

ISRAELI SOLDIER KILLED, TWO WOUNDED IN AN AMBUSH ATTACK By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- An Israeli soldier was killed and two others were wounded in an ambush attack on their patrol this morning in the Jezzine area of south Lebanon. The fatality was the second in little more than 24 hours. An Israeli border policeman was killed in Sidon Monday night.

Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy said today that attacks on the Israel Defense Force in Lebanon are likely to increase. He observed that fighting between rival Lebanese factions has slowed down and with the departure of Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat from Lebanon, the terrorists can now concentrate their attacks on Israeli soldiers.

Interviewed on Israel Radio against the background of mounting attacks on Israeli troops in south Lebanon, Levy said that General Headquarters is presently reassessing the disposition of the IDF in Lebanon and will submit its recommendations to the government shortly.

He said that one subject under discussion is the Awali River bridges and how the IDF should deal with them. The bridges link south Lebanon with the rest of the country and are important for commerce. But they also make it easier for terrorists to infiltrate Israeli lines. In separate incidents last weekend, seven Israeli soldiers were wounded by terrorists.

The Chief of Staff also said that the IDF had no plans to prevent the departure of Arafat and his 4,000 loyalists from Tripoli, northern Lebanon, a week ago because there was no way to stop him. The PLO left in Greek ships under United Nations protection.

But according to Levy, Israel's naval bombardment of PLO positions near Tripoli before their evacuation will have long-range effects, the nature of which only the future will tell. He did not elaborate.

HIGH-RANKING EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL TO VISIT ISRAEL FOR DISCUSSIONS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- Shafi Abdul Hamid, an aide to Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, is expected in Israel tomorrow for a meeting with David Kimche, Director General of the Foreign Ministry. He will hold two days of talks with Israeli officials and is scheduled to meet with Premier Yitzhak Shamir.

The visit of a high-ranking official from Cairo, accompanied by two aides, comes at a time when Israeli-Egyptian relations are at their lowest ebb since the two countries signed their peace treaty in 1979. It follows by a week President Hosni Mubarak's warm welcome to Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat which the Israeli government denounced as a blow to peace prospects in the region and a violation of the Camp David accords.

Hamid is returning the visit of Kimche to Cairo a month ago, but it is regarded as especially significant

under the present circumstances. Cairo has stressed in recent days that Egypt has no intention to deviate from the Camp David peace process despite its apparent reconciliation with the PLO.

FORMER NAZI COLLABORATOR SENTENCED TO 5 1/2 YEARS IN JAIL By David Kantor

BONN, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- Josef Jarosch, a Ukrainian-born Nazi collaborator, was sentenced to five years and six months imprisonment by a Memmingen court today for complicity in the murder of at least 70 Jews in the Ukraine 40 years ago.

Jarosch, 70, was found guilty by the jury of assisting the SS in the mass shootings of resistance fighters and Jews while serving as a policeman in the Nazi-occupied Ukraine. His conviction rested on an episode in Broschnew-Osada in 1943 when Jarosch herded dozens of Jews to an execution ground where he ordered them to stand in rows of five each.

As the SS shot down the first row, each succeeding row was ordered to step forward and was shot, falling on the bodies of those already dead. The bodies were then set on fire, including some victims who were only wounded by the volleys and were burned alive.

A psychiatrist who testified at the trial, described Jarosch as a "fellow traveller" who was in no position to make a critical evaluation of the situation. Jarosch himself did not testify. The prosecution asked for a five-year sentence while the defense insisted that the 27 months imprisonment of Jarosch before trial was sufficient penalty. The court ordered that an allowance be made for the time the accused spent in jail before and during his trial.

FIERCE POLITICAL ROW OVER REPORTED PROPOSAL BY FINANCE MINISTER TO FREEZE WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- A reported proposal by Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad to freeze Jewish settlements on the West Bank, strictly for economic reasons, has touched off a fierce political row that could shake and possibly destroy the Likud-led coalition government.

Cohen-Orgad did not deny the reports, though he told furious settler leaders that they were inaccurate. The ultra-nationalist Tehiya Party threatened immediately to quit the coalition if there was "a partial or total freeze" on new settlements in the territory.

Cohen-Orgad is himself a hawk on the settlements issue and is building his own home in the Samaria district. But Israel's dire economic situation demands major budget cuts. The Treasury announced today that the Finance Minister will present "outline proposals" on the budget when the Cabinet meets in special session this Friday to discuss the economy.

Intended To Spur Cabinet Cooperation

Informed sources said the report of a possible economic freeze on settlement building was intended to shock the Cabinet into cooperation with Cohen-Orgad in the matter of drastic budget cuts -- some 80 billion Shekels (\$800 Million) -- in all sectors of the economy.

Galei Zahal, the army radio station, reported tonight that Premier Yitzhak Shamir summoned the Finance Minister to his office after the settlement freeze report was broadcast and urged him to stress that no decisions have been made on the matter -- only "proposals."

But the Council of Settlements of the Judea-Samaria-Gaza regions today branded such proposals as "ideological and political suicide by the government." Council chairman Yisrael Harel said the Likud government won its mandate on an unrestricted settlement program and its good settlement record. A freeze would be "fooling the public."

Housing for Jewish settlers is heavily subsidized by the government in the territories and can be obtained much more cheaply than in Israel proper.

The purpose is to induce as many Israeli families as possible to move to the territories, including those without any ideological commitment to settlements. Harel said today that the settlers are prepared to consider some cuts, including lower living standards in existing and new settlements.

However, he vowed that they would fight any kind of freeze. Settlement activists were out in force today, lobbying coalition Knesset members on the issue.

'A Turning Point' On Settlements Issue

But the tide of public opinion may be turning against the advocates of massive, unrestricted Jewish settlements. According to a public opinion poll taken by the Pori Institute and published in Haaretz today, "a turning point" has been reached on the issue. For the first time a majority of respondents -- 48 percent -- opposed new settlements against 36 percent who favored them. Pori canvassed 1,200 Israelis all over the country representing a cross-section of the population.

Haaretz noted that only a year ago, 48 percent of those polled favored more settlements and 35 percent were opposed, exactly the reverse of the latest poll results. Two years ago support for new settlements was overwhelming, with 53 percent in favor and under 30 percent opposed. According to the Pori Institute, opposition to new settlements was highest among the better educated and higher income sectors of the population.

Coalition Baset By Other Protests

Meanwhile, the coalition is faced by protests from its various partners on other issues likely to be affected by budget cuts. The National Religious Party said it will not accept the abolition of free high school education introduced six years ago under the stewardship of Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, an NRP leader.

Tami, which claims to speak for large, low income families, mainly in the Sephardic community, also denounced cuts in education. It opposes a levy on national health care and has taken the government to task for alleged failure to distribute the tax burden more equitably. Tami has proposed higher taxes for the more affluent sectors of the population.

The Finance Minister is expected to propose a series of specific budget cuts on Friday. These would effect a major sewage scheme near Rishon LeZion; a major road-building project in Tel Aviv which is already under construction; plans for a new railroad line to carry phosphates from the Dead Sea to the port of Eilat; and the controversial Mediterranean-Dead Sea canal, a massive hydroelectric project.

Political observers predict that Cohen-Orgad will have a hard time pushing through his proposals. But he has one important factor on his side, they say. Likud and its coalition partners know that if Cohen-Orgad is forced to resign -- he would be the third Likud Finance Minister to do so -- the government would surely collapse.

KEY ARGENTINE OFFICIALS ASSURE ISRAEL THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL ESTABLISH FATE OF 'DISAPPEARED' JEWS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- Israel has received firm undertakings from key officials in the new Argentine government that no effort will be spared to establish the fate of Argentine Jews who were kidnapped and "disappeared" during the "dirty war" years under the military regime.

The commitment was made to David Kimche, Director-General of the Foreign Ministry, who represented Israel at the inauguration ceremonies for President Raoul Alfonsin in Buenos Aires earlier this month.

Kimche met with two senior officials in the Argentine Foreign Ministry and with leading legislators in the new parliament, including the powerful chairman of the foreign affairs committee.

Israeli sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that they had few illusions that any of the "desaparecidos" were alive. But Israel felt it vitally important to establish details of their fate and, if possible, their places of burial. Some 2,000 Jews are estimated to have been among the many thousands of "desaparecidos" in Argentina. (The overall figure is variously put at 7,000-30,000 "disappeared ones.")

Israel Hopes To Send Delegation To Argentina

Meanwhile, the Alfonsin government has set up a prestigious commission, which includes two prominent Argentinian Jews, to investigate the entire tragic episode and Israel hopes, according to a leading Knesset member here, to be able to send observers to its proceedings.

Labor MK Uzi Baram, chairman of the Knesset aliya committee, told reporters this week of his hope that Israel could send observers. Baram has been involved in an ongoing effort to send a Knesset delegation to Argentina to look into the issue.

According to media reports here, the Foreign Ministry -- and Premier Yitzhak Shamir who is also Foreign Minister -- have opposed a Knesset delegation trip to Buenos Aires at this time and have sought to persuade the MKs to delay their visit.

The Foreign Ministry has recently come under criticism from a group of former Argentinians living in Israel, some of them relatives of "desaparecidos," for alleged inaction on the issue. The ministry angrily denies these charges and maintains that its quiet diplomacy approach during the years of military rule was helpful.

Ministry officials recall that Shamir, visiting Argentina as Foreign Minister last February, raised the issue at the highest levels and submitted to the Argentine authority a list of some 300 persons about whom Israel sought specific information.

REMINDER: There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated January 2, a New Year's postal holiday.

AJCOMMITTEE HAILS STATEMENT BY MEXICAN PRESIDENT CONFIRMING CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE OF MEXICO'S JEWS

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee has cabled President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico its expression of "warm greetings" for his statement last Wednesday confirming "the full and equal citizenship of Mexican Jewry and their constructive role in strengthening Mexico's economy and society."

The cable, sent by Gordon Zacks, chairman of the AJC's International Relations Commission, and Dr. Marc Tanenbaum, director of AJC's International Relations Department, declared that "we view your positive appreciation of the role of Mexican Jewry as a rejection of the offensive anti-Semitic statements made recently by Deputy Miguel Angel Olea Enriquez as not being representative of the convictions of the Mexican government and people."

On December 1, during a debate in the Mexican House of Representatives, Enriquez singled out Mexican Jews as "experts in speculation" and tax-evaders, suggesting that they are among "Mexican traitors, shameless people, and profiteers." On December 21, de la Madrid held a meeting with seven Jewish leaders, among them Sergio Nudelstejer, director of the AJC's Mexican and Central American office.

According to a telephoned message from Nudelstejer to AJC's national office in New York, the Mexican President "spoke warmly and with feeling of his admiration and appreciation of the constructive role of the Mexican Jewish community in helping Mexico cope with serious economic and social difficulties. He said that Mexican Jews are an important and valued part of Mexican society, and he thanked them for their productive contributions to its welfare. He then asked the Jewish delegation to convey his best regards to each member of the Jewish community of Mexico. President de la Madrid said that Mexican Jews are full and equal citizens of our country."

Members of the Jewish delegation represented Friends of Hebrew University, who invited him to address their international banquet in Mexico City in October 1984. President de la Madrid accepted the invitation, which was taken as a conscious sign of friendship for Mexican Jewry.

Warm Words For Israel

During the conversation, the Mexican President spoke warmly of Israel's great contribution in agriculture, water reclamation, and land reform, and expressed his hope of closer collaboration between Mexico and Israel in these and related areas.

Prior to that meeting, Nudelstejer reported, the Mexican government's chief of press informed the Jewish delegation that de la Madrid was determined to stop the anti-Jewish recrimination of Enriquez, and he chose the occasion of this meeting to make clear "that he did not want this libelous attack to go any further."

In their cable to the Mexican President, Zacks and Tanenbaum also welcomed his "acknowledgement of the positive ties between Mexico and Israel in the area of economic development and technical assistance which can only benefit both countries." On January 19, a delegation of AJC leaders will visit Mexico and will meet with government leaders and the Mexican Jewish leadership.

ISRAELI SOLAR POWER COMPANY SIGNS \$15 MILLION CONTRACT WITH CALIFORNIA FIRM TO SUPPLY EQUIPMENT FOR A PLANT TO BE BUILT IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

TEL AVIV, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- An Israeli company which is a pioneer in the development of solar power has signed a \$15 million contract here with the Southern California Edison Co. to supply equipment for a plant to be built in San Bernadino County in southern California.

The American utility will purchase low temperature steam turbines from the Ormat Turbine Co. of Yavne, a world leader in harnessing solar energy for industrial purposes. Ormat produces the solar energy collectors seen on thousands of Israeli rooftops and holds the rights to solar ponds, an invention of Prof. Henry Tabor.

The ponds are based on the principle that highly saline water tends to concentrate at the bottom of shallow ponds. Sunlight passes through the less saline upper strata and heats the lower strata up to 80-90 degrees Celsius.

This is below the boiling point of water and not hot enough to generate steam to power conventional turbines. The Ormat turbine makes use of a special organic fluid with a low boiling point that converts to steam at solar pond temperatures.

Tabor successfully demonstrated his system in the late 1950s, but with cheap oil available then there was no commercial incentive to develop it. He built an experimental 150 Kilowatt installation at Ein Bobek on the Dead Sea in 1979, supplying steam for the Ormat turbine, invented and developed by Prof. Yehuda Bronicki, now president of Ormat.

The San Bernadino plant will have a first stage capacity of 12 megawatts to be expanded to 48 megawatts in five years, sufficient to supply the peak power demands of 30,000 California Edison customers.

Dr. Lawrence Papay, senior vice president of California Edison who was here for the signing, said the solar energy will cost 10 cents per kilowatt-hour, slightly more than conventional methods. But it will reduce dependence on conventional plants to meet peak load demands. Edison has also signed a contract with Luz Industries of Jerusalem to build a 13.8 megawatt solar energy plant based on parabolic sunlight reflectors.

MOST ISRAELI POST OFFICES REOPEN

TEL AVIV, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- Most post offices in Israel reopened today as striking employees observed a back-to-work order issued by a labor court last night at the request of the Communications Ministry. But there were no mail deliveries. The mail sorters, who work at night to prepare the next day's delivery said the court order was issued too late for them to return to their jobs. As a result, there were long queues today, mainly of elderly pensioners, to pick up their national insurance checks.

Meanwhile, the town of Eilat was paralyzed by a half-day general strike today protesting the impending shutdown of the nearby Timna copper mines. The mines may close next month because of the world-wide slump in copper prices, forcing the lay-off of several hundred workers who comprise a substantial portion of Eilat's labor force.

NYC FEDERATION SURVEY REVEALS SOME 'SHOCKING' AND 'SOMBER' SURPRISES ABOUT THE 'NEW HOMELESS' By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- A survey of 450 homeless New York City residents -- most of them Jews -- just released by the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies Homeless Project found that these residents included "shocking" examples of well-educated heads of families with young children. A Project official said today that the Federation expected to find more cases of this kind which the survey described as the "new homeless."

David Liederman, Federation executive director for public affairs, who is coordinator of the Federation program for the homeless said the survey was started in March and covered data through the end of this month. He said that, of the 450 such homeless New Yorkers studied, about 400 were Jews. He said the Federation expected to expand its Homeless Project in expectation that the situation would become worse this winter.

Reporting that many of the 450 homeless residents were young, that many had at least a high school education and that families with young children made up more than a third of the 450, Saul Cohen, chairman of the Federation Committee on the Homeless, called the information "a somber surprise."

He said that with the advent of winter, "our first priority is to locate homeless families and individuals who do not know of our service. We must get people off the streets," a comment underlined by the arrival of cold weather which shattered all known records.

The 450 who were evaluated are being helped by the Federation Homeless Program, which is administered by the Federation Employment and Guidance Service, Liederman said.

A Breakdown Of Findings

In a breakdown of the findings, Liederman reported that families with children make up 34 percent of the 450, or about 150 of the "new homeless"; the majority -- 52 percent -- are headed by a single parent; more than half of homeless adults have a high school diploma; 28 have college degrees, and nine have graduate degrees.

He added that 56 percent, around 230 individuals, are between the ages of 21 and 50; women make up 40 percent, about 180 persons, of the 450 homeless; and that some of the "new homeless" have good job records and skills and some have held professional, managerial, technical and clerical jobs.

Last March, the Federation opened its homeless Project as a crash program. Since then, a spokesperson told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the project has developed a method of mobilization of a number of Federation agencies providing the various kinds of help when the "catastrophe" of homelessness occurs. These include shelter, food, cash, medical treatment and job placement.

The spokesperson said that most of the 450, who had never before faced such a devastating situation, had been helped by the Federation out of the homeless category. The spokesperson added that some of the 450 had been drifters for many years and some had dropped out of the aid program.

Last August, the Federation announced an allocation of \$150,000 for aiding the homeless. As of August, the spokesperson said, private donors had contributed \$50,000. In addition, \$286,540 in

grants were received by Federation agencies from the New York City Voluntary Board as part of the federal JOBS Stimulus Act to provide food and shelter to the homeless and hungry in New York.

Programs To Aid The Homeless

Liederman said FECS offers rehabilitation, job training and job counseling to the homeless, working in conjunction with Altro; the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services; and the Metropolitan Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty.

When emergency quarters and other help is needed, the Educational Alliance's Respite House on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, is available, as is Project Dorot, on the Upper West Side. Both Respite House and Project Dorot normally serve senior citizens.

The Hartman Y in Queens operates a shelter for abused and homeless women. The Jewish Community Services of Long Island, which is headquartered in Rego Park, provides food and shelter to the homeless in Queens.

The Federation's homeless program provides specialists who direct people to the various private and government agencies which can help. In addition to being numbed by the catastrophe, the homeless person does not know what resources are available, and what help he or she is entitled to, Liederman pointed out. Finally, the homeless project worker can help the victim fill out the maze of official applications of public and private agencies for assistance.

AMERICAN ZIONIST YOUTH CHALLENGED TO REJUVENATE THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- Uri Gordon, who heads the World Zionist Organization youth aliyah department, challenged American Zionist youth leaders and activists this week to "lead a revolution to rejuvenate the Zionist movement with their idealism, enthusiasm and vigor to further the cultural revitalization, spiritual renewal and political and economic self-determination of the Jewish people in Eretz Yisrael."

Gordon said the present hubs of world Jewry, the diaspora and Israel, were not analogous to the ancient centers of Babylon and Jerusalem which, in their heyday, were equal centers of Jewish thought, scholarship and religion. "I was astonished to hear American Zionist leaders speak of 'Israel, the United States and the diaspora,'" he said, "as though the United States is not the diaspora."

Acknowledging that America has become a first magnitude new gravitational center of galut Jewry, in the wake of the destruction of the East European hub of Jewish culture and religion, Gordon emphasized the centrality of Israel in fructifying Jewish life in the United States and throughout the diaspora.

"Israel and not America," he emphasized, "will be the true gravitational core of global Jewish life from whose fountainhead source will come the principal contributions to Jewish education and culture. Israel will be the dynamo radiating energy to the diaspora to maintain meaningful Jewish life and identity against the lures of assimilation and the cults."

Gordon called upon Jewish communities in America to make it possible for their teenagers to have the enriching experience of a year's study in Israel.

"The Jewish boy and girl who have experienced Israel find it to be the most memorable event of their education and wholesome self-fulfillment. It gives them a profound understanding of what it means to be a responsible Jew positively identified with his or her heritage, people and homeland," Gordon said.