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SIX ISRAELI POWs RELEASED IN PRISONER EXCHANGE RETURN HOME
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 24 (JTA) — The six Israeli soldiers held as POWs by the Al Fatah arm of the PLO for 14 months — and recently incarcerated in strife-torn Tripoli — returned home to their families in Israel Thursday, under a prisoner exchange in return for some 4,600 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners held in Israel and the Ansar POW camp in south Lebanon.

The exchange was negotiated in complete secrecy, through the offices of the International Red Cross (IRC), with the actual transfer carried out with the aid of the French government.

The exchange was carried out in a complicated series of parallel moves, with each step at either end of the exchange — in Tripoli, Ansar and Israeli prisons — coordinated by IRC representatives receiving and passing on code words signifying that a certain stage had been reached and completed, allowing corresponding steps to be undertaken elsewhere.

No Implications Regarding The PLO

At a press conference in the Defense Ministry shortly after the six POWs were reunited with their families, Defense Minister Moshe Arens stressed there were no political implications to any talks held with the PLO on the release. While Israeli and PLO representatives had been in Geneva together, where the final stages of the negotiations for the prisoner exchange had taken place, talks between the Israelis and the PLO were carried out by IRC representatives shuttling between the two groups.

The return of the six Fatah-held prisoners still leaves in enemy hands two IDF soldiers held by the anti-Arafat dissident Ahmed Jabraeel, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, three held by the Syrians, and five still listed as missing whose fate and whereabouts is not known.

The original negotiations for the return of the Israeli POWs, started shortly after their capture, involved the repatriation of all eight men held by the PLO. But the inter-factional fighting within the PLO led to Israel's regretful recognition that separate talks might have to be held.

The knowledge that those held by the Arafat forces were being held in Tripoli while violent fighting, bombing and shelling went on around their heads, forced Israel to abandon temporarily the efforts to free the others, and concentrate on getting those held in Tripoli out of the battle zone. "We paid a very high price for their return," Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir noted today, "but it was a matter of life or death." (See related story.)

Stages In The Negotiations

The final stage of the negotiations with the PLO in Geneva was carried out by former Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir and IDF manpower head Amos Yaron.

Earlier talks were carried out by leftwing Arie Eliav, who today expressed thanks to Austria's former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and the late Issam Scar-

tawi, an Arafat aide in the PLO who was assassinated while attending a Socialist International meeting in Portugal, who had taken part in early talks with the PLO.

The Arabs exchanged last night included about 60 PLO terrorists serving up to life sentences in Israeli prisons for terrorist actions inside Israel, including aircraft hijackings and terrorist attacks which left many Israelis dead. All the Arabs held in the Ansar camp, nearly 4,500 of them, were also released, as were a group of 40 PLO officers and soldiers captured at sea in recent weeks while making their way to join Arafat's forces in Tripoli.

Arab Prisoners Given A Choice

The prisoners at the Ansar camp, Palestinians and Lebanese, were given the choice of being released in Lebanon, or flown to Algiers, together with the terrorists freed from Israeli prisons. Some 1,000 in all chose to go to Algiers. The Israeli citizens among the PLO terrorists were deprived of their Israeli nationality when their expulsion orders were issued by the Interior Ministry.

Amy sources said the Ansar detainees freed in Lebanon might represent a security risk to Israel, as they may now take up arms against Israel once again.

The Process Of Exchange

The first move in the exchange came last night with the handing-over of the six Israelis to the IRC in Tripoli. Once they were in IRC hands aboard a fishing vessel in the harbor, a code word was flashed to the IRC man in Israel, whereupon the terrorists in Israel were moved to Ben Gurion airport where three Air France jumbo jets, chartered by the Red Cross, were waiting. At the same time, the first batch of inmates were transferred by Israeli Air Force helicopters and planes from Ansar to the airport.

As the six Israelis were transferred to other boats, first a French warship and then an Israeli missile boat for their passage to Haifa, other code words were sent, setting in motion other steps, including the take-off, one after the other, of the three French jumbos from Ben Gurion airport to Cairo on their way to Algiers.

Also involved was the transfer in a fleet of Israeli busses of all the prisoners from the Ansar camp, to release points in Tyre, Sidon and other points.

The only discordant note in the exchange came from the Council of Jewish West Bank Settlements, which objected to the release of convicted terrorists, even in exchange for Israelis held prisoners or war for over a year.

During the jubilation in Israel, promises were made by government officials and army officers that every effort would now be made to effect the release of the five men held by Syria and Jabraeel and to obtain information about the five Israelis still posted as missing.

SHAMIR DESCRIBES 'MAIN CONSIDERATION' FOR THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 24 (JTA) — Premier Yitzhak Shamir said today the decision regarding the POW exchange had been a "very difficult one" because of the "very heavy price" Israel had to pay. In a TV

interview, he said the "main consideration" had been the mortal danger that had hung over the six Al Fatah-held POWs in Tripoli because of the fighting there.

(The returning POWs themselves, in brief TV interviews, spoke of "very tough" conditions in Tripoli these past few days. One spoke of the constant shelling and another recalled a grave shortage of food, water and electricity.)

The danger, Shamir noted, "did not depend on the (POWs') captors. It was an outside, objective reality. Therefore, we had to do more than the maximum" to bring them home, he continued. He expressed regret that the release of the six POWs did not include the release of two other prisoners held by the Ahmed Jabreel group, but pledged that the Israeli government would do its utmost to bring the two back home -- "and we will bring them back," he declared firmly.

Shamir said he shared the happiness of the families of the returned six POWs and the ongoing concern of the families of the other two. But the two families should "draw encouragement" both from the release of the six and from the government's evinced determination to maintain a "massive effort" to bring back the rest of the POWs, Shamir stated.

Begin Presses Efforts For POWs' Release

Former Premier Menachem Begin added his voice, in a radio interview, to the national rejoicing at the POWs' return. He praised jurists Shmuel Tamir and Arye Merinsky and leftwing politician Arye Eliav for their efforts on the government's behalf to obtain the POW exchange.

Begin, who spoke today publicly for the first time in many weeks, endorsed the government's decision to receive the six POWs now, splitting them from the remaining two in the hands of Jabreel. Begin agreed that mortal danger had threatened the six. He said he would like to meet with the returned POWs. Later, in a telephone conversation with the father of one of the six the former Premier repeated his desire and the two men agreed to arrange such a meeting soon.

COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE PROBLEMS ARISING IN ISRAEL'S DRUZE COMMUNITY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 24 (JTA) -- Deputy Premier David Levy announced yesterday that he will head an ad hoc committee to investigate and resolve problems arising in Israel's 50,000-strong Druze community. He was replying to charges in the Knesset that Israeli Druze do not enjoy equal rights with other citizens. The Druze are loyal to Israel and allowed to serve in its armed forces.

But MK Annon Lin of the Labor Alignment, an expert on Arab affairs, said in an agenda motion that the Druze lack full partnership with Jews. Israel is not doing enough to ensure that the Druze community is not discriminated against, he said, especially in light of the sacrifices it made in Israel's defense. Druze soldiers and border policemen sustained more than half the fatalities in the November 4 truck-bomb attack on Israeli military headquarters in Tyre.

"We must realize that Arab communities in Israel watch us every day and every hour to see how we treat the Druze, the Circassians and other non-Jews who share the duty of the defense of the country," Lin said. He asserted that every non-Jewish

soldier should be confident that his future, his livelihood, his standard of living and his sense of belonging are equal to those of Jewish soldiers.

Lin's motion was supported by Likud MK Nasser A-Din, himself a Druze, who said there was anger and disappointment in the Druze community. He noted that there is not a single Druze in a senior position in Israel's civil service. Druze army veterans are poorly treated. There is little industry in Druze villages and the village schools lack proper facilities, he said.

TRADITIONAL ANTI-SEMITISM HAS GIVEN WAY TO NEW FORMS, CONFERENCE FINDS

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J., Nov. 24 (JTA) -- While anti-Semitism today may be especially visible on the political left, it can be rooted in the rightwing as well, a former Irish diplomat and author reminded a conference here.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, a former UN official, deplored the current anti-Zionism of pro-Arab forces and their supporters on the left. But he also recalled that the Holocaust was perpetuated by rightwing ideologies. He noted, too, that despite recent anti-Semitic terrorist activities, grass roots anti-Semitism is probably not as common as it used to be.

O'Brien was one of some 25 participants in a three-day conference on "Anti-Semitism in the Contemporary World" co-sponsored by the American Jewish Congress and the International Center of Rutgers University. It was held at the Hyatt Regency here.

The Irish diplomat and writer shared the perception of many other conference participants in pointing out that anti-Zionism is but the latest form of anti-Semitism. He deplored the fact that even on basic matters of survival, Israel is held to a double standard.

"Any other country in the world faced with Israel's position and lack of security would have been regarded as being justified in removing the PLO from Lebanon," O'Brien said. "But because Israel did it, it was accused of acting like Nazi Germany."

A Recurring Theme

The conference brought together academics and specialists from across the country. The proceedings will be published at a later date.

A recurring theme at the sessions was that traditional anti-Semitism, which used to manifest itself as discrimination in employment, housing and education, has now been replaced by a still unmeasurable form of "anti-Jewishness." The symptoms include attacks on the existence of the State of Israel and a denunciation of all activity or ideas to which the label "Zionism" can be applied, whether or not they are related to Judaism or the Zionist movement at all.

"This anti-Jewishness is an attempt to identify Israel with the total evil in the world, by using the term Zionism out of context," said Prof. Dan Segre of the political science department at Haifa University. Citing misuses of the term, he noted that a Russian radio station recently described its Chinese enemies as "Zionists."

Segre, author of "A Crisis of Identity: Israel and Zionism," reported that the first recorded use of anti-Zionism as a mask for anti-Semitism took place in the Soviet Union in 1925. But he added that the technique did not become commonplace until the creation of the State of Israel. Passage in the UN of the 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism provided additional ammunition for anti-Semites, he said.

Traditional anti-Semitism, as reflected in discrimination in employment and public opinion surveys, is

declining, said Dr. Irwin Cotler, a professor of law at McGill University in Montreal. "But a new anti-Jewishness for which we have yet to develop appropriate indexes of measurement may be emerging."

Although a new vocabulary is needed to "define" contemporary anti-Jewishness, he said, it "can best be defined as the discrimination against, or denial of, national particularity anywhere, whenever that national particularity happens to be Jewish."

UAHC LAUNCHES EDUCATION SERIES TO DISCUSS NUCLEAR ARMS THREAT

NEW YORK, Nov. 24 (JTA) -- To alert the Jewish community to "the increasing danger of nuclear war and the proliferating nuclear arms race," the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) this week launched a series of educational meetings at Reform synagogues across the country.

The first program took place last Sunday night at Temple Beth El in Great Neck, L.I., immediately following the show of the ABC-TV drama "The Day After," which was seen by some 200 members of the congregation in the synagogue.

"It is fitting that we viewed this dramatization of the catastrophe of nuclear war here in a synagogue, a house of God," said Rabbi Jerome Davidson, senior rabbi of Beth El. "This film has made clear there is little time for making that choice. Now is the time to reverse the arms race and support a bilateral, verifiable nuclear freeze as our only hope for halting the madness whose potential consequences we have just witnessed."

Joining Davidson in the discussion was Benjamin Abelow of the Washington-based Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. "Abelow, who serves as arms-control coordinator at the Center, was a major contributor to 'Preventing the Nuclear Holocaust -- A Jewish Response,' published by the UAHC as a manual for organizing, educating and programming on nuclear issues in the Jewish community."

Urges Co-Existence With The USSR

Abelow assailed the Reagan Administration's policy on building and deploying MX and Pershing II missiles, declaring: "These weapons do not deter war but rather bring it closer by undermining deterrence."

Davidson called for "coexistence with the Soviet Union and an end to the 'evil empire' mentality." He told the meeting:

"If the voices of American religious leaders are silenced, the 'Moral Majority' preachers will fill the vacuum with their distrust and hatred of the USSR, against which they tell us the only defense is still more destructive power. That is why we must become part of a developing religious voice in the land, calling for an end to the madness and renewing our hopes for peace."

UAHC Resolution

The series of meetings launched in Great Neck was undertaken to implement a resolution adopted by the UAHC at its biennial convention last week in Houston, calling for a freeze by Washington, Moscow and all other nuclear powers "on the testing, production and deployment of first-strike nuclear weapons."

Some 3,000 convention delegates, representing 770 Reform synagogues in the U.S. and Canada, also called on the Reagan Administration "to delay deployment of the proposed Cruise and Pershing II missiles until we exhaust good faith efforts to negotiate successfully a treaty on intermediary nuclear forces."

MODAI PROPOSES ISRAEL SIGN MILITARY ALLIANCE WITH THE U.S.

JERUSALEM, Nov. 24 (JTA) -- Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai proposed that Israel sign a military alliance with the U.S. rather than try to revive the 1981 memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation.

Speaking on Voice of Israel Radio Tuesday, just a week before Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens are to meet with President Reagan at the White House, Mordechai said the memorandum, initiated by the two countries but never implemented, could have done considerable damage. It is possible, he said, that memorandum prompted Syria to sign its friendship treaty with the Soviet Union.

According to Mordechai, a leader of Likud's Liberal Party wing, a U.S.-Israeli military pact would be much more meaningful because it would commit the U.S. to provide substantial military assistance to Israel if it is attacked.

HOUSING SHORTAGE SAID TO HOLD UP POTENTIAL ALIYA

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 24 (JTA) -- Israel's continuing housing shortage is holding up potential aliya from various parts of the world and causing hardship for thousands of immigrants already in Israel, according to associations of immigrants from Western and Oriental countries.

Spokesmen for both groups said that some 25,000 immigrants have been stuck in absorption centers for the past 3-4 years, unable to move into flats of their own despite repeated promises by the Ministry of Construction and Housing.

They said that some 3,000 potential olim from Latin America have been forced to postpone their departure for Israel because of the lack of proper housing. The immigration of "thousands of Jews" from Soviet Georgia is being held up for the same reason, the spokesmen said.

The Knesset's Committee on Immigration and Absorption is scheduled to discuss the housing problem and the situation at absorption centers early next month. Representatives of the immigrants associations warned that demonstrations will occur if there is no constructive solution by then.

NO FINAL DECISION MADE BY GERMANY ON ARMS SALE TO EGYPT

BONN, Nov. 24 (JTA) -- Officials here said yesterday that no final decision has been made on the sale of arms to Egypt. They confirmed, however, that military cooperation has been agreed to between West Germany and Egypt and negotiations for weapons sales are underway.

The agreement was reached during the recent visit here of the Egyptian Defense Minister, Abdel Halim Abu Gasala who met with his West German counterpart, Manfred Woerner. Gasala told reporters that Israeli opposition to German weapons sales to Egypt were groundless because Egypt fully respects and abides by its peace treaty with Israel.

According to Gasala, the Soviet Union poses the greatest danger in the Middle East. He said the Soviets have stationed a rapid deployment force in Libya and that half the Egyptian army is deployed on the Libyan border to meet any danger from that country.

HERZOG: PLO INFIGHTING IS A 'TYPICAL GANGSTER SHOOT-OUT' By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog of Israel charged yesterday that the fighting between the Palestinian terrorist factions in Tripoli, Lebanon, is due to a "cynical use of power by the Syrians" who want to be the "exclusive custodians" of the Palestinian issue and to prevent the Palestinians from entering into negotiations with Israel.

"The Syrians fear that sooner or later the Palestinian leadership, influenced to an increasing degree by King Hussein, might consider moving toward negotiations," he said in an address to the National Press Club. "Hence, these actions in order to prevent such a development."

But in response to a question, Herzog rejected any Israeli sympathy for Yasir Arafat whose Palestine Liberation Organization forces are under siege in Tripoli by Syrian-backed dissident Palestinians. "We have no sympathy whatsoever for a man who introduced the idiom of international terror with all of its horrible implications into the realm of international affairs," Herzog said. He noted that "We have no sympathy for either side" and labeled the fighting between Palestinian groups a "typical gangster shoot-out."

Tragedy Of the Palestinian People

He said the "tragedy of the Palestinian people" is that it "never had a leadership which is prepared to compromise." He noted that during the 19 years when the West Bank and Gaza Strip were under Jordanian and Egyptian rule, respectively, the Palestinians were never offered a state of their own nor did the PLO ask for one.

"The first government to offer the Palestinian Arabs any form of self-government was Israel which offered them autonomy as a transitory phase toward the resolution of the entire problem of negotiations," Herzog said. "Had they accepted our offer, they would now be in a state of full autonomy and we would be in the final stages today of negotiations of the final arrangements for the West Bank and Gaza."

New Wind Blowing In The West Bank

While the Palestinians are not yet ready to negotiate, according to Herzog, he stressed that he believed that because of their "frustration" over the leadership fight in Tripoli, there "is a new wind blowing in Judeaea, Samaria and Gaza" which will eventually lead to negotiations.

In his address yesterday, his last major speech before leaving for Israel today, Herzog also accused Syria of being a "surrogate" for the Soviet Union which, he said, "wants to sabotage the peace process because it has no part in it and because the U.S. is at the center of the process."

DULZIN EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT FUTURE OF DIASPORA JEWRY

ATLANTA, Nov. 24 (JTA) -- Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization executives, expressed grave concern about the future of Jews outside of Israel during a forum at the 52nd General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations.

He cited the inroads made by mixed marriage, assimilation and the loss of Jewish identity among

Jews in North and South America and Western Europe. Dulzin said it was easy for a Jew in the diaspora to disappear as a Jew simply by fading "into a larger society."

But he added that the decision of the American Jewish community to implement the Caesarea Process gave Jewish leaders the "vital tools" to answer affirmatively the ultimate critical question of positive Jewish survival in the diaspora.

The Caesarea Process was a reference to a meeting in Caesarea in Israel at which American non-Zionist fund-raising members of the Jewish Agency accepted the Jerusalem Program which includes a call for the centrality of Israel in Jewish life and the defense of Jewish rights everywhere.

Crucial Question of Jewish Continuity

Dulzin posed to the CJF delegates the question: "Will your great-grandchildren sit in such a General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations 25 and 50 years from now?"

He said strengthening of Jewish education and encouraging aliya through the partnership of the Jewish Agency and the diaspora was crucial. He said among the highest priorities of the Caesarea Process were the revitalization of Jewish education and aliya which, he emphasized, were both "indispensable bridges to continuity and identity."

Declaring that "Israel is our assurance that the Jewish people will survive," Dulzin said the crucial question was "Jewish continuity outside of Israel." He cited predictions that the American-Jewish community might be reduced by half in the next 25 to 35 years, adding that "within the next two generations, we may be facing a spiritual and demographic Holocaust of the Jewish people."

Dulzin said that the Caesarea Aliyah Commission's recommendation that CJF communities assume responsibility for aliya as they do for other community programs means that growing numbers of American and Canadian Jews will be helped to settle in Israel. He said the local Jewish communities need aliya as much as Israel does because Americans who settle in Israel become living bonds between the local communities and Israel.

He said Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Minister of Education and Culture Zevulun Hammer and Morton Mandel, a former CJF president, had agreed to join him in convening a "World Leadership Conference for Jewish Education" in Jerusalem next June.

Urges Two-Way Process

Philip Granovsky of Toronto, a member of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, stressed that the relationship between Federations and the Agency should be a two-way process.

He said that diaspora Jewry should support the Jewish Agency through the annual campaigns, Project Renewal, missions, and local programming, as well as a deeper involvement on the part of diaspora leadership through greater participation by local community standing committees and Federation board members.

On the other hand, Granovsky said, the Agency should be more accountable to the Federations. He called for a fundamental tightening of ties, a greater understanding of Agency programming, more careful review of budgeting, and a wider sharing of information between Federations.