

3 MEMBERS OF ISRAEL'S DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN BEIRUT CAPTURED BY SYRIAN FORCES; ISRAEL WORKING WITH FRIENDLY POWERS TO SECURE THEIR RELEASE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 2 (JTA) -- Israel is making strenuous efforts through diplomatic channels to obtain the release of three members of the Israeli mission in Beirut captured by Syrian forces today after their car apparently strayed into Syrian-held territory north of the Lebanese capital. There was no immediate indication of where the three Israelis were held or what Syria planned to do with them.

The three men were identified as Eban Florentine, Shmuel Roza and Nachum Neshet. They were described here as administrative staff members of the Israeli liaison office to the Lebanese government. Their status as diplomats is uncertain inasmuch as Israel and Lebanon have never had a formal exchange of diplomats.

Damascus radio claimed today that the Israelis were on a sabotage mission and confirmed their capture. Israeli sources said the Syrians will be held responsible for their safety. Israel reportedly is working through the Lebanese government and the good offices of friendly powers to have them released. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Premier Yitzhak Shamir had taken personal charge of efforts to free the men.

(In Washington, State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said that "Israel has been in touch" with the U.S. on the incident and that the U.S. is "exploring how we can be helpful." He had no further comment and said he knew no details.)

Circumstances Surrounding Capture Not Clear

The circumstances surrounding the capture of the men are not clear. According to sources here they left the Israeli liaison office in Dbaiyeh, just north of Beirut, on a sightseeing trip to the ancient port of Byblos, about 25 kilometers north of the capital.

For reasons unknown here, their car passed through a Lebanese army roadblock and a roadblock manned by a pro-Syrian militia. Several kilometers further on they approached a Syrian roadblock and on seeing the Syrian flag, tried to turn back.

According to one report, their car overturned and the three men were seized by Syrian soldiers while attempting to escape on foot. Other reports said they were held by Lebanese soldiers who turned them over to the Syrians, either freely or because they were forced to.

FALWELL SAYS U.S. HAS MADE A 'DOOR-MAT' OUT OF ISRAEL BY NOT MOVING U.S. EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 2 (JTA) -- The Rev. Jerry Falwell, president of the Moral Majority, charged yesterday that the United States has made an international "door-mat" out of Israel by the refusal to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The U.S. position is "a slap in the face of one of our true friends in the world," the Protestant fundamentalist leader said in testifying before a joint hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's subcommittees on Europe and the Middle East and on International Operations. "We are making them (Israel) a door-mat for other nations."

Falwell noted that "historically very few countries can point to 4,000 years of historic evidence of the position of its capital." He stressed that "Israel is not asking a favor, it's exerting a right, the right to be treated as other nations, the right to have its capital recognized by all nations."

The issue is moral, not political, Falwell said. He added that he would like to see the Reagan Administration move the Embassy to Jerusalem by executive order, but if Congress adopts the proposed bill requiring the move he believes President Reagan will do the "right thing" and sign it.

Stronger Congressional Bill Urged

Thomas Dine, executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, denied reports that AIPAC was not wholeheartedly behind the bill introduced by Reps. Tom Lantos (D. Cal.) and Benjamin Gilman (R. NY) in the House and Sens. Daniel Moynihan (D. NY) and Arlen Specter (R. Pa.) in the Senate.

But Dine said he would like to see an even stronger bill since the proposed legislation does not carry a deadline for moving the Embassy. However, Dine stressed that now that the Embassy issue has been raised in Congress, the U.S. Embassy will be moved to Jerusalem if not through the action of this Congress then by its successors.

Falwell and Dine were among three Christians and two Jewish spokespersons who supported the bill before the two subcommittees yesterday. Moving the Embassy was opposed by David Sadd, executive director of the National Association of Arab-Americans, and the Rev. Charles Kimball, director of the Middle East and Europe Office of the National Council of Churches.

Sadd said no action would have a more dangerous effect and harm U.S. national interests than moving the Embassy. Kimball said it would hurt U.S. credibility which is already at a low point in the Arab world. Both warned that moving the Embassy to Jerusalem would be resented in the entire Islamic world.

Bill Would Send Worldwide Message

Responding to what Sadd has said, Howard Friedman, president of the American Jewish Committee, said the conflict in the Middle East is the result of the "refusal of the Arab states to proceed on the basis of Israel having legitimacy as a sovereign state." He said by refusing to move the Embassy the U.S. "confirms" the lack of legitimacy.

The bill should be passed as "a message to the rest of the world and to Israel's enemies particularly that there is no substitute for recognizing legitimacy, no substitute for negotiating with Israel as a sovereign state," Friedman said.

The Rev. John Pawlikowski, a member of the executive committee of the National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel, said those who oppose moving the Embassy encourage the Arab "illusion" that Israel will disappear. He said that Israel must have sovereignty over Jerusalem although he believed a shared sovereignty for the Old City might be required.

Sister Rose Therry, vice president of the American-Israel Friendship League, contrasted the access to and the care of the holy sites in Jerusalem under Israeli rule to the desecrations and barring of Jews when East Jerusalem was occupied by Jordan.

U.S. SAYS ITS DECISION ON EMBASSY WILL NOT BE INFLUENCED BY THREATS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 2 (JTA) -- The State Department maintained today that its decision on the location of the U.S. Embassy in Israel will not be influenced by threats from Arab countries.

"We determine our own policy based on our assessment of our interests," Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said. He added that President Reagan has recently stressed U.S. opposition to Congressional efforts to move the Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Romberg's remarks came after he refused to comment on a reported statement by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt that Egypt would break diplomatic relations with any country that moved its Embassy to Jerusalem.

Mubarak, in a May Day speech in Cairo, said Egypt broke diplomatic relations with El Salvador and Costa Rica after those countries moved their embassies to Jerusalem, "not because we like the idea of severing relations but because we are keen on upholding international legitimacy and the rule of law and preserving the legal and historic rights of more than 100 million Arabs, 800 million Moslems and one billion Christians."

Mubarak: No Exception To The Policy

While not mentioning the U.S. specifically, Mubarak said "this decision represents a firm line in our policy that will be applied to all countries without exception."

Secretary of State George Shultz and other State Department officials, in arguing against moving the Embassy, maintained that it would harm U.S. efforts to be an "honest broker" in Middle East negotiations. Supporters of the move argue that it will end Arab delusions that Israel can be destroyed and would thus hasten negotiations.

At the same time, members of Congress have been angered by the Administration's private warnings that moving the Embassy could endanger American lives and property in the Middle East. They have seen such threats as giving in to terrorism and blackmail.

This point was frequently cited yesterday at the joint hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's subcommittees on Europe and the Middle East and International Operations which considered the bill requiring the Embassy to be moved.

Jewish Leader Chastises Mubarak

In New York today, Julius Berman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, sent a cable to Mubarak urging him to "reconsider this dangerous and ill-advised affront to the American people. Your statement is a rude interference in the American political process."

Berman added, "To me and I believe millions of other Americans, your statement signals an ignoble surrender to those forces in the Arab world that cursed President (Anwar) Sadat when he made his historic journey to Jerusalem -- the very city

you now seek to make off-limits to the rest of the world -- and that rejoiced when he was assassinated." Berman met with Mubarak in Washington last October and again in February in Cairo at the Egyptian President's invitation.

COSTA RICA'S PRESIDENT SAYS HE WILL DEFY 'DIPLOMATIC TERRORISM' AND KEEP HIS EMBASSY IN JERUSALEM

PANAMA CITY, Panama, May 2 (JTA) -- The President of Costa Rica declared that he would "not give in to diplomatic terrorism" and move his nation's Israeli Embassy out of Jerusalem.

Addressing the annual convention of B'nai B'rith International's Caribbean District here, President Luis Alberto Monge said that he transferred the Costa Rican Embassy from Tel Aviv "not for military or economic reasons, but because of morality," and would not move it back again.

In recent months Arab nations, including Egypt, have threatened to act against any country considering moving its Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

The Costa Rican President was presented with B'nai B'rith's Human Rights Award for his achievements in building a democracy in his country, and for fighting -- prior to his election as President -- against Communists for workers' rights. He was also praised for moving the Embassy.

More than 300 persons attended the testimonial luncheon. Among them were Panama President Jorge Illuecas; the Ambassadors of the United States, Israel and the Caribbean countries; Costa Rican and Panamanian government officials, and Jewish and Christian church leaders.

During a business meeting, B'nai B'rith District 23 representatives elected Isaac Galinski of Cali, Colombia, president. He succeeds Moises Mizrahi of Panama. Galinski, a graduate of Harvard University's Business School, is founder and partner in Galinski Industries, an investment and development firm. District 23 includes Central America, Colombia, Venezuela and the Caribbean Islands.

RUBY GOLDSTEIN DEAD AT 76

By Haskell Cohen

NEW YORK, May 2 (JTA) -- Ruby Goldstein, veteran boxer and boxing referee, known as the "Jewel of the Ghetto", who died last week at the age of 76, fought a total of 55 times, winning 50 bouts and losing five.

Goldstein, who fought as a lightweight and welterweight won his first 23 battles before sustaining a loss and finished his career with 34 kayos to his credit. His five losses were via knockouts by the likes of Ace Hudkins, Jimmy McLarnin and Sid Terris, the best in their era.

After his fighting career ended, Goldstein switched to refereeing and worked 39 championship bouts over a career spanning 21 years. He was the arbiter in the fatal Benny Paret - Emile Griffith slugfest in March of 1962.

Considered one of boxing's top referees during the 1950's and 1960's, Goldstein is best remembered for not stopping the Griffith-Paret welterweight championship just before Paret suffered fatal injuries. Paret sustained repeated head punches while apparently lying helplessly on the ropes.

In defense of his action Goldstein explained, "No one is to blame. It is the type of sport it is. Death is a tragedy that occasionally will happen." A panel of the New York State Athletic Commission agreed, absolving Goldstein of blame in the death.

In contrast, Goldstein was criticized for stopping two earlier title fights too soon. In 1957, Sugar Ray Robinson was belting middle-weight champion Randy Turpin of Britain in the 10th round when Goldstein stopped the fight, thereby granting Robinson the title. Two years later, Goldstein stepped in after Ingemar Johansson of Sweden floored heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson seven times in the third round.

Goldstein was buried in the New Montefiore Cemetery in Pinelawn, N.Y.

HIGH COURT POSTPONES RULING ON APPEAL BY FAMILIES OF SUSPECTS IN ARAB BUS SABOTAGE ATTEMPT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 2 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court today postponed ruling on an appeal by the families of several suspects in the Arab bus sabotage attempt to ease the terms of their detention. The justices reportedly expressed hope that the investigation would be sufficiently advanced on the next 3-4 days to allow the suspects contact with their lawyers.

The law permits suspects to be held incommunicado in the early stages of a criminal investigation. According to media reports, 19 men are under detention in separate prisons in various parts of the country to avoid the possibility of collusion in their evidence. Most are said to be residents of the West Bank or the Golan Heights.

Some newspapers reported today that two of the suspects confessed under questioning that they were involved in an attack on the Islamic College in Hebron last July in which four students were killed and more than a score wounded. Three others confessed to planting bombs in five Arab-owned buses in East Jerusalem last Friday, the media reported. The suspects are believed to be members of an underground Jewish terrorist gang.

N.J. REPORTS FIRST MAJOR TEST OF KOSHER PROTECTION LAW

By Ben Gallo

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA) -- The first major violation of a New Jersey law, which makes it a fraud to mislead observant consumers by selling or offering to sell or serve as kosher non-kosher foods, was announced today by James Barry, Jr., director of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs.

The first law to protect observant New Jersey consumers was signed in 1977 by then Governor Brendan Byrne, but it had two flaws, a division spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in a telephoned report. It made such offenses criminal acts, but made no provision for enforcement machinery, and it failed to appropriate funds to implement the act.

A new bill, introduced with the help of the local chapter of Agudath Israel of America, provided \$90,000 to operate the service and made such misrepresentation a violation of the state's Consumer Fraud Act. It was signed last November by Governor Thomas Kean.

A small kosher butcher in Linden, N.J. agreed to a consent order not to continue selling non-kosher chicken as kosher and paid a \$1,000 fine for a civil offense, Barry said. That happened on the first day the new code was effective on April 1.

The major offense involved the Allgood Kosher Meat and Poultry Market of Clifton, N.J. whose partners signed an administrative action consent order admitting to 421 violations of the Consumer Fraud Act, after a routine inspection by the kosher

foods inspection unit of the division. In the consent order, filed April 25, the Clifton store agreed to pay a \$3,000 penalty and to pay the state \$500 for its costs of investigation and prosecution. Barry said the store owners admitted the possession of 280 non-kosher chickens; 100 non-kosher chicken breasts, 35 non-kosher turkeys, three packages of non-kosher beef liver; and three containers of non-kosher chicken liver.

Under the consent order, the partners agreed also not to sell the non-kosher products and to dispose of them; and to pledge not to violate the fraud law rules. The division spokesman said the partners had paid the penalty and the costs.

Under the new law, the division inspects stores and restaurants throughout New Jersey which advertise availability of kosher foods. Barry said that it is now a violation to sell, expose for sale, serve or have available to sell in any restaurant, hotel, store, catering facility or any other retail outlet any food which is falsely represented to be kosher or kosher for Passover which is not produced under authoritative rabbinical supervision.

SITUATION OF JEWS IN IRAN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 2 (JTA) -- While Jews and other religious minorities in Iran are discriminated against, they are not persecuted in the way that members of the Bahai faith are, Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs said today.

Testifying before the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Human Rights, Abrams said that in one of the world's "worst" human rights problems, the regime of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini "has virtually criminalized" the Bahais.

Viewed as "heretics and as a potential fifth column for the U.S. or Israel, the Khomeini regime has robbed the Bahais of their rights as citizens in a way sickeningly reminiscent of Nazi Germany's treatment of German Jews before the Holocaust," Abrams said.

Judaism, however, is a recognized religion and Jews can practice their faith and teach it to their children, Abrams said. He noted that "synagogues and religious schools operate, at least in Teheran" and the Jewish community has a representative in the Iranian parliament.

Regime Is Fiercely Anti-Zionist, Anti-Israel

But, Abrams said, "the Khomeini regime is fiercely anti-Zionist and anti-Israel, with little distinction discernable between these sentiments and anti-Semitism. Iranian Jews have been forced to make anti-Israel statements in public and prominent Jews, particularly those who may have visited Israel during the Shah's regime, are always in danger of being denounced as Israeli agents. The loyalty of all Jews in Iran is suspect," Abrams said.

He added that "Zionism" is considered a capital crime in Iran and several Jews were executed on charges of spying for the U.S. or Israel and for Zionism in the early days of the Khomeini regime. "Large numbers of Jews have fled Iran since the regime's establishment," he said. "Although Iran's remaining Jewish population is clearly vulnerable there have been no arrests of which we are aware during the past two years," Abrams said.

PASSION PLAYS IN THE U.S. AND GERMANY ARE MARKED BY ANTI-JEWISH STEREOTYPES

NEW YORK, May 2 (JTA) -- A new study of six Passion Plays produced in the United States shows that all the productions contained "pernicious anti-Jewish stereotypes that are seen by hundreds of thousands of Americans." The findings of the study, released today, will be presented tomorrow during the American Jewish Committee's 78th annual meeting, which continues through Sunday at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

In his scheduled report on the plays, Rabbi A. James Rudin, the AJCommittee's national director of interreligious affairs, notes that the American Passion Plays were "sometimes overlooked because of the wide attention given to the Oberammergau production in Germany, which will begin four months of special performances later this month."

Continuing, Rudin says in his report: "Often based on the Oberammergau model, the American plays attract large audiences every year who believe that what they see on the stage is historically accurate and theologically sound. Such, however, is not the case."

Calling on Christian leaders to "give serious attention to the crucial problem raised by the six productions -- the harsh anti-Jewish images and themes that are transmitted to Passion Play audiences," Rudin expresses particular concern "that many Christian groups, including councils of churches and local churches, often sponsor these productions without being aware of their anti-Jewish content."

The AJCommittee study, written by Samuel Weintraub, the agency's Harry Sudakoff Interreligious Intern and a rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, focuses on the Black Hills Play of South Dakota and Florida; the Val Bal-four Play of Richmond, Virginia; the Great Passion Play of Eureka Springs, Arkansas; the Word of Life Fellowship Play of Schroon Lake, New York; the Fall City, Washington, Play; and the Holy Family Passion Play of Union City, New Jersey, all of which are produced annually.

Outline Of Anti-Jewish Themes

According to Weintraub, anti-Jewish themes found in all six productions are:

- * "The Jewish antagonists of Jesus -- and by implication all Jews -- are depicted as degenerate, loathsome, almost subhuman creatures. The Jewish priests in particular are often portrayed as hateful and bloodthirsty leaders of a corrupt religion."

- * "The Jewish people who gather before the Roman Governor's palace in Jerusalem become a 'mob' clamoring for the death of Jesus. They gleefully welcome his death and are portrayed as being collectively responsible, for all generations to come, for the crucifixion."

- * "The Passion Plays either deny or obscure the thoroughly Jewish background of Jesus and his apostles. Indeed, many Plays place Jesus as a lonely rebel standing against his people and his religion."

- * "The most damaging perversion of history is the usual characterization of Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor who ordered Jesus' execution. Pilate, whom responsible historians have described as a ruthless tyrant, is portrayed as a weak and indecisive man who was unfortunately swayed by Jewish pressure to crucify Jesus."

- * "The use of the New Testament is often one-sided, highlighting those verses with real or potential

anti-Jewish impact. Generally, the American Passion Plays neglect those New Testament passages which suggest more positive images of Jews and Judaism."

Vatican And U.S. Catholic Warnings

Another report, dealing with official Catholic statements on dramatizations of the Passion, is also scheduled to be delivered tomorrow by Dr. Eugene Fisher, executive secretary of the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB).

In his report, released today, Fisher strongly reaffirms earlier Vatican and American Catholic statements warning against the inclusion of anti-Semitic "stereotyping and misinformation" in Passion Plays. He notes that NCCB's Secretariat has issued documents in 1968 and 1970 "drawing attention to Passion Plays as a possible source of anti-Semitic reactions."

Moreover, Fisher points out, the Vatican, in its 1974 "Guidelines and Suggestions for Implementing the Conciliar Declaration, Nostra Aetate," lists principles for the depiction of the Passion. In 1975, he notes, the American Bishops also made this point:

"There remains the continuing task of ensuring that nothing which in any way approaches the notion of Jewish guilt should be found in any Catholic medium of expression or communication. Correctly viewed, the disappearance of the charge of collective guilt of Jews pertains as much to the purity of the Catholic faith as it does to the defense of Judaism."

The Vatican Guidelines, Fisher states in his report, "urge extreme care not to distort (the) meaning (of New Testament accounts of the Passion), especially when it is a question of passages which Christians, if not well informed, might misunderstand because of prejudice."

Stressing his "personal reaffirmation" of these statements, Fisher maintains that it was "obviously not sufficient for the authors and producers of Passion Plays to reply to responsible criticism simply by appealing to the notion that 'well, it's in the Bible,' (since) ... the interpretation offered in a given dramatization (will depend on) ... how certain passages or scenes from the four Gospels are selected and what is communicated through this selectivity."

Catholic Bishops' Statement

The NCCB statement of Passion Plays, Fisher notes, specifically cautions against:

- * Concealing "the fact that Jesus is a Jew and that his friends as well as his enemies in the drama are Jews."

- * Creating "the impression that most Jews of Jesus' day killed his death, failing to show that the secrecy surrounding much of Jesus' trial was motivated by the large following he had in Jerusalem."

- * Changing "the 'crowd' before the governor's palace into a screaming 'mob,' as representing all Jerusalem, and indeed all Israel."

- * Depicting Pilate, "whom historiography has shown to have been a ruthless tyrant, as an innocent and kindly bystander."

- * Highlighting "those texts of the Gospel narrative that are amenable to misinterpretation by uninformed audiences"

The Passion Play produced in Oberammergau since 1634 is the prototype for other Passion Plays. Jewish and Christian religious and secular groups have been extremely critical of that production over the years because of its basic anti-Jewish characterizations and stereotypes.