

**Tragedy In Jerusalem:
4 KILLED, 46 INJURED WHEN BOMB
EXPLODES IN A CROWDED BUS; SHAMIR
VOWS PERPETRATORS WILL BE PUNISHED**
By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- Four persons were killed and 46 were injured, many seriously, when a bomb exploded in a crowded Jerusalem bus this afternoon, virtually demolishing the vehicle. The casualty figures were released at 4 p.m. local time, about three hours after the explosion. The toll could go higher. The dead were not immediately identified.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir vowed tonight that the perpetrators "will not go unpunished." A statement released by his office said security forces were "making every possible effort to uncover the perpetrators of this criminal act. They shall not go unpunished."

The Palestine Liberation Organization claimed credit for the outrage. Its Cyprus-based news agency, Wafa, quoted a Palestinian military spokesman today as saying that a unit of the "Martyr Halim" commando group was responsible for the bus bombing. The PLO claimed it was an army bus and that 40 Israeli military personnel were killed.

The bus, a No. 18 which follows a circuitous route around the city, was blasted into the air by the explosion while waiting at a stop light on Herzl Boulevard at 12:50 p.m. local time. Another bus, immediately behind it, was also damaged by the explosion and a number of its passengers sustained injuries.

Worst Terrorist Attack In Two Years

The injured were rushed to the nearest hospitals—Shaare Zedek and the Ein Kerem facility of Hadassah Hospital. Many were reported badly burned or bleeding profusely. At least one victim was in critical condition.

Jerusalem Police Chief Rahamin Comfort announced that several suspects have been arrested for questioning in what was easily the worst terrorist attack anywhere in Israel for at least the last two years. He said a mass search was underway for the perpetrators.

The bus was enroute to the Kiryat Yovel section on the southern outskirts of Jerusalem and was packed with passengers, including school children and a large number of shoppers who had boarded the bus at the Mahane Yehuda marketplace.

'I Never Saw Such a Horrible Sight'

The bomb, believed to have been loaded with nails to cause maximum injury, exploded in the center of the bus. The roof was blown off by the force of the explosion, all windows were shattered and parts of the vehicle were strewn as far as 100 meters from the site of the explosion.

"I never saw such a horrible sight," an eyewitness told reporters. "I saw body parts tens of meters away from the bus, a baby pacifier stained with blood, torn school books, make-up kits and a blood-stained chocolate bar."

Extrication of the dead and injured from the ruined vehicle was hampered by hundreds of curious by-

standers who converged on the scene. Many refused to heed repeated appeals by the police to allow security forces to work unimpeded.

Transportation Minister Haim Corfu went on radio and television later in the day to urge bus passengers to be constantly on the alert for any suspicious-looking objects. "Public sensitivity to suspicious objects has faded and should be strengthened," he said.

Buses in Jerusalem and other Israeli cities have been frequent targets of terrorist bomb plants over the years. In most cases, the bus driver or alert passengers spotted the objects and the vehicles were evacuated before the bomb detonated.

Sometimes a bomb would explode, damaging an empty vehicle and on other occasions the lethal objects were defused by police sappers. But no previous bus bombs appear to have been of the size and power of the one which caused today's tragedy.

PILOTLESS ISRAELI DRONE DOWNED

JERUSALEM, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- Military sources announced that a pilotless Israeli drone was shot down over Lebanon today by Syrian anti-aircraft fire while on a reconnaissance flight. The announcement, broadcast on Kol Israel Radio, said the unmanned aircraft was hit over Sultan Yaacov village.

Lebanon's rightwing Phalangist radio reported today that an Israeli jet was shot down by Syrian missiles over Lebanon and its pilot taken prisoner. The official Syrian news agency, Sana, claimed that two drones were downed, one in the Anjar area of eastern Lebanon near the Syrian border and the other in Deir Al-das in southern Syria. The Syrians made no claim to have downed a manned Israeli aircraft.

The Israeli military sources ignored both reports, stating that a single drone had been lost.

**U.S. HOPING ISRAEL WILL MUTE ITS
CRITICISM OVER PROJECT FOR JORDAN**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- The United States is not expecting Israel's support for its rapid deployment force project in Jordan. It is, however, asking Israel to mute its criticism, if there must be criticism at all.

This, according to well-placed sources here, was the impression garnered by Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens from their talks in Washington last week. The U.S. side referred often to its determination to extend American aid and support to "moderate Arab states," and plainly the rapid deployment force project for Jordan is high on this list of priorities.

(The projected force -- of two Jordanian brigades -- would be intended for fast action against insurgency in the pro-Western Persian Gulf states. Israel has said it opposes the creation and arming of such a force because it could be used against her.)

The Israeli sources said Shamir reiterated Israel's objections to the force's creation. It was apparent, however, that both sides understood this issue was open and that the future would show whether indeed Israeli and pro-Israeli groups in the U.S. would lower the level of their protests. The sources indicated that Israel's attitude would be shaped by the broader complex of U.S.-Israeli relations and by other regional strategic considerations.

NETANYAHU SAYS U.S.-ISRAELI ACCORDS WILL NOT RESULT IN ISRAEL ACTING AS A 'SWORD FOR HIRE'

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- The military and political agreements concluded between the United States and Israel last week are the result of shared values and concerns in the Middle East and will not result in Israel acting as a "sword for hire," according to Benjamin Netanyahu, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Israel Embassy in Washington.

In a brief 15-minute address to the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the United Israel Appeal last night, Netanyahu indicated that the agreements reached at meetings Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens held in Washington with President Reagan and senior Administration officials are directed to thwart Syrian and Soviet aggression in the region.

According to Netanyahu, the "conception of alliances" between nations is a central element of the foreign policy of any nation caught in the midst of conflict. While he indicated that Israel "can handle" the Syrians, the continued Soviet armaments and sophisticated weaponry funneled into Syria is of serious concern.

"They are preparing for war and the Syrian economy is placed on a war footing," Netanyahu told some 150 persons at the dinner in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. He said that a Soviet supported program to arm the Syrians will be completed in six to eight months.

"Tonight we say to the enemies of the Jewish people for 2,000 years our people fought and triumphed before our would-be oppressors and we shall not be cowed by you," the Israeli official declared.

Cites Remaining Differences

In answering questions from the UIA members, Netanyahu said the United States' air attack on Syrian military emplacements in Lebanon Sunday marked the first time that the U.S. has reacted to the killing of U.S. personnel by Arabs.

On other matters, the Israeli official said the Reagan Administration and the Israeli leaders with whom they met with last week still disagree on several outstanding issues, including the Israeli policy of expanded Jewish settlements on the West Bank, the U.S. desire to sell arms to the moderate Arab states, and the U.S. position on the more than three year old Iran-Iraq war.

Netanyahu said the United States seeks a tilt toward supporting Iraq, but he said Israeli intelligence indicates the war continues to remain at a standstill with each side advancing and then being pushed back. He described Iran and Iraq as "two wild crazy dogs."

PERES MOURNS DEATH OF U.S. SERVICEMEN IN LEBANON

By Rifka Rosenwein

BOSTON, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- Shimon Peres, chairman of Israel's opposition Labor Party, today mourned the loss of the 10 American servicemen killed or wounded in Lebanon last weekend but called on the U.S. to "maintain a strong posture" in the Middle East.

Addressing an audience of 150 at Harvard University, Peres said: "It is obvious that the U.S. can do without Lebanon but peace and freedom cannot pre-

vail in the world without America. These young Americans died in that noble cause." He noted that the U.S. "took it upon itself to establish a Gema'el government" in Lebanon and emphasized that "with the right diplomatic and military actions (this goal) can be achieved."

Responding later to a question about Sen. Barry Goldwater's remarks urging the immediate withdrawal of American troops from Lebanon, Peres said that "it is extremely difficult for an American Administration to break a promise. American reliability is very important."

He said that Israel "has the stomach to defend itself" and added later that the U.S. did, too, plus "when other peoples' freedom is in danger, the U.S. always helped and left, once the goal of the confrontation was achieved."

Favors U.S.-Israel Military Coordination

Peres said he favored military coordination between the U.S. and Israel "as long as each of us can manage our own business without depending on the other. We are grateful to America for (its) economic and military aid, but we have to maintain the ability to defend ourselves," he stressed.

"I am not a 'peacenik,'" the Labor Party leader said. "God forbid if we didn't have an army to defend ourselves. We must maintain our military position." But, he added, "in war you must win; in peace you must be willing to compromise."

He said "the best policy for Israel is to take two unilateral steps: realize the Israel-Lebanon agreement that provides for Israel's security and set dates for (Israel's) withdrawal (from Lebanon) independent of Syrian withdrawal." Peres also urged "containment" of the Syrians. "I am not sure if this can be achieved through the negotiations with the U.S.," he noted.

Syria will not "settle for less" than it already had and "if it gets more it will become a patron of Lebanon. That (option) would not offer peace within Lebanon or to her neighbors," Peres said. The only solution is to "deter Syria from advancing further" in Lebanon.

The third goal in Lebanon, according to Peres, is the "establishment of an all-Lebanese government." He said the options that face the war-torn country are "partition or a coalition that will represent all existing forces in the proportion they exist today. No Lebanese leader advocates partition," Peres added.

Peres took care to differentiate between what he saw as two separate issues--the Lebanese and the Palestinian. To address the Palestinian problem, he called on "all parties to come together to try to negotiate" an interim agreement. He emphasized Jordan's role in a Palestinian settlement based on the Reagan initiative and as a spokesman for the Palestinian people.

Peres said that experience has shown that the Palestine Liberation Organization and its leaders are not "viable negotiating partners." Asked if PLO chief Yasir Arafat now seems like a "moderate," Peres replied that Arafat "does not look like a moderate but like a failure. Sixteen years the leader, he brought tragedy to his people, death to our people," Peres said.

U.S. OFFICIAL REJECTS ISRAELIS' CRITICISM OF AMERICAN NAVY PILOTS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- A ranking State Department official rejected the contention by two former Israel Air Force commanders that the U.S. air strike against Syrian anti-aircraft and radar positions in Lebanon Sunday was an operational failure and demonstrated lack of experience by American pilots. Two of the 28 carrier-based Navy planes were shot down by the Syrians.

Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam, appearing on the PBS-TV MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour last night, cited the Pentagon's announcement that the mission was "very successful and achieved our objectives." He said the criticism expressed by retired Israel Air Force Gens. Benny Peled and Mordechai Hod was not valid unless the Israelis possess information the U.S. does not have.

Peled was quoted as telling reporters in Tel Aviv that the big problem was that "the American Navy has not seen action for many years" and therefore its pilots lacked combat experience. Hod reportedly said the American raid did not inflict extensive damage on the Syrians.

The Navy aircraft employed in the strike were subsonic A7 Corsairs and A6E Intruders which have lower speeds than the missiles which struck them.

U.S. CHARGES THAT DECLINE IN JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM THE USSR IS RESULT OF DELIBERATE SOVIET POLICY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- "The drastic decline in Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union is the result of 'deliberate Soviet policy,' not a drop in requests for emigration, the Reagan Administration charged today.

"The Soviet authorities publicly claim, in fact, that the Jewish emigration question has now been 'solved,'" the Administration said in its 15th Semi-Annual Report On Implementation of the Helsinki Final Act. "In the face of all evidence to the contrary, the Soviet authorities claim there no longer are any Jewish refuseniks in the Soviet Union," the report said.

The report was submitted yesterday by Secretary of State George Shultz, on behalf of President Reagan, to Rep. Dante Fascell (D. Fla.) chairman of the Commission On Security and Cooperation in Europe which monitors the Helsinki accords. It covers the period June 1-November 30, 1983.

According to the report, approximately 850 Jews received exit visas to emigrate to Israel from April 1 through September 30, 1983. While this is compatible to the 741 for the previous six months, it was "a significant decline" from the 1,286 who emigrated during the corresponding period of 1982.

About 1,500 Jews are expected to have emigrated from the USSR by the end of this year as compared to 2,671 last year, 9,127 in 1981 and 20,345 in 1980, the report said. The peak year was 1979 when 50,461 Jews left the Soviet Union.

Soviet Claims Cited

The Administration report said the Soviets are claiming that "letters of invitation received by Soviet Jews from abroad are fraudulent, the fabrications of groups in the U.S. and Israel who wish to 'prove' that the Jewish emigration question is still current and to discredit the Soviet Union in the process."

There have been articles in the Soviet press "asserting that Jewish agencies in the West are no more than front organizations for U.S. and Israeli intelligence and that the deliberate efforts of these agencies to stimulate Jewish emigration by transmitting vyzovs (letters of invitation) en masse is in essence an intelligence gathering exercise."

The report also notes that "the Soviet authorities continue to harass Western visitors who wish to have contact with Soviet Jews, particularly outside Moscow. Visiting Americans have had their luggage thoroughly searched and materials confiscated on internal Aeroflot flights where no immigration or customs regulations apply."

The recently formed Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public is seen by the Reagan Administration as a means of developing the Soviet "line" that there is no longer a Jewish emigration problem. The report also points out that the committee's anti-Zionist "diatribes" are aimed at discrediting Israel "and to lessen its attractiveness for would-be emigrants."

The report points out that the Soviet Union continues to persecute individual Jews who want to study Hebrew and Jewish history and culture.

Situation In Rumania

On Rumania, the report said that while the emigration of Jews to Israel is restricted, it is allowed largely on a family reunification basis. However, there are long delays, sometimes up to three years. This issue is expected to be discussed in Washington by the U.S. and Rumanian governments next spring.

Despite the gloomy assessment in the 107-page semi-annual report, the Administration offers some optimism by noting that the Madrid follow-up conference on the Helsinki agreements ended in September with a final document that strengthened some of the human rights provisions of the Helsinki agreement.

The 35 countries involved also scheduled a human rights experts meeting in Ottawa in 1985 and a meeting on human contacts in Bern in 1986. The next follow-up conference on the Helsinki agreements is scheduled to be held in Vienna in November, 1986.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN FRANCE

PARIS, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- Anti-Semitism in contemporary France is increasingly hiding under the guise of anti-Zionism or political opposition to Israel, according to a study on modern anti-Semitism in France. Traditional rightwing anti-Semitism, the study notes, "has been seriously diminished" although it still plays an occasional role, mainly in attacking prominent Jewish personalities.

"The real danger, nowadays, stems from certain leftist groups for whom the State of Israel is the root of all evil," according to the report which also warned that renewed tension in the Middle East could exacerbate this phenomenon. The study pointed out that "new right" elements have also contributed to the spread of anti-Semitism by trying to deny the Holocaust, or minimizing its horrors or of finding excuses for wartime collaboration with the Nazis.

The study was conducted by the CERAC, a Jewish research center in Paris which is sponsored by the World Jewish Congress' Institute of Jewish Affairs in London, the French branch of the WJC, the Representative Council of Major French Jewish Organizations (CRIF), and the Federation of Jewish Welfare Funds (FSJU).

NEW ARGENTINE INTERIOR MINISTER VOWS FIGHT AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 6 (JTA)-- Dr. Antonio Troccoli, chosen by President-elect Raul Alfonsin to be the Minister of Interior in the new constitutional government of Argentina, described anti-Semitism as "a barbarian attitude" which "ought to be definitely and forever eliminated from the country," the World Jewish Congress reported today.

Troccoli's comments were contained in a lengthy interview published here by the Jewish weekly, "Mundo Israelita." As reported by the Latin American branch of the WJC, he spoke of the determination to protect the freedom and rights of all citizens stressing that "we are adversaries of discrimination of whatever origin -- political, racial, or religious -- so that we will faithfully respect the freedoms related to persons, faiths and political issues."

Jewish Community Held in High Regard

Troccoli specifically confronted the issue of anti-Semitism: "Anti-Semitism is a barbarian attitude which is marginal in Argentinian society. Fortunately it does not have important dimensions in our country. It is the product of a small group of marginal people, who nurture this xenophobia. The Argentine man in the street, the free citizen, considers the Jewish community as one of the communities which most contributed to the cultural, economic and social development of the republic."

He also spoke positively about the State of Israel: "The State of Israel deserves all our respect. We maintain good international relations. We shall surely improve and deepen them, because we have a deep devotion and respect for the effort which that State made to be created and to defend itself against external attacks."

The Latin American Branch of the WJC reported that the unexpected avalanche of votes for the Radical Party headed by Alfonsin resulted in the election to Parliament of four Jewish Deputies for the lower chamber (out of a total of 244) and of one Senator (out of a total of 46). Those figures may yet increase with the final count of votes.

In his latest assessment, Prof. Manuel Tenenbaum, executive director of the Latin American branch, said that within the Jewish community the climate of relief and relaxation of tension continues along with optimism concerning the new political era emerging in the country. But some ambivalence is being observed.

Aliya Drops Sharply

The unexpected presence of Jewish ministers, high level administrators and members of Parliament, is greeted by the community with mixed feelings. On the one hand, there is pride and satisfaction; on the other, the fear that, when difficulties occur, "the Jew" may become the scapegoat.

The number of those interested in aliya has dropped sharply, and it is expected that younger Jews will lose interest in community issues and will, instead, become active in the general field.

Another development that has clouded the picture concerns foreign policy. The future Foreign Minister, Dante Caputo, stated to the Kuwait News Agency that the constitutional government of Argentina would recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization as the "legitimate representative of

the Palestinian people," adding, however, that it would not be granted diplomatic status.

The return to democracy will give Argentina a much more significant role in Latin America, Tenenbaum noted. It is likely that Argentina will exert a greater influence on the continent, and the attitudes which the Alfonsin government takes in international politics will have great repercussions. Israeli diplomats and the Jewish community are waiting -- not without some concern -- for the formulation of Argentina's new government's position on the issues of the Middle East.

SIDNEY LEIWANT DEAD AT 71

NEWARK, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held today for Sidney Leiwant, honorary president and immediate past president of the American ORT Federation, at Temple Sharey Tefila-Israel in South Orange. He died yesterday at the age of 71.

Born in Austria, Leiwant was brought to the United States as a child by his parents and spent his formative years in Connecticut. He graduated from the University of Alabama in 1934. He subsequently settled in Verona, N.J.

Leiwant was active in all phases of Jewish communal life. He was active in the American ORT Federation for more than a decade where he also served as vice president of its central board. He also served on the executive committee of the World ORT Union, to which he was a delegate.

Leiwant was a member of the National Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal; a trustee of the United Israel Appeal; former chairman of Council of Jewish Federations' Large City Budgeting Conference; a member of the Board and executive committee of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; and a member of the Board and executive committee of HIAS.

In addition, Leiwant was a president of the Jewish Education Association of Metropolitan New Jersey; president of the Jewish Community Federation of Metrowest (formerly Metropolitan New Jersey); general chairman of the UJA of Metrowest; Board member of The Jewish News and the Federation Community Relations Committee.

He was also president of Temple Israel of the Oranges and Maplewood; vice president and Board member of the United Way of Essex County; and a member of the Boards of the Jewish Counseling and Service Agency and the Hebrew Youth Academy.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Shekel in now equal in value to one U.S. cent. The currency plunged through the "cent barrier" Tuesday. Economists calculated that in the six years of Likud rule, Israel's currency has depreciated by 99 percent relative to the Dollar. In the summer of 1977 the Shekel (then 10 Liri) was worth one Dollar -- now it is worth one cent.

PARIS (JTA) -- The Jewish cemetery of Bischoffsmunster, near Strasbourg, was desecrated over the weekend. Tombstones were overturned and inscriptions painted over. The city's rabbi, Claude Lederer, said vandals and not anti-Semites might be responsible. The local police have started an official investigation at the request of the local district attorney. The cemetery, which also serves the Strasbourg community, is considered a historic site.