect arrangement be worked out with the Syrians, possibly through the U.S. or, by way of Washington, through Saudi Arabia, to let the Syrians know what constitutes the "red line" beyond which their conduct will not be acceptable to Israel. The Syrians, said Yariv, are not interested in a conflict with Israel.

Former Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur, now a Labor MK, also believes an understanding should be worked out with Damascus through intermediaries. According to Gur, Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat, now under seige by Syrian-backed PLO dissidents in northern Lebanon, is on the way out. He predicted that the PLO would now come under the control of Syria.

## **CABINET APPROVES SWEEPING PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC REFORMS**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- The Cabinet today approved a sweeping program of economic reforms proposed by Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad which include sharp tax hikes for higher income brackets and reductions in government expenditures.

The goal of the program, according to Cohen-Orgad, is to slash the national budget by \$2 billion and to brace the country for a period of high unemployment and economic austerity.

Most of the measures will remain in force for 10-15 months but the government has the option to extend them if the economic situation warrants. Several of them will take effect immediately. Others must be approved by the Knesset Finance Committee.

One of the most controversial among the latter is doubling the exit tax from \$50 to \$100 for Israelis who wish to travel abroad. That measure, originally proposed by Cohen-Orgad's predecessor, Yoram Aridor, was blocked by the Finance Committee at the time.

## **Announce Other Changes**

Other changes announced after a lengthy special session of the Cabinet today raise the income tax rate from 60 to 66 percent for persons who earn 250,000 Shekels a month at the September Shekel value. Cohen-Orgad had asked for a 70 percent rate. The one agreed to was a compromise. Government officials said it would affect only one percent of the population.

Broader areas of the population will feel the bite of a new tax to be paid on child allowances to families of up to three children whose breadwinner is in the 50 percent tax bracket. A tax has also been levied on the income of pensioners who take early retirement.

There will be a monthly 700 Shekel fee for families with children attending school and a cut in car allowances for civil servants. A health insurance tax was also approved but details were not immediately announced.

Government officials no longer deny that a rise in unemployment is imminent. One of Cohen-Orgad's measures approved today will require job-seekers to accept any employment offered within a 60 kilometer radius of their homes, or lose unemployment pay benefits.

# U.S. REJECTS ANY PROPOSAL TO RENEGOTIATE LEBANON-ISRAEL ACCORD

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration rejected today any proposal to renegotiate the May 17 Lebanese-Israeli agreement for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. "We think it is a good agreement, carefully negotiated," State Department spokesman John Hughes said. He noted it was the basis which would lead to the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

At the same time, Hughes said the U.S. believed "progress" was made at the meeting of Lebanese leaders in Geneva last week which adjourned Friday after apparently getting President Amin Gemayel to agree to seek a renegotiation of the agreement. Pressed to explain what he meant by progress, Hughes said that there was progress because the various leaders who had fought each other had met and then had agreed to meet again. The second round of the Lebanese national reconciliation talks is scheduled to resume November 14.

Gemayel reportedly was planning to come to Washington to meet with President Reagan to discuss possible changes in the Israeli-Lebanese agreement. But Hughes said that while the Lebanese President was always welcome, there was no plan for such a meeting at this time. Reagan is scheduled to leave tomorrow for the Far East.

## Urges Restraint And Prudence

Hughes also cited what he called progress toward Lebanese national reconciliation in urging "restraint and prudence" upon the Syrians who reportedly called up their reserves today and were believed to be reinforcing their troops in Lebanon.

On other matters, Hughes said that the U.S. "understands" why Israel closed off south Lebanon from the rest of Lebanon after the terrorist bombing of the Israeli headquarters in Tyre Friday. He expressed the belief that the close-down would be of a "short duration." (See related story, P.1.)

Hughes also expressed "concern about the threat to the innocent persons in the camps and in Tripoli itself who are caught up in the fighting" between the Palestine Liberation Organization led by Yasser Arafat and dissident Palestinians backed by the Syrians and the Libyans. "The United States does not see how the fighting is likely to lead in any practical sense to helping the Palestinian people achieve their legitimate rights," Hughes said.

But he stressed the U.S. concern was for the non-combatants, so it apparently does not cover Arafat who appears about to lose his last military outpost in Lebanon.

## STUDY CLAIMS ISRAEL MAINTAINS BALANCE OF MILITARY POWER IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By Hugh Orgad

TEL AVIV, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- Israel is in no danger of attack by any of the Arab confrontation states in the near future because the balance of military power in the region continues very much in its favor and the Arab world is deeply divided, according to "The Middle East Military Balance, 1983," the first

year book published by the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies of Tel Aviv University, which came out today.

The annual review noted that the war in Lebanon demonstrates vividly the disarray in the Arab world. No single Arab state could expect to confront Israel successfully in the near future unless it was able to achieve total surprise, the review contended. A broad Arab coalition against Israel also appears unlikely, the study said.

But it warned: "While a major outbreak of fighting in the near and middle term is not indicated by recent developments, the possibility of war cannot be excluded. If a new war should erupt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia might be drawn in regardless of their intentions. Any indication of Egyptian support for other Arab belligerents might force Israel to reoccupy strategic areas in eastern Sinai."

## 'Israeli's Achilles' Heel'

The review described Israel's reliance on its reserve forces as "Israel's Achilles' heel" because the time required to mobilize the reserves makes it vulnerable to surprise attack, particularly by Syria. The 385-page year book, published in Hebrew and English editions, is divided into three sections. The first is a review and analysis of events in the region, with emphasis on the situation in Lebanon and the Iraq-Iran war.

The second part analyzes the armed forces and equipment of 20 states and the Palestine Liberation Organization and makes a qualitative assessment of the military capabilities of eight regional powers. The third part is a professional analysis of the military balance between the countries likely to become involved in armed conflict now or in the near future. It contains maps and tables of comparative strengths. The year book is a joint publishing venture of the Jaffee Center and The Jerusalem Post.

## FORD AND CARTER AGREE THAT THE U.S. SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS IN ITS INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON

ATLANTA, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- Two former Presidents, once bitter political opponents, were in close agreement here that the United States should exercise caution in its involvement in Lebanon and should continue to press toward a broad, comprehensive Middle East peace despite the continuing crisis in the region.

Gerald Ford, Republican, and Jimmy Carter, the Democrat who defeated him in the 1976 Presidential elections, served as co-chairmen of a four-day conference on the Middle East which opened yesterday at Emory University. The conference, sponsored by the Carter Center of Emory University, drew government officials, diplomats and scholars from 10 nations, including the Soviet Union and Middle Eastern states.

Israel boycotted the event because the Palestine Liberation Organization was represented in the person of Harvard University Prof. Walid Khalidi. But several Israeli academics attended.

## Urges U.S. Avoid Military Retaliation

Ford urged that the U.S. avoid military retaliation for the suicide bombing of U.S. marine headquarters in Beirut October 23 which took the lives of 230 American servicemen and wounded scores more. "We should keep our cool, we should not lash out in some reckless military action," Ford said.

Carter agreed, warning that retaliation could be "counter-productive" to the talks being held by the warring factions in Lebanon aimed at national reconciliation. "To guess who is responsible or to base a

military action on unsubstantiated allegations would be a very serious mistake," Carter said. Ford said "It is time for thoughtful review of our policy and then strong action once we decide what our policy is."

The two former Presidents spoke against the background of reports in recent days that the Reagan Administration is contemplating some sort of retribution against those responsible for the attack on the marines. The U.S. naval force has been beefed up in Lebanese waters. But Administration officials concede that they are still not certain which group was responsible for the attack.

#### Search For Comprehensive Peace Must Continue

The two former Presidents stressed at a news conference here last night that the U.S., the Arab nations and Israel must continue to search for a broad, comprehensive peace. "There is no way to minimize the consequences of the tragic and unnecessary war in Lebanon," Carter said. "But this should not defer the attention of our government from the roots of the continuing conflict that really helped precipitate the Lebanese situation."

Ford added that he did not think the search for a broad peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors can be allowed "to languish while we're concentrating on the Lebanese problem. They have to be attacked simultaneously," he said.

Carter said the conference was "unprecedented in scope and nature" and that he hoped it would provide a nonpartisan forum for each country to educate the public and express its views on the Middle East conflict, free from political pressures. He described the Carter Center at Emory, founded last year, as a non-partisan think tank to address global issues.

#### RABBI MENACHEM KASHER DEAD AT 89

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- Rabbi Menachem Kasher, one of the foremost Jewish scholars of this century, died here last week at the age of 89. He was buried on the Mount of Olives.

Kasher, born of Hasidic stock in Poland, achieved a remarkable reputation as a young man for his scholarship and writing. In the years immediately following World War I he edited a Torah periodical called "Degel Hatorah" ("Torah Flag") in which many of the leading rabbis of Europe regularly contributed.

In the late 1920's he came to Palestine, upon the instruction of his Hasidic leader, the Rabbi of Gur, to establish the first Hasidic yeshiva here, Sfot Emet. It was then that Kasher conceived the idea that was to become his life's work, the monumental "Torah Shlema," an encyclopedia of Pentateuch commentary. It was literally a life's work: by the time of his death 37 volumes had been published but it is still not quite finished. However, Kasher had managed to complete all the basic research and the work is likely to be finalized by his disciples.

#### Was An Ardent Zionist

While cleaving closely to Orthodox schools of thought, Torah Shlema is a work of major scholarship, relying heavily on manuscript research and careful analysis of the texts of the early commentators. Kasher spent many long days himself examining ancient manuscripts and folios in the Vatican, Cambridge University, and other world renowned libraries.

For Torah Shlema, Kasher received the coveted Israel Prize and other awards, as well as widespread

recognition from the wider community. Always a Hasidic figure, Kasher was nevertheless an ardent Zionist. Some of his many books reflect this ideology, and in one, written shortly after the 1967 Six-Day War, he presented a detailed analysis, with close references to Biblical texts, of his deep belief that modern Israel's history and destiny were divinely inspired.

A Talmudist of vast knowledge and profound analytical insights, Kasher authored many treatises on halacha, not hesitating to cross swords with other renowned authorities. He had an especial bent towards science and philosophy and wrote many books on the religious approach to time, space travel and current issues. He was indeed a Renaissance man.

#### FALASHA DESCRIBES RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN ETHIOPIA

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- An Ethiopian Jew who recently escaped from his home land said today that religious persecution and restrictions on the Falashas were the primary reasons he and his wife fled his village of Ambobar, the single largest Jewish community in Ethiopia, located in the Gondar region.

Ethiopia, "is no place for Jewish people to live," the Falasha, introduced as "Menachem," a pseudonym used to protect members of his family in Ethiopia, said in an interview in the offices of the North American Jewish Students' Network. His wife, introduced as "Jaffa," sat next to him, although she did not participate in the interview.

Menachem and his wife are in the United States from Israel, where they now live after escaping from Ethiopia four months ago, to speak to Jewish groups and at college campuses, including groups of Jewish students and Black student associations at Harvard, Brown, Columbia and Yale universities. They were scheduled to return to Israel this evening.

According to Menachem, who is 30 years old, the families of those who have escaped from Ethiopia are subjected to retribution and thus he would not go into detail of his flight, although he said it was an eight-day journey by foot.

He said the Falashas celebrated the Jewish holidays on an individual basis and did not participate in observing the holidays as a group. The fear of persecution is pervasive, he indicated. "If you follow the religion seriously, you will be put in jail," he said. He was reluctant to detail government repression of the Falashas for fear that this could in some way lead to his identification, and the possibility of retribution to family members in Ambobar.

Menachem, who has been in an ulpan in an absorption center in Jerusalem for four months, said he could not provide at this time an accurate assessment of the way the Israeli government has helped him and his wife adapt to their new homeland.

But he spoke wistfully of having the opportunity to live in Israel, a place he and his people in Ethiopia say they want to go because it is written in the Bible, he said.

\*\*\*

BONN (JTA) -- Helmut Rauca, a Nazi war criminal who was extradited from Canada last May, died in the prison hospital in Kassel where he was being held pending trial. Rauca, 74, a former SS officer, was charged by the state prosecutor in Frankfurt last August with the murders of thousands of Jews in Kowno, Latvia between 1941-43. He was arrested in Canada in 1982.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF KENYA By Aviva Cantor

(Part One Of A Three Part Series)

NAIROBI, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- The history of Jews and the history of Kenya, a Black East African country, have intersected three times in the past 80 years. The last, and perhaps best known of these encounters was Kenya's role in the 1976 Israeli rescue of Jews in Entebbe, Uganda. Permission for the Israeli rescue aircraft to refuel in Kenya, which has no official diplomatic relations with Israel, was a key element in the success of the operation.

The second encounter took place before the birth of the Jewish State. In 1947, members of Etzel (the Irgun) were interned by the British in the Gilgil Camp in Kenya, about 70 miles northwest of Nairobi. Six prisoners, led by Yaakov Meridor -- now Minister of the Economy -- broke out of the camp on April 15, 1948.

Although the escape was successful, the prisoners arrived in Israel later than the comrades they left behind, who returned home at the end of the British Mandate, May 15, 1948.

The first encounter goes back even further -- to the British proposal for creating a place of refuge for Russian Jews in East Africa -- the misnamed "Uganda Plan." The area in question was a section of Kenya known today as the Usin Gishu Plateau. The plan was ultimately rejected by the World Zionist Congress in 1905.

### An Important Impact

These encounters had an important impact, not only on world Jewry, but on the small community of Jews living in Kenya. On a recent visit, a group of Jewish journalists and tour operators from the U.S. and Israel met with leaders of the community and learned a great deal of the history and present circumstances of the community.

The group lodged "on safari" at hotels, some of which once were or still are Jewish-owned -- Jews were among the pioneers in Kenyan tourism -- and passed through small towns where Jewish communities once existed. The trip was organized by Unitours at the invitation of the Kenyan government and in cooperation with Iberia Airlines.

The Nairobi Hebrew Congregation, founded in 1904, has about 125 members, according to Ivor Davis, a professional public relations person who also serves the Jewish community in this capacity. Less than half the members are permanent residents of Kenya.

The rest, including 25 Israelis of the between 150 and 200 working in the country for Solel Boneh and H.Z. construction, Coor, and other companies, are employed by various foreign concerns. Davis said, only partly in jest, "They could take us over if they wanted to."

The small, attractive synagogue building, with its wood-paneled sanctuary and beautiful rose garden, was rebuilt in 1955 after the congregation's first building, put up in 1913, deteriorated beyond the congregation's ability to continue repairing it.

The new building was designed by Imre Rozsa, an architect who served as congregation president several years ago and now lives in Ohio. His wife, Lisa Rozsa, started the rose garden. The wood paneling in the sanctuary was salvaged from the old synagogue.

The congregation holds services there Friday evening and Saturday morning, following the "minhag" (practice) of the (Orthodox) United Synagogue of Great Britain. Men and women sit separately, with a mechitza (partition between worshippers) between them. The community has always "voluntarily submitted itself" to the authority of Britain's Chief Rabbi. It was out of the wish to maintain community unity that a group who wanted a Reform synagogue in the 1950's eventually abandoned the idea.

The congregation has just hired a new minister (as per British practice, not an ordained rabbi but a spiritual and communal leader), having been without one since 1971. He is Rev. Ze'ev Amit, who has been doing communal work for the past dozen years in Australia, South Africa, and most recently, Scotland. In the absence of a minister, and even now, various members of the congregation, including business executive Dr. Manfred Lehmann, lead the prayers.

Next door to the synagogue is the Vermont Memorial Hall, which has nothing to do with New England but with a legacy from Simon Vermont, an early settler, built as a communal meeting place in 1937. Before and after the war (when it was requisitioned by the British army), it was the site for various cultural activities among them the East African Jewish Guild, which sponsored social and sports activities until it folded in 1959; the Jewish Amateur Dramatic Society, which existed in 1950; meetings of the Zionist Organization and WIZO, and congregation meetings.

### Multifaceted Activities

Members of the congregation expressed the hope that the new minister will "revitalize" the hall with cultural activities. The Vermont Hall once served, as well, as an afternoon and Sunday school (with a high of over 100 children in 1958) and later, a day school for offspring of Israeli temporary residents. Classes for Israeli children are now held there on Saturday mornings. Mag. ine photos of Israeli leaders and children's drawings de orate the walls.

The synagogue run: a Chevreh Kadisha (burial society), maintains the old cemetery on Forest Road and the new one dedicated in 1946. It "keeps an eye," at the same time, on the old Jewish cemetery, with its monument to victims of the Holocaust, in Nakuru, a market town 100 miles to its north. There are also small cemeteries in Eldoret, Kitale and Mombasa, where Jews once lived from the earliest days of the country's settlement.

(Tomorrow: Part Two)

### CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS DROPPED

BONN, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- Criminal proceedings have been dropped against two officials of Moringen who were held responsible for allowing anti-Semitic material to appear in the town's official history. The prosecution in Hannover determined that Walter Ohlmer, the former town archivist, and town manager Rudolph Boedcher, could not be charged with incitement to racial discrimination or public disorder.

Ohlmer, 64, was fired from what is an honorary post as keeper of the town's records. Boedcher retains his job. He was not accused of writing anti-Semitic material but of accepting their inclusion in the official records. One passage justified the notorious Kristallnacht of 1938 as a legitimate response by Germans to Jewish provocation in the United States and elsewhere.