

ARAFAT AND SOME 4,000 OF HIS MEN SAIL OUT OF TRIPOLI

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20 (JTA) -- Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat and some 4,000 of his men sailed out of Tripoli in northern Lebanon today where they had been surrounded by Syrian-backed PLO dissidents and under almost daily bombardment by Israeli naval craft.

Arafat and his loyalists were evacuated aboard five chartered Greek car ferries escorted by French naval vessels. The Greek ships, flying the United Nations flag in addition to their own national colors and the Palestinian flag, are reportedly taking the PLO fighters to safe havens in North Africa and North Yemen.

Their departure ended several weeks of suspense over whether Israel would interfere militarily with what was the second PLO evacuation from Lebanon under international auspices since the late summer of 1982. Israeli officials expressed satisfaction today that Israel had "made its point" by its constant air and sea harassment of the PLO, cornered in the Tripoli port area and had caused Arafat anxiety and discomfiture by deliberately creating doubt as to whether it intended to allow the PLO to escape unscathed.

PLO Helplessness Exposed

The point made, according to these officials, was that far from leaving Tripoli in triumph, Arafat and his men were exposed in their helplessness and dependence on foreign powers for rescue.

Israel Air Force jets overflew Tripoli today as the evacuation fleet departed as if to emphasize Israel's control over the situation. But the navy gunboats that had been shelling Tripoli as recently as yesterday remained out of sight, avoiding the French Navy corvettes shepherding the Greek ferries.

Israeli officials said it had been understood all along that despite Israel's refusal to guarantee the rescue ships safe conduct, Israel would not attack foreign merchant ships on the high seas. Once the Greeks and French decided to bring the evacuation fleet into Tripoli harbor, they had good cause to assume that there was no danger from Israel, the officials said.

U.S. Demands Played Down

The officials played down U.S. demands that Israel refrain from impeding the departure of Arafat and his men, reiterated yesterday by the White House and State Department. They implied that the Americans knew very well that it was inconceivable that Israel would attack ships of friendly foreign powers on the high seas.

The government also dismissed arguments by the Labor opposition that by first shelling the PLO force and then desisting, Israel gave Arafat the opportunity to depict his evacuation as a success that Israeli power could not prevent. On the contrary, according to government spokesmen, Arafat's plight was evident to the entire world.

Furthermore, the PLO's claim of responsibility for the Jerusalem bus bombing which took six lives, soured any sympathy he might have gained in world opinion, they said. The Israelis noted that there had been "no outcry" over the bombardment of the PLO positions in Tripoli.

Apprehension In Defense Circles

Nevertheless, there is apprehension in Israeli defense circles that with Arafat and his men out of Lebanon, the dissident PLO faction headed by Abu Moussa will concentrate on terrorist acts against Israel and against the Israel Defense Force in south Lebanon.

Defense experts are also concerned that at least some of Arafat's men will make every effort to return to Lebanon to resume operations against Israel. Israel clearly would have preferred the civil war within the PLO to have continued with both factions taking a heavy toll of casualties.

Israel conceded today that the drama surrounding Arafat's departure from Tripoli overshadowed the safe evacuation of Christian civilians and the Phalangist militia from the Shouf mountains town of Dier Al-Kamar where they had been under siege for months by Druze forces.

Cites Israel's 'Positive' Role In Lebanon

According to Premier Yitzhak Shamir, that evacuation which Israel helped negotiate, organize and carry out demonstrated Israel's "positive and stabilizing role" in Lebanon. He noted that the IDF's involvement in the evacuation of Deir Al-Kamar was "accepted by all the communities involved."

Shamir spoke at a luncheon for the ambassadors of the European Economic Community (EEC) countries here. He told them that the Lebanese factions were not themselves demanding abrogation of the May 17 agreement between Israel and Lebanon but were "under brutal pressure from the Syrians" to make that demand.

Meanwhile, a hand grenade was thrown at an Israel army patrol in Sidon and a remote-controlled explosive charge detonated nearby today. There were no injuries to Israeli soldiers but according to reports from Beirut, 10 local residents were wounded.

U.S. OFFICIAL SAYS EVACUATION OF PLO IS 'MEANINGLESS' UNLESS IT LEADS TO BRING HUSSEIN INTO THE PEACE TALKS.

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 (JTA) -- A senior State Department official said today that the evacuation from Tripoli of Yasir Arafat and some 4,000 of his loyalist Palestine Liberation Organization force, would be "meaningless" if it did not lead to bringing King Hussein of Jordan into the peace talks.

The official, answering questions in a year-end review of the Middle East at the Foreign Press Center here, said the U.S. "hopes that a way could be found" in talks between Hussein and Arafat to allow the King to enter the negotiations with "credible Palestinian support."

"It came very close to an understanding in April," the official said, "and it was a source of great disappointment to us and to many others" inside and out-

side the region that the talks failed when Arafat could not get the backing of the PLO executive committee.

There was no mention by the official that one of the reasons given by the Syrian-backed group of PLO dissidents who forced Arafat out of Lebanon for their opposition to him was that he had talked to Hussein about participating in negotiations with Israel.

A New Dimension Added

The official noted that the PLO evacuation today aboard Greek ships flying United Nations flags, was good in itself because it was hoped that it will mean the end to six weeks of bloodshed among Lebanese, Palestinians and Syrians in the Tripoli area. "But it will be a kind of meaningless affair if it doesn't lead to some political efforts to get into the peace process," he added. "I think there is a possibility it can. We certainly will work toward that end," the official said.

Those remarks seemed to add a new dimension to the U.S. demands over the last two weeks that Israel not impede the PLO's departure from Tripoli. The U.S. publicly said that the departure would end the killing of innocent civilians in Tripoli and could also be seen in the context of the U.S. goal to have all foreign forces leave Lebanon.

The State Department official said that the U.S. continues to believe that President Reagan's Middle East initiative is the best way to move ahead toward peace in the area and noted that nothing has been offered since the President made his proposals on September 1, 1982 that offers a more "practical program for moving all the parties ahead." He said the autonomy negotiations between Israel, Egypt and the U.S. have gone as far as they can and now need another Arab partner.

The U.S. position in the Middle East is still aimed at achieving a "just and comprehensive peace" which will provide for the "legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as well as Israel's right to exist behind secure and defined borders," the official said.

He denied that the U.S. has not been concentrating on the peace process because of the situation in Lebanon. But he noted that Lebanon is so volatile that it is necessary to "lower the temperature" there before progress can be made toward a comprehensive Middle East peace.

Can't Walk Away From The Problems

The official rejected the view that the Reagan Administration will not be able to move ahead in the Middle East during 1984 because of the Presidential election campaign. "You can't just walk away from the problems, be it in Lebanon or the general Middle East situation," he said. He maintained that he has seen no concern in the White House that seeking peace in the Middle East is "risky politics."

On the cool Egyptian-Israeli relations, the official stressed that the U.S. was concerned about the "various misunderstandings" on both sides over implementation of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. He said that in talks with both Israeli and Egyptian leaders, the U.S. did not seek to put pressure on either side but "encouraged both to talk out their differences."

UN ASSEMBLY ADOPTS FIVE ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTIONS

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 20 (JTA) --

The General Assembly last night adopted five anti-Israel resolutions, calling for sanctions against the Jewish State and denouncing the recent agreement between Israel and the United States on closer strategic cooperation.

Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador, condemned the resolutions, charging that "instead of defusing tension and promoting reconciliation, the resolutions add more fuel to the fire" of the Mideast conflict.

One resolution, stating that the new American-Israeli accord "will increase Israel's intransigence and its war potential and escalate its annexationist policies in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967," was approved by a vote of 81-27, with 29 abstentions. The United States, Israel and West European countries voted against it.

Another resolution condemned the "increasing collaboration" between Israel and South Africa, especially in the nuclear field, which, the resolution stated, enabled Israel to subject the States of the Mideast to "nuclear blackmail." The vote on this resolution was 101-18 with 20 abstentions.

Another resolution called for sanctions against Israel and demanded that all countries refrain from giving arms or economic aid to Israel, and urged all states to cut diplomatic ties with Israel. The vote was 84-24, and 31 abstentions.

By a vote of 137 in favor, with only Israel voting against, the Assembly adopted another resolution declaring that Israel's decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on Jerusalem was "null and void." The United States, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic abstained on this resolution.

The final resolution adopted by the Assembly by a vote of 121-1 (Israel), and 20 abstentions, condemned Israel's "plundering" of Palestinian cultural property during its occupation of Beirut, and called on Israel to make full restitution of all such property through the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

During last night's session, which concluded the Middle East debate, the representatives of Iraq, Iran and Libya, repeatedly interrupted Blum's speech, referring to him as the representative of the "Zionist entity." Iran accused Blum of using "polluted rhetoric" in the service of "filthy American imperialism."

In his remarks to the Assembly, Blum said that the five resolutions adopted, "instead of calling for negotiations and conciliation, they grotesquely call on states to refrain from supplying Israel -- the intended victim of repeated Arab aggression -- with the necessary means of defense."

Rep. Stephen Solarz (D. N.Y.), a member of the U.S. delegation to the current Assembly session, said after the votes that "these resolutions will do nothing to further the cause of peace" in the Mideast.

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) -- Thousands of Jews and non-Jews visited a week-long exhibition on kibbutzim and agricultural and irrigation systems in Israel. The event, which marked Israel Week here, was officially opened by First Lady Dulce Figueiredo. The event is sponsored by the Zionist Organization of Rio.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES PRAGUE PRESERVES THE 'GOLDEN AGE' OF JEWRY DESPITE SCARCITY OF JEWS

By Milton Jacoby

PRAGUE, Dec. 20 (JTA) -- The ancient city of Prague is a study in contrasts: baroque splendor and contemporary grayness; intellectual awareness and social regimentation; unparalleled Jewish cultural treasures and the paucity of Jews. A mere 1,500 are enrolled as members of the Jewish community, one-quarter of the entire Czech Jewish population.

No locale in all of Europe has more to offer the Jewish visitor than the "golden" city of Prague. A feast for the eyes and the heart, the historical Jewish treasures of this Eastern European capital are inversely proportional to the number of Jews it presently contains.

Communal headquarters are at 18 Maislova Street in the Old Town in the center of an incredible array of ancient synagogues, the fabulous Jewish State Museum, and the old Jewish Cemetery dating back to the early 15th century. All of these magnificent sites concentrated between the Town Hall and the majestic Moldau River attest to a shining past. But the present is quite different.

Jewish Presence is More Symbolic Than Real

Though Jews have inhabited Prague for 1,000 years, and according to Jewish officials here, were present before the arrival of Christians in the 10th century with St. Wencelsav, today the presence of Jewry is almost more of a symbol than an actuality. The Czech government has been most solicitous in preserving the splendid Jewish past in an enormous museum, not only for the Czech nation, but for visitors from all parts of the globe.

In 1938 there were more than 300,000 Jews. Only five percent of them survived World War II. Dr. Desider Galsky, the president of the Council of Jewish Communities, estimates that there may be as many as 5,000 Jews in Prague and about 15,000 in the country, but that the majority refuse to be identified as Jews.

Czechoslovakia And Israel

Galsky, an affable and efficient leader, stated that Czechoslovakia was one of the first countries, together with the Soviet Union, to vote in the United Nations in support of the Jewish State in 1948, that only the Czechs sent weapons to the Haganah in 1948, and that soldiers for the resistance organizations were trained near Prague.

He claimed that should there be peace in the Middle East, Czechoslovakia would support Israel, as it does not presently. Indeed, there are frequent diatribes in the local press condemning Israel, but Galsky insisted that the average Prague citizen is not anti-Semitic and disliked the Palestinian students in the city rather than any of its Jewish residents. A popular current theatrical production is a revival of the play "Jakobowsky and the Colonel," by the eminent Jewish novelist and playwright, Prague-born Franz Werfel.

"We are in the same position as all the other religious groups, all the different churches; if you are a Jew, it's your own business, simply a private matter," Galsky said. "No identity card, passport, census form or any other application bears any reference to religion." With regard to the government, he pointed out, there are liberal and flexible forces

who are more sympathetic toward his community than conservative members.

He deals quite effectively with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and with the Division of Church Affairs. It is noteworthy that priests and rabbis are paid by the state, and that the Council of Jewish Communities, including the cities of Prague, Pilsen, Ostrava, Brno and Usti, derives a substantial part of its budget from the government. Another large benefactor is the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Prague Will Soon Have A Rabbi

The Prague community has no rabbi, but Galsky announced that a young man named Daniel Mayer, who is now completing his studies at the Rabbinical Seminary in Budapest, will soon become the rabbi of the Jerusalemska Street Synagogue. (Twenty years ago there were two rabbis in town.) The other synagogue used for services by Prague Jews is the early Gothic, Old-New Synagogue, the oldest active synagogue in the world, dating back to the 14th century.

Galsky is very proud of the kosher restaurant in his building, which feeds not only hundreds of Jews every day, but many other Czechs besides. His Council also helps Jews who cannot live on low government pensions, and supplies them with additional funds to enable them to survive fairly comfortably.

Galsky said he looked forward to being permitted to visit Israel next year as part of the 40th anniversary of the deportation of Czech Jews. Heretofore, only Czechs who had children or grandchildren in Israel were granted visas. He eagerly welcomed the increasing numbers of Jewish groups visiting this historic city, arranging kosher meals for participants and special services in the legendary Old-New Synagogue.

Popularity Of The Jewish State Museum

Otakar Petrik, director of the famous Jewish State Museum, and a non-Jew, advised that his museum is the most popular in all of Czechoslovakia, with more than 750,000 visitors annually. Most are not Jewish, half are young people, and his large staff of historians, artistic experts, librarians and Hebrewists are busily engaged in maintaining and restoring the more than 145,000 artifacts of Jewish religious and cultural life stored in the museum since World War II.

An exhibit of more than 400 objects from the museum collection entitled "The Precious Legacy" opened at the Smithsonian National Museum in Washington, D.C. on November 9 and will travel to other cities throughout the United States, concluding in a showing at the Jewish Museum in New York City beginning next April 15.

A Heart-Wrenching Experience

No visit to this superb city is complete without an hour's journey to Terezin, the largest concentration camp in Czechoslovakia during World War II. More than 140,000 prisoners, most of them Jewish, and not only from Czechoslovakia, but from other parts of Europe as well, passed through it enroute to Auschwitz and other camps. Twenty percent died of malnutrition, disease and execution. The camp was liberated on May 8, 1945, by the Soviet army, thus saving the lives of some 30,000 in the camp at that time.

It is a heart-wrenching experience to view the cells, the sick-rooms, the places of execution, the mass graves, the crematoria, and finally, the simple yet eloquent monument erected by the Jewish community.

In the Prague Jewish State Museum and in the Klausen Synagogue next to the old Jewish Cemetery are exhibits of drawings by some of the 15,000 Jewish children who were incarcerated in Terezin. All of the 4,000 drawings express the ineffable longing and the poignant memories of these tragic youngsters, trapped by a malevolent fate in this place of horror.

The imprint of this somber, yet extraordinarily beautiful city is a profound one. For the American Jew, living in a free and liberal society, an on-the-site examination of the glorious and tragic past of Czech Jewry, and its current tiny remnant determined to survive, can be a most illuminating experience.

SIXTH BUS BOMBING VICTIM DIES

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20 (JTA) -- Serena Sussman, an American tourist from South Carolina, died at Hadassah Hospital last night of burns suffered in the terrorist bombing of a Jerusalem bus on December 6.

Her death brought to six the number of fatalities in the bus outrage. Forty-six persons were injured in the explosion and four were killed at the scene. Another of the persons injured died of her wounds last week.

Sussman, 60, was buried today in Har Hamenuhot cemetery in the presence of her husband, Sol, and her son, Daniel, who flew to Israel when they learned that she was among the injured. She was born in Jerusalem and considered herself an Israeli despite her long residence in the U.S. Sussman's trip to Israel earlier this month was a surprise gift from her husband on her 60th birthday.

TWO INJURED BY BOOBY-TRAPPED HAND GRENADES IN JERUSALEM SUBURB

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20 (JTA) -- Two booby-trapped hand grenades exploded in an Arab suburb of Jerusalem today slightly injuring a nun and a Moslem religious functionary. The devices had been planted outside a mosque and near a Greek Orthodox monastery in Azariye.

The incident was the latest in a recent series of grenade assaults aimed at Moslem and Christian religious institutions in and around Jerusalem. A grenade exploded in Houssan village on the West Bank last week and two unexploded grenades were found and defused. Several days earlier, five booby-trapped grenades were discovered at Moslem and Christian sites in Jerusalem and defused before they detonated.

The explosions in Azariye today were the first that caused injuries. The Moslem victim was the local muezzin who calls the faithful to prayer.

Police are investigating an unknown group that calls itself "terror against terror" which claimed responsibility for the earlier grenade attacks in anonymous telephone calls to the press. Similar incidents occurred two years ago. The perpetrators are believed to be Jewish extremists with military training but so far no arrests have been made.

Meanwhile, Israeli security forces fired into the air and lobbed tear gas bombs at student demonstrators at Najah University in Nablus today. The students were protesting the erection of roadblocks on the approaches to the university to prevent what the Israeli authorities called "provocateurs" from entering the campus. They were also demonstrating solidarity with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat on the eve of his departure from Tripoli in northern Lebanon.

Earlier, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israel army patrol in Nablus but caused no injuries or damage.

ISRAEL'S MAIN PORTS PARALYZED BY STRIKES AND WORK SLOWDOWNS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 20 (JTA) -- With Israel's main ports paralyzed by strikes and work slowdowns, the business community, government representatives and the ports authorities agreed today to create a special fund to finance the shipment of Israeli import and export cargoes by air.

The move, taken in cooperation with the Finance Ministry, is intended to cut the severe losses incurred by the inability of ships to load or off-load cargoes at Haifa and Ashdod. There is no end in sight to the strike by longshoremen for higher wages and millions of dollars worth of perishables have rotted at the docks.

Shipowners, reluctant to send their vessels into ports where they may be forced to lie at anchor for weeks or months, have dumped Israel-bound cargoes at Larnaca in Cyprus and Pireaus in Greece. Exporters have sustained heavy losses because they are unable to ship citrus, vegetables and flowers to the European markets.

JEWISH PUBLISHING TYCOON HONORED

By David Markus

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec. 20 (JTA) -- Adolpho Bloch, who heads a publishing empire, was honored by the Senate at a special session on the occasion of his 75th birthday. Senators of both major political parties praised Bloch for his contributions to Brazil in keeping the Brazilian people "well informed on what is going on in the country."

Bloch, who proudly describes himself as "a Brazilian, a Jew and a Zionist," is the head of the Bloch Publishing House in Rio where he employs some 5,000 people. His firm publishes more than a score of illustrated weeklies, including *Manchete* which is considered the best in Latin America. In addition to the mass circulated weeklies, the firm also publishes books of wide interest to scientists, artists and intellectuals.

Last July the publishing house inaugurated a TV network, *Manchete*, with channels in Rio, Sao Paulo and other major cities. In the five months of its existence it exceeded the popularity of four other TV channels and is now the second most popular TV station, exceeded by the well established and powerful Globo network. Bloch's TV network provides more news of Jewish interest than all the other TV networks combined.

There will be no Bulletin dated December 26, Christmas Day, a postal holiday.