

SPECIAL PANEL REPORT SAYS TWO TERRORISTS NABBED IN BUS HIJACKING WERE BEATEN TO DEATH BY SECURITY PERSONNEL WHILE BEING QUESTIONED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 28 (JTA) -- Two terrorists captured in the April 12 bus hijacking were beaten to death by security personnel while undergoing interrogation, according to the report of a special investigation committee set up by the Defense Ministry which was released in part today. (See separate story for reaction by Knesset members.)

The report found that the two men died of fractured skulls as a result of blows to the backs of their heads with a blunt instrument during the early hours of Friday, April 13.

It completely contradicts the official Israel Defense Force version of events which maintained that two of four terrorists who hijacked a Tel Aviv-to-Ashkelon bus on the evening of April 12 were killed instantly when troops stormed the stalled vehicle in the Gaza Strip and that the two others died shortly afterwards of their wounds.

The report published today, with many deletions, was submitted to Defense Minister Moshe Arens. It was Arens who established the investigating panel under heavy public pressure after the Israeli media carried reports that at least one of the terrorists was seen by reporters being led away from the bus in handcuffs, apparently unarmed. All four terrorists, residents of the Gaza Strip, were buried on April 15 under military supervision.

Disciplinary Action To Be Taken

The investigation was headed by Gen. (Res.) Meir Zorea who was selected by Arens for the task. He was assisted by an aide who has not been identified. The portion of their report disclosed by a Defense Ministry spokesman refers to "security personnel" being involved but does not place responsibility on any individual for administering the fatal blows. It was understood, however, that disciplinary action will be taken against unidentified personnel for allowing such behavior or failing to prevent it.

The Zorea report was based on evidence by scores of witnesses and post mortem examinations of the ex-humed bodies. The report found that it had been necessary to administer blows to the terrorists in the process of retaking the hijacked bus in order to prevent them from detonating bombs in the vehicle.

But the fatal injuries were inflicted between the time they were taken from the bus and their interrogation in a nearby field. Arens has reportedly accepted most of the findings. He denounced the actions of the security personnel which a Defense Ministry spokesman stressed were illegal and unauthorized by any regulations or orders.

Further investigations will be carried out by the military police, the regular police force and the Attorney General's Office which will decide if any additional action is called for. The Defense Ministry pointed out that there were no special circumstances surrounding the seizure of the hijacked bus and the freeing of its passengers by IDF personnel that could have justified the action taken against the two surviving terrorists by security personnel.

One bus passenger, a 19-year-old woman soldier, was killed in the shoot-out that accompanied the storming of the bus. No other passengers were hurt. The four terrorists were youths in their late teens and early twenties.

BIPARTISAN PRAISE FOR PANEL REPORT
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 28 (JTA) -- Former Premier Yitzhak Rabin and other Knesset members representing both the Labor Alignment and the Likud coalition had high praise today for the report by Gen. (Res.) Meir Zorea which found that security personnel had bludgeoned to death two terrorists captured after hijacking a bus last April 12.

The report, the result of an investigation ordered by Defense Minister Moshe Arens, was made public in part today. Rabin said Zorea and his aides "took their job very seriously. They did not try to hide the terrible reality. They exposed everything that happened without fear or any attempt to whitewash the situation."

The former Premier, who was once Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Force, stressed that the killing of captured Palestinian terrorists was not typical of the behavior of Israeli fighting men. The IDF, he said, has maintained throughout the years a standard of conduct which set it apart from the surrounding Arab countries. "I believe that this moral value... must be retained by us at all costs."

Rabin's comments were endorsed by many coalition MKs. Only speakers of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya Party refused to comment on Zorea's findings. Labor MK Yossi Sarid said the Zorea committee was a "credit to the IDF and to Israeli society."

Meanwhile, Felicia Langer, the lawyer representing the families of the two slain terrorists, said today that they would demand compensation. She praised the press for playing the role of "the national conscience" in this instance. Otherwise, the entire matter would have been concealed, she claimed.

ISRAEL TO MAINTAIN MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON DESPITE THE DEATHS OF THREE IDF SOLDIERS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 28 (JTA) -- The deaths of three Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon over the weekend will not change Israel's policy of maintaining a military presence there, senior Defense Ministry sources said today.

The three men were killed Saturday night and two other soldiers were wounded -- one seriously -- when their two-jeep convoy was ambushed with small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades on a road near Kamel E-Luz, about two miles from Syrian lines on the eastern sector of the front. The sector had been quiet for nearly two months.

The incident brought Israel Defense Force casualties since the invasion of Lebanon, just one week short of two years ago, to 584 soldiers dead and nearly 4,000 wounded. But defense sources indicated that no direct retaliatory strikes are contemplated. Instead, Israel will continue its pre-emptive air strikes at selected targets in Lebanon. The most recent, last Thursday, was the second in five days, according to IDF sources.

A military spokesman said hits were scored on a terrorist base at Bar Elias, five miles south of Zahle in the Bekaa Valley and that all aircraft returned safely. Military correspondents indicated that the raid may have been prompted by intelligence reports of planned terrorist activities or in response to terrorist attacks which injured five Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon last week.

Beirut radio reported Friday that the target of the previous day's air strike was a base used by Ahmed Jibril's Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. Defense Minister Moshe Arens, addressing the Engineers Club in Tel Aviv Friday, said that "as long as there are attacks" on the IDF "in Lebanon we will not leave."

He maintained that Israel's continued presence in south Lebanon was necessary to convince the Lebanese to come to terms with Israel. Officials in Jerusalem said today that there was no information from Beirut to confirm reports that the Lebanese government plans to ask Israel to shut down its liaison office in a northern suburb of Beirut. According to their reports, the government of Prime Minister Rashid Karameh plans to close the office.

SHAMIR: ISRAEL OPPOSED TO U.S. SALE OF ARMS TO ARAB CONFRONTATION STATES, INCLUDING MISSILES TO SAUDI ARABIA
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 28 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir told the Cabinet yesterday that Israel is still opposed to the U.S. sale of advanced weapons to Arab confrontation states, particularly the reported plans by the Reagan Administration to provide Saudi Arabia with Stinger anti-aircraft missiles. (See separate story from Washington.)

According to Shamir, the shoulder-fired weapon could easily fall into terrorist hands. He was quoted in some foreign newspapers yesterday as saying that Israel would also oppose any U.S. move to supply Saudi Arabia with airborne tankers to help it protect Persian Gulf shipping. Shamir reportedly asserted that the Saudis have been accumulating weapons for a long time and that the only time they were used was when they were transferred to Arab armies fighting Israel.

Israel's Present Dilemma

Former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon took issue with Shamir at the weekly Cabinet meeting for not taking an even tougher stand against U.S. weapons sales to the Saudis. The debate reflected Israel's present dilemma. On one hand, it is difficult to counter the American argument that the Saudis need the Stinger missiles to protect Western oil supplies in the Persian Gulf. On the other hand, the Israelis genuinely fear that weapons in the hands of the Saudis could be used in the future against Israel.

But there is serious concern here that if Israel even goes through the motions of opposing the sale, it could trigger a hostile reaction in the U.S. Israeli policymakers believe they are being told by Washington that this time American and Western interests outweigh Israel's interests on this issue.

'Israeli Interest Office' in Colombo

Meanwhile, Shamir disclosed that Sri Lanka has agreed to an "Israeli interest office" to be set up at the American Embassy in Colombo. Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) suspended diplomatic relations with Israel 14 years ago.

Shamir informed the Cabinet that he had a message from President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt pledging to continue political dialogue with Israel and stressing their two countries' mutual commitment to the peace process. He said he would send a reply to Cairo shortly.

Official Announcement Expected Tuesday: REAGAN ADMINISTRATION DECIDES TO SELL SAUDI 400 ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES, 200 MISSILE LAUNCHERS

WASHINGTON, May 28 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration decided yesterday on the immediate sale to Saudi Arabia of 400 Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and 200 shoulder-held missile launchers because of the emergency in the Persian Gulf. An official announcement is expected tomorrow.

The Administration is reported to have made an initial decision last Friday to provide the Saudis with 200 missiles and 100 launchers but later doubled the quantity at the urgent request of Saudi Arabia.

Friday's decision came just a day after Vice President George Bush told a meeting here of Jewish editors and publishers that the Administration had made "no determination" on the long-projected missile sale to Saudi Arabia.

There had been some indication that 1,200 of the Stingers would go to Saudi Arabia. But this drew strong opposition in Congress where it was noted that the highly mobile weapon could easily fall into the hands of terrorists. Israel also is vigorously opposed to the sale and to the provision of any U.S. weapons systems to Arab confrontation states.

Mondale Opposes Sale Of Missiles

Former Vice President Walter Mondale, campaigning in New Jersey for the June 5 Democratic Presidential primaries, said on a Public Broadcasting System phone-in television program last night that he opposed the sale of Stingers to Saudi Arabia because they would be an ideal weapon for terrorists who wanted to shoot down commercial aircraft.

"The marginal increase in security that could be obtained through the supply of Stinger weapons in my opinion does not approach the danger of letting those things get into the hands of terrorists," Mondale said.

The law requires a 30 day period for Congress either to veto such military sales or allow them to go through. But the law also allows the President to waive the 30-day rule on national security grounds.

In this case, President Reagan decided to use the waiver because of the threat to Western oil supplies by Iranian and Iraqi air attacks on Persian Gulf shipping. State Department officials indicated yesterday that the missiles would be delivered to Saudi Arabia within 72 hours after a formal announcement.

The U.S. will also send 20-30 military specialists to train the Saudis in the use of the missile launchers, a process that could take from a week to 10 days.

Bush Sought To Mollify Jewish Audience

The decision is bound to trigger a reaction in the Jewish community. Bush, addressing the 42nd annual meeting of the American Jewish Press Association (AJPA) last Thursday, said he was not even sure that the Saudis had asked for the Stinger. Bush sits on the National Security Council where, presumably, such decisions are made.

Apparently he sought to mollify his Jewish audience which was disturbed by front page stories in The Washington Post and The New York Times on

Thursday that the missile sale was being contemplated. Many of the AJPA delegates were angered that Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who had addressed them only the day before, gave no hint of this.

CONGRESS EXPECTED TO APPROVE MEASURE REQUIRING ARMED SERVICES TO PERMIT PERSONNEL TO WEAR RELIGIOUS HEADGEAR WHILE ON DUTY
By Ben Gallab

NEW YORK, May 28 (JTA) -- A Jewish legal aid society official predicted today that Congress would approve an amendment to the defense authorization bill which would require all of the military services to permit personnel to wear "unobtrusive religious headgear" while on duty.

The measure, introduced in the House by Rep. Stephen Solarz (D. N.Y.), was designed to nullify a decision by the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington on May 8 that an Orthodox Jew could not wear a skullcap while on duty.

Dennis Rapps, executive director of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA), said that while the amendment triggered some opposition in the House before the House approved it last Thursday, the fact that the Solarz amendment is not a significant part of the authorization bill, previously approved by the Senate, indicated that the amendment would be approved as part of the authorization measure when the different versions are taken up by a Senate-House conference. Conference committee approval is routinely endorsed afterwards by the two chambers.

Legal Battle By Jewish Chaplain

The amendment was drafted with the assistance of Nathan Lewin and David Butler, Washington attorneys and COLPA members. They represented a Jewish chaplain, Capt. Simcha Goldman, in his legal battle to be permitted to wear his skullcap while on duty.

Lewin and Butler indicated that if the amendment becomes law, as they believe it will, they will review the question as to whether they will proceed with legal appeals of the circuit court decision against Goldman. They had declared, after the circuit court ruling, that they would ask that court for a rehearing and that if a rehearing was refused, COLPA would probably seek a review of the case by the Supreme Court.

The amendment contains a provision which requires a review of the impact of the measure, if it becomes law, within one year, Rapps said.

He said the amendment plan had been backed by Agudath Israel, the National Council of Young Israel and the Orthodox Union. He also lauded the "extraordinary effort" by Solarz in preparation and approval by the House of the amendment.

Goldman served as a clinical psychologist at the Mental Health Clinic of the Air Force Regional Hospital at March Air Force Base in Riverdale, Cal. The 3-0 circuit court ruling reversed a lower federal court decision in Washington by Judge Aubrey Robinson who had held in April, 1982, that the Air Force had failed to show why it could not accommodate Goldman's request to wear a skullcap and enjoined the Air Force from interfering with that practice.

NEO-NAZIS RESORT TO VIOLENCE AGAINST TWO NEW FILMS

By David Kantor

BONN, May 28 (JTA) -- Neo-Nazis have resorted to violence against two new films, currently being shown in West Germany and in Austria, which probe the reasons why young people are attracted to extremist rightwing groups that ape the ways of Hitlerites.

Police are protecting a theater in Frankfurt which was the target of a bomb attack after announcing that it would show "Die Erben" (The Inheritors), an Austrian film directed by Walter Bannert. There have been threatening telephone calls to other theaters screening "Die Erben" and "Morgen in Alabama" (Tomorrow in Alabama), a film by Norbert Kueckelmann on the same theme.

The theme is that the upsurge of neo-Nazism in the West German Federal Republic and in Austria, is inspired less by the old Nazi ideology than by the socio-economic background of youths who are susceptible to extremist propaganda. The economic depression and diminishing prospects of employment are presented as the strongest factors.

In "Die Erben," a 16-year-old, Thomas, frustrated at home and in school, is drawn into a neo-Nazi organization. The film shows that youths like Thomas find satisfaction and pleasure in the para-military and anti-social activities of the group.

"Morgen in Alabama" takes cognizance of the fact that neo-Nazism is not confined to the lands that were once part of the Third Reich. The film, made in Austria, visits the American scene. A man fires a shot during an election rally in Alabama. It is determined later that his act was inspired by neo-Nazis. The film noted that something like this "happened yesterday in Paris and in Bologna, happens today in Rome, and can happen tomorrow in Alabama."

PAY HIKE FOR ISRAELI SOLDIERS

JERUSALEM, May 28 (JTA) -- The Ministerial Economic Committee, overriding vigorous objections by the Treasury, voted yesterday to approve an 18 percent pay hike for soldiers in the regular army. Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad warned that this might trigger a new spiral of wage demands which could only aggravate inflation now running at an annual rate of over 400 percent.

But Defense Minister Moshe Arens said he could not accept responsibility unless the erosion of soldiers' wages was corrected. Cohen-Orgad maintained that the economy cannot support the increase which is in violation of the government's economic policy. Treasury officials expressed concern that this will not be the final wage demand and that various ministers will push for increases before the July 23 elections, necessitating the printing of more money.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Tel Aviv University is in danger of not being able to reopen in September, after the summer recess, because of a shortage of funds, according to university president Prof. Moshe Many. He said in an interview with Israel Radio Monday that "1983 was a devastating year as far as the government's participation (in the university's budget) and the regularity of its cash transfers, and so all universities -- and especially Tel Aviv University which is the biggest -- had to take big loans."

JACKSON DENOUNCES ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 28 (JTA) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson denounced Israel last Saturday for selling military hardware to South Africa which the Democratic Presidential hopeful said is being used "to shoot down and oppress Black people."

Jackson also said that he would send military aid to Israel "in an emergency" although he did not indicate what circumstances would constitute such a condition. He repeated his belief that there is a need for the U.S. to maintain a dialogue with all the Arab states.

"We cannot even protect Israel's interests if we do not have adequate relations with Israel's adversaries," Jackson said in response to a telephone call on the Public Broadcasting System call-in program from Newark, N.J., where Jackson was campaigning for the Democratic Primary there on June 5.

On U.S. foreign aid to the Jewish State, Jackson said, "As we subsidize Israel, they are in fact selling arms to South Africa and they (the South Africans) are using these arms to shoot down and oppress Black people there." He added that the apartheid government of South Africa "sells diamonds to Israel that are being sold (by Israel) all over the world."

But he stressed that Blacks and Jews "have much more to gain by being together rather than being apart." He repeated his suggestion that a dialogue between American Blacks, Jews and Arabs could be the "key" to peace in the Middle East.

Believes In Redemption

When a caller asked how, as a disciple of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., he could associate himself with Louis Farrakhan, the Black Moslem leader, and Yasir Arafat, the chief of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Jackson replied that as a Christian he believes in redemption and has personally witnessed "much transformation and change in people."

"Israel saved Arafat's life when his back was against the wall," Jackson said in an apparent reference to Israel allowing ships to carry Arafat and his PLO fighters from Tripoli, Lebanon, last year where they had been besieged by PLO dissidents and Syrian troops. "Even they saw some good in the worst of a situation," Jackson said.

On The Israeli-Arab Dispute

On the Israeli-Arab dispute, Jackson stressed that the U.S. must "convince the Arab nations and Israel that they stand more to gain in trading with each other than by fighting with each other." He added that President Carter, by bringing Israeli Premier Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat together "contributed to Israel's defense" and urged the expansion of the Camp David process.

Jackson contended that even with the large military aid given to Israel, it cannot help the U.S. in the present crisis in the Persian Gulf. He said this demonstrates that the U.S. needs other allies in the Middle East.

Claims 'Diversionsary' Tactic

Jackson also charged that his remarks earlier this year in which he called Jews "Hymies" and New York City "Hymietown" were being used as a "diversionary" tactic to prevent discussion of such

issues as Israel's relations with South Africa. He said his remarks had "no religious or political overtones."

"If one has an attitude that's negative or cynical, one may consider it an insult," he said of his "Hymie" remarks. He added: "I really think people who have not responded with a forgiving attitude may be using that term as a diversion from more serious issues that must be wrestled with between two communities that have so much to gain by being together as opposed to being apart."

JURY DISMISSES CHARGES AGAINST SATMAR MEMBER WHO WAS ACCUSED OF CUTTING LUBAVITCHER RABBI'S BEARD

NEW YORK, May 28 (JTA) — A Brooklyn criminal court jury, after hearing a week of testimony, has dismissed all counts against a Satmar member who had been accused of joining in an attack on a Lubavitcher rabbi a year ago and cutting his beard.

The attack took place outside a Williamsburg factory owned by Joseph Cohen, whose son, David, had asked that Rabbi Pinhas Korf of the Crown Heights section, a Lubavitcher member, come to the factory to teach him Hasidic lore.

The Lubavitcher accused Jacob Cohen, the Satmar member, of involvement in the incident, in which five or six men came into the factory, during the teaching session, and criticized Korf for allegedly teaching the boy "misleading" lore. They then pulled Korf outside, knocked him down and cut his beard, a grave insult among Hasidic Jews.

Police went to Jacob Cohen's home on an unrelated matter and said they needed his picture. They subsequently put the picture into a file of photos of criminals and Korf purportedly picked out the picture of Jacob Cohen as one of his assailants.

Jacob Cohen was arrested on charges of assault, aggravated harassment and violation of Korf's civil rights. When a grand jury refused to indict him, he was put under arrest by the Brooklyn District Attorney's office and released on his own recognizance. Because of the grand jury's refusal, the charges against Jacob Cohen were reduced to misdemeanors.

OLDEST PORTRAIT IN MOSAIC STONE WORK OF ANCIENT JEWISH WARRIOR UNEARTHED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 28 (JTA) — Archaeologists excavating a fourth century synagogue in Galilee have uncovered what is said to be the oldest portrait, in mosaic stone work, of a Jewish warrior.

The Mosaic floor was discovered by archaeologists Zvi Ilan and Emanuel Damati beneath the stone floor of the synagogue which they had uncovered two years ago in their first excavation at the site of ancient Meroth, four kilometers west of Tel Hatzor.

The mosaic shows a Jewish warrior wearing a short Roman tunic and surrounded by his sword, helmet and shield, which leads the excavators to believe he died in battle and was memorialized in the synagogue.

In clear Aramaic script — the language generally spoken by the Jews of Galilee at that period — he is identified as Yodan (Yehuda Bar-Shimon Mani, the name of a well-known Galilee Jewish family of the time).

The archaeologists say the depiction of a non-religious figure in a synagogue was rare at that time, as it was only in the fourth century that the ancient injunction against the depiction of portraits was waived by the rabbis, at least as far as mosaics were concerned.