

ISRAEL JETS BOMB TERRORIST H.Q.

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- Israeli military aircraft last night carried out a bombing raid on a three-story building outside Bhamdoun in central Lebanon near the main Beirut-Damascus Highway that is said to have been the regional headquarters of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, headed by Nayef Hawatmeh. All Israeli planes returned safely, an army spokesman said.

However, the Abu Musa group announced in Beirut that it was the unit which had been hit in the building and that the officer commanding its artillery, code named Abu Hassan, had been killed and three other soldiers were wounded when a missile hit an ammunition dump. Beirut radio said extensive damage had been done.

Meanwhile, in south Lebanon, an Israel Defense Force armored column patrolled north of the Awali River today, to the Kharoub region south of Beirut where heavy fighting has been going on between Druze and Christian forces. The IDF patrols are reportedly aimed at lessening the fighting and ascertaining that terrorists are not massing in the region.

An IDF soldier was slightly wounded today when a roadside charge was exploded as an IDF patrol passed by some five kilometers south of Ansariya village. Today's incident followed a warning issued yesterday by Lebanon Shiite leader Nabih Berri that Lebanese youth were being trained for suicide attacks against Israeli forces in south Lebanon.

16 ARRESTED IN MAJOR CRACKDOWN ON NEO-NAZIS IN WEST BERLIN

By David Kantor

BOEN, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- Police reported today that 16 persons had been arrested during the weekend in a major crackdown on Neo-Nazis in West Berlin. Helmut Koenigshaus, a police spokesman, said 60 policemen were involved in the operation which included searches in 11 apartment houses in various parts of the city.

Koenigshaus said the "unusual action" had been taken to prevent establishment of a branch of the extremist "Action Front National Socialists." All Nazi organizations are banned in West Berlin by orders of the Allied Powers.

Michael Kuehnen is the leader of the group, known to live in a secret place in Paris and wanted in West Germany for a variety of offenses, including display and distribution of anti-Semitic material.

Weapons, Anti-Semitic Propaganda Found

Several dozen of Kuehnen's supporters were in one of the flats. Police said they found in that apartment and in others various weapons and anti-Semitic propaganda. The arrests included two men, aged 31 and 44; one woman, 21; and 13 youths aged 16 to 22. The youths were released after a brief detention. The adults have been remanded in police custody on grounds they violated the Allied ban.

Several of those arrested were in Nazi uniforms. Police said they confiscated much material on the goal of the meeting, including a proposed platform for the planned neo-Nazi branch.

In a related development, Dietmar Schlee, Interior Minister of the Baden Wuerttemberg State, expressed deep concern over what he called the increasing tendency of neo-Nazis to resort to violence. He said that in 1983, neo-Nazis were involved in 80 violent actions throughout West Germany, of which 11 were described as terrorist attacks. In 127 cases, arms and ammunition had been found in possession of neo-Nazis.

DISUNITY IN UNITY GOVERNMENT EFFORTS

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- The defection of Mapam from the Labor Alignment and the resignation of Yossi Sarid from the Labor Party has created a new lineup in the Knesset. Mapam, whose Central Committee last night voted 400-9 to end its 19-year partnership with Labor, will now be an independent Knesset faction. Sarid, an outspoken Labor dove, has joined the Citizens Rights Movement and is seeking to bring Mapam and the CRM together into a dovish parliamentary bloc.

The defection of Mapam and Sarid thus reduced the number of Labor seats in the Knesset from 44 to 37, compared to Likud's 41 seats. However, the seven-seat loss is offset by the parliamentary bloc between Labor and Yahad, with three seats, and Ometz (Courage to Cure the Economy), with one seat, thus bring the number of Labor seats up to par with Likud.

Both Mapam and Sarid defected in protest against the agreement by Premier-designate Shimon Peres to award a senior economic portfolio -- Minister of Industry and Commerce -- to former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, one of the most controversial figures on the Israeli political scene. In addition, many Laborites are also chagrined over Peres' agreement to give the Finance Ministry and the powerful Finance Committee to Likud.

Primarily for that reason, the "Lashiluv" faction of the Labor Party, comprising professionals, intellectuals and academicians, announced they would vote against the unity accord when the 1,000-member Central Committee meets today. At the same time, the powerful United Kibbutz Movement also said it would oppose the Labor-Likud deal.

Political Juggling Continues

Meanwhile, both Shinui, with three Knesset seats, and Tehiya, with five seats, were meeting separately last night and today to decide whether to join the unity government. In Shinui, there was a split between party chairman Amnon Rubinstein, who felt that Shinui could contribute more inside the government, and Mordechai Virshubsky, Shinui's number two person, who felt that there was nothing in common between the proposed coalition and Shinui, and has therefore rejected altogether joining the government.

At the same time, Likud leaders were busy last night and today trying to convince Tehiya to join the government. Tehiya leader, Science and Development Minister Yuval Neeman, said last week that his party would not join the government because of its "sell-out" over settlements. However, Morasha, the new right-wing religious faction which has two Knesset seats, has proposed that it and Tehiya join the unity government on condition that the new government's settlement policy is satisfactory.

Despite the anger in Labor circles over concessions to Likud, the Central Committee is expected to ratify the unity deal, though with a large minority -- of up to 30 to 40 percent -- in opposition. Even those favoring the deal said they did so with a heavy heart. Abba Eban seemed to sum up the general feeling at the Central Committee today by saying that a unity government was the least of all the possible evils.

Peres told the meeting that there were only two alternatives: to go ahead with a unity government or to hold new elections. He said he doubted that the results of a new election would alter the situation.

As the meeting was being held, Peace Now representatives demonstrated outside the hall, protesting the inclusion of Sharon in the proposed Cabinet. Peres told them at an earlier meeting with the Peace Now people that the Labor Party had no alternative but to accept the Cabinet members proposed by Likud, once the idea of a unity government had been accepted.

Today's meeting was called to accept the idea of a unity government, leaving the question of who will fill the Cabinet posts to another session tomorrow. The Herut Central Committee is to meet tomorrow to accept the party slate of proposed ministers drawn up by Premier Yitzhak Shamir and party leaders.

HISTADRUT LEADER EXPRESSES PERSONAL RESERVATIONS OVER LIKUD HOLDING LABOR PORTFOLIO IN UNITY CABINET

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- Histadrut has taken an official position on the establishment of a Labor-Likud-unity government, according to Yisrael Kessar, Secretary General of the trade unions federation. Kessar admitted, however, to personal reservations over Premier-designate Shimon Peres' agreement to allow Likud to hold the Labor portfolio in a unity cabinet.

The Histadrut Central Committee, which met yesterday, indicated that the composition of the national government will have no bearing on internal political forces at work in Histadrut. Kessar said that the abandonment by Mapam of its Knesset alignment with the Labor Party would be effective only on the national level. Alignment unity is expected to be preserved within Histadrut.

Nevertheless, with the formation of a unity government, Likud is expected to demand a greater say and more posts in Histadrut bodies. It claims today to represent about 30 percent of the union membership. Historically however, Herut, the largest component of Likud, played only a minor role in Histadrut and for a time refused to cooperate with the Labor-led trade unions federation.

BEGIN HOSPITALIZED

JERUSALEM, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- Former Premier Menachem Begin was admitted to the Shaarei Zek-eik Hospital here, suffering from what was described by the hospital as a urological problem. Begin, 71, was undergoing tests and was reported this afternoon as being in satisfactory condition, feeling comfortable and reading newspapers. He was admitted to the hospital after complaining overnight that he did not feel well.

2 TOP B'NAI B'RITH LEADERS SAY REAGAN'S EXPLANATION OF HIS VIEWS ON RELIGION IS NOT SATISFACTORY

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- Two top officials of B'nai B'rith International said, after President Reagan addressed the B'nai B'rith convention last Thursday, that they had not been satisfied by the President's explanation of his controversial views on the relation of religion to the state.

Gerald Kraft, B'nai B'rith president, said Jews were "concerned that in the Administration's approach, that there is this implied, unnecessary pressure to conform" on religious matters. He said that "nothing" President Reagan said in his speech to the convention "addressed that concern in my opinion."

Daniel Thursz, the agency's executive vice-president, said the speech by Democratic Presidential candidate Walter Mondale, who spoke first Thursday morning, largely on the religious issue, "restated a philosophy with which we agree. I think he was clear. He was eloquent."

Thursz said that the President, by contrast, spoke in more general philosophical terms about the importance of separating church and state but, he added, "philosophy is not going to be enough to satisfy the Jewish community."

The concerns cited by Thursz and some delegates involved the President's support of organized prayer in public schools, his backing for inclusion of Nativity scenes in public Yule displays, and his signing recently of a measure to enable religious groups to use public school facilities for meetings.

Reagan's Response To ADL Query

Meanwhile, Reagan, in a statement in response to a letter from Kenneth Bialkin, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said he is "opposed to organized, formal prayer at prescribed times" in the public schools.

Bialkin, who asked whether prayers or religious observance should be officially sanctioned in state operated schools, said his letter to Reagan was prompted by the President's speech at an ecumenical prayer breakfast in Dallas last month, characterizing such opponents as "attacking religion."

Reagan's letter, dated September 2, "Aboard Air Force 1," released by the ADL over this weekend, said, in part:

"I regret very much that the school prayer debate in the Congress came out as an argument for or against some kind of organized, formal prayer at prescribed times. I've never envisioned such a thing and, if I were a parent of public school children, would express myself as opposed to that. Let me interject for a moment here my belief that such things should be determined at the local level where parents can be heard from."

LEADERS FROM 10 ASIAN, PACIFIC JEWISH COMMUNITIES DISCUSS NEED TO UPGRADE JEWISH EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

By Susan Bures

SINGAPORE, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- The vital need to upgrade Jewish educational facilities was the prime concern of leaders from 10 Asian and Pacific Jewish communities meeting here yesterday.

Representatives of Jewish communities in Australia, New Zealand, India, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand,

the Philippines, Japan, Taiwan, and Korea were attending the Asia Pacific Jewish Association (APJA) conference, the second since its inception in 1980. They represent communities ranging in size from 250 in Thailand to 75,000 in Australia.

The conference program covered community reports, an educational report and the recommendations and resolutions for future action. Special guests included the Israel Ambassador to Singapore, Moshe Ben-Yaacov; Israel's Minister for Science, and Development, Yuval Neeman; Tel Aviv University rector Prof. Yoram Dinstein; and Hebrew University professor Zwi Werblowsky.

The APJA president, Isi Leibler of Australia, said that the survival of the small communities in the region depended on ensuring that Jewish children received education both in Jewish religious values and in the concept of K'lal Yisrael, the unity of the Jewish people.

Centrality Of Israel Stressed

All speakers emphasized the centrality of Israel in Jewish education, particularly in the small communities. Dinstein said that whereas in the past the centrality of Israel may have been theoretical, demographically it was now a reality. If the young people of the Asian-Pacific region did not ultimately make aliya, then "none of your descendants will be Jews", he told the delegates.

Neeman likened the Jewish "outposts" in the region to a kind of Hanseatic League with Israel as its center, while Werblowsky said it is often only Israel which serves as a link between the small communities and provides for them a sense of identity.

The gradual erosion of all the communities in the region, with the exception of Australia was detailed in the various communal reports. The once 4000-strong Singapore Jewish community, for example, now numbers less than 300 people, its representative, Jeffrey Pinsler, told the conference.

Other Vital Needs Cited

With the exception of Australia, New Zealand, India and Singapore, or the other Jewish communities tend to be "transient" or "rotational" with a changing Jewish population resident for economic and other reasons and without close ties to the state of residence. This did not allow for any particular sense of communal pride or identity and made the work of education harder, delegates reported.

Lack of rabbinic guidance in many communities led to a suggestion that a "roving rabbi" might be appointed with qualifications as a mohel and schochet, to serve the small Asian Jewish communities.

Newly appointed APJA education officer, Michael Cohen, who has recently toured the region, reported on educational materials available which the communities could use for both education of children and adults.

Cohen, a teacher at Mount Scopus College in Melbourne, one of the largest Jewish day schools in the world, has prepared a series of educational aides including audio-visual materials which can be adapted for use in the small communities. Youngsters from these communities can also participate in camps and education programs in Australia or Israel, and local Jewish studies teachers can look to Australia for training programs, he said.

ALFONSIN SUBMITS ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION TO ARGENTINE CONGRESS

BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 10 (JTA) — President Raul Alfonsin has submitted to the Congress of Argen-

tina a draft law which would punish discrimination on the basis of race or religion in a message to the legislature which makes specific reference to discrimination suffered by "citizens of Jewish origin," the World Jewish Congress reported here.

The draft bill would punish racism and declare null and void any act by which "individuals or groups have been discriminated against because of their race, nationality, religion, sex, ideology, private acts or physical characteristics."

According to the Latin American branch of the WJC, the introduction to the draft bill last week, which was proposed by Alfonsin and the Minister of Education and Justice, Dr. Carlos Alconada Aramburu, makes reference to anti-Semitic propaganda and attacks that have taken place against schools, temples and businesses of the Jewish community.

Article 16 of the draft law stipulates that "anyone who harasses individuals or groups of individuals because of their race, religion, nationality, or ideology will be punished by six months to three years of prison; and that the same penalty will apply to those who incite such acts of harassment."

The message to the legislature accompanying the draft speaks of "the commitment of the democratic government to respect and promote human rights." It further states that "discrimination and harassment because of color, national origin, sex, beliefs, private acts, or physical characteristics are deeply irrational attitudes" and specifically mentions those suffered by "citizens of Jewish origin or those belonging to certain Protestant sects."

JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS, RABBIS DENOUNCE KAHANE

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 10 (JTA) — Jewish community leaders here have denounced recently elected Knesset member Rabbi Meir Kahane whose Kach Party demands the ouster of all Arabs from Israel. Kahane, who recently visited the U.S., was also strongly repudiated by the Chicago Board of Rabbis.

Marshall Grossman, chairman of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation-Council of Greater Los Angeles, joined with leaders of local Jewish organizations to condemn Kahane's "message of racism and bigotry."

"The organized Jewish community of Los Angeles unreservedly condemns Meir Kahane," Grossman said. "There can be no hesitation, no ambiguity, no equivocation in voicing our rejection and condemnation." The area leaders of the American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Board of Rabbis of Southern California, Hadassah, ORT, and the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S. expressed their revulsion at a press conference here.

Kahane, Grossman said, "violates both the letter and the spirit of Israel's declaration of independence which accords freedom and equality of citizenship to all people regardless of race and religion ... and is also antithetical to Jewish law, tradition, ethics and morality and our belief in democratic values."

Rabbi Herbert Bronstein, president of the Chicago Board of Rabbis, declared that his body "repudiates the extremist and virulent campaign of hatred and intolerance of Rabbi Meir Kahane and considers it a desecration of the fundamental values of Judaism."

LATE BULLETIN: TEL AVIV (JTA) — The Labor Party's Central Committee Monday night voted 394-166 to participate in the unity government to be headed by Shimon Peres. The meeting was stormy, marked by sharp criticism of the unity accord. Peres vowed that his government will withdraw the Israeli troops from south Lebanon.

MEMBERS OF MISSION TO NICARAGUA DIFFER OVER THAT GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TOWARD ITS JEWISH COMMUNITY

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Sept. 10 (JTA) — Whether the ruling Sandinista junta in Nicaragua has practiced a deliberate policy of harassment and persecution of the tiny Jewish community there since the overthrow of the Somoza government in 1979 was the subject of debate at a news conference here last week.

Rabbi Marshall Meyer, founding rector of the Latin America Rabbinical Assembly in Buenos Aires and a member of President Raul Alfonsin's commission on disappeared persons in Argentina, asserted that during his recently concluded five-day visit to Nicaragua he found "no policy of anti-Semitism" on the part of the Sandinista government.

However, Meyer's views on the situation in Nicaragua were challenged by a member of the 13-person delegation, which included Meyer, that visited Managua under the auspices of the New Jewish Agenda (NJA). Rabbi Francis Barry Silberg of Congregation Emanu-el B'ne Jeshurun in Milwaukee, in a statement issued toward the conclusion of the news conference last Thursday, said:

"While there appears to have been no program of persecution of Jews in Nicaragua, the Sandinista by a variety of actions have certainly created a climate of concern sufficient for the mass emigration of Jews after the 'triumph of the revolution.'" The latter phrase is a reference to the 1979 overthrow of the Somoza government.

Effort To Ascertain The Facts

The delegation spent five days in Nicaragua last August meeting with government officials, opposition leaders and other personalities in an effort to substantiate charges leveled by President Reagan and others that the Sandinista government has singled out the Jewish community for persecution.

Reagan, at a White House meeting last summer, said that "virtually the entire Jewish community has been frightened into exile" by the Sandinistas. According to Meyer, this was a "ploy" by the Administration in an effort to gain American Jewish support for U.S. policies in Central America where the American government has supported rebel forces seeking to overthrow the government in Nicaragua.

The issue of Nicaraguan anti-Semitism was the subject of considerable attention last year when Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, Latin American affairs director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, publicly charged that the Nicaraguan government has singled out the Jewish community for harassment and claimed among other things that the synagogue in Managua, Nicaragua's only synagogue, had been confiscated and turned into a children's center.

There were some 150 Jews in Nicaragua before the 1972 earthquake in Managua. Many left the country after the earthquake and others left during the fighting that preceded the overthrow of the Somoza regime. There are perhaps fewer than 10 Jews in Nicaragua today.

'Excesses' Acknowledged By Government Officials

But Meyer, who just assumed the post of vice president of the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, said he could not find a policy of anti-Semitism in Nicaragua. However, according to Meyer, leading government officials acknowledged that there were "excesses" by the military in the early stages of the

new government. He said he viewed such an acknowledgment as a positive development. The exiled Jewish community of Nicaragua, based in Miami, has claimed, among other things that they had their property confiscated and that the synagogue was taken over by the government and plastered with anti-Israel and anti-Zionist propaganda. Abraham Gorn, the head of the Jewish community there, was arrested and forced to sweep the streets of Managua before fleeing the country.

But Meyer, and Hector Timmerman, a member of the board of America's Watch, a human rights organization, asserted that the scenario painted by the exiles is misleading. They noted, for example, that other persons had been ordered to sweep the streets when held in custody and that Gorn was not singled out for this task because he was Jewish.

Issue Of Confiscated Property

With regard to the confiscation of property, this was attributed to a decree promulgated by the Sandinistas after the revolution which called for taking properties from persons who had economic ties with the Somoza regime. The law calls for such action when it could be shown that persons had close or significant economic ties with the Somoza regime or family, according to Albert Stern, chairperson of the NJA advisory board and a Cleveland businessman, who was a member of the delegation to Nicaragua, and present at the news conference at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue.

Meyer noted that the Sandinista government has maintained that those who wish to have their cases reviewed are free to return to the country and have their claims heard before a judicial body. Timmerman offered to travel back to Nicaragua with members of the exiled Jewish community to aid in this effort.

The NJA issued a 17-page report on the conclusions of the mission to Nicaragua saying they found that "charges of Nicaraguan government anti-Semitism cannot be supported" and that there is no evidence that the government is pursuing at this time or has in the past pursued "a policy of discrimination or coercion against Jews, or that Jewish people are not welcome to live and work in Nicaragua."

Rabbi Silberg did not sign the NJA report. The NJA delegation met with members of the exiled Nicaraguan Jewish community in Miami before continuing on to Managua. The conclusions of the NJA mission have been challenged by Rosenthal as well as the exiled Nicaraguan Jewish community in Miami in separate statements issued last month.

SALVAGE OPERATION TO RETRIEVE BODIES OF SEAMEN IN SUBMARINE SUNK 42 YEARS AGO

TEL AVIV, Sept. 10 (JTA) — The Italian Navy salvage ship Anteo will spend the next three weeks in Haifa bay, sending divers to determine whether it is possible to retrieve the bodies of 58 seamen who went down with the Italian submarine Scire there 42 years ago, during World War II.

The Scire was sunk by shore batteries at Haifa, manned by British forces and Jewish volunteers in 1942. She entered Haifa bay to attack British warships which had been moved there from Alexandria at a time when Field Marshal Irwin Rommel's Afrika Korps appeared likely to capture the Egyptian port city.