

**BUSH: 'NO DETERMINATION' HAS BEEN MADE BY THE ADMINISTRATION AS TO WHETHER AGAIN TO PROPOSE SALE OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES TO SAUDIS**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 24 (JTA) — Vice President George Bush maintained to Jewish editors and publishers today that the Reagan Administration has made "no determination" as to whether to once again propose the sale of Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Saudi Arabia.

Bush, welcoming members of the American Jewish Press Association (AJPA) to a briefing by White House officials at the old Executive Office Building, said he was not even sure that the Saudis had formally requested the missiles.

Sen. Charles Percy (R. Ill.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and his Democratic opponent in this year's elections, Rep. Paul Simon, both said in separate addresses to the AJPA's 42nd annual meeting at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel earlier today that they do not know whether the strong opposition in Congress to the sale would be changed because of the present crisis in the Persian Gulf.

There has been some indication that the Administration would now seek to sell the Saudis 1,200 of the shoulder-fired Stingers on the argument that it would lessen any need for Americans to be militarily engaged in the defense of the Gulf and its vital oil supply lines.

**Earlier Proposed Sale Withdrawn**

The Administration withdrew an earlier proposed sale to the Saudis last March, at the same time that it took back a proposal to sell 1,613 of the missiles to Jordan following King Hussein's statement that he would not participate in Middle East peace negotiations because he considered the U.S. too one-sided in favor of Israel.

At that time, Administration spokesmen acknowledged that Hussein's remarks ended any chance of approval of the sale by Congress where opposition to it had been steadily growing.

Bush said today that the Administration at the time was "not overly upset" over Hussein's remarks but believed that the situation has since improved. However, the Administration has withdrawn its request for Congress to approve the creation of a Jordanian strike force for deployment in the Persian Gulf in the event of an emergency.

Both Bush and Percy maintained that the AWACS reconnaissance aircraft sold to the Saudis in 1981 have been invaluable in the present crisis in the Gulf, providing intelligence and protecting the oil fields.

Percy said he could not take a position on the proposal to sell the Stingers to Saudi Arabia until his committee holds a hearing on it. But he said he was surprised by the reports today that the Administration was considering the sale.

Simon said that while he could not predict what his colleagues would do, he continues to oppose the sale of weapons to any Arab country that refuses to join the peace process. He said he does not see the

present situation in the Persian Gulf as a reason for changing his basic attitude and accused the Administration of "reacting too quickly on the military side."

**Trying To 'Calm Things Down'**

But Bush, who has just returned from the Gulf states, said the Administration is trying to "calm things down" through diplomatic efforts with its friends and allies. He said there has been too much "hype" over the situation, much of it coming from Washington.

One of the major Congressional objections to selling Stingers to either Jordan or Saudi Arabia is that the portability of the missile makes it an ideal terrorist weapon. When the Jewish Telegraphic Agency asked Percy about this, after he addressed the AJPA session, he said he constantly worried about terrorism. He noted that even a nuclear device can now be carried in a suitcase.

The reports that the Administration might sell the missiles to Saudi Arabia, which were front page stories in The Washington Post and The New York Times this morning, upset the delegates attending the AJPA conference. Many noted that Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger gave no hint of this when he addressed the group yesterday. Weinberger did stress the need to "maintain security assistance programs with moderate Arab governments."

The AJPA participants took out their ire this morning on Marshall Breger, President Reagan's special assistant for liaison with the Jewish community. Breger was pressed as to whether he knew of the decision in advance and what advice he had given. He would only reply that he knew the issue was being discussed but did not know when it would be formally announced. He said he could not publicly comment on the advice he gives the President.

**RABBI ARRESTED AND TWO IDF SOLDIERS CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH JEWISH TERRORIST UNDERGROUND**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 24 (JTA) — Rabbi Eliezer Waldman, head of the Neer Yeshiva in Kiryat Arba, was arrested for questioning yesterday in connection with the Jewish terrorist underground. Waldman is a candidate for the Knesset on the list of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya Party. He occupies the fourth spot.

The institution he heads is a "yeshivat hesder" where observant soldiers combine religious studies with military training. Itim, the Israeli news agency, said today that Waldman was remanded in custody for 48 hours after being questioned. He is suspected of having had prior information about alleged activities of the Jewish underground for which 25 suspects were indicted yesterday.

**Levinger Released From Custody**

Another Kiryat Arba rabbi, Moshe Levinger, who now lives in Hebron, was released from custody in Jerusalem today after 11 days' detention. Levinger, a leader of the Gush Emunim, was questioned about the terrorist underground but no charges were brought against him.

**27 People Now Indicted**

The State Attorney, meanwhile, filed charges today against two more suspects in the terrorist underground

case, bringing to 27 the number of persons indicted for a wide range of criminal offenses against Arab civilians on the West Bank. Both are soldiers.

One is accused of having used his position as an officer in the civil administration on the West Bank to supply information to Jewish terrorists who planned the car bombings that maimed two Arab mayors in June, 1980 and blinded a police sapper.

The other suspect is accused of failing to warn the authorities of the car bombings of which he had advance knowledge and failing to alert the sapper, Suleiman Hirbawi, an Israeli Druze, who he accompanied to the garage of Mayor Ibrahim A-Tawil of El Bireh to defuse a bomb planted in the mayor's car. Hirbawi was permanently blinded when the bomb exploded. The suspect was unharmed.

The El Bireh mayor escaped injury but his colleagues, Mayors Bassam Shaka of Nablus and Karim Khalil of Ramallah were severely injured by bombs planted in their cars by alleged members of the terrorist underground. All of the indicted suspects are expected to remain in custody at least until next Wednesday at which time the State Attorney is expected to request that they be held without bail pending the outcome of their trials.

The courts have banned identification of the suspects to protect their families.

#### **LIBERAL PARTY VOTES TO CONTINUE ITS 19 YEAR ALLIANCE WITH HERUT** By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 24 (JTA) -- The Liberal Party Central Committee voted last night to continue their 19-year-old alliance with Herut. The balloting shortly after midnight, was seen as a defeat for Liberal Party chairman Yitzhak Modai who had opposed any changes in the agreements entered into between the Liberals and Herut in 1965.

According to political observers, Modai was overruled by his fellow Cabinet ministers and Liberal MKs who were determined to preserve their seats in the next Knesset even at the cost of reducing their party's representation on the Likud election list.

#### Herut's Compromise Accepted

The Central Committee, after a stormy closed-door session accepted Herut's compromise -- laid down by Premier Yitzhak Shamir at a meeting with Energy Minister Modai and Justice Minister Moshe Nissim yesterday -- to present 16 instead of 18 candidates among the first 50 on the Likud ticket. But they rejected Herut's call for a merger of the two parties before the July 23 elections.

Modai had argued vigorously against both proposals and urged the Liberal's to break with Herut if the latter did not withdraw its demands. After he was overruled, he sought to play down the extent of his defeat by telling reporters that his tough talk in recent days had been "tactical chess moves" to extract maximum concessions from Herut.

Herut lost on the merger issue which it considered important reportedly because it fears that certain Liberal MKs who are re-elected on the Likud ticket might later switch their allegiance to the Labor Alignment. But the possibility of merger was kept alive by the Liberal's agreement to discuss it after the elections.

According to political observers, the Liberals compromised because they were convinced that a split in Likud would assure a Labor victory at the polls. Some public opinion surveys find the Laborites well ahead but others indicate that less than two months before the elections, the two parties are running neck-

and-neck. Last night's decision raised angry dissension among Liberal doves. Mayor Shlomo Lehat of Tel Aviv predicted that clashes with Herut are inevitable because of the ideological differences between the two major components of Likud. These, he said, are bound to emerge after the elections. "I am for an independent-minded Liberal Party with a wide range of views and not an order of Jesuits," Lehat declared.

His sentiments were echoed by Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives who was interviewed by telephone from South America where he is presently engaged in Jewish Agency business.

#### **SHALOM SPIEGEL DEAD AT 85**

NEW YORK, May 24 (JTA) -- Dr. Shalom Spiegel, William Prager Professor Emeritus of Medieval Hebrew Literature at The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, died today at the age of 85 after a long illness.

Born in Bocovina, Rumania, Spiegel received his Ph.D. from the University of Vienna. He began his teaching career in Palestine as Lecturer in Hebrew Literature. Prior to his appointment to the Seminary faculty, Spiegel was professor and librarian at the Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City.

He was a scholar whose notable record includes a series of publications in biblical and medieval letters and the books, "Hebrew Reborn" and "The Last Trial," the latter a collection of legends about the sacrifice of Isaac. He also published studies on Hosea, Amos, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Job.

Spiegel was a member of the Society of Biblical Literature and of the Oriental Society. He was also a trustee of the Israel Matz Foundation, an honorary member of the Israel Academy of the Hebrew Language in Jerusalem and a fellow of the American Academy for Jewish Research. Former chairman of the educational advisory committee to Hadassah, he was also secretary of the Alexander Kohut Memorial Foundation.

In 1973, Spiegel was awarded an honorary degree of doctor of Hebrew letters from the Seminary. In May of 1983, he was elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

#### **ISRAEL ANGERED BY EGYPT** By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 24 (JTA) -- Israel has been angered by Egypt's reaction to recent events at the Ein Al-Hilweh refugee camp in Israel-occupied south Lebanon and other moves by Cairo which it considers anti-Israel.

Zvi Kedari, the Foreign Ministry's Deputy Director General, summoned the Egyptian Charge d' Affaires in Tel Aviv, Mohammed Basiouny, to convey his government's serious displeasure. Egypt, for its part, lodged a formal complaint with the Israeli Ambassador in Cairo, Moshe Sasson, over alleged actions by the Israel Defense Force in Ein Al-Hilweh.

The IDF recently conducted searches in the refugee camp for alleged terrorists and reported uncovering a large arms cache. Three Palestinians were killed and a number were injured in subsequent disturbances. Israel insists that the troubles in the camp stemmed from internal dissension among the inmates and that no IDF soldiers were involved in the shootings.

But Cairo sharply denounced Israel during a United Nations Security Council debate on the matter where the Egyptian delegate charged Israel with aggression and terrorism and proposed sanctions. Kedari noted that Egypt has been the only country to react in such manner.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF SALONIKA

By Sheldon Kirshner

SALONIKA, May 24 (JTA) -- It was one of the most illustrious Sephardic Jewish communities, and it was at the epicenter of Greek Jewry. And then the Nazis laid waste to it.

On the eve of the Holocaust, the port city of Salonika was very much of a Jewish city. The 5,000 Jews, who comprised about a third of its population, occupied a place of importance comparable to the Jews of New York City today. "The Jews were the kings," says Christos Stathopoulos. "The kings."

Stathopoulos, who manages the Capris Hotel, is not old enough to remember Salonika's distinct Jewish flavor. But he has heard stories from his father, who had good relations with the Jews.

Albert Naar, the 37-year-old secretary of the Jewish community, can only read about the greatness of the Jewish Salonika. But he, too, is impressed. "An Italian poet from Ferrara called Salonika the Mother of Israel, and he was right. This was a city that came to a standstill on the Sabbath."

Today, 44 years after the first deportation of Jews to Polish death camps began, Salonika is home to between 1,100 and 1,300 Jews. "We are a little community with a big tradition," Naar observes, his voice betraying pride and sadness.

### Jewish Community, Since 140 B.C.E.

Salonika, or Thessalonika, has had a Jewish community since 140 B.C.E. Under the Romans, the Jews were granted autonomy. During the Byzantine period, Salonika attracted Jewish settlers from nearly all parts of Europe, and they established synagogues whose names -- Italia, Aragon, Lisbon -- reflected the origin of its worshippers.

In the 17th century, the pseudo-messiah, Shabbetai Zevi, appeared in Salonika, but was expelled by communal elders. Later, he converted to Islam, and a group of his believers numbering in the hundreds followed his lead.

The sect they formed was called the Doenmeh, and until the 1920s, Salonika was their center. By the turn of the 19th century, Salonika had some 15,000 Doenmehs who, though nominally Moslems, preserved Jewish customs. With the end of the Greek-Turkish war in 1924, they moved to Istanbul.

The Doenmehs, who built a magnificent mosque in central Salonika in 1903, lived close to the Jews. Like the Doenmehs, the Jews were well represented in every economic sector. "We did everything," explains Naar. "We were the bankers and the fisherman. We were the doctors and the stevedores."

"We played a central role in commerce and the arts," says Andreas Sefiha, the vice president of the community. "We were educated. We knew foreign languages. We had an enormous capacity for achievement."

### Contributions To The Community

According to Naar, the Jewish elite of Salonika -- which came under Greek control in 1912 -- were of Italian and Spanish descent. Families like the Allatinis, the Fernandez and the Modianos contributed immensely to Salonika's development, and to the Jewish community.

Prior to 1939, Salonikan Jews could boast of community-run hospitals, mental asylums, orphanages, daily newspapers, rabbinical seminaries and book publishing houses in Ladino, French and Hebrew. And relates Naar, the unofficial historian of the community, there were 37 synagogues in town.

The Jews of Salonika had their misfortunes: the fire of 1917 destroyed neighborhoods and rendered residents homeless, and election riots in the early 1930s smacked of anti-semitic overtones.

Yet Jews here were at one with Salonika, and at least one visitor, Vladimir Jabotinsky, the Zionist Revisionist leader, marveled at the community's vitality and diversity.

### Nazis Destroy The Golden Aura

The golden aura that seemed to surround the Jewish community was forever broken with the entry of German troops into Salonika on April 9, 1941. Newspapers were suppressed, buildings were requisitioned, people were arrested, sections of the city were cordoned off, and wholesale expropriations were undertaken. In 1942, adult Jewish males were rounded up for forced labor battalions.

On March 15, 1943, the Germans took the final step. They started to deport the Jews to the gas chambers of Auschwitz and Birkenau.

Damaskinos, the Archbishop of Greece, issued an appeal to the collaborationist Prime Minister, pointing out that Greek Jews "have proven themselves not only valuable contributors to the economic growth of the country, but also as law-abiding citizens who understand fully their duties as Greeks." It was to no avail. Ninety five percent of Salonikan Jewry perished in the concentration camps.

Meanwhile, the Nazis razed the huge cemetery that contained 400,000 tombstones, some dating to the 15th century. The Aristotelian University now stands on the grounds of the cemetery, and to this day tombstones with Hebrew markings turn up as paving stones throughout the city, the Germans having used the cemetery as a quarry. The Germans, too, carted away unique manuscripts and ritual objects, and leveled all but three of the synagogues.

With the German occupation over, the Jewish survivors returned to Salonika. But several thousand, unable to begin anew and unwilling to bear their bitter memories, emigrated. The majority of emigrants went to Israel, joining relatives who had gone there during the British mandate.

Among those who came back were Sefiha's parents, who were hidden by Christians, and Naar's mother and father, who survived the rigors of Auschwitz and Birkenau.

### Contemporary Community Is Young, Vital

Salonika's contemporary Jewish community, although miniscule, is young and vital. Only 25 percent of its members are 60 and older and, thanks to pre-war property holdings, the community can support itself in a fairly fine style.

There is a Jewish day school, and a modern seven story old people's home which is said to be half filled. A summer camp for children is maintained, as is a kosher butcher shop. There is a rabbi, and a ritual slaughterer comes in from Athens -- which has displaced Salonika as Greece's premiere Jewish community.

If you ride around the city, you can see traces of the grandeur that was once Jewish Salonika. The Allatini mansion, constructed in the 1880's, is now used as City Hall. The Fernandez villa, closed off by a wrought-iron fence maybe 10 feet high, is in a decrepit state, black birds flying in and out of its open windows. The Monastir synagogue, found at 35 Syngrou Street, remains in good shape, having been spared by the Germans because of Red Cross intervention.

But who remembers the glorious past? The Jews cannot forget, for the burden of history is heavy. But young Greek gentiles have little knowledge of the Jewish impact on Salonika, claims Sefiha, an industrial equipment and machine tools wholesaler.

Greek school texts reportedly gloss over the former Jewish presence, and, although two of the city's streets are named for Jews, Salonika has yet to build a monument to the Jews who were killed in the Holocaust.

"There is nothing here to commemorate the Jews of Salonika," Sefiha lamented. A day later, however, I learned that Salonika plans to make amends for the omission.

Joseph Lovinger, president of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, informed me that Salonika's mayor had told him that the city plans to build a plaza later this year in honor of the martyrs who died during the war.

#### ROSENNE: TERRORISM OR BLACKMAIL THREATS SHOULD PLAY NO ROLE IN WHETHER ANY COUNTRY SHOULD MOVE ITS EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 24 (JTA) -- Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Meir Rosenne, warned that the threat of terrorism and blackmail should not have any indirect or direct role in whether any country moves its Embassy to Jerusalem.

"We would like to see all embassies in Jerusalem," he told the 42nd annual meeting of the American Jewish Press Association (AJPA) at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel yesterday. He stressed that nothing he said should be interpreted as trying to "interfere in the internal politics" of the U.S. where Congress is considering legislation requiring the U.S. Embassy in Israel to be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

But his remarks were obviously aimed at threats that have come from Arab and Moslem countries as well as American opponents of the move, including State Department officials, that moving the Embassy could harm U.S. interests in the Middle East.

#### What Is At Stake

"What is at stake now is not whether a certain Embassy should be in Jerusalem or not," Rosenne said. "What is at stake here is to know to what extent blackmail and threats of terrorist acts should be an element in the determination of foreign policy. When I see the number of letters and threats and statements made by different governments and the pressure being applied against any sovereign decision of an independent organ, this is what concerns us most."

The Israeli envoy also warned that it would be "extremely detrimental" for the U.S. and Israel to engage in either a public or private debate whether one of the two countries is responsible for the situation in Lebanon. "We should never forget who is the bad guy," he said.

Rosenne explained that the situation in Lebanon is due to Syria occupying 60 percent of the country and "refusing to withdraw," to the Soviet Union supplying arms to the Syrians and stationing 6,000 advisors in Syria and to the USSR supporting terrorists and others opposed to a peaceful settlement.

Nothing would "please" the Arabs more than to have the U.S. and Israel negotiate about the Middle East while the Arabs sit on the sidelines, Rosenne said. He said peace will only come if there are negotiations without pre-conditions. He said this is why Israel opposed the Rogers plan in the 1970s and the 1982 Reagan peace initiative.

The AJPA received a cable from Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir in which he praised the Jewish news-

papers as an "important factor in the battle for the truth and education and inspiration of the large and important Jewish community of North America. It is now necessary for you to address yourselves to the younger generation, to strengthen their Jewish consciousness and their bonds with their ancient re-born people."

#### CHURCHES AID VANDALIZED SYNAGOGUES

MINNEAPOLIS, May 24 (JTA) -- Church neighbors of three Minneapolis synagogues whose Save Soviet Jewry signs were smeared with swastikas promptly offered assistance, according to a report by Marcy Steinberg in the American Jewish World.

The smeared synagogues were B'nai Emet, Beth El and Temple Israel. After the defacing was reported, the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, in cooperation with the Minneapolis-St. Paul Human Rights Coalition, the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith of Minnesota and North Dakota and South Dakota, served as liaison between the churches and the synagogues.

Rev. Lawrence Dunnewold and 10 members of his Congregational United Church repainted the B'nai Emet sign. The minister said his congregation wanted to help partly because "a holy place was desecrated" and partly because they wanted to change people's ideas about a gap between Christians and Jews in the area.

Dunnewold said congregants of his church, the oldest in suburban St. Louis Park, had provided a temporary home for B'nai Emet services while the synagogue was being constructed.

Rabbi Joseph Wiesenber, rabbi of B'nai Emet, said he was a survivor of the Holocaust and accordingly "whenever I see a swastika, it is a special stress to me" and when "I see people who care, it is special to me."

Mort Ryweck, executive director of the area JCRC-ADL, said the church members acted "in the best Christian manner and are a reminder to the Jewish community that most Christians abhor anti-Semitism and bigotry." The other churches volunteering the services of their congregants were the St. George Episcopal Church and the Plymouth Congregational Church.

#### FORMER WEHRMACHT OFFICER ELECTED NEW PRESIDENT OF WEST GERMANY

BONN, May 24 (JTA) -- Baron Richard von Weizsaecker, who as an officer in the Wehrmacht was implicated in the failed attempt to assassinate Hitler in 1944, was overwhelmingly elected yesterday as the sixth President of the West German Federal Republic.

Weizsaecker, 64, a member of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and a former mayor of West Berlin, received 832 votes in the Federal Parliament to 68 for his only rival, author Luise Rinser who was backed by the minority Green Party. He succeeds President Karl Carstens in what is largely a ceremonial office.

Weizsaecker, a captain in 1944, was one of the few named in connection with the attempted military coup against Hitler to survive. Nineteen of his regimental colleagues were among the officers executed. He studied law after the war and helped defend his father, Baron Ernst von Weizsaecker, who was convicted by the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal of involvement in the deportation of Jews, for which he served two years in prison.