

ISRAELI PLANES BOMB TERRORIST BASE AND TRAINING CENTER IN LEBANON
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 20 (JTA) — Israel Air Force jets bombed what was described as a terrorist base and training center in eastern Lebanon near the Syrian border today and Israeli soldiers fatally shot one resident of Sidon and wounded two others in a grenade incident in that south Lebanon town.

The air raid, carried out at noon, was the seventh Israeli air attack on targets in Lebanon since the beginning of the year. A military spokesman said direct hits were scored on five buildings adjacent to a railway line in Janta village, five miles east of Rayak and south of Baalbek in the Bekaa valley.

He said the base was used by an Iranian-supported Shiite Moslem terrorist group for training purposes and a staging area for attacks on the Israel Defense Force in Lebanon. All Israeli aircraft returned safely to their bases. Israeli planes flew reconnaissance flights over Beirut today.

Ammunition Stores Hit

According to Beirut Radio, explosions continued in the target area for some time after the raid ended, indicating that ammunition stores had been hit. The radio report said many wounded were rushed by ambulance to hospitals in Baalbek.

The clash in Sidon occurred when a hand grenade was thrown at an IDF patrol. Israeli soldiers opened fire, killing the man believed responsible and wounding two local residents. An Israeli soldier was treated for scratches and returned to duty.

Claim About Refugee Camp Incident Amended

Meanwhile, the Ein Hilweh refugee camp in south Lebanon remained quiet today after a week of unrest climaxed last Thursday by the fatal shooting of two women in the camp. The violence occurred after IDF patrols searched the camp and reportedly uncovered large stocks of weapons and ammunition.

Andolf Rydbeck, the Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Beirut which administers the camp, charged initially that the women were shot by Israeli soldiers. Later he amended that claim, saying they were shot by members of the Palestinian National Guard Militia, a group of camp residents armed and supported by Israel.

The IDF said the women were victims of internal rivalries and disputes among the 35,000 camp residents which erupted because of food shortages, a halt in PLO subsidies and a reduction in UNRWA supplies.

According to an IDF statement, one woman was killed by a man in a disturbance that developed while he was moving his family out of the camp. The second woman was killed when unknown persons fired into a crowd at the funeral of the first victim, the IDF said. It dismissed allegations that the IDF searches were the cause of the unrest.

27 Camp Residents Arrested

The searches resulted in the arrests of 27 camp residents, most of them identified as former inmates of the Ansar prison camp where suspected terrorists were held after the PLO evacuated Beirut in 1982.

The camp was emptied at the time of the Israeli-PLO prisoner exchange. Some of the released inmates returned to their homes in Sidon where they allegedly resumed anti-Israel activities.

The IDF reported last week that 10 inmates had escaped from Ansar, the first indication that the prison camp was again in use. Four of the escapees were recaptured, one of them fatally shot in the process. Five still at large are being hunted by Israeli security forces.

No Replacement For Special U.S. Mideast Envoy: DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS BY ADMINISTRATION IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE AND THE SITUATION IN LEBANON ARE ON HOLD

WASHINGTON, May 20 (JTA) — The announcement by the White House that President Reagan will not replace Donald Rumsfeld who has resigned as U.S. special envoy to the Middle East, was seen here as an indication that specific diplomatic efforts by the Administration in the Arab-Israeli dispute and the situation in Lebanon have been suspended, at least for the time being.

Rumsfeld, who took the assignment last November, replacing special envoy Robert McFarlane, submitted his resignation to the President on May 15, to return to private business. Reagan promptly accepted it, praising Rumsfeld for his "invaluable" contributions "during a critical period." He made his last trip to the region on March 29.

White House press spokesman Larry Speakes said Friday that Reagan will not appoint a new special envoy to the Middle East. That diplomatic assignment has not been vacant since Reagan summoned Philip Habib out of retirement in May, 1981, to help defuse a developing crisis between Israel and Syria over Soviet-made SAM anti-aircraft missiles deployed by the Syrians in eastern Lebanon.

Habib, who was involved in negotiating an Israel-PLO cease-fire on the Lebanese border and later the evacuation of PLO forces from Beirut, was succeeded by McFarlane who served until he was named National Security Advisor.

Denies U.S. Is Dropping Out

Speakes acknowledged that there are no negotiations currently underway in the Middle East but denied suggestions that the U.S. was dropping out. He said the President has "a competent corps of ambassadors" in Middle Eastern countries on which he relies. Nevertheless, American diplomatic activity aimed at resolving the Lebanon crisis and bringing moderate Arab countries into direct negotiations with Israel, has been marking time for several months.

The U.S. completed the withdrawal of its marines from Beirut last February, and France pulled its forces out shortly afterwards, ending the multi-national force that had consisted of contingents from the U.S., France, Britain and Italy. There was no high level U.S. presence at the Lebanese national reconciliation conference in Lausanne, Switzerland last March.

Reagan's Peace Initiative Stalled

Efforts to advance Reagan's September 1, 1982 peace initiative have also been stalled. King Hussein of Jordan who was to have played a pivotal role, charged in a New York Times interview last March that the U.S.

had lost credibility as a mediator in the Arab-Israeli dispute because of its pro-Israel stance. Only last week, Hussein repeated that charge in a British Broadcasting Corp. interview in which he accused the U.S. of providing Israel with "material help" to build Jewish settlements on the West Bank.

But Reagan has continued to assert that he remains committed to his 1982 initiative and regards it as the only viable road to peace between Israel and its neighbors.

SOLON SAYS DISAGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL'S POLICIES SHOULD NOT BE AN EXCUSE OF NOT CONTRIBUTING TO UJA

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 20 (JTA) -- Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D. N.J.) urged the leaders of the United Jewish Appeal last night never to accept disagreement with Israel's policies as an excuse of not contributing to the UJA.

"If you are an American and you disagree with the present Administration you have no right to withhold your contributions," Lautenberg asserted. "Your responsibility is to those people and to the future of the Jewish people." He said that those who want to involve themselves in Israeli politics should "move there" and vote in Israel.

The freshman New Jersey Senator said that before he came to the Senate he was more critical of Israel than he is now, having suggested that Israel stop building settlements on the West Bank.

But now, he said, he is convinced that "no country has to be asked to give up its legitimate gains, its interests, without its neighbors coming to the (negotiating) table. If the Arab countries are worried about Israel's absorption of the West Bank they ought to come to the table and talk about it and not sit on the sidelines and gain their objectives without paying some price for it."

Two New UJA Officials Installed

Lautenberg, a former UJA national chairman, and Sen. Arlen Specter (R. Pa.), last night introduced UJA's national chairman for 1985, Alex Grass, a Harrisburg, Pennsylvania businessman. Grass was installed at a ceremony earlier in the day to succeed Robert Loup of Denver who was installed as chairman of the UJA's Board of Trustees, Loup replaced Herschel Blumberg of Washington.

Stanley Horowitz, who in December took over from Irving Bernstein as UJA president, its chief professional officer, was also officially installed yesterday.

Stress That Foreign Aid Is Vital

Both Specter and Lautenberg noted that in talking to their constituents they found a great deal of criticism of foreign aid in a time of cutbacks in the U.S. Specter stressed that foreign aid is "vital for the United States and vital to maintain the strength of Israel."

Lautenberg said that the U.S. gets back more from a strong Israel than it gives in aid. "Would that we had Israel in Europe or South America or Latin America," he said.

Pointing to the U.S. concern over the Iran-Iraq war, Lautenberg said the U.S. can be thankful that there is a strong Israel in the area. "Where would we be today if the Israelis had not had the good judgement, the skill, to knock out that Iraqi nuclear reactor?" he asked.

Also participating in the program last night was Sen. Daniel Inouye (D. Hawaii) who joined representatives of the Hawaii Jewish community which received the Pinchas Sapir Award as a small community with an outstanding achievement in the 1983 UJA campaign. The Sapir award to a large community went to Minneapolis and for an intermediate community to Nashville. Awards for exceptional fund-raising efforts for the 1983 Israel Special Fund were also presented to Cleveland, Akron and Oklahoma City.

'I Think I Can Call Myself A Jew'

Inouye noted that the Hawaii Jewish community was "half way around the world from Jerusalem" but the some 2,000 Jewish families there have learned "what history should have taught the Jews of America--when it comes down to the final analysis, if a Jew cannot help himself, no one else will." He said that as a result of his voting record in the Senate, "I think I can call myself a Jew."

Says Israel Is Central To Jewish Survival

Grass, in his acceptance speech, said that while the American Jewish population has declined by 13 percent since 1972, to total an estimated 5.3 million people, he is still confident in the "strength and viability of the organized Jewish community," which he said is "focused on Israel."

"Israel is central to Jewish survival, to Jewish identity, to Jewish hearts," he said. He said the "safety and well being of Jews around the world is linked practically and spiritually to the safety and well being of the people of Israel."

Grass said the UJA "enables American Jews to enter into a partnership with the people of Israel." Noting that UJA must also meet the growing needs of American Jewry, he said this cannot be done at the expense of overseas Jewry. But he said both needs can be met through a "maximum" fundraising campaign under the theme "partners for life."

UAHC DEPLORES THREATS OF VIOLENCE AND APPEALS TO PREJUDICE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN Blacks, Jews Urged To Form 'Coalition of Conscience'

SECAUCUS, N.J., May 20 (JTA) -- The Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) deploring "threats of violence and appeals to prejudice" in the Presidential election campaign today called on Black and Jewish leaders to form a "Coalition of Conscience" aimed at "building together a just society."

A resolution of the UAHC's policy-making Board of Trustees declared: "The traumas of the moment must not be used to justify the Jewish community's withdrawal from our historic commitment to social justice and to cooperative efforts for decency."

The action came at the semi-annual meeting of the Board at which Charles Rothschild, of Teaneck, N.J., presided. The resolution was introduced by Harris Gilbert of Westfield, N.J., chairman of the UAHC's Committee on Social Action.

It condemned "threats of terrorism and reprisals directed against Blacks or Jews, whether emanating from the Jewish Defense League or the Nation of Islam. We are troubled," the UAHC trustees said, "that Presidential candidates and other leaders of American public opinion have failed to adequately respond to these assaults on the democratic process."

The Reform Jewish leaders declared: "For years Jews and Blacks have been natural allies in the struggle for social justice in America, working in coalition for the common cause... Only the haters seeking to separate us from each other and from the rest of society,

benefit from the alienation of Blacks and Jews, each the victim of prejudice and persecution in different ways over the centuries."

The resolution called on the UAHC's 770 congregations to "initiate a program of dialogue with Black churches and other representative Black organizations, to invite local Black officials to speak in our synagogues as part of a continuing effort to establish closer ties with them and to undertake ongoing programs to assert our common concerns and interpret our differences in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding."

Campaign 'Befouled' By Anti-Semitism

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, UAHC president, in an address that opened the discussion on the weekend theme, "Whither Black-Jewish Relations?", told the UAHC board:

"We are experiencing the first Presidential campaign in memory that has been befouled by anti-Semitism. The surrogate of a Presidential candidate praises Hitler and threatens Jewish lives but the candidate refuses to disavow him. The candidate laces his language with ethnic slurs, belatedly apologizes and even then doesn't acknowledge the gravity of his language." The surrogate was an apparent reference to Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, a Black Muslim group. The candidate referred to Rev. Jesse Jackson.

Schindler also pointed out that "Equally hurtful was the silence of almost everyone else. The other Presidential candidates bobbed and weaved as artfully as did Mr. Jackson," an apparent reference to Walter Mondale and Sen. Gary Hart. "The president himself chose not to comment. Christian leaders seemed not to notice at all, and Black civil rights leaders were silent, too, closing racial ranks even while they summoned us, as Jews, to condemn extremism in our community by the JDL."

Continuing, Schindler said: "Couple all this with the Rev. Jackson's freely acknowledged sympathies with the PLO, his criticism of Israel and his associations with anti-Jewish elements in the Black community and you begin to take the measure of our distress."

Despite these concerns, he added, "the Jackson candidacy illuminates causes with which Jews must be identified. The needy are our business, too. Feeding the hungry, freeing the bound, healing the sick -- that is the true Jewish vocation." The UAHC president declared: "We must not permit the offensiveness of Jackson's rhetoric and manner to obscure the moral worth of his domestic agenda."

The UAHC resolution called for strengthening cooperation with the NAACP through the Kive Kaplan Institute "to express in institutional form the commitment to civil rights and civil liberties," shared values of the UAHC and NAACP. The Institute is named for the late Kive Kaplan, a long-time leader of the UAHC who also served as chairman of the Board of the NAACP.

The resolution also called for programs to bring minority students to Israel "so that they may come to know and appreciate the one democratic country in the Middle East, the land where so many homes and dreams of the Jewish people repose."

BOSCHWITZ IDENTIFIES THE SOURCE OF STRENGTH OF THE JEWISH LOBBY

WASHINGTON, May 20 (JTA) -- Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R. Minn.) stressed here that the strength

of the Jewish lobby was not due to the representatives of the Jewish organizations in Washington but to the organized Jewish communities throughout the United States.

"It is the Jews of this country who are willing to be involved who are really the strength of the Jewish lobby, not the few that I hear in Washington," Boschwitz told the opening session of the United Jewish Appeal's three-day National Leadership Conference at the Sheraton-Washington Hotel last Friday.

The session was a joint plenary of the UJA and the Council of Jewish Federations honoring the 70th anniversary of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Robert Loup, outgoing UJA national chairman, presented Henry Taub, JDC president, with a plaque in which the UJA expresses profound appreciation for the JDC's seven decades of noble endeavor; the rescue, relief and rehabilitation of millions of Jews in more than 70 countries around the world."

In turn, Taub presented Loup and CJF national president Martin Citrin each with one of a limited edition of a Passover seder plate originally made by Jews in the Foehrenwald displaced persons camp in April 1948 three weeks before the State of Israel was born. The plate carries the inscription, "This Year in Jerusalem."

Cites Role Of The JDC, Other Groups

Boschwitz, a former State chairman of the Minnesota UJA, noted that the JDC and other Jewish organizations helped him and his family when they escaped from Nazi Germany and sought entry into the United States. He said the Jewish community has to be organized, generous and willing to speak out because only a strong Jewish community, especially the United States, can help Jews wherever in the world they need help.

Boschwitz predicted that during the next seven years, Jews somewhere will need that help. "If we do not help ourselves, no one will help us," he said. "That is the history of our people."

At the dinner Friday night, the Israeli Ambassador, Meir Rosenne, said that he, too, was helped by the JDC when, at the age of 13, he and his family fled Rumania and came to what was then Palestine. He said that many of the persons who came then lived in tents but today are leaders of Israeli society.

The leadership conference marks a change in UJA leadership and the beginning of the 1985 campaign. Loup noted that contributions have always been high in times of crisis. He said the challenge now is for giving to be based on "pride not panic, on an awareness of ongoing accomplishments rather than, unfortunately, recurring emergencies." (By David Friedman)

NEW JEWISH DIRECTORY

JERUSALEM, May 20 (JTA) -- A new reference manual, containing details on close to 900 publications all over the world has just been released. The guide is entitled "The Directory of World Jewish Press and Publications." The publisher, a Jerusalem PR firm, claims that this is the only up-to-date book of its kind, the first to be produced since Joseph Fraenkel's "Jewish Press of the World," which was published in 1972.

Among the directory's entries are Jewish publications from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hong Kong, India and Zimbabwe. Israel has the highest number of entries with 373, followed by the U.S. with 263. It is obtainable from the Directory of World Jewish Press and Publications, POB 7699, Jerusalem 91076, Israel.

MEXICAN PRESIDENT SAYS HIS COUNTRY RESPECTS THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND IS A FRIEND AND DEFENDER OF ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, May 20 (JTA) -- President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico told a delegation of American Jewish Committee leaders that "Mexico has a permanent attitude of friendship and respect for the Jewish people" and considers itself "a friend and defender of Israel."

The President, who was on a state visit here where he met with President Reagan and Administration officials last week, met with the AJ Committee delegation shortly after he met with Reagan. It was his only meeting with a Jewish group during his visit. He was accompanied, at his meeting with the AJC leaders, by several members of his Cabinet and the Mexican Ambassador to the United States.

In response to a statement of welcome from Theodore Ellenoff, chairman of the AJ Committee's Board of Governors, de la Madrid said that Mexico "is consistent in its historical philosophy toward the Mexican Jewish community. We in Mexico appreciate all the diverse groups that compose our society."

Reaffirming his statement of last October in which he repudiated anti-Semitism in Mexico, de la Madrid said: "We are friends of the Jewish community in Mexico, and we deeply appreciate the culture from which they stem. Jews in Mexico are fully Mexican and are equal in every way in Mexican society."

Stresses Issue Of Palestinian People

Discussing the Middle East, the Mexican President declared: "Since the inception of Israel as a state, we have been a defender of Israel... While Mexico does not always agree with Israel's policies, we speak openly of our differences." He added: "We think frankly that it is essential to take up the question of the Palestinian people. Unless that problem of the Palestinians is resolved, conflict will be perpetuated with all the dire consequences that we know."

The AJ Committee, while acknowledging the importance of resolving the status of the Palestinians, said the critical issue on which peace in the Middle East depends is the refusal of Arab nations and the PLO to acknowledge the right of Israel to exist as a sovereign state.

Favors Diplomatic Solutions In The Mideast

De la Madrid responded by noting that "the Mexican government and people support the right of Israel to live as a sovereign state. Our approach to this problem is the same as with all international problems. We are consistently on the side of peaceful solutions." He added: "We believe in diplomatic solutions rather than in military solutions in the Middle East as we do in Central America and elsewhere. We defend our sovereignty of all nation-states as inviolable."

President Promises To Aid Soviet Dissidents

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, director of the AJ Committee's international affairs department, asked de la Madrid if Mexico "would intervene vigorously on behalf of Andrei Sakharov and his wife, Yelena Bonner, who face imminent death unless Soviet authorities allow her to obtain immediate proper medical treatment."

Tanenbaum added that "we are concerned about the fate of Anatoly Shcharansky, Ida Nudel, and

other harassed and persecuted Jewish refuseniks who are being denied their human rights in violations of the Helsinki accords and United Nations covenants."

The President said all these human rights concerns were "very much on his mind," adding that he would "do everything possible" to be of assistance to Sakharov, Shcharansky, Nudel and others. The Mexican and AJ Committee delegations agreed to remain in contact with each other during the coming months.

ALLEGED NAZI COLLABORATOR CLEARED

NEW YORK, May 20 (JTA) -- Efforts by the Justice Department to strip Elmars Sprogis, a 69-year-old former Latvian police official of his American citizenship, were thwarted last Friday when a U.S. district court judge ruled that the government had failed to prove beyond doubt that Sprogis had collaborated with the Nazis in Latvia and participated in the slaughter of Jewish residents there during World War II.

In an 87-page decision, Judge Frank Altimari wrote that "While it is evident that Elmars Sprogis... watched a hundred or a hundred fifty men, women and children being marched to an execution site, the court does not believe that Congress intended to exclude from citizenship persons who were present when others were persecuted."

While Altimari wrote that people should "never forget the abominable atrocities inflicted at the hands of Hitler's Nazis," he said the government's witnesses to Sprogis' war crimes were not sufficiently credible and left room for doubt. The government relied on two videotaped interviews conducted in Riga, Latvia. One witness was a former Latvian policeman and the other witness said Sprogis ordered him to deliver valuables taken from Jews scheduled to be executed.

Sprogis, a retired construction worker living in Brentwood, Long Island, was accused by the Justice Department of concealing his wartime aid to the Nazis. He was charged specifically with concealing his role as assistant police chief in Gulbene and as police chief in Madona, both in Nazi-occupied Latvia, when he applied for U.S. citizenship in 1950. No decision has yet been made by the government on whether to appeal the court's ruling.

ACCORD REACHED ON C.O.L. PAYMENTS

TEL AVIV, May 20 (JTA) -- The Histadrut and the coordinating committee of private employers and enterprises have signed a new wage agreement on cost of living payments for the next two years, and the Finance Ministry, which had been dragging its feet on requests for special compensation for last month's massive 20.6 percent rise in the C.O.L. index, finally fell into line.

Under the agreement reached last Thursday, all employers will receive compensation for the April increase in two payments. May salaries to be paid on June 1, will increase by 12 percent, with another 4.5 percent the following month.

Henceforth, for the next two years, the previous system of C.O.L. adjustments every three months will be replaced by monthly increases if the C.O.L. rise in any month is more than 12 percent. If the increase is less than 12 percent, the increase will be paid when a 12 percent rise has been accumulated.

Up to the 12 percent limit, the C.O.L. increase will be at the rate of 80 percent of the index increase, and 90 percent if the monthly inflation rate is 25 percent a month.