



ISRAEL REFUSES TO GUARANTEE ARAFAT SAFE PASSAGE FROM TRIPOLI

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA) — Israel today again condemned the United Nations' decision to provide safe conduct for PLO leader Yasir Arafat and his men to leave the embattled city of Tripoli under a UN flag and said it would not give a guarantee of safe passage to the terrorists.

Asked if Israel would prevent Arafat and his 4,000 men from leaving, Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor told reporters, "Israel is not going to answer that question." Speaking after a Cabinet meeting, Meridor said Greece had asked for security guarantees for its ships evacuating the Palestinians, but Israel would not provide such guarantees.

The Israeli government last week asked UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to cancel any arrangement that may have been made to give Arafat and his men safe conduct from Tripoli under the UN flag. Premier Yitzhak Shamir said "it is inconceivable" that the UN "should provide the terrorists with any assistance or facilities whatsoever" in light of the "horrendous crime perpetrated by Arafat's terrorists" in Jerusalem last Tuesday.

Four people were killed and 46 were injured in a bus bomb blast. Claims of responsibility for the tragedy emanated from both the faction supporting Arafat and PLO dissidents who have been battling Arafat loyalists in northern Lebanon. Shortly after the disaster, Shamir declared: "Our hands will reach the murderers and we shall strike them until this wickedness disappears from the face of the earth."

FRANCE RECONSIDERING ITS PLAN TO HELP GREEK SHIPS EVACUATE ARAFAT

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Dec. 11 (JTA) — France has decided to reconsider its initial plan to provide naval escorts for the Greek ships due to evacuate PLO chief Yasir Arafat and his men out of Tripoli. The French, who had reportedly promised to provide several of their warships now stationed off the coast of Lebanon for this mission, now have asked Israel to promise not to fire at the Greek ferries which will fly the United Nations flag.

French official sources say Israel has been contacted through diplomatic channels and no final decision on the matter will be taken before the French government will have Israel's reply.

Several prominent Palestinian leaders close to Arafat, now trapped in Tripoli, visited Paris this week-end to ask Paris to keep its initial pledge. Among these Palestinians was the PLO head of Foreign Affairs, Faruk Kaddumi.

The French officials say they are "convinced" that Israel will not fire at the Greek vessels but President Francois Mitterrand has decided to first wait for the Israeli reply.

UNSETTLING NEWS FROM CAIRO

By David Landau

SDOM, Dec. 11 (JTA) — Two visiting U.S. Congressmen brought unsettling news from Cairo where they found Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak angered

by Israeli government policies and clearly dismayed by the closer military and economic alliance between the United States and Israel. They apparently failed to convince him that Egypt had nothing to fear from the new relationship between Washington and Jerusalem.

Reps. Dan Glickman (D. Kan.) and Lawrence Smith (D. Fla.) stopped over at this Dead Sea town to attend the first World Assembly of Young Jewish Leadership, a gathering of members of the United Jewish Appeal Young Leadership Cabinet and some younger generation Knesset members. The Congressmen had a 90-minute session with Mubarak in Cairo at which the U.S. Ambassador, Nicholas Veliotes, was present.

According to the American lawmakers, the Egyptian President bridled at allegations by Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens that his policies violated the Camp David agreements. Mubarak asserted that he was totally committed to Camp David and would remain so. He pointed out that both Shamir and Arens had opposed the Camp David agreements when they were signed in September, 1978 by Premier Menachem Begin and the late President Anwar Sadat.

Seeks To Reassure Mubarak

Smith said he sought to reassure Mubarak that Egypt labored under "misconceptions" regarding the agreements reached between Shamir and President Reagan in Washington two weeks ago and that they would not prejudice American relations with Egypt. Mubarak, for his part, made it clear that Egypt expected increases and improvements in its U.S. aid package commensurate with those pledged to Israel.

Smith said he tried to convince Mubarak that minor concessions by both sides could break the impasse that has developed in the Egyptian-Israeli peace process. But Mubarak was plainly troubled by Israel's insistence that resumed negotiations with Egypt — for example, over their border dispute at Taba — must be held in Jerusalem. He seemed to indicate that this Israeli demand was a major obstacle in the way of a resumed dialogue, the Florida Democrat said.

On Lebanon, Mubarak's position is unequivocal: Israel must withdraw. He did not accept Smith's argument that Israel's September 4 pullback to the Awali River line in Lebanon elicited no commensurate response from Syria. Smith told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he would convey his impressions from Cairo to Shamir when they meet Tuesday.

HUSSEIN OUTLINES HIS CONDITIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (JTA) — King Hussein of Jordan reiterated today that his conditions for negotiations with Israel continue to be "Palestinian participation and support," approval of other Arab states and the prospect that the talks "will get somewhere."

Hussein, who was asked on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley" about the Israeli Cabinet declaration today that it is time for him to join the peace talks, made clear he also needs the approval of the Palestine Liberation Organization led by Yasir Arafat.

"We will continue to do business with the PLO which represents the people of Palestine, their hopes and aspirations," he said. Asked which PLO, he replied "The PLO that is recognized over the years." He ruled out the Syrian-backed group that has been fighting Arafat's loyalists in Tripoli. "Any organization that is subservient to the will or policies of any Arab state or any force in this world is not anyone that we would recognize," he added.

Asked whether Arafat's removal as head of the PLO would help the peace process, the King replied, "No I do not believe it would." Hussein warned that if the Israelis try to prevent Arafat and 4,000 of his terrorists from leaving Tripoli aboard Greek ships it would be a "terrible disaster and a very tragic crime."

Blum Raps UN Aid For Arafat

Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, appearing on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation," would not say whether Israel would try to prevent Arafat's departure to North Africa. Blum would only restate Israel's opposition to the use of a UN flag on the ships transporting the PLO. "It is preposterous and inconceivable that the United Nations should be placed at the disposal of a terrorist organization," he said.

He said it could not be considered a humanitarian act since it was "preposterous to associate Arafat with humanitarianism. After all it was Arafat who last Tuesday took responsibility for bombing the civilian bus in Jerusalem." UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said last week that the authorization of the use of the UN flag to provide safe conduct for Arafat and his men "was on purely humanitarian grounds."

Hussein Says Israel Impedes Peace

Hussein, who was interviewed from Amman, said the conditions in the Mideast are very dangerous with the threat of a superpower confrontation. While declaring that Jordan has always been "committed to the cause of establishing a just and durable peace," he said he saw no signs of Israeli moves towards peace.

"So far, I haven't seen any Israeli action that would indicate that Israel is willing to change its policies and approach," he said. He charged that instead Israel is committed to establishing "facts and obstacles" through its settlement policy on the West Bank.

Hussein maintained that UN Security Council Resolution 242 is a basis for a Mideast peace which he said would be a full peace in exchange for full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. But while calling the Israeli settlements "illegal," he would not say whether a peace agreement would require their removal. He only said the settlements would be a major issue in the negotiations.

The Jordanian monarch said the close alliance between Israel and the U.S. announced during Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir's visit to Washington, was "disturbing us enormously." He said the U.S. has a role to play in the Mideast peace negotiations as a superpower, but it cannot do so as an "ally of Israel."

Hussein's position was taken by Osama El-Baz, senior advisor to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who was interviewed from Cairo on the CBS program. He said there was "deep concern, disappointment and surprise" in the Arab world over the agreement. He said it put into question the U.S. position as an "honest broker."

But Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam, who was also on the CBS program, said, "I don't think any Arab state was ever in any doubt about our relations with Israel." He said that while there was "public distress" by the Arabs, they knew that U.S. policy was also to have good relations with the moderate Arab states.

Cites U.S. Policy In The Mideast

Rep. Dante Fascell (D. Fla.), who was interviewed on the ABC program, said the "agreement doesn't add anything new" except that "if there is any doubt what the relationship is, this makes it clear."

Fascell, a strong supporter of Israel, is expected to be named to replace Rep. Clement Zablocki (D. Wis.) who died last week, as chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He stressed that the basis of U.S. policy in the Mideast is "the survival of Israel and peace in the Middle East and we intend to pursue it."

Blum maintained that the U.S. has "leverage" in the Mideast because of its close ties with Israel. He said this is the reason the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat went to Israel in the first place in 1977. He said the Israeli-U.S. agreement is "not directed against anyone."

ARABS COMPLAIN TO SHULTZ ABOUT LATEST U.S.-ISRAELI AGREEMENT

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz ran into a hail of opposition and complaints during his first trip to the Arab world since Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's recent visit to Washington.

Both Tunisia and Morocco complained about the Israeli-American plan for strategic cooperation but Shultz told reporters, "I was surprised that anyone could be surprised. Everyone should know by now that there is and there will be a strong relationship with Israel."

The Secretary of State conferred today in Rabat with Morocco's King Hassan II in what the Moroccan press agency said was "an atmosphere of anxiety."

Yesterday, Shultz met in Tunis with President Habib Bourguiba and members of the Tunisian government. Both Tunis and Morocco are traditionally American allies and are known for their moderate attitudes in the Middle East conflict. According to reporters accompanying him, Shultz seemed taken aback by the strong local opposition.

With the Moroccan and Tunisian leaders Shultz stressed time and again that the need for closer political and military relationships between America and Israel was needed because of the unprecedented Soviet infiltration in the area and Soviet influence in Syria.

Communism Preferable To Israel

The Tunisian Press said that one of Bourguiba's aides retorted: "If the moderate Arab states are forced to choose between the Soviet Union on the one hand, and Israel on the other, most of us would opt for Communism."

The American delegation later said it had remained firm and that it believes the American position should be better explained to the Arab states to make them realize that Washington's policy is for the good of all nations in the Mideast.

RECENT IMMIGRANT FROM THE U.S. ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE MURDER OF AN ARAB GIRL IN NABLUS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- A recent immigrant from the United States has been arrested in connection with the murder of an 11-year-old Arab girl in Nablus last Thursday and the attempted murder of her younger sister.

The suspect, identified as Ephraim Segal, 26, a resident of Elon Moreh, a Jewish settlement near Nablus, was remanded in custody by a Netanya magistrate court today for four days while the police search for another suspect and additional clues.

The victim, Aisha Al Bakshy, was killed when unidentified gunmen fired rifles into a bakery shop in the Nablus casbah. Her nine-year-old sister, Fida, was wounded in the mouth by bullet fragments. Segal, said to be the owner of an electronics company, was arrested by Nablus police over the weekend. Although the police acknowledged in court that they had no direct evidence linking Segal to the murder. He was detained because he was seen firing into the air near the bakery.

Description Does Not Fit Segal

The police admitted further that initial reports indicated that the murderer was a blond man wearing an Israel army uniform, a description that does not fit Segal. But the court agreed to hold Segal until ballistic tests determine whether bullets found at the murder scene match those fired from Segal's rifle. The magistrate rejected the usual 15-day remand on grounds that four days were sufficient to complete the test.

The second suspect was reportedly riding in a car from which it was first believed shots were fired at young Arab stonethrowers. Later, it transpired that the gunmen left the car to chase the youths through the narrow alleys of the Nablus casbah and fired into the bakery as they passed.

Jewish settler sources in the Nablus region said the police detained three suspects last Friday but promptly released two of them who produced alibis. The third, presumably Segal, had no satisfactory alibi. Segal was seen sitting in the Netanya court today wrapped in a prayer shawl which covered his face.

He reportedly expressed fear that if he was recognized, Arabs would take revenge even if he was proved innocent. He accused Nablus Arabs of trying to "nail" him because he spent time in the city and was known there. He claimed, "I oppose violence against Arabs."

Tension Running High In Nablus Region

Tension has been running high in the Nablus region of the West Bank where Jewish settlers were infuriated by the axe attack against one of them, Yosef Stern, in the Nablus marketplace just a week ago. The settlers have accused the Israeli authorities of reneging on promises to take tougher action against Arab stonethrowers and have hinted they would take the law into their own hands.

After the attack on Stern, who was hospitalized for moderate wounds, a curfew was imposed on Nablus to protect the population from possible settler reprisals. But two Arab security guards at Nablus University were severely beaten the night after the attack and an Arab bus was vandalized. Another curfew was imposed immediately after the bakery killing. It was lifted last night.

5 BOOBY-TRAPPED HAND GRENADES FOUND NEAR ARAB, CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS SITES By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- An Israel army series 26 grenade exploded on Saladin Street, East Jerusalem's main shopping center last night, causing no casualties or damage. But the incident served to intensify an ongoing police investigation prompted by the discovery of five booby-trapped hand grenades near Arab and Christian religious institutions over the weekend.

The grenades were found on Mt. Zion, Beit Tzafa and on Saladin Street. Another was found in the Jewish quarter. An anonymous telephone caller, claiming to be a spokesman for an organization called "Terror Against Terror," told the Army Radio station Friday that his group was responsible for the grenades on Mt. Zion and Beit Tzafa.

Last night, a shop was set afire in the Christian quarter of the city. Police admit they are in the dark as to the perpetrators. One guess is that Jewish extremists are responsible, but Arab provocation is not ruled out. All of the grenades are of the type issued by the Israel army.

ISRAELI SOLDIER KILLED IN LEBANON

TEL AVIV, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- An Israel soldier was killed near Sidon in south Lebanon yesterday when an explosive charge was detonated on the roadside as his patrol passed by the area. Soldiers followed the tracks of three persons into a fruit orchard but failed to find the attackers.

In other incident today, an Israeli patrol near the Zaharani River came under fire. There were no casualties. Soldiers searched the area for the attackers. A crowd gathered and threw stones at the Israelis carrying out the search. According to radio reports from Beirut, five persons were injured when the soldiers opened fire to disperse the crowd.

ISRAEL, EEC SIGN ACCORD

BONN, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Israel and the European Economic Community (EEC) signed an accord in Brussels last week providing for two joint research projects which will be carried out in Israel and financed mainly by the EEC.

The signing of the accord was seen by Israeli diplomats as another step in normalizing relations between Israel and the EEC, which became strained after Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

The diplomats noted that the accord was signed by the EEC under its current chairman from Greece. They pointed out that Greek officials took pains to demonstrate that they did not want to be blamed for trying to deliberately prevent improvement of Israel-EEC relations.

BEGIN MOVES TO HIS NEW HOME

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- After 102 days of self-imposed isolation, former Premier Menachem Begin quietly moved from his official residence to his new home last night in an almost clandestine operation.

Begin was driven from the Prime Minister's home in a limousine after dark. Only a few passersby and several photographers witnessed the move. Photographs of Begin published in Yediot Achronot today showed him clean-shaven, indicating that the skin ailment which plagued him has improved.

MAJOR AMERICAN CITY 'ADOPTS' JEWISH WEST BANK SETTLEMENT

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- In an unprecedented act of support for Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria, a major American city has "adopted" a Jewish village in the West Bank and announced plans to initiate a series of cultural and economic programs with that community.

Mayor Gerald McCann of Jersey City, N.J., officially proclaimed his city's decision to "twin" with the settlement of Tekoah, a community affiliated with the Etzion bloc in the hills of Judea, in an address to the Herut Forum, sponsored by the Herut Zionists of America.

In his formal announcement last Wednesday night, McCann said the people of Jersey City "admire the heroism of the pioneers who established Tekoah" and "adopt" that community as "our twin city with the hope and intention that we shall enjoy a mutually beneficial relationship built on the exchange and sharing of human resources in pursuit of the common values of America and Israel."

The mayor noted that the regions of Judea and Samaria "have constituted the patrimonial heartland of the Jewish people since Biblical days, and the most important cities in Jewish history are located there." He cited Hebron, Shechem, Shiloh, and Jerusalem as being central for the Jewish people.

Mayor Robert Brown of Tekoah accepted McCann's proclamation and invited him to visit the community. Brown related his village's history from the Arab massacres in 1948, which drove Jews out of Gush Etzion, to its restoration and revival. Looking at the eight candles glowing on the Chanukah menorah, Brown said that the cruse of sacred oil which miraculously lasted the Maccabees for eight days was found in Tekoah.

Support For Settlement Urged

Rep. Mario Biaggi (D.N.Y.) urged American support for Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria, calling them "vital to the survival of Israel." Manhattan Borough President Andrew Stein also stated "We should be proud of the settlements in Judea and Samaria. We should encourage them to continue. We must support the continued build-up of Judea and Samaria." New York State Democratic Assemblyman Dov Hikind declared: "We not only support the Jewish settlements going on now -- we support the extension of those settlements and the building of new ones."

THE SITUATION OF YUGOSLAV JEWRY By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- The tiny Jewish community of Yugoslavia enjoys religious and cultural freedom, and its 6,000 members are free to leave the country and emigrate to Israel. But the Jews of Yugoslavia are challenged by a growing rate of intermarriage and lack of interest on the part of the young generation in Judaism.

This assessment of the current state of Yugoslavian Jewry was given by Dr. Lavoslav Kadelburg, president of the Jewish community, at a meeting of members of the World Jewish Congress here last Thursday.

According to Kadelburg, the central body of Yugoslav Jewry is the Federation of Jewish Communities, an umbrella organization of the 33 Jewish communities in Yugoslavia. Kadelburg said that the Federation provides for all religious and cultural needs of the communities.

"We have very good ties with world Jewry," Kadelburg said, noting that there are special ties with the Organization of Yugoslavian Jews in Israel. He said there are about 11,000 Yugoslavian Jews living in Israel today. The number of Jews in Yugoslavia before World War II was about 80,000, he said, noting that some 80 percent of them perished in the Holocaust. Another Jewish community with very close ties to the Yugoslavian Jewish community is Hungarian Jewry, Kadelburg said.

Kadelburg said that his community is sending every year groups of young people to seminars in Israel. Some of the groups stay in kibbutzim established by Yugoslavian Jews, he said. Every year the Jewish community of Yugoslavia holds summer camps for its youth, with emphasis on Jewish culture and tradition. Israeli emissaries take part in these camps as "madrichim" (youth guides), Kadelburg said.

Despite the fact that Yugoslavia has had no diplomatic ties with Israel since the 1967 Six-Day War, "there is sympathy" among the Yugoslavian people toward Israel because they are seen as "freedom fighters," Kadelburg asserted.

WEST GERMANY CRACKS DOWN ON NEO-NAZI ORGANIZATIONS

By David Kantor

BONN, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- The biggest crackdown on neo-Nazis in West Germany in recent years was undertaken last week. In a nationwide coordinated action, police searched hundreds of apartments and homes in nine federal states and confiscated large quantities of weapons, ammunition, Nazi symbols and Nazi propaganda material.

The crackdown was aimed primarily at the Action Front of National Socialists head by Michael Kuehnen, which was declared illegal last week. According to police, the hard core of the Front has become increasingly violent. Members of the organization have been charged with various offenses, ranging from displaying banned symbols to complicity in murders.

The Internal Security Service, similar to the American FBI, reported that recently Kuehnen recruited to his group former members of another outlawed militant neo-Nazi group, a so-called sports organization, led by Heinz Hoffmann. According to the Internal Security Service, this recruitment drive has dramatically increased the danger of terrorist activities since the former members of the Hoffmann group received military training at the Palestine Liberation Organization's installations in Beirut from 1980 through 1982.

During 1983, neo-Nazis were responsible for 52 violent public demonstrations and threatened a reported 118 people with violence for opposing their policies, the Internal Security Service reported. The banning of the Action Front of National Socialists followed similar actions this year against two other extremist organizations, the Turkish "Leftwing Revolutionaries" and the "Hell's Angels."

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Militant settlers on the West Bank ended their week-long sit-in at Joseph's tomb in Nablus last Thursday after receiving assurances from the security authorities that stronger measures would be taken to ensure law and order in the territory. A spokesman for the settlers said they would "wait for a number of weeks" to see if the promises are kept and if not "we shall resume our struggle."