

ARMY DENIES REPORTS THAT ONE BUS HIJACKER WAS TAKEN ALIVE
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 19 (JTA) -- A military spokesman denied yesterday widespread media reports that one of the four terrorists who hijacked a Tel Aviv-to-Ashkelon bus on April 12 survived the army assault on the vehicle to rescue the passengers who were being held hostage.

The four terrorists, all residents of the Gaza Strip, were buried Sunday night under army supervision. But according to reports in newspapers and on television in Israel and abroad, one of them, identified as Majdi Abu Jama, 18 of Beni Shuheila village was seen after the assault, being led away from the scene in handcuffs, apparently unharmed, by Israeli security men. The prisoner was photographed by an Israeli reporter.

The implication was that the terrorist was killed after his arrest. The military spokesman repeated the official announcement made after the rescue that two of the terrorists were killed instantly when troops stormed the bus, another died shortly afterwards and the fourth died on the way to a hospital.

According to media reports, relatives and friends of the dead terrorist identified the photograph of the man being led away as Abu Jama. But the army said the error was due to mistaken identity. The man led away in handcuffs was a passenger on the bus who had been mistaken for a terrorist. When he was discovered to be an innocent Jewish traveller, he was released, the spokesman said.

That version seemed to be confirmed by one of the passengers who told reporters later that he had been suspected but freed when he produced his identity card.

ARMY CUTS PERIOD OF DUTY FOR RESERVISTS
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 19 (JTA) -- Army reservists will serve shorter periods on active duty than they have since the war in Lebanon began nearly two years ago, Deputy Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. David Ivri announced today.

He told military correspondents at a briefing that reserve officers will serve for 50 days a year and other ranks 45 days. In some instances during the past two years, reserve officers were called to duty for as long as 2-3 months a year causing considerable strain to the country's economy.

Ivri also announced that the army is drafting a training program on the premise that the Israel Defense Force will remain in Lebanon at least until the end of this year. If there is a political decision to the contrary, other arrangements will be made, Ivri said.

He disclosed on an Israel Radio interview yesterday that economic constraints will necessitate the dismissal of 700 regular army officers and some 400 civilian employees this year. He said the cuts would affect headquarters staff, not training programs. Current security arrangements on the West Bank and Gaza Strip will remain unchanged, he said.

Meanwhile, the army reported two attempted attacks on IDF personnel in south Lebanon yesterday, neither of which caused casualties. A military spokesman said a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at an IDF position near Maaroub village and an explosive charge was detonated on a roadside near Bourj El-Shamali village as an IDF patrol passed by. Israeli soldiers searched the surrounding areas after both incidents. The results of the searches were not disclosed.

YADIN FORMS NEW GROUP TO FIGHT 'RELIGIOUS COERCION' IN ISRAEL
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 19 (JTA) -- Formation of a new public body aimed against what it considers "religious coercion" in Israel was announced today by former Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin who urged all political parties to subscribe to principles of religious, cultural and scientific freedom.

The organization, called The Public Committee for the Freedom of Science, Religion and Culture in Israel, is dedicated to fighting "the ever-recurring attempts at religious coercion by those who pretend to be guardians of halacha" (religious law), Yadin said at a press conference here. He said freedom in those spheres must be incorporated into the platforms of all political parties in the upcoming elections.

The new group, composed of prominent Israeli intellectuals, also insisted that the parties pledge to allow their Knesset members to vote their conscience on all religious issues and not be bound by party discipline. He called on the political parties to issue "not merely a declaration of intent" but one that "would also have teeth."

Yadin, an internationally famous archaeologist, founded the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) which won 15 Knesset seats in the 1977 elections and later joined the coalition government of Premier Menachem Begin. The party, split by internal dissension, ceased to exist by the time of the 1981 elections.

Yadin said his group was particularly interested in combatting religious pressure on daily life in Israel and ending confrontations with the Orthodox political parties on such issues as archaeological digs. "The State has intervened in areas it should have stayed out of and eroded academic freedom. We view what has been happening with dread," Yadin said.

BLUM PROTESTS ANTI-JEWISH EXHIBIT MOUNTED BY PLO IN ZIMBABWE
By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATION, April 19 (JTA) -- Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, expressed "profound regret and vigorous protest" of the fact that the United Nations Information Center in Harare, Zimbabwe was used recently for the display of an anti-Jewish exhibition by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In a letter to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Blum said that among the pictures at the exhibition, held January 16-20, was one showing "Christ on the Cross after being killed by the Jews,"

according to "The Herald" newspaper of Harare. According to the same report, Blum added, "drawings of skeletons and skulls portraying the Israelis' blood-lust were also displayed."

Noting that the office of the Secretary General had already informed him that "the UN Information Centre in Harare had no official involvement with this exhibition" and that it only "responded to a request from the Government of Zimbabwe that the UN premises in Harare be made available for the purpose of this PLO exhibition," Blum said he hoped all measures would be taken to prevent a recurrence of incidents of this kind.

He added that he hoped that the UN will "henceforth scrupulously observe its own guideline for exhibitions, which inter alia include the injunction that 'due regard should be paid to the sensitivities of Member States'."

Blum concluded by demanding that the UN cease "countenancing in any form" manifestations of anti-Semitism, racism, and religious discrimination.

LIKUD, NRP BOTH LOCKED IN INTERNAL STRUGGLES ON EVE OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 19 (JTA) — Likud and its coalition partner, the National Religious Party, are embroiled in internal power struggles that may result in the splintering of each even before the campaign for the July 23 elections gets underway.

Likud's two main components, Herut and the Liberal Party, are at odds over Herut's decision to "review" their 20 year-old agreement for the allocation of places on the Likud election slate. Herut activists contend that the Liberals, who presently hold 18 Knesset mandates to 26 for Herut are over-represented in proportion to their actual electoral strength. The Liberals fiercely deny this and threaten to dissolve their alliance with Herut if the status quo is tampered with.

The problem within the NRP is the election list proposed by Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapiro which favors the Lamifne faction, headed by veteran party leader Yosef Burg over other factions. Intended as a formula to restore peace among the warring NRP factions, it appears to be having the opposite effect.

The NRP's women's movement, Emuna, announced that it would run a separate slate because of the low position it was allocated by Shapiro. The religious kibbutz movement was also reported to be contemplating a breakaway. Hanan Porat's Orot faction said it would run separately and the Young Guard faction, led by Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, is known to be considering a rejection of the Chief Rabbi's formula.

The Likud Utemura faction, formerly headed by Yitzhak Raphael, is said to be unhappy with the "scant recognition" accorded it by Shapiro.

Proposed Formula

The Chief Rabbi proposed that the number one spot on the NRP list would be filled by Burg who is Minister of Interior in the outgoing government. The number two spot would go to Rabbi Haim Druckman, a political hawk who broke away from the NRP last year to form the dissident Matsad faction. Hammer would get the number three spot and the next three spots would go to Sephardic members of the party.

The combination of Burg, a moderate and the hawkish Druckman, is considered anomalous by political observers. The other factions would be represented in the seventh through twelfth spots on the NRP list, severely reducing their possibility of election to the next Knesset.

The NRP's Knesset faction was halved, from 12 to six, in the 1981 elections and suffered a further loss by Druckman's defection. Shapiro insists that if his formula is accepted, the party would regain its original 12 seats. But many politicians, studying public opinion polls, predict a further decline for the religious party.

Contest For Liberal Leadership

Meanwhile, Deputy Premier David Levy has been entrusted by the Herut Central Committee with the task of "examining" the Herut-Liberal agreement. It was concluded in the mid-sixties between then Herut leader Menachem Begin and the late Simcha Ehrlich, leader of the Liberal Party.

Justice Minister Moshe Nissim and other Liberal leaders are firmly united in opposition to any changes Levy might recommend. Denying that the Liberal Party has a disproportionately high representation in the Knesset, they point out that neither the Liberals nor Herut has been tested separately at the polls for two decades.

Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai informed Premier Yitzhak Shamir last Sunday that the Liberals refuse to renegotiate their agreement with Herut before the elections. Nissim said yesterday that Modai's meeting with Shamir was uncalled for because the Liberal Party Presidium had already ruled out any dialogue over Herut's demands.

Nissim and Modai are both contending for leadership of the Liberal Party. Another candidate is Knesset Speaker Menachem Savidor. That issue will be decided when the Liberal Party's Central Committee meets on April 26.

LABOR PARTY SELECTS ITS ELECTION LIST

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 19 (JTA) — Fourteen veteran Knesset members, each of whom has served more than two terms, were assured spots on the Labor Party's election list at a meeting of the Central Committee. Two others were dropped because they failed to win 60 percent of the committee's 1,100 votes.

The balloting was conducted under a party regulation adopted before the 1981 elections. It requires the Central Committee to confirm by at least a 60 percent majority, any Knesset member who wishes to stand for re-election after having had two terms in the house. In 1981, all of the veterans were confirmed.

The rule is controversial. While the intention is to bring new blood and new faces into the Knesset's senior ranks, opponents claim the regulation deprives the party of some of its most experienced parliamentarians. Some critics contend that it is unfair to allow the Central Committee to decide because many committee members have a vested interest in young politicians on the rise.

Some Veterans Assured Of Election

Nevertheless, the Central Committee, at its meeting here Thursday night, assured that some of Labor's best known and most respected figures will be on the ballot for the July 23 elections. The oldest and most experienced in terms of Knesset service is former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, who at 69 has had seven

terms in parliament. Others are former Premier Yitzhak Rabin; Gad Yacobi; Haim Barlev; Shlomo Hillel; Uzi Baram; Moshe Shahal; Shoshana Arbeili-Almozlino; Adi Amora; Ora Namir; Yossi Sarid; Micha Harish; Jacques Amir; and Eliahu Speiser.

The two-termers who failed to make the election list are Yehezkel Zakai and Tamar Eshel.

Apart from their own election list, the Laborites seemed most concerned with the outcome of the Herut Central Committee meeting, in Jerusalem last week where former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon scored a stunning upset in his challenge to the leadership of Premier Yitzhak Shamir.

Sharon emerged from that contest with 41 percent of the vote to 59 percent for Shamir. Although Shamir will head the Likud list on July 23, Sharon seems assured of a powerful position in the top levels of Likud and a senior Cabinet post if Likud heads the next government. Labor politicians are wondering how this will effect the upcoming campaign.

Some Central Committee members saw Sharon's resurgence as the sign of a shift to the right and predicted an ugly election campaign. Others suggested that Shamir's apparent weakness within his own party would ease Labor's road to victory.

Before the balloting began, the Central Committee unanimously approved Yisrael Kessar to be the new Secretary General of Histadrut, succeeding Yeruham Meshel who announced his resignation last week.

GREEN PARTY OFFICIAL OUSTED FOR NAZI SYMPATHIES

By David Kantor

BONN, April 19 (JTA) — The Green Party has expelled one of its founding members, Tristan Abromeit, on grounds that he supports Nazi ideas. He is the fourth party official forced to resign or to leave high posts because of alleged Nazi sympathies.

The Green Party, based in Lower Saxony, is a coalition of pacifists and ecologists and a member of the opposition in the Bundestag. Abromeit, 50, has found himself increasingly out of tune with the party's guiding principles in recent years. The Green secretary announced yesterday that he would not be allowed to retain his membership card.

Abromeit recently published unflattering comparisons between the Greens and the Nazi Party in the 1930s.

SWISS RABBIS PROTEST KGB'S CONFISCATION OF RELIGIOUS ARTIFACTS IN ODESSA

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, April 19 (JTA) — A delegation of five Swiss rabbis headed by the Chief Rabbi of Zurich, Mordechai Piron, presented the Soviet Embassy in Bern today with a letter of protest regarding the recent activity of the KGB in Odessa.

The KGB confiscated tefilin and bibles. The delegation told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that they would not be silenced over the growth of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. Such acts are a breach of the Human Rights Convention and the Helsinki agreement of which the USSR is a signatory, they said.

The delegation was accompanied by the president of the Swiss Committee for Soviet Jews, Werner Rom.

SENTENCE CONFIRMED FOR ANTI-SEMITIC REMARKS

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, April 19 (JTA) — An Amsterdam district court has confirmed a six week prison sentence imposed by a lower court on Joop Glimmerveen, former chairman of the outlawed extreme rightwing Nederlandse Volksunie (NVU), for anti-Semitic and other racial remarks he made in an interview with a Dutch weekly in 1981.

Glimmerveen was quoted as saying that Surinamese in Holland must go back to Suriname, a former Dutch colony in South America, and all Jews must go to Israel. He also insisted that Amsterdam should never have a Jewish mayor.

The incumbent Mayor of Amsterdam, serving his third six year term, is of Jewish origin. Jews comprise considerably less than one percent of Amsterdam's population.

HIAG APPEALS FOR END OF BAN ON MEETINGS OF SS VETERANS

By David Kantor

BONN, April 19 (JTA) — HIAG, the umbrella organizations of veterans of the Nazi SS and SA, has asked a court to rescind a ban imposed by the town of Bad Harzburg in Hesse against the reunion meeting there of former members of the Waffen SS Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler division.

The ban was announced on March 7 after its approval by the town council. The SS veterans contend it is not valid because their organization is not illegal and has not been involved in violent activities.

HIAG's lawyers filed their appeal in a Braunschweig court on the basis of the official view of the federal government, expressed by Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann, that HIAG is not an extremist group and poses no danger to democracy in West Germany.

Meanwhile, the municipal council of Oberaula, a Hessian resort that played host to some 400 veterans of the SS Totenkopf (Deaths Head) division three weeks ago, has rejected by a vote of 12-11 a draft resolution banning further reunions there of SS veterans.

The resolution was introduced by the Social Democratic Party (SPD) members in the town council which is dominated by the Christian Democratic Union (CDU). But it was not immediately clear whether the authorities are ready to rent a publicly owned hall to the former SS men, as they did last month. They decided to request a list from the Interior Ministry of Hesse of all groups and organizations considered by the SPD ruled state government to be a threat to democracy.

The SS reunion in Oberaula, a town of 3,500, drew some 5,000 anti-Nazi protestors who staged a peaceful march and rally.

350 BUSINESSMEN WILL ATTEND JERUSALEM ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 19 (JTA) — About 350 businessmen and industrialists from all over the world have confirmed their participation in an international economic conference to be held in Jerusalem May 20. The conference was called in an effort to boost foreign investments in Israel. The participants were described as business leaders who head companies with annual turnovers of over \$100 million.

JEWISH PUPILS STIGMATIZED BY CATECHISM CLASSES IN DISTRICT SCHOOLS, CANADIAN MOTHER CHARGES

MONCTON, New Brunswick, April 19 (JTA)-- Jewish and other non-Catholic pupils are discriminated against and stigmatized by being forced to linger in corridors when the catechism is taught in local public schools, a Jewish mother here has charged.

Natania Etienne, whose two children attend elementary schools in the French-speaking District 13 in this Canadian Maritime Province city of 40,000, said the situation was the equivalent of forcing Jewish pupils to "go to the back of the bus" the way "the Negroes were treated in the southern United States," according to a report in the Moncton Times-Transcript.

She contended that children of Jewish, Moslem, Buddhist, Jehovah's Witnesses and other faiths were being denied "basic religious freedom." They should have alternative courses during periods of catechism teaching, Mrs. Etienne said. She noted that children in grades one through six are being given alternative courses during catechism periods in the district schools, but that "concession" was permitted by school district officials only after "a bitterly fought battle" a few years ago.

At that time, she said, she received telephone threats and pressure was put on her two children by other pupils. After the sixth grade, non-Catholic children have the "choice" of sitting in the catechism class or standing in the halls.

Anti-Semitism in Textbooks

Yvon Ouellette, superintendent of District 13, said he did not know of any students being forced to stand in the halls during catechism class. They could "go to the library or take other courses if they don't take catechism," he said according to the Times-Transcript report.

The newspaper quoted a charge by Donald Jubas, president of the B'nai B'rith of Canada, that the textbooks used in the catechism courses are "anti-Jewish" in nature. He said Catholic students were being taught that Jews were guilty of deicide and this created hostility between the two groups of students.

Msgr. Donat Chiasson, the Archbishop of Moncton, responded that the Gospel cannot be changed, the Times-Transcript reported. He said the Gospel taught that the Jewish people "took a decision" on the death of Jesus and "we cannot erase that from the Gospel." Chiasson stressed that he was not implying that the Jewish people were "more responsible" than other participants, such as the Roman army, but insisted that the Jewish part in the crucifixion is still part of the Gospels.

Chiasson said that in any event teaching the catechism has not been an "integral" part of the curriculum for many years but a voluntary program taught only "outside the minimum hours of classroom time."

But Rabbi Michael Wolff of the Tiferes Israel Synagogue here, said that forcing pupils to leave a classroom when the catechism is taught "stigmatizes" those pupils. He charged that District 13 officials are putting "a lot of pressure" on non-Christian students both by teaching the catechism and refusing to provide alternative courses on the junior highschool and high-school levels.

SOVIETS EXPEL FRENCH TOURISTS FOR POSSESSING "ZIONIST PROPAGANDA"

LONDON, April 19 (JTA) -- Two French tourists were expelled from the USSR for allegedly having in their possession what Soviet officials termed "Zionist propaganda," the World Jewish Congress

reported. According to a Russian broadcast of a Tass dispatch, monitored by WJC sources here, the tourists, identified as Serge Benchimol and Jean-Marc Lerner, were detained by customs officials "while attempting to hide more than 70 copies of anti-Soviet and Zionist propaganda." Tass stated that "the impressive pile of propaganda output confiscated from them gives a vivid idea of the thrust and nature of the activity of international Zionist organizations."

The broadcast noted that previously, "provocative activity" by tourists from the United States and Britain had been reported, and "now the Zionist instigators are attempting to use French citizens in their dirty political machinations."

Tass accused "reactionary circles in the West" of aggravating the international situation by "trying to get anti-Soviet literature into the USSR by any means."

ZEEV SHAREF DEAD AT 78

JERUSALEM, April 19 (JTA) -- Burial services were held here today for Zeev Sharef, a veteran civil servant who served as secretary to the first Israeli Cabinet in 1948 and later as a Cabinet Minister. Sharef, who was known as Israel's "number one civil servant," died yesterday at the age of 78.

A native of Bukovina, Rumania, Sharef was appointed by Premier David Ben Gurion as secretary to the Cabinet set up on May 14, 1948, the day of Israel's independence. He organized the ceremonies at the Tel Aviv Museum where the Declaration of Independence was formally signed.

Sharef is credited with establishing the principles and practices of Israel's civil service in the early days of the State and was the country's first Civil Service Commissioner. In the 1960s his nomination to be State Comptroller was blocked by the Herut opposition on grounds that his close ties to Mapai, a forerunner of the present Labor Party, posed a conflict of interests.

Sharef was elected to the Knesset on the Mapai slate in 1965 and appointed Minister of Commerce and Industry. He subsequently served one year as Minister of Finance in the government of Premier Golda Meir and later as Minister of Housing.

A political hawk, Sharef was closely associated with Meir's policies and was a personal friend. His political career ended when Mrs. Meir stepped down in 1974.

Apart from his political activities, Sharef was deeply interested in education and the arts and supported cultural and educational institutions in Israel. In the years before his death, he devoted himself to voluntary work and lectures to groups of soldiers.

REAGAN PROCLAIMS MAY 6-13 NATIONAL JEWISH HERITAGE WEEK

WASHINGTON, April 19 (JTA) -- Acting on a joint Congressional Resolution, President Reagan has proclaimed May 6-13, 1984 as National Jewish Heritage Week. The measure was unanimously passed by both Houses of Congress and enacted by the President on March 28, 1984.

The resolution, introduced by Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R. NY) in the Senate and by Rep. Joseph Addabbo (D. NY) in the House, calls upon the "people of the United States, state and local government agencies and interested organizations to observe that week with appropriate ceremonies, activities and programs."