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POLICE STEP UP PROBE OF AN ATTEMPTED ATTACK ON ISLAMIC SHRINES
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- The police stepped up their investigation of an attempted attack on Islamic shrines on the Temple Mount following the discovery today of three more hand grenades near the Lions Gate at the eastern entrance to the Old City.

The grenades were concealed in a water container and are of the same type as the 18 grenades found on the Temple Mount Friday along with a large quantity of high explosives. Those grenades were also in water containers.

They were brought to the area Friday night by unknown intruders who escaped after Moslem guards sounded an alarm. Police believe a large scale attack was planned for Friday, the Moslem sabbath, when the Temple Mount would be crowded with worshippers.

Jewish extremists are held responsible although no arrests have been made. The grenades found today and Friday are of the same manufacture as the booby-trapped grenades discovered near Moslem and Christian religious shrines and institutions in the Jerusalem area during the past few weeks. In those cases, anonymous telephone callers claimed a group calling itself "Terror Against Terror" was responsible. The police are not sure such an organization exists.

But they said today that the large quantity of grenades and explosives found on the Temple Mount improved the chances of tracking down the perpetrators. Whoever they are, the police said, they are well trained in the use of explosives.

(In Washington, the State Department today condemned the attempted attack on Islamic shrines. State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said: "We deplore and condemn the senseless effort to do violence to one of Islam's most sacred mosques. We also note that this attempt has been condemned by the State of Israel.")

ARGENTINE COMMISSION INVESTIGATING 'DISAPPEARED ONES' WILL ALSO REVIEW CASE OF SOME 1,500 DISAPPEARED JEWS
By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- The newly created Argentine government commission investigating the disappearance of individuals under previous administrations during the "dirty war" in the mid-1970's will also review the cases of an estimated 1,500 Argentinian Jews, according to a member of the commission.

Rabbi Marshall Meyer, one of two Jews appointed to the 16-member commission last month by President Raul Alfonsin, confirmed at a news conference today at the Argentine Consulate General here that the plight of missing Jews will be investigated along with the estimated 15-17,000 "disappeared ones."

Meyer, who is director of the Latin American Rabbinical Assembly, and Dr. Gregorio Klimovsky, of the Latin American branch of the World Jewish Congress, were appointed to the commission whose

task will be to "receive charges and evidence on cases (of disappearances) and submit them to courts... investigate the whereabouts of missing persons... establish the whereabouts of missing children separated from their parents or guardians... with the alleged purpose of repressing terrorism."

Meyer denounced the previous military government in Argentina, describing it as "fascist" and "Nazi regime" and called the past nine years "a long cruel night." He said the election last October of Alfonsin, a candidate representing the Radical Civic Union, was "a heartening development." He suggested that the elections and change to a democratic pluralistic society in Argentina would mark a significant change in the history of Latin America.

New Government To Combat Anti-Semitism

On the issue of anti-Semitism in Argentina, which the previous military junta did little to combat, Meyer stressed that the Alfonsin government will do its utmost to assure the Jewish community that anti-Semitism is not government policy. He noted the presence of Jews within the new government.

"That there is no anti-Semitism in Argentina I am not prepared to say," Meyer declared. "Of course there is anti-Semitism in Argentina just as there is in the United States."

But the major difference between the previous Argentine junta and the newly elected government, Meyer said, is that, for example, if vandals now commit an anti-Semitic attack against a synagogue, they will be tracked down and apprehended, and punished according to the laws of the state. "This was not true in the past," he said.

Meyer is in the U.S. attempting to contact former Argentinians who fled the country during the reign of terror by rightwing groups to gather new information for use by the commission in its investigations. He noted that there are an estimated 65,000 former Argentinians living in the New York area.

JEWS GROUPS, WRITERS AND ARTISTS JOIN IN A CAMPAIGN URGING GERMANY TO RECONSIDER ARMS SALES TO SAUDIS

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- Major American Jewish organizations and leading figures in arts and letters have joined in a campaign urging the West German government to reconsider its plans to sell advanced weaponry to Saudi Arabia.

Cables and letters of protest have been sent to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and to Bonn's Ambassador in Washington, Peter Hermes. All point out that Saudi Arabia is still in a state of war with Israel and claim that the record shows that the Saudis finance and equip the Palestine Liberation Organization and other groups bent on Israel's destruction.

Affront To Logic And History

Gerald Kraft, president of the Washington-based B'nai B'rith International, noted in a message that Bonn's decision to sell tanks to Saudi Arabia while at the same time embargoing arms to Israel "is an affront to both logic and history," and indicates that West Germany is in effect turning its back on its own history.

"The West German government's argument that Saudi Arabia is eligible for arms sales because it is not in a 'region of terrorism' ignores the facts of the Middle East situation," Kraft said. "Saudi Arabia is and has been an integral part of the Arab vendetta on Israel and is involved as a major bankroller and weapons supplier for the Arab states which confront Israel."

Saudis' Holy War Against Israel Cited

Howard Friedman, president of the American Jewish Committee, expressed hope in a letter to Kohl that the Federal Republic will reconsider its decision to sell arms to the Saudis. "Saudi Arabia regards itself as a belligerent in the Arab-Israel conflict and even proclaimed an Islamic jihad or holy war against the Jewish State, and has given practical expression to these sentiments by providing billions of dollars to Syria, Jordan and the PLO to purchase weapons," Friedman wrote.

He added, "The three reported weapons systems (reportedly slated for Saudi Arabia) while ostensibly designated as 'defensive', in fact constitute indispensable components of an integrated offensive weapons system ... The distinction between defensive and offensive is an illusive one. The only real distinction is the intentions of the user. Until the Saudis unequivocally renounce war with Israel as an option, any prudent statesman must assume these weapons may be used in a renewed Arab attack against Israel."

Mideast Realities Ignored

Kenneth Bialkin, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, stated in a cable to Kohl that "In light of the tragic events of this century, it seems inconceivable that today the German government would be sending sophisticated weaponry to a country that is still fiercely committed to the destruction of the Jewish State."

He said the German justification that "Saudi Arabia is not in an area of tension... cynically ignores Middle East realities ... There is probably no area of greater tension or potential tension on earth."

'We Are ... Deeply Pained'

Writers and Artists for Peace in the Middle East sent a letter to Ambassador Hermes three days ago on behalf of "Christians and Jews representative of various segments of the American arts community (who) have watched with great interest Germany's return to the community of democratic nations during this past generation ... We are therefore deeply pained to learn that the German government plans to sell advanced and sophisticated war planes, tanks, missiles and electronic communications systems to Saudi Arabia, a regime which has declared a jihad against and continues to be in a state of war with the people of Israel, and which is unequivocally committed to the extinction of Israel."

The 33 signatories included writers and authors Cleveland Amory, Howard Fast, Norman Mailer, Robert St. John, Barbara Tuchman, Elie Wiesel, E.L. Doctorow and Isaac Bashevis Singer; actor Michael Moriarty; actresses Maureen Stapleton and Jill Clayburgh; musician Lionel Hampton; playwright Murray Schisgal; and artist Raphael Soyer.

Their letter appealed to "the German people -- its religious leadership, its academics and artists -- to raise their voices to prevent this contemplated action. We appeal to the officials of the Federal Republic of Germany to reconsider their current plans of sending munitions to Saudi Arabia, which could again threaten the survival of the remnants of the Jewish people."

DETENTION OF PRIME SUSPECT IN GRUNZWEIG MURDER EXTENDED 30 DAYS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- A magistrates court today extended for 30 days the detention of Yona Avrushmi, described by police as the prime suspect in the grenade murder of Peace Now activist Emil Grunzweig a year ago. Avrushmi, however, has not yet been formally charged. He was arrested a week ago.

According to police, the alibi offered by Avrushmi, a 28-year-old resident of Ofra on the West Bank, does not hold water. They said the suspect has claimed to have been in three different places at the time the fatal grenade was thrown into a crowd of peace demonstrators outside the Prime Minister's Office on February 10, 1983. The court was given written evidence by the police. Its nature was not disclosed.

Meanwhile, the State Prosecutor has been given the file of 20-year-old David Shemtov of Jerusalem who is being held as a suspected accessory to Grunzweig's murder. He was arrested two weeks ago for allegedly stealing grenades from the military base where he was posted and selling them to several persons, including Avrushmi.

RABBI WARNS THAT ORTHODOX JEWRY IS FACING 'FORMIDABLE CHALLENGES'

SPRING GLEN, N.Y., Jan. 30 (JTA) -- A leading Orthodox rabbi warned here today that American Orthodox Jewry "is facing formidable challenges from the secular, the uninterested, the 'turned off' and the feminist movement."

Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, told the opening session of the organization's three-day midwinter conference, that "unless we recognize that these challenges raise legitimate problems for organized religion, we will lose the opportunity to hold the line against defections."

He said the synagogue "must reassess its traditional role and develop surrogate services for the singles, the poor, the disadvantaged, the unlettered and the alienated. We must reach out to the lonely and the wandering."

Must Communicate With Christian Community

Dealing with a major topic of the conference, "The Synagogue and its Relationship with the Non-Jewish Community," Klaperman told the several hundred rabbis from across the country attending the conference that "we must communicate with the Christian community. There is increasing polarization and consequent tension between the religions and the races which must be diminished and resolved."

He cited anti-Semitic flareups, the daubing of swastikas on walls of synagogue buildings, and tensions between Blacks and whites. "We may not all believe the same, but we must learn to live side by side in harmony," Klaperman said.

He emphasized that the synagogue must reassess its long-time reluctance to express its opinion on political matters and that the Rabbinical Council of America should be prepared to make clear and meaningful statements on the sanctity of life, the issues of peace and nuclear proliferation.

"The synagogue sanctuary is no longer isolated from the impact of the political arena," Klaperman said. "Religion has much to say about economic security, health, poverty, and morality in government and international affairs."

He cited the fact that when he called last year for a nuclear freeze, he was widely criticized for using a religious platform to "meddle in a political issue." Nevertheless, Klaperman said, world survival is a political

matter and religion has something meaningful "to say about the morality and threat of human extinction."

LIKUD KNESSET FACTION REJECTS EARLY ELECTIONS DESPITE MOUNTING PRESSURE TO GO TO THE POLLS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- The Likud Knesset faction rejected early elections in a vote taken today in face of mounting pressure to go to the polls. It has the support of its coalition partners, notably the National Religious Party which is riven by internal dissension and does not want to face the electorate at this time.

Ironically, the very issue on which the opposition seeks to bring down the government -- the state of the economy -- was cited by the Likud faction executive as the reason to avoid early elections. According to Likud, elections at a time of economic crisis would damage the country. Interior Minister Yosef Burg of the NRP supports that view.

He said today that the economic situation must be stabilized before the country can afford the luxury of general elections. He explained that elections are usually characterized by government financial "generosity toward the people" which is out of the question now.

Some Likud Members Support Early Elections

Likud and its partners are reacting to signs that not only the opposition but some of their own members are convinced that the government must go to the electorate for a renewed mandate.

Mordechai Ben-Porat, Minister-Without-Portfolio, who resigned from Premier Yitzhak Shamir's Cabinet yesterday, said he would support early elections if he failed in efforts to engineer a national unity government. Last week, Deputy Premier David Levy urged early elections, convinced that Likud would win.

Two members of Likud's Liberal Party wing, Yitzhak Berman and Dror Siegerman, have announced publicly that they support early elections. Siegerman said that if 60 MKs vote to go to the polls, he would cast the decisive 61st vote.

Fate Of Government In Tami Hands

At this juncture, however, the opposition remains four votes short of the necessary majority. The fate of the Likud government therefore seems to rest on the behavior of its least predictable coalition partner, the Tami party which holds three Knesset seats.

Tami supported the government against three opposition non-confidence motions in the Knesset last week, but only after the Treasury gave in to a series of economic demands on behalf of the party's low income, largely Sephardic constituency. This immediately raised charges of "blackmail" from other coalition members. The concessions will be costly at a time of drastic budget cutting.

Tami has set a deadline at the end of February for an examination of whether it can achieve more by working within the coalition than outside of it. If Tami decides to cast its three votes for early elections, an opposition motion is likely to prevail.

AMERICANS REPORTED TO BE CONCERNED WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL'S ECONOMY By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- A prominent Israeli economist, just returned from the United States, re-

ported that the Americans are seriously concerned with the state of Israel's economy and are urging the Israelis to take strong measures, especially to reduce inflation.

Prof. Eitan Shishinsky attended an American-Israeli dialogue on the economy at which senior officials of both countries were represented. The Israeli delegation included Emanuel Sharon, Director General of the Treasury, and top level Treasury officials in addition to Shishinsky, Eitan Berglass and Nissan Levvyatan, all professors of economics at Israeli universities.

Shishinsky said in an interview published in Yediot Achronot Friday that despite a low key approach, the Americans could not conceal their concern over the precarious condition of the Israeli economy and pressed the Israelis to prepare a comprehensive economic rehabilitation program.

According to Shishinsky, they proposed various measures to effect a rapid decrease in the inflation rate, which was over 190 percent in 1983. They were not particularly interested in a plan to link the Shekel to the U.S. Dollar, proposed several months ago by former Finance Minister Yoram Aridor. But they indicated that if the plan was adopted, they would support it, Shishinsky said.

Efforts To Restore Public Confidence

Meanwhile, the government is making strenuous efforts to restore public confidence in government index-linked bonds. The inventory of these bonds is growing, reflecting what seems to be public distrust of the government's ability to honor its financial commitments.

The Bank of Israel, Israel's central bank, reportedly injected an estimated \$100 million into the stock market this past week alone, to stabilize the bonds. Moshe Mandelbaum, Governor of the Bank of Israel, told the media last Friday that the government would continue to support the bonds which it sees as an important savings device.

Avraham Shapiro, chairman of the Bank of Israel's Consultative Council, insisted that "There is no better investment than government bonds." He claimed "the guarantee of the State of Israel is even better than that of Chase Manhattan Bank." His remarks were intended to convince Israelis to buy more bonds and hold on to those they own. This would reduce the money in circulation and put a damper on inflation.

But economist Gad Yaacobi, a Labor Alignment MK and chairman of the Knesset Economic Committee, has presented an urgent agenda motion on "the collapse of the monetary market."

1 ISRAELI KILLED, 3 WOUNDED IN LEBANON

TEL AVIV, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- An Israeli civilian employee of the government's Public Works Department (PWD) was killed and two other PWD workers were wounded in south Lebanon when their convoy was fired on and hit by two grenades. In another of several incidents over the weekend, an Israeli soldier was wounded when his patrol came under fire.

The PWD workers were engaged on road construction work for the IDF near Ansar when attackers fired at the convoy. The workers, who were armed, returned the fire and IDF patrols later searched the area but failed to find those responsible for the attack.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY GETS \$4.3 MILLION GIFT TO SUPPORT JEWISH STUDIES

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (JTA) — A gift of \$4.3 million to support Jewish studies at Columbia University has been received from an anonymous donor, it was announced today by university president Michael Sovern. "This magnificent gift will enormously strengthen our ability to support excellent teaching and important research in Jewish studies," he said.

The \$4.3 million gift is a major contribution to the current Campaign for Columbia, a five-year effort to raise \$400 million that began last November. The gift will fund a professorship in American Jewish history and a second professorship in Hebrew and comparative literature, Sovern said. It will also provide endowment for the Center for Israel and Jewish Studies and for the Judaica collections in the university libraries.

Yosef Yerushalmi, Salo Wittmayer Baron Professor of Jewish History, Culture and Society, and director of the Center for Israel and Jewish Studies, said the gift "will support both the breadth and depth of our programs." He noted that Jewish studies at Columbia "derive strength from the departments of religion, history, linguistics, Middle East languages and cultures, and political science, and from the Middle East Institute of the School of International and Public Affairs."

A Long Tradition

Columbia is renowned for its long tradition of academic study and teaching of Jewish civilization. A lectureship in rabbinic literature and Semitic languages was endowed at Columbia in 1887 with money provided by Temple Emanu-El. Through the vigorous scholarly activity of its first incumbent, Richard Gottheil, Columbia quickly became a focal point for Jewish studies in the United States.

The Nathan Miller Professorship of Jewish History, Literature and Institutions was established at Columbia in 1930, the first chair in Jewish history to be created at a secular university in the Western world. Baron, the world renowned historian, became its first incumbent. At the present time, Columbia is believed to have more graduates working in the field of Jewish studies than any other university in the world, with the exception of Israeli universities.

NEH GRANT WILL ENABLE EDITING OF RABBI ISAAC KRASILSHIKOV'S COMMENTARIES TO THE JERUSALEM TALMUD

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (JTA) — Rabbi Isaac Krasilschikov's commentaries to the Jerusalem Talmud will be edited as a result of a \$56,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to the Al Tidom Association, it was announced here by Rabbi Harry Bronstein, head of Al Tidom. The grant was described as one of the largest from the NEH for research projects in Judaica.

Krasilschikov was one of the last great Talmudic scholars in the Soviet Union. He died in 1965 at the age of 77. Without a Jewish library and under constant fear of discovery and reprisal, he labored in Moscow for 20 years in the shadow of the Kremlin to produce what is destined to become a classic commentary on the Jerusalem Talmud, according to Dr. Lawrence Schiffman, professor of Hebrew and Judaic studies in New York University's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literature.

Schiffman is directing the project of editing and publishing the commentaries, 20 volumes of handwritten manuscripts in notebooks in Hebrew, which is being carried out by the Mutzal Me'esh Institute, the research arm of Al Tidom dedicated to publishing works of Jewish scholarship from the Soviet Union.

Krasilschikov had been a rabbi in Paltava until 1931 when Soviet authorities ordered Jewish studies activities disbanded, Schiffman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. As a result, he and other rabbis there left the town. Krasilschikov went to Moscow and became a bookkeeper, but devoted all of his spare time to the study of the Talmud and continued to perform some rabbinical duties, but not as the rabbi of a synagogue, Schiffman said.

Labored Under Extreme Adversity

Bronstein said that while Krasilschikov worked on the commentaries he labored courageously under unimaginable adversity. In the very midst of an environment so hostile to Judaism and to all things Jewish, he boldly persevered in the pursuit of his goal, the completion of a major commentary to the Jerusalem Talmud.

Schiffman said Krasilschikov apparently retained a copy of the Jerusalem Talmud, which had been published in Zhitomer in the early 1900's, after he left Paltava and apparently continued to receive books on Judaica as time went on. Schiffman said he did not know what happened to the Jerusalem Talmud after the rabbi died.

Bronstein said that while the rabbi was on his deathbed he asked the Al Tidom leader, who was then on one of his missions to Moscow, to make every effort to rescue the manuscripts of the commentaries and to publish his life's work. After 13 years of effort, the manuscripts were removed from the Soviet Union with the help of a friendly government. The original manuscripts are now in the Library of Congress, Schiffman said.

Seen As A Monumental Contribution

According to Schiffman, who is also the author of two books on Jewish law in the Dead Sea scrolls and a noted authority on Talmudic literature, Krasilschikov's work constitutes a monumental contribution to the study of the text of the Jerusalem Talmud and serves as the focal point of a new edition of this Talmud undertaken by the Mutzal Me'esh Institute. Tractates Berachot (two volumes) and Shevi'it have already appeared, and tractate Pe'ah is scheduled to appear within two months, Bronstein said.

The editorial collegium in Israel, where Krasilschikov's volumes are being printed from xeroxed copies, is headed by Rabbi Chaim Kanievsky, one of Israel's leading Torah scholars and an expert on the Jerusalem Talmud.

GOVERNMENT WORKERS CONTINUE STRIKE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 30 (JTA) — The strike of local government employees continued throughout the country today, for the second day, apart from those of Herzlia north of Tel Aviv. Municipal council workers there went back to work today, following an announcement by Mayor Eli Landau that he was increasing the wages of lower-paid workers "from the normal sources." The Finance Ministry responded by saying that Landau's step was illegal and a "flagrant breach of the local government law" which gives mayors and village council chairmen little leeway on how they can dispense funds covered by national agreements.