

SEVEN TERRORISTS KILLED, THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN LEBANON

TEL AVIV, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- Seven terrorists were killed and three Israel Defense Force soldiers were wounded in two separate incidents in south Lebanon around midnight.

The three soldiers were wounded in a clash with three terrorists who were trying to cross the Awali River. The Israelis opened fire and killed two of the terrorists. The third terrorist threw a grenade at the IDF patrol, which exploded and wounded two soldiers. In chasing the third terrorist, the other IDF soldier slipped on the steep rocky hillside and was injured. Other IDF soldiers in the patrol chased the terrorist and killed him.

At about the same time, another IDF patrol in the Barouk mountain area clashed with another terrorist group. Two terrorists were killed on the spot and two others were killed while attempting to flee. There were no Israeli casualties in this incident.

MAJOR TERRORIST CAPTURED, ENDING A 14-YEAR MANHUNT

JERUSALEM, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- A senior leader of Al Fatah, Ali Hali Ribai, who had been the subject of a 14-year manhunt by Israeli security forces, has been captured, it was announced here today.

Ribai was arrested in Dura, south of Hebron, three weeks ago but news of the arrest was withheld until now. Ribai managed to escape when his underground cell was uncovered by security forces in the early 1970's and evaded capture since by hiding in caves of the Hebron Hills and the Judean desert. He was armed when arrested.

Several other Arabs have been arrested in the Hebron Hills and the Jerusalem area, allegedly for helping Ribai to evade capture. He would emerge periodically to recruit, train and supply other Fatah members.

HISTADRUT REJECTS GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL FOR AN ECONOMIC PACKAGE
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- Histadrut, Israel's powerful labor federation, last night rejected the unity government's proposal for a package agreement developed in the government's strenuous efforts to bring Israel's raging inflation under control. The rejection came at the close of more than six hours of negotiations involving representatives of the Histadrut, the government and employers.

The rejected plan called for a one-third cut in cost-of-living increments for the next four months, with workers compensated by a five percent cut in their income taxes and a price freeze for the next six weeks. During that period, the government would preserve its right to impose new taxes and more subsidy reductions.

Haim Haberfeld, chairman of the Histadrut trade union department, declared that "these proposals cannot be a basis for negotiating a package deal," and called them "totally unacceptable."

Despite the opposition of the Histadrut and the government's declared intention to introduce the package proposal by November 1, Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai radiated enthusiasm this morning, asserting agreement could be reached by tonight.

Eli Hurwitz, chairman of the committee of economic organization, was more cautious. He said that by the November 1 target date, certain agreements "could" be signed, and that, contrary to Haberfeld, he thought there was a firm basis for the negotiations as they continued today.

Total Price Freeze Demanded

Meanwhile, the Histadrut's Central Committee decided today to demand a total freeze on prices, including subsidized products, wages and taxes. The committee said the Histadrut would not sign any agreement unless the government could guarantee total control of the requested freeze. But observers said that even if the government agreed to the freeze, the government lacked the personnel to conduct effective price controls.

Yisrael Kessar, Histadrut secretary general, told the Central Committee that the Histadrut came near a decision to boycott the talks because of a strange development which was tagged "The Night of the Frozen Poultry."

Early Tuesday, the Treasury made a surprise announcement that prices on frozen poultry and meat would rise by 90 to 95 percent. After a loud consumer outcry, and complaints by Deputy Premier David Levy, the Treasury reduced the increase by nearly three-quarters -- to 24 percent.

Kessar promptly charged that the government had joined "those who raised prices without any control" and that it had "lost all sensitivity to the workers."

None of the ministers involved admitted being the "culprit" in the great poultry mystery.

WESLEYAN STUDENT BUDGET COMMITTEE ADVISED TO RETAIN IN ITS ALLOCATIONS TO STUDENT GROUPS THE \$2,000 FOR AN APPEARANCE OF FARRAKHAN
By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- The Wesleyan Student Assembly (WSA) last night voted 16-7 in what was described as an "advisory opinion" recommending that the Student Budget Committee retain in its allocations to Wesleyan University student groups the \$2,000 requested by a Black student organization for an appearance of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

A final vote by the Student Budget Committee is expected on October 31. The WSA action followed two days of voting on a student referendum that rejected the budget allocations for 84 student groups at the Middletown, Conn., university. The referendum was a vote on the entire student budget, not specifically the Farrakhan allocation, although the referendum was initiated because of the funds requested for a Farrakhan appearance.

"While each member of the Wesleyan Student Assembly voted for or against the funding request for individual or personal reasons, a common theme throughout the discussion was the need for the Assembly

to protect the rights of minorities, as is consistent with the Assembly's judicial responsibilities," the WSA said in a statement released this morning.

Continuing, it said: "The Assembly was forced to waive the rights of individual students and student groups and the expression of majority opinion. Our final decision was a difficult one. The Assembly's action is not intended to disregard or offend a majority of students voting in the recent referendum."

Ujaama, the Black student organization at Wesleyan, is expected to issue a statement on the controversy after the October 31 vote by the Student Budget Committee. Ujaama last night again requested the Committee to adopt a budget including funding for Farakhan. Ujaama has yet to issue a formal invitation to the Nation of Islam leader.

According to a university spokesman, the Student Committee was deadlocked on the issue and, in turn, sought advisory opinion from its parent organization, the WSA.

FBI Probing Threatening Phone Calls

Meanwhile, the FBI is continuing to investigate threatening phone calls that have been made to university officials and students at Wesleyan. Bobby Wayne Clark, director of public information and publications at Wesleyan, said the calls began on October 10 when the controversy began, and while they are not currently as numerous, they do continue to be received.

"We are concerned and deeply troubled by threats to members of the student body and members of the administration," Clark said. "We are concerned by tensions it brings to the student body."

FRENCH PREMIER SAYS HIS GOVERNMENT WILL COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM AND RACISM

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Oct. 25 (JTA) — Premier Laurent Fabius today assured the president of the Representative Council of Major Jewish Organizations in France, Theo Klein, that his government will do all it can to fight anti-Semitism and racism. Fabius also told Klein that his administration is determined to continue improving its relations with Israel.

Fabius reportedly said he hoped that the forthcoming visit to France of Israeli Premier Shimon Peres will also help to consolidate relations between the two countries.

Peres is scheduled to arrive in France December 4 for a three-day official visit and will remain for three more days as the guest of the French Jewish community. He will be welcomed at Orly Airport by Fabius and will be the lunch guest of President Francois Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace.

Fabius and Klein discussed today the implications of Peres' visit and also reviewed France's policy in the Middle East.

RABIN: IDF COULD WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON IN 6-9 MONTHS ONCE THE GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO WITHDRAW

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 25 (JTA) — Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told a television interview program last night that he still thought the Israel Defense Force could withdraw from Lebanon in six to nine months once the government decides to withdraw, but it was not yet known when such a decision would be taken. He indicated it might take some months before a definite decision would be reached.

He is to present a preliminary report to the Ministerial Security Committee this week, and to the full Cabinet next week.

Rabin said he was not surprised or disappointed by the preliminary Syrian reaction to Israeli proposals for indirect talks with Syria, via the United States, on security arrangements for Israel in Lebanon.

Rabin said he thought it would be possible to reach such an agreement whereby the Syrians would not move south from the lines presently held by the IDF, and would prevent the passage southwards of PLO fighters and terrorists. Rabin said a political solution must be found, because a military solution would be worse.

He said that while Israel would not allow terrorists to approach the Israeli border, the IDF could not guarantee that no single Katyusha rocket would ever be launched from Lebanese territory towards Israel.

In an address to some 400 United Jewish Appeal delegates in Jerusalem this week, Rabin had said that Syria appeared ready for indirect talks with Israel via the U.S.

It was the Syrians negative reactions to this statement that he referred to when he said he was neither surprised nor disappointed by the Damascus reaction.

Rabin said Syria held the key to a settlement in Lebanon, and it was a pity that both the U.S. and Israel had overlooked this fact in previous agreements and arrangements with and on Lebanon. He said Syria's role in maintaining peace when this was in Damascus interests was shown by the peaceful situation on the Golan Heights.

Peace Is Not A Favor

A similar view was expressed by Premier Shimon Peres when he told a group of 40 diplomats stationed in Israel that if Syria agrees to negotiate a settlement in Lebanon it would not be merely in the nature of a favor to Israel or to Lebanon. He suggested that a settlement would bring "peace for Galilee, peace for Beirut and peace for Damascus." The problem, he told the diplomats today, was not in finding a partner for negotiations, but rather to find an opening position which would be acceptable to both partners.

Asked by the Canadian Ambassador if there was any news regarding possible negotiations between Israel and Jordan, Peres replied: "There is a problem of credibility, how to enable Jordan to understand that we are sincere in our wish to open negotiations without prior conditions, and also not being over-demanding."

Therefore, Peres suggested, Israel's challenge is to persuade Jordan that peace can be built in stages and not in one big "jump with a magic solution to all the problems."

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Trades union delegates from the People's Republic of China, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Indonesia, none of which have diplomatic relations with Israel, are among the some 300 delegates to the Fourth World Congress of the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers Federation meeting here this week. The congress is the first such gathering in Israel. Its delegates represent some 5.5 million workers around the world.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Knesset on Wednesday adopted 19 Prisoners of Zion in the USSR, among them those who are still awaiting trial because of their Zionism.

A First In American Jewish Life: UNIFIED PRAYER BOOK ISSUED FOR U.S. JEWISH MILITARY AND VA PERSONNEL

NEW YORK, Oct. 25 (JTA) — For the first time in American Jewish life, Orthodox, Reform and Conservative rabbis have prepared a unified prayer book for Jewish members of the U.S. armed forces and patients in Veterans Administration hospitals.

The historic announcement was made this week by Rabbi Barry Greene of Short Hills, N.J., chairman of the JWB Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy, under whose aegis the common prayer book was prepared.

"There has been a JWB prayer book for Jewish personnel of the U.S. armed forces for many years," Greene said. "But this prayer book has had two services, one traditional, the other liberal. Last issued in 1958, this edition is in short supply.

"The Religious Education Advisory Group (Jewish) of the Armed Forces Chaplain Board asked the Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy of JWB to form an editorial committee that would create a prayer book for Jewish personnel in keeping with the needs of a new generation of Americans.

"The Chaplaincy Commission leaders felt that one service acceptable to all Jewish personnel would be our goal. We selected three distinguished scholars — Rabbis Leonard Kravitz, Gilbert Klaperman and Max Routtenberg — representing the Reform, Orthodox and Conservative rabbinates, respectively, and asked them to concentrate their efforts on developing a unified prayer book.

"This was not an easy task. The Hebrew text was taken from the prayer book prepared by the late rabbi, Dr. David de Sola Pool. The English text was taken largely from the Shaare Tefila ('Gates of Prayer') prayer book."

Two Years In The Making

The new unified prayer book was two years in the making. The three editors were able to resolve their theological differences so that the prayer book reflects unity, Greene said.

"What were some of the problems the editors faced?" Routtenberg, the Conservative member of the editorial committee, was asked during an interview.

"Resolving theological differences," he answered, "such as on the questions of resurrection, sacrifice, anthropomorphism and angelology. The compromise we reached was that we would respect the traditional Hebrew text but we would feel free to use a modern and poetic translation."

Not Designed For Civilian Use

Rabbi Herschel Schacter, Orthodox scholar and former chairman of JWB's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy, said "I want to emphasize that the prayer book is designed exclusively for use by U.S. Jewish military personnel and those in the V.A. As far as civilian Jewish life is concerned, it is not a breakthrough, since each religious group has its own prayer book."

Schacter added, "The Hebrew text of the new prayer book is, of course, traditional. The English is not an exact translation but a free rendition of the Hebrew." Routtenberg noted that the new prayer book is enriched with many more personal prayers than the existing prayer book contains.

"Examples of these personal prayers are for the about-to-be married couple and the Bar and Bat Mitzvah and those that reflect the reality of Israel," he said.

Greene, who is also chairman of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR-Reform) delegation to the JWB Chaplaincy Commission, added, "Except for references to God, the new prayer book is non-sexist."

JWB president Esther Leah Ritz said that "The Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy of JWB has always fascinated me. Here are Orthodox, Reform and Conservative rabbis working together for the Jewish well-being of our personnel in the U.S. military and hospitalized V.A. patients. The publication of this new, unified prayer book, a most significant achievement, is the latest in JWB/CJC's endeavors along this line."

The preface to the new prayer book notes that "This prayer book is not intended for the general use of the civilian population. Its shortened and compact form has been designed specifically for military congregations. Jewish service personnel are encouraged to possess a more complete prayer book for their personal devotions and study."

Will Be Ready For Distribution Next Month

The Armed Forces Chaplain Board of the U.S. Department of Defense coordinated all the technical aspects of production of the unified prayer book and underwrote its printing.

Rabbi David Lapp, director of the JWB Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy, said that the new prayer book will be ready for distribution through military channels within the next three to four weeks.

The Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy of JWB is the sole Jewish ecclesiastical endorsing agency which accredits qualified rabbis for service as chaplains and approves Jewish military personnel for service as chaplain leaders.

The JWB Commission is made up of representatives of the Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox), the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform), and the Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative).

AN OBJECT LESSON

NEW YORK, Oct. 25 (JTA) — Nicaragua's support of the recent Iranian proposal in the United Nations General Assembly to expel Israel from the United Nations is "an object lesson for those who wish to believe that the Sandinistas desire rapprochement with Israel," according to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

In a statement by Abraham Foxman, ADL's associate national director and head of its International Affairs Division, the ADL said "the test of their intentions is in their actions."

Foxman said that by joining the Soviet and Arab bloc in their attempts to suspend Israel from the General Assembly, Nicaragua had "reaffirmed her hostility to Israel."

The Nicaraguan action, he went on to say, exposed "the hollowness of assurances given to visiting American Jews by Nicaraguan officials that 'the Sandinista government does not question Israel's legitimacy'."

The expulsion attempt failed when the UN Assembly voted 80-41 with 22 abstentions to adopt a motion by Denmark to set aside the Iranian proposal to reject Israel's credentials, which came up for approval along with those of 126 other countries in the General Assembly.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israeli soldiers are now bigger than they were. An article in this week's issue of Bamachane, the army weekly, says that new recruits now need shoes and boots size 41/44 and 42/45 according to the European measurements used in Israel, compared with size 41 and 42 ten years ago. Trousers and shirts are now also larger than they were a decade ago.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF PORTUGAL

By Milton Jacoby

LISBON, Oct. 25 (JTA) — "Each one of our Jews represents a minyan," Dr. Joshua Ruah, head of the Portuguese Jewish community, said with pride as he and this reporter entered the imposing 82-year-old synagogue here for Yom Kippur services. He was referring to the striking fact that there are only 300 Jews in the entire country, but that every non-Jew believes the figure to be at least 10 times higher.

Indeed, at least 75 to 85 percent of the actual number of Jews was present in this graceful edifice for observances conducted by the vigorous Moroccan-born Rabbi Assor for the past 35 years. The service is Sephardic, but perhaps half the congregation is Ashkenazic, representing families who found asylum here from Eastern European oppression during World War II.

An extraordinary aspect of the rites was the presence of several Marranos from the village of Belmonte in central Portugal, where they and their ancestors have lived for the past five centuries, ever since the Inquisition had compelled them to profess Christianity, while they practiced their Judaic faith in secret.

The opprobrious term Marrano (swine) applied to them by the religious bigots has followed them through the corridors of time. It was a touching sight to see these upstanding fathers and sons, who still till the soil as their forefathers did, coming a long way to the big city to worship openly alongside their compatriots.

Pride In The Community

Ruah is proud of the community he heads. "We may be the smallest in Europe," he said, "but somehow we have managed to convince the Portuguese people that we are a far, far larger group than we actually are, and that we are a strong force for the good." He noted that "none of us are millionaires, but perhaps upper middle class. Many of us are in business, but we include several doctors like myself, engineers, economists, and professors, but only one lawyer."

Ruah has been the head of the community here since 1978, succeeding Prof. Moses Amzalak who led it for more than a half-century. His congregation is highly organized and provided with many amenities, including a cultural center, an additional small Ashkenazic synagogue, medical care for the aged, and a kosher kitchen. The Jewish cemetery is being reconstructed with some financial aid from the Lisbon municipality.

An Anomaly In Lisbon

An anomaly is the fact that there is an Israel Embassy in Lisbon, but no Portuguese Embassy in Tel Aviv. Security at the Embassy is especially tight ever since Ephraim Eldar, the then Ambassador, was shot in an assassination attempt by Arab terrorists some years ago.

Relations between the Arab world and Portugal are most cordial, and Lisbon Jews point with some apprehension to the existence of a Palestine Liberation Organization office in their midst. There is a weekly El Al flight to Israel and constant visiting of relatives between the two countries.

Ruah pointed out that after the Six-Day War, this was either the first or second (per capita) in the amount of contributions rushed to Israel. He vigorously maintains that standard of dedication to Israel in the exercise of his office. An observer can only agree with him that, indeed, every Portuguese Jew counts for ten.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW A VERY INFLUENTIAL RABBI IN ISRAEL

By Simeon Baker

JERUSALEM, Oct. 25 (JTA) — Rabbi Eliezer Schach, the illustrious dean of the famous Yeshiva of Ponivezh in Bnai Brak, is very influential in the internal politics of Israel.

He reads no newspapers, nor does he listen to radio news. He needs very little sleep and for long hours during the day and night he is busy learning the Torah and Musar (Morals). He delivers Shiurim (lessons) in his own yeshiva of Bnai Brak and in other yeshivas. He is the chairman of Vaad Hayeshivas in Jerusalem and of a number of other educational institutions.

Schach, who is in his eighties, is the recognized leader par excellence of the Lithuanian Torah World. One of the greatest Talmudic scholars of our time, he was a yeshiva dean in pre-war Poland and arrived in Palestine in 1941, during World War II, from Vilna.

For many years, he derived his strong political influence from being one of the chairmen of the Council of Torah Sages of Agudat Israel. The other chairman is the Rebbe of Gur.

Shortly before the last Knesset elections, Schach resigned from the Council of Sages. He gave no reason for his sudden resignation. But his close confidants told me, during a recent visit to Israel, that he was unhappy with the attitudes of his co-chairman, the Gerer Rebbe.

Actually, they represent two worlds. Schach is the undisputed leader and top spokesman for the "Litvak Yeshivas" of the "Misnagdim" (opponents of the Hasidic movement) camp, while the Rebbe of Gur, Rabbi Simcha Bunim Alter, enjoys the unshakable admiration of his Hasidim.

Leading Politicians Seek Rabbi's Advice

Leading politicians of Israel's various parties have tried hard to see Schach in order to hear his advice and get him on their side. He has turned them down. His closest adviser and confidant is Rabbi Shlomo Lorincz of the Aguda, who is of Hungarian origin and who studied, before World War II, at the well-known "Lithuanian" Yeshiva of Mir, which was then part of Poland.

When I recently visited Schach in his small apartment adjoining the Ponivezh Yeshiva in Bnai Brak, the entrance was full of people — from Israel and the United States — who were waiting to receive his blessings. Although he usually doesn't receive journalists for interviews, he greeted this reporter with a friendly smile. It was previously agreed that we would have a "conversation".

Schach stressed, during our conversation, that "only the observance of the Torah can guarantee the existence of the Jewish people." He continued: "The existence of Israel will be assured if the Jews will observe the Shabes. Unfortunately, nowadays, there are many houses that are empty of Jewish contents. Assimilation also prevails in Israel."

Schach pointed out that the "Jews shouldn't tease the goyim because until the arrival of the Messiah we are all in golus (exile.) Also Israel is in golus — in Golus America." The principle of not teasing the Gentiles is, according to him, relevant to all situations.

The hatred toward the Jews, he declared, has not decreased with the establishment of the State of Israel. The reverse is true. It is on the rise because the Gentiles are envious. Jews shouldn't tease the Soviets either, he said.

To my question whether or not he intends to visit the United States, he gave a negative answer. He jokingly said: "I am a Zionist, who lives only in Israel."