

ISRAEL MARKS ITS 36th ANNIVERSARY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 7 (JTA) -- Two matters of immediate concern -- rising tension with Syria and the exposure of an organized Jewish terrorist network on the West Bank -- were addressed by Premier Yitzhak Shamir and President Chaim Herzog in Independence Day radio talks today.

But the majority of Israelis seemed anxious to forget such troubles, at least for a while, and took to the seashore and countryside in record numbers to celebrate the 36th anniversary of the Jewish State under sunny skies.

Working To Free Three Captured Israelis

Shamir spoke at length on the seizure by Syrian forces last week of three members of the Israeli mission in Beirut. He said the government was working actively on a "daily" basis to secure their release and hoped the men would be able to return home shortly.

He said Israel has no intention of closing its liaison office with the Lebanese government, located just north of Beirut. It operates with the full knowledge and consent of that government and maintains important contacts with many elements of Beirut society, he said. Israel has an interest in establishing and keeping such contacts in as many of its neighboring countries as possible, "even if such an office is not overly active," Shamir said.

Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy said in a television interview today that there was no increase of tension where the Israel Defense Force faces the Syrian army in Lebanon.

The army is prepared to alter its deployment in Lebanon but is waiting for political developments before moving, Levy said. He added that the IDF will take all possible measures to ensure the security of Israel's northern borders against terrorist attacks.

Herzog Condemns Vigilantes

Herzog's Independence Day message to Israelis was an appeal for tolerance and condemnation of those who take the law into their own hands. He referred specifically to the mounting evidence of a Jewish underground that has surfaced since security forces foiled an attempt to sabotage Arab-owned buses in East Jerusalem last month.

"During the past year mad actions of unbalanced and irresponsible persons have come to light. They could have brought disaster the people of Israel, the State and the entire Zionist enterprise," he said. "I have no words harsh enough to condemn these deeds of persons prepared to revolt against our sovereignty and to deny the authority of the government of Israel. These are treasonous acts which imperil the independence we celebrate today."

Herzog added: "Random attacks on persons of another origin inevitably lead to attacks on persons of other opinions. We are a pluralistic nation, composed of many different strands and cultures-- Jews, Moslems, Druze, Christians. This multiplicity necessitates a high degree of tolerance and mutual understanding."

"We see signs of dangerous group tensions and it is our moral obligation never to forget the commandment: The stranger that dwells with you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself."

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judeaea, Samaria and Gaza, expressed regret over Herzog's remarks. It accused the President of pre-judging people against whom no charges have been made so far and said he compounded the injustice by expressing himself in that manner on Independence Day which symbolized national unity.

A Pervasive Holiday Mood

Israelis who did not travel en-masse to the beaches and picnic grounds queued up outside army camps and other military establishments, including defense industries, which were opened to the public today.

Thousands jammed the Ramat Gan stadium for a soccer match between the National Football Team and the Army II. That event was highlighted by an Air Force display and free-fall parachute jump by men and women soldiers who demonstrated their precision by dropping from the skies to the center of the arena.

There was a similar display for the throngs on the beach in Herzliya. Other events were the annual Bible quiz and the President's reception for the foreign diplomatic corps.

The streets of Israeli cities and towns were decorated with flags and blue-and-white bunting waving in the warm breeze. But far fewer shops and private homes displayed flags today than on previous Independence Days and the usual photographs of political and military leaders were absent from most shop windows.

ISRAEL UNVEILS TWO NEW WEAPONS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 7 (JTA) -- The defense establishment, which traditionally unveils a new item in its arsenal each Independence Day, this year disclosed two locally-developed and produced weapons.

One is an improved warhead for the TOW wire-guided anti-tank missile which can destroy the most modern Soviet-made tanks in the Arab arsenals. The other is a new four-barrel 290 mm. artillery rocket system mounted on a modified Centurian tank. The system can fire four Katyushas within 10 seconds, or singly, to distances of from 10 to 40 kilometers.

The first Israel-made Katyusha rockets made available to the Israeli Defense Force shortly after the 1967 Six-Day War fired short-range 240 mm. rockets. The loading of the new system has also been reduced from 45 minutes to five minutes. Both new weapons were successfully used during the Lebanon war, the Defense Ministry announced.

REPORT SOME 2,000 OF 3,500**ISRAELI SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN LEBANON SUFFER PERMANENT DISABILITIES**

TEL AVIV, May 7 (JTA) -- About two-thirds of the 3,500 Israeli soldiers wounded in Lebanon during the past two years suffer permanent disabilities, according to Yaacov Maoz, chairman of the Disabled Soldiers Organization of the Israel Defense Force. He put their number at about 2,000.

Maoz spoke to reporters on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of Beit Hacholim, the sports and rehabilitation facility for physically impaired former servicemen in Tel Aviv. He said about 400 of the wounded have a disability of 50 percent or more. The latter include five who are blind, more than 30 who suffered brain damage and paralysis, and six soldiers who lost both legs.

Maoz pointed out that the IDF's definition of the gravity of a soldier's wounds is based on his chances of remaining alive, not the extent of his disability. In addition to the wounded, 580 Israeli soldiers, border policemen and civilian employees of the army died in Lebanon, Maoz said.

SURVEY OF TOP EXECS OF FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES VIEW ISRAEL AS A ROLE MODEL FOR U.S. BUSINESS

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA) -- Top executives of Fortune 500 companies view Israel as a growing technological power and a role model for U.S. business, a new study reveals. According to Research & Forecasts, the New York-based firm which conducted the research, Israel's emergence as a center for technological development demonstrates a significant shift among business leaders away from the U.S. and Europe as a breeding ground for new ideas and technology.

The executives cited Japan and Israel as the top nations in stimulating research and development efforts among individual companies and entire industries and noted that both countries have policies which encourage cooperative efforts between industry, universities and the government.

The survey was conducted in connection with the Jerusalem Economic Conference, an international forum on high technology industries to be held next month in Israel. Israel Pickol, Economic Minister for the Israeli government in the United States, stated that the research has important implications for the United States.

"A majority of America's business leaders believe that the United States has not done enough to encourage industries to move forward vigorously in the areas of research and development and research," he said. "They look to other countries to find short term solutions to product development today and long term solutions to surviving in an increasingly competitive world economy in the future."

Some Findings Of The Survey

The survey found that although the executives believe that industry/university cooperation is likely to increase both here and in Europe, the American executives are ambivalent in their attitudes toward government participation in industrial research and development.

Forty-three percent of the sample indicated they would not want to see governments become more involved in the funding of research and development while slightly over half (53%) said they would welcome increased government application in research and development. In contrast, 66 percent believe that corporate support of university research in the U.S. will increase in the near future and 42 percent think that corporations abroad will follow the same trend.

Israel Has Favorable Climate For R and D

Despite their own reticence to build closer industry/government ties, the executives saw Israel's strategy of encouraging these alliances as a model for U.S. business. Thus, while Israel was not perceived

as a leader in electronics, executives who responded to additional questions noted that the unique environment for research and development in Israel creates a climate where tremendous growth in a short period is extremely likely.

Pickol noted that the choices of Japan and Israel as international leaders in stimulating industrial research and development reflect the success of this strategy and its benefits to industry. "The purpose of the Jerusalem Economic Conference is to study these components to enable industries to remain viable and competitive in a fast-paced, everchanging technological environment," he said.

RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY TO VOTE ON THE APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF TWO REFORM WOMEN RABBIS

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA) -- Reform Rabbi Beverly Magidson, whose application to become the first Conservative woman rabbi was rejected last year by narrow margins in dramatic roll call votes at the 83rd convention of the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis, is again an applicant at the 84th RA convention this month.

Her application and that of another woman Reform rabbi, Jan Kaufman of Washington, D.C., have been approved by the appropriate RA committees and their applications to become RA members and thus Conservative rabbis will be voted on May 16 at the RA convention at Kiamesha Lake, N.Y., Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, RA executive vice president said. The convention will be held May 13-17 at the Concord Hotel.

Kelman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that because of a chronic shortage of rabbis for Conservative pulpits, the RA has accepted more than 500 applicants for membership in the RA from non-Conservative seminaries, notably Reform and Reconstructionist rabbis. The other route to the Conservative rabbinate was by attending and passing the courses at the rabbinical school of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS), followed by ordination.

But until Magidson made her unsuccessful bid at the 83rd RA convention in Dallas, all of the candidates who had been voted on in the convention route had been men. And at the time of the 83rd convention, women were not permitted admission to the JTS rabbinical school.

Widespread Attention Over Bid By Magidson

Partly because the Conservative movement was in the throes of years of heated debate on admission of women to the JTS rabbinical school and partly because Magidson's bid for RA membership was the first by a woman in RA history, the event at the Dallas Convention attracted widespread attention. Acceptance of a candidate at a convention requires a 75 percent vote of delegates present.

Last July, after the convention, Magidson was appointed rabbi of a Conservative synagogue in Clifton, N.J. She was named solo rabbi of Beth Shalom, taking her first pulpit last August 1. She has been a hospital chaplain in St. Louis and left a position of associate director of the Hillel Foundation at Washington University to take the Clifton pulpit.

The term "solo rabbi" is used to refer to a congregation too small to need or to be able to afford more than one rabbi. The Beth Shalom congregation was then made up of more than 100 families.

Kaufman, like Magidson, was ordained in 1979 by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the Reform institution, in New York City.

A continuing struggle within the Conservative movement over admission of women to the JTS rabbinical school, strongly endorsed by delegates at three successive RA conventions, ended last October when the JTS Faculty Senate voted to admit women, starting next fall.

Kelman asked whether the May 16 vote on Magidson and Kaufman might be as sharply debated as it was on Magidson's application last year, noted there was still strong opposition among some leading JTS faculty members to women rabbis in the Conservative movement.

But he also cited the JTS faculty vote to admit women to JTS rabbinical classes, which presumably had dampened the opposition to women Conservative rabbis.

Kaufman served as an assistant Hillel director at the University of Maryland and then joined the faculty of the Charles E. Smith day school, in Potomac, Md., where she is in charge of religious instruction. Kelman said she had attended a Conservative congregation and had joined it as an adult.

Kelman said both women Reform rabbis felt they belonged in the Conservative movement and opted for Reform ordination because, until last October, the JTS rabbinical school was closed to women. While the option will be open to them for the 1984-85 academic year, they apparently feel there is no valid reason for them to go through a second lengthy process of study for the rabbinate.

RABBI OF MOSCOW'S MAIN SYNAGOGUE ASSAILS DEMONSTRATION RALLY FOR SOVIET JEWS AS AN 'ANTI-SOVIET DEMONSTRATION'
By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA) -- The rabbi of Moscow's main synagogue, Adolph Shayevich, asserted here that yesterday's huge demonstration in Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza across from the United Nations was an "anti-Soviet demonstration" and its focus was not the concern of Soviet Jewry.

Shayevich, of the Choral Synagogue in Moscow, in what was probably his first direct confrontation with reporters since arriving in New York last week, also acknowledged that while there are some problems facing Soviet Jewry, one of those problems is not the refusal of the government to allow Jews to emigrate.

The Moscow rabbi, on his first visit to the United States since 1976 when he accompanied a group of clergymen as a student, said the rally yesterday, where more than 150,000 persons called on the Soviet Union to allow Jews to emigrate, would have no effect on current Soviet policy.

Shayevich is among a group of 20 visiting clergymen from the Soviet Union who participated at a luncheon with American religious leaders sponsored by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, a group headed by Rabbi Arthur Schneier, senior rabbi of the Park East Synagogue in Manhattan.

The Appeal of Conscience Foundation, founded in 1965, is an interfaith coalition of religious and business leaders working on behalf of religious freedom around the world. The Foundation consists of leaders representing the Protestant, Catholic, Jewish and Greek and Armenian Orthodox communities and has organized exchange visits with Soviet clergymen and sent delegations to numerous countries.

Shayevich, who spoke in Hebrew to reporters for only several minutes, described as "not true" the reports of persecution and harassment inflicted on Soviet Jews. He was asked specifically about Jews

not being allowed to leave the Soviet Union and he said this was also untrue. The 48-year-old rabbi, a native of Birobidzhan, was trained at the rabbinical assembly in Budapest -- there is no Jewish seminary in the USSR -- and ordained in 1980 under a 1974 agreement reached by Schneier with Soviet government authorities to alleviate the shortage of rabbis serving the Jewish community.

Last year he succeeded the late Rabbi Yakov Fishman as spiritual leader of the Choral Synagogue on Moscow's Arkhipova Street. This is the larger of the two synagogues left in Moscow and is reportedly the center of religious life in the Soviet capital. Fishman visited the U.S. in 1976 as a guest of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation.

Shayevich's visit, along with the delegation of other Soviet clergymen, is being sponsored by the National Council of Churches. The Moscow rabbi led Sabbath services in the Park East Synagogue last Saturday in Hebrew, which was translated into English. He will spend two weeks in the United States, with a scheduled visit to Los Angeles.

Reporters today attempted to obtain access to Shayevich but he appeared uncomfortable with their questions and hesitated at first. Before departing, he was asked about the plight of Jews who have been imprisoned for teaching or practicing Hebrew. He simply shrugged and said: "No."

Shayevich acknowledged that one of the problems facing the Soviet Jewish community in Moscow was that there were not too many young Jews attending synagogue services, nor were there many Bar Mitzvahs or Jewish marriages.

He maintained that it was not the government's fault that Jews do not attend synagogue but that people don't wish to go to worship. He said he does not hear complaints from people in the synagogue that they are barred from attending services or that they were forced to work on the Sabbath "or anything like that."

Prepared Release Differs From Public Remarks

In a prepared press release distributed by the Foundation, but which was not referred to by Shayevich when he spoke at the luncheon, the rabbi asserted that attendance at his synagogue was on the rise, reflecting what he called a renewed interest among both young and older people in their Jewish faith. The release said that during the Passover holiday last month, more than 3,000 worshippers jammed the synagogue while 5,000 were gathered outside.

The release added that an increasing demand for religious articles such as prayer shawls and phylacteries was being met by importing them from Hungary. It also noted that annually over the past several years approximately 130 tons of matzah had been baked and distributed to Jews in the Moscow area. The luncheon was held at the Union League Club.

A MESSAGE TO JTA SUBSCRIBERS

Daily News Bulletins have not been printed since last Wednesday due to technical production problems. They will, however, be printed within the next few days and mailed to all subscribers. Please accept our apology for the delay.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The Israel Cancer Research Fund here has awarded \$537,500 to 39 of Israel's leading young physicians and scientists, the largest private grant ever made to encourage cancer studies in Israel. A total of 35 Fellowships -- annual grants of \$12,500 each -- were allocated by the Fund's scientific review panel at its annual meeting in New York.

BEHIND THE HEAD LINES COVERING THE WEST BANK By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA) -- The West Bank of the Jordan River, the territory Israel captured from King Hussein of Jordan in the 1967 Six-Day War, is continuously in the news. Covering it is a major challenge for any journalist. For an Israeli journalist the challenge is even greater.

"The major challenge for me, as an Israeli correspondent in the West Bank, is having access to sources, or rather, the difficulty of obtaining that access," said Gil Sedan, Israel Television's correspondent in Judea and Samaria. Sedan, who is also a Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent in Jerusalem, recently spent three weeks in the United States as a scholar in residence in Los Angeles and lectured in other cities as guest of the American Zionist Federation.

Fear Of Having Statements Distorted

According to Sedan, there is a great deal of suspicion against him on the part of the Palestinian-Arab residents in the West Bank because he is an Israeli. "They want to be convinced that what they have to say won't be distorted," Sedan explained, noting that when the element of trust is missing, it is almost impossible for a correspondent to develop news sources.

"They are afraid that as an Israeli I will not be fair to them and will not report their complaints objectively and correctly. In general, they identify the Israeli television with the State of Israel, which they consider their enemy," Sedan, 39, a graduate of the Journalism Department of the University of Missouri, said, however, that recently some Palestinian leaders in the West Bank have become aware of the advantages they could gain by expressing their views on Israeli TV. "The better they know me the better they treat me," Sedan said.

The most problematic segment of the Palestinian population is the student community, he observed. "The students are very aware politically, and they are closely watched by Israel's security authorities," Sedan said. "Therefore, they are even more afraid to deal with someone like me, because once they are exposed politically they can be targets of investigations by the Israeli army."

Yardsticks Are Journalistic

Sedan pointed out that "We, in Israel TV, try to be evenhanded. Our yardsticks are purely journalistic. But when we feel that the Palestinians want to use us for incitement or to promote the PLO, we use self-censorship and don't use certain information that we judge unworthy news-wise."

According to Sedan, the West Bankers cooperate much better with foreign journalists. "It is clear why," he said. "They know it will be used abroad and serve their case. They use the foreign correspondents' lack of knowledge of certain details and nuances. And they (the correspondents) almost automatically sympathize with the 'underdog' and send stories with a Palestinian slant. Israeli correspondents try to be more objective and to present the two aspects of the conflict."

Covering the volatile and often violent situation in the West Bank can be, at times, dangerous, Sedan observed, but said that so far he has been lucky and nothing has happened to him.

"The danger is obvious when you have to cover a violent demonstration by thousands of stone-throwing students," he said. "You can get hit by a stone. It's as simple as that. But it is known that the Palestinians are careful not to hit reporters. They do not want adverse publicity. On days of stone-throwing demonstrations by young school students, we have learned how to behave and not expose ourselves."

One of the rules of covering such an event is to be escorted by local Palestinians. Then you are almost certain not to be hit," Sedan said. "The same is true when you go to a refugee camp. If you want to be safe, you must be accompanied by local residents."

Carries A Pistol When On Assignment

Sedan and six other members of his television crew--including a security man--are usually each armed with a pistol when on assignment. "This is a security measure we must take," he explained. The whole crew uses a rented car and "everybody immediately identifies us because we also have very old equipment," he said, smiling.

Another important aspect of covering the West Bank is the close contact correspondents maintain with the Israeli army authorities in the territory. "Generally speaking, the cooperation is good," Sedan said. "When we ask to cover a certain event, for instance, a curfew, the answer is always affirmative."

There are times when he feels that he and his crew are unjustifiably denied the right to cover an event. "But this is a rarity," he said. "The army is, to a large extent, in an impossible situation in the West Bank. It has to please both the local Arab population and the Israeli Jewish settlers at the same time. It is very difficult because there is a constant tension between the two groups and the Israeli army appears to be caught in between."

A Potential For Reaching A Settlement

Asked to evaluate the political situation in the West Bank, Sedan said that as a correspondent representing Israel's official and only TV station, he would rather not comment. But he was willing to say that covering the West Bank "is very interesting indeed, but yet very frustrating because you do not see any progress toward solving the problem. The situation is at a standstill or, in some cases, existing problems are worsening. And that has an influence on you because, after all, you are not only a journalist but also a citizen."

Sedan said it is difficult to conceive what the situation will be like in the West Bank, in say, 10 years from now. But he added, rather optimistically, that "in my view there is a potential for reaching a settlement in the future. On both sides there are elements who are interested in reaching a solution."

Sedan said he believes "that among the Palestinian leaders in the territories there is a keen interest now in reaching a political agreement with Israel because they feel that time works against them. The longer they wait, the stronger Israel becomes in the territories with more settlements and more Jews. The big question is what a settlement means for Israel and, as we know, this big question is the focus of the political debate in Israel today."