

ISRAEL AIR FORCE ATTACKS SITES OF PLO DISSIDENTS IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 3 (JTA) — The Israel Air Force today attacked installations of Palestine Liberation Organization dissidents in Behamdoun on the Beirut-Damascus highway. A military spokesman said the targets were two buildings taken over by the forces of Abu Moussa, the Syrian-backed PLO leader who helped oust Yasir Arafat and his loyalists from Lebanon last month.

Beirut Radio reported later in the day that four Israeli Kfir jet fighter-bombers carried out a second attack at noon and apparently hit a building used as an ammunition storage. The radio reported heavy explosions.

Meanwhile, Israel Radio has reported that the Defense Ministry and the army are seriously considering the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Sidon. The purpose would be to reduce the military presence in a densely populated, heavily built-up town where attacks on Israeli soldiers and installations have become more frequent in recent weeks.

The Awali River, which enters the sea just north of Sidon, would continue to be the Israeli front line for some time to come, the radio report said. The Israel Defense Force had withdrawn to the Awali River last fall from the Shouf mountains and the environs of Beirut because of mounting casualties.

U.S. SAYS RELEASE OF NAVAL PILOT BY SYRIA IS NOT PART OF A DIPLOMATIC PROCESS FOR A SETTLEMENT IN LEBANON

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3 (JTA) — The Reagan Administration stressed today that it views the release by Syria of Lt. Robert Goodman Jr., the naval pilot shot down during a bombing raid against Syrian aircraft positions in Lebanon December 4, as a "humanitarian" gesture and not as part of the diplomatic process for a settlement in Lebanon.

President Reagan said that Goodman's release, after the Rev. Jesse Jackson met with Syrian President Hafez Assad yesterday, will not affect U.S. Middle East policy. Asked if he saw it as a peace gesture by the Syrians, Reagan replied, "I'm not going to place any interpretation on it. I'm just pleased ... that this action has taken place."

Reagan's remarks came as he began a meeting with his special Mideast representative, Donald Rumsfeld, to discuss the overall situation in the Mideast and particularly Lebanon. The meeting, which also included Secretary of State George Shultz and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, came as Democratic and Republican Congressional leaders are beginning to publicly urge that the marines be pulled out of Lebanon.

The President noted that Rumsfeld was leaving for Lebanon tonight. "We will with renewed spirit continue our efforts and our negotiations to advance the cause of peace in Lebanon," Reagan said.

Rumsfeld, during his visit to Damascus last month in which he did not meet with Assad, did not bring up Goodman's captivity in his talks with Syrian

Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam. It was this omission that caused Jackson, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency, to go to Damascus to see if he could gain the naval officer's release.

No Changes Are Anticipated

The Administration continued to stress today its argument that Rumsfeld did not discuss Goodman because it felt the "delicate" negotiations should be left to one person, Robert Paganelli, the U.S. Ambassador in Syria. Administration sources indicated that they did not want to link Goodman's captivity with the Lebanese negotiations.

The same attitude was evident today in the comments on Goodman's release. White House spokesman Larry Speakes reaffirmed the President's comments saying, "No changes are anticipated" in U.S. Mideast policy. "We regard it (the release) as a humanitarian gesture on the part of the Syrian government," he said.

Before Jackson went to Damascus, Syria had declared that it would not release the pilot until U.S. reconnaissance flights over Syrian positions in Lebanon were ended. Speakes stressed today the reconnaissance flights would continue as long as the U.S. marines in Lebanon were being fired upon, noting there had been a flight today before Goodman's release.

The Syrians, in releasing Goodman, said that it hoped that it would lead to the departure of the U.S. marines from Lebanon. Speakes noted that the U.S. and other members of the multinational force were in Lebanon as a result of the fighting going on there.

Release 'Won't Go Unnoticed'

White House sources said that today's Syrian action will be a "factor that won't go unnoticed" in Washington but that it was too early to tell whether it meant that Syria would be more forthcoming in the negotiations on Lebanon. They rejected any need for a reciprocal gesture by the U.S.

Speakes stressed that the U.S. hopes the Goodman release would lead toward movement in the process of reconciliation among the various Lebanese factions, some of which he noted are close to Syria. He said at the same time it was hoped this would also lead toward the eventual withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian forces and the MNF.

"It is our hope that the Syrians will move forward in the peace process as others have done," Speakes said. "The Israelis have worked out an agreement with the Lebanese. We would like to see the Syrians work out a similar agreement."

The first sign of any Syrian move forward in the peace process may come if Assad meets with Rumsfeld on this, his second, visit to the Mideast since assuming the post as the President's special representative. Speakes would not say whether Rumsfeld is going to Damascus. However, it has been common practice not to reveal the itinerary of Rumsfeld or his predecessors until they are actually in a particular country.

ABU-HATZEIRA RETURNS TO THE KNESSET

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA) — Premier Yitzhak Shamir's narrow parliamentary majority was enlarged

by one seat when former Welfare Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzeira returned to the Knesset today, having completed a three-month jail term for embezzlement. He heads the three-man Tami faction.

Political circles are waiting to see whether Abu-Hatzeira will reclaim the Cabinet portfolio which he placed in the hands of his associate, Aharon Uzan, after his conviction. There was no indication from Shamir whether he would allow the Tami leader to return straight from jail to the Cabinet table.

Shamir's coalition commands 64 Knesset mandates but its effective strength was reduced to 62 in recent months because of Abu Hatzeira's incarceration and the absence of former Premier Menachem Begin who has been confined to his home and has not attended parliament since he announced his resignation last summer.

FORMER WEST BANK ADMINISTRATOR URGES ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW WEST BANK PALESTINIANS TO FORM OWN PARTIES

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Menachem Milson, the former Israeli administrator of the West Bank, called on the government of Israel today to allow the Palestinians in the West Bank to organize politically. He said, however, that only Palestinians who recognize Israel and agree to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through negotiations should be granted the right to form political parties.

Milson, professor of Arabic Literature at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem is currently a leader of a new movement, "The Way To Peace," which seeks Palestinian elements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, who accept Israel and the Camp David peace process.

Addressing a press conference at the American Jewish Committee, Milson, who is here on a lecture tour sponsored by the AJC's International Relations Department, said that the current decline of the PLO offers a "golden opportunity" for the United States and Israel to "strengthen and encourage those Palestinians who reject the PLO line and support the Camp David framework and the Reagan initiative."

Milson was to have been joined on his American visit by Muhammed Nassar, an electrical engineer who headed the Hebron Village League and who recognizes Israel and supports a negotiated settlement with her, but he cancelled his visit at the last minute due to his father's unexpected death.

Contending that the Palestinian problem is "at the core" of the Mideast conflict, Milson said that "the Palestinians in the West Bank are indispensable" for any political settlement of the conflict. He said Israel's chance to make peace is with those Palestinians "who break away from the consensus" in the Arab world which is against peace with Israel. Israel should encourage those elements by permitting them to publish a newspaper of their own in the West Bank, in addition to political parties, he said.

Opposed To Likud's Settlement Policy

In response to a question, Milson said the new movement he is associated with has a "few hundred members." He said the movement is against the "settlement policy" of the Likud government. "We think it is wrong (for Israel) to settle in areas crowded with Arab population," he said. But he added, "By concentrating on the settlement issue we are not solving the problems" between Israel and the Palestinians.

Replying to another question, Milson said that in Israel the majority is willing to make territorial

compromises for peace." He said this willingness was demonstrated in Israel's peace with Egypt. Milson's U.S. visit, which will conclude January 14, will include stops in Chicago, Atlanta and Washington where he will meet with officials and various groups.

MORRIS KERTZER DEAD AT 73

TORONTO, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here Sunday for Rabbi Morris Kertzer who died last Thursday in Scottsdale, Arizona at the age of 73. Born in Cochrane, Ontario, he had served as a rabbi in various synagogues in the United States.

He was the author of several well known books on Judaism, including, "What is a Jew?", "The Art of Being a Jew," "Today's American Jews," and "Tell Me, Rabbi." He also contributed articles on religious issues to various American publications and magazines.

Between 1951 and 1958, Kertzer served as the director of interreligious affairs of the American Jewish Committee. He was secretary of the New York Board of Rabbis from 1957 to 1959. He was also a member of the executive board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the association of Reform rabbis, from 1964 to 1966, and was also a member of the board of trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations from 1962 to 1967.

Kertzer received a B.A. degree from the University of Toronto, an M.A. degree from the University of Illinois, and a Doctor of Hebrew Literature degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He was ordained as a rabbi in 1934.

He was the recipient of various medals, among them a Bronze Star from the U.S. Army after World War II and the George Washington Medal from the Freedom Foundation. In 1956, Kertzer headed a delegation to the Soviet Union. He resided in Scottsdale for many years.

DRUG ADDICTION IS HIGH IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Drug addiction is high in Israel and there is a correlation between drug usage and social circumstances, according to the findings of a public committee which has been studying the problem for the past five years.

Prof. Kalman Mann, chairman of the committee, said at a press conference here today that there are some 4,000-6,000 addicts in Israel. About 50 percent of underprivileged youths use drugs compared to 3-5 percent of users among youths who are students or gainfully employed, the study found.

Mann said drug addiction in Israel is not epidemic but it could spread and therefore the seriousness of the phenomenon should not be underestimated. The committee did not recommend severe penalties for the use of drugs but neither did it suggest liberalization of the use of "soft drugs."

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Ninety-seven Jews left the Soviet Union in December, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported Tuesday. This brought the total for 1983 to 1,315 people, lower than any other year since the current phase of emigration began in 1971.

CIAL TO THE JTA RYARD JEWISH STUDENTS PRESS VE TO CHANGE COMMENCEMENT OW SET FOR SHAVUOT HOLIDAY Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Despite a drum- of appeals and criticism from Jewish students, Jewish faculty members, and a number of national Jewish leaders, the administration of Harvard University has adamantly refused to change the date of 1984 Commencement scheduled for the second of Shavuot, June 7.

Jonathan Strauss, a student at the Harvard Law School who is chairman of the Harvard University Student Committee on Commencement, brought to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, during a brief visit to the city, a wide variety of documents describing both the requests and the refusals.

Strauss told the JTA that **two of the Shavuot** scheduling had refused to end their fight to change the date and had decided to make the struggle public after more than a year of "quiet diplomacy."

He also said that Harvard students learned as long ago as the fall of 1982 of the university decision to hold the 1984 commencement on June 7, a period nearly 30 months between the decision and the commencement date. Strauss said university officials, headed by President Derek Bok, had ample time to reschedule the Commencement and could still do so.

A November, 1983 memorandum from Strauss, detailing the history of attempts made to change that date and the continuing refusal of university officials to budge on the issue, was sent to presidents of the university's Jewish student associations and to other leaders of the student Commencement committee.

Jewish Officials And Groups Asking For Date Change

Among national Jewish officials and organizations asking for a change in the Commencement date are Moses Feuerstein, former president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations (UOJCA); Julius Berman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and former UOJCA president; Rabbi Henry Michelman, executive vice president of the Synagogue Council of America, representing the three branches of American Judaism; and, through regional offices, the American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Rep. Barney Frank (D. Mass.) also sent an appeal in a letter dated December 6, addressed to "Dear Derek."

The Jewish student associations are those of Harvard College; the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences; the Business School; the Education School; the Kennedy School of Government; the Law School; and the Medical School.

Asked why the student committee had depended on "quiet diplomacy" for nearly two years, Strauss told the JTA that many important Jewish personalities in the Boston area had indicated that they preferred that the effort not "go public" and that the students agreed that once the issues of violation of halacha (Jewish law) and insensitivity to Jewish student and parent feelings were made evident, the university officials would consent to the change, specifically a 24-hour postponement to June 8.

The Harvard Law Record disclosed that the Presidents Council of Jewish Organizations had been meeting to discuss possible courses of action, reporting agreement on asking the university to move the commencement one day ahead.

Yadin Kaufmann, president of the Harvard Jewish Law Students Association, was quoted by the Law Record as asserting there has been such re-scheduling at other universities -- Yale, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Columbia -- in the past "for identical reasons."

Kaufmann added that it was "especially insensitive" of Harvard authorities "to begin classes on Rosh Hashanah" last September "and then to end them on Shavuot."

According to Strauss' memorandum, Jonathan David, then chairman of Hillel's Coordinating Council of Harvard Undergraduates, made an initial approach for the Jewish students, speaking with various administration members in a bid for re-scheduling.

Basis For Rejecting The Request

Later, David told students that he and another undergraduate, David Morris, had spoken to Daniel Steiner, Harvard vice president and general counsel, and that Steiner had rejected their request.

On April 22, 1983, a committee of students from the different university schools sent a letter to Bok, in which they declared that a Commencement on Shavuot would "create hardships for graduating Jewish students and their families, demonstrate insensitivity to the religious feelings of those students and families, and violate Harvard's tradition of respect for individuality and for different cultures."

Responding, Bok wrote he had turned the matter over to Steiner, to be "assisted" by Henry Rosovsky, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and other "key people." Prior to that meeting, held on May 17, Strauss reported he asked Harvard Law Professor Alan Dershowitz and former Harvard Law Professor Nathan Lewin, to express their support of the students. Dershowitz did so in a telephone call, and Lewin did so in a letter.

Strauss also reported he recalled that MIT's 1983 Commencement had originally been set for Shavuot and that the Bostoner Rebbe, Grand Rabbi Levi Horowitz, had persuaded the MIT administration to re-schedule that Commencement. He said he had asked the Hasidic Center in Boston for a similar effort and that, though the Bostoner Rebbe was then in Israel, his son, Rabbi Meir Horowitz, telephoned Steiner to explain the "sacredness" of Shavuot.

Steiner's rejection was based on two fundamental positions, according to documents studied by the JTA. He argued, first, that changing the time at this "late date" would involve "colossal" problems of logistics; and second, that he had been told by Rabbi Levi Horowitz that Jewish attendance at a Commencement on Shavuot would not violate halacha.

Horowitz told Strauss that Steiner had "misrepresented" his position. Subsequently, Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, a world authority on halacha, issued a ruling, on October 27, that attendance by Jewish students would violate halacha.

Analogous To Holding Events On Christian Holidays

Strauss said in his November report that rather than arguing halacha with Steiner at the May 17 meeting, he said he stressed that the Commencement on Shavuot would be "as offensive to Jewish students as the holding of a major university event on Christmas or Easter would be to Christian students, even though Christian religious law would not prohibit a student from attending such an event."

Strauss also pointed out in his memorandum that university officials had been informed that, on the morning of the second day of Shavuot, Jews say Yizkor in mem-

ory of deceased parents and that, other issues aside, it was unreasonable to hold that a Jew could say Yizkor and subsequently attend the Commencement, -- as Steiner had suggested -- if only because this would require the student to arise at 5:30 a.m.

Berman wrote to Bok on July 28, asking for re-scheduling. He received a reply from Steiner dated August 13, rejecting Berman's request. Berman responded that "the ostensible solution of having students and their families observe Shavuot in accordance with Jewish Law and attend the Commencement is a gross imposition and totally unworkable." Berman added that "what is worse, the entire matter is so patently avoidable."

In a follow-up report to those supporting the Jewish students on the issue, Strauss declared it was generally felt that it was still not too late for the university to re-schedule the Commencement and that the student commencement committee had started circulation of a petition which, he told the JTA, already had more than 2,000 signatures from Harvard students and 20 from faculty members.

PREGNANT JEWISH MOTHER AND HER TWO CHILDREN KILLED IN ALEPPO

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee today condemned the savage killing last week in Aleppo, Syria, of a 25-year-old pregnant Jewish mother and her two small children, and called on the Syrian government to apprehend the murderers and bring them to justice.

Howard Friedman, president of the AJCommittee, denounced the murder in Aleppo last Wednesday of Lillian Antabi Abadi and Joseph, six-and-a-half years old, and Sandy, three-and-a-half years old, as "a brutal, savage act which must be condemned by all civilized people."

According to reports received from several sources by the AJC's International Relations Department, when the father, Chaim Victor Abadi, a Syrian Jewish merchant, returned home, he found his pregnant wife dead, her breasts cut, her stomach slit open, and her body mutilated. The hands of the son were cut, and the little girl's body was cut to pieces.

Phone Calls Preceded The Murder

"We do not believe," Friedman said, "that this was the doing of a common thief" because "this vile murder was preceded by a number of telephone calls to several members of the Aleppo Jewish community made in the dead of night, warning them that 'you are next'."

"We see this as an effort to terrorize the minuscule Jewish community of Syria," Friedman said, and "therefore, it is all the more important that President Hafez Assad make clear by his actions that higher authorities in the Syrian government are not condoning these actions."

The AJC president also called on the Syrian government to allow those Syrian Jews who wish to leave to do so, without being forced to leave behind members of their families as hostages. There are about 700 Jews in Aleppo, and approximately 4,000 in Damascus and 200 in Kamishly.

Friedman reported also that the AJC had been in regular contact with the U.S. State Department as soon as it learned of this tragedy, and that American authorities have been most sympathetic and helpful in communicating concern to Syrian authorities.

POLICE GUARDING JEWISH SITES IN TUNISIA FOLLOWING RIOTS OVER A RISE IN THE PRICE OF BREAD

PARIS, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Tunisian police forces are guarding the Jewish quarters in Tunis and several provincial cities with large Jewish communities in the wake of the wide-scale riots which have left 10 people dead and scores injured.

Rioting broke out Sunday when the authorities announced a rise in the price of bread. Tens of thousands took to the streets, first in the small cities in the south, and later in the capital.

Though the riots are not connected with the Middle East and Jews, the Tunisian government reportedly feared that the rioters might attack Jewish property and ordered as an extra precaution special guards on duty near the Jewish areas.

There have been several anti-Semitic incidents in Tunisia in recent years on the island of Djerba as well as in some of the small southern villages. Today's decision to dispatch troops to the sites of former anti-Semitic incidents was apparently taken to avoid possible complications.

ROBERT ADDISON DEAD AT 29

DES MOINES, Iowa, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Rabbi Robert Addison, executive director of the Bureau of Jewish Living of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines since July, 1981, died here last week at the age of 29. He had been critically ill with a form of sarcoma that spread from his back and involved both lungs.

Despite his illness, Addison had been determined to complete his doctoral dissertation involving aspects of the Holocaust. He completed his dissertation while in the intensive care unit at Mercy Hospital Medical Center shortly before his death. Rabbi Don Well, president of the Hebrew Theological College in Chicago presented Addison with his diploma awarding the degree of Doctor of Hebrew Literature in an emotional ceremony attended by his wife, Esther, and friends and relatives.

Esther Addison said he had been stricken with the disease in October, 1982. Since then, he had undergone surgery several times here and once at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and a bone marrow transplant at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. He had also gone through a long series of chemotherapy treatments. "None of it stopped him from working toward his goals," Esther said at the doctoral award ceremony. "His will to live is very great. It has kept him alive."

Addison held rabbinical ordinations from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York and the Hebrew Theological College in Chicago. He received a master's degree in education and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Rutgers University. A native of Chicago, he was formerly employed by the Board of Jewish Education of Chicago and was congregational rabbi of B'nai Shalom in Buffalo Grove, Ill.

The Bureau for Jewish Living he headed here includes a pre-school, a Jewish day school, Hebrew school for public school children, Sunday school, a range of recreational activities, and the Jewish Student Center at Drake University.