



3 IDF SOLDIERS KILLED IN LEBANON; ISRAELI PLANES HIT TERRORIST TARGETS FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE DAY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 11 (JTA) — The Israel Defense Force sustained three fatalities in south Lebanon yesterday and four soldiers were slightly wounded. The Israel Air Force meanwhile struck at terrorist targets in the Bekaa valley today for the second successive day.

A military spokesman said two reserve soldiers were killed by a roadside explosive only two kilometers north of the Israeli border town of Metullah in Upper Galilee yesterday and one was killed when his patrol was ambushed near the Zaharani River.

Military sources said four soldiers have been killed and 18 wounded in south Lebanon in the last 10 days during which there were 51 attacks or attempted attacks on IDF units. The IDF death toll now stands at 611 since the invasion of Lebanon in June, 1982.

The Air Force today hit the same area in the Bekaa valley that it bombed yesterday. The latest target was identified as the command post of the Abu Moussa, leader of the Syrian-backed Palestine Liberation Organization dissidents opposed to Yasir Arafat. It consisted of a tent camp, huts and an anti-aircraft battery. The target of yesterday's raid was identified as the local headquarters of Nayef Hawatmeh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Raids Called Preventive Action

Although the air attacks were aimed at Palestinian terrorists, military sources acknowledge that most of the recent attacks on the IDF are believed to have come from Lebanese Shiite Moslems.

Premier Shimon Peres indicated, however, that the latest air raids were preventive measures. "Whenever we have concrete information about a group of terrorists preparing to cross the border or to cause some damage, we take preventive action," Peres said yesterday.

Rabin Cites 'Plonta' in Lebanon

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin addressed himself to what he called the "plonta" (Yiddish for mess) in Lebanon and admitted there was no "ideal solution." He told an audience in Haifa, "The plonta is a serious plonta" and the phased withdrawal of the IDF from south Lebanon is the least of possible evils.

Rabin explained that the IDF's strength lay in offensive operations. Withdrawal make it vulnerable. Israeli soldiers are thinly spread in south Lebanon and make an easy target.

He noted that the Shiite suicide bomb phenomenon could become a serious problem. It inflicted heavy losses on U.S. and French forces in Lebanon in 1983 and around Beirut. There have been five suicide car-bomb attempts on the IDF, Rabin said, adding that he was not sure this was the end of them.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir maintained, however, that yesterday's attack that cost the lives of two soldiers near Metullah, almost within walking distance of the Israel border, was evidence that the IDF should not be withdrawn from Lebanon at this time.

Military correspondents suggested that the opposite may be true. They said the terrorist attacks appear to be signalling Israel that as long as the IDF stays in Lebanon its soldiers will be targets. They noted there have been no terrorist attacks inside Israel.

PERES TELLS WEST BANK SETTLERS: THERE WILL BE NO COMPROMISE ON SECURITY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 11 (JTA) — West Bank settlers who have been demanding tougher security measures in the territory were assured by Premier Shimon Peres yesterday that despite differences over the future of the West Bank, there will be no compromise over its security.

Peres met for the first time since taking office with the mayors of 15 Jewish settlements and other local leaders and activists. He made no specific promises in response to their demands for harsh treatment of Arabs who agitate or perpetrate violence. They left the hour-long meeting at the Prime Minister's Office apparently satisfied but said they would "wait and see" if Peres' assurances are translated into greater security.

The Premier suggested that the settlers distinguish between what they call Eretz Israel (Land of Israel) and the security of Israel. They seemed to agree when he asked rhetorically, "The settlements were not established as a counter-terrorist measure, were they?", adding, "So I suggest that you don't make terrorism a political issue because by doing so you serve the interests of the terrorists."

Unity in Fighting Against Terrorism

Peres declared that despite the debate over the future of the territories there is unity in the fight against terrorism. He noted that previous governments had to contend with terrorism and that Israel is not the only country to experience the phenomenon. "In England there is no national debate about England and yet the Prime Minister was almost killed in a terrorist attack," Peres said.

With respect to the political aspects of the debate, he reminded the settlers that in order to protect Jews one must also protect the Jewish nature of Israel.

The settlers have made a number of demands in the past week. They want Arab agitators deported, the houses of Arab terrorists demolished and the establishment of a civil guard in the territory, similar to the volunteer civil guard that operates in Israel proper. So far, none of these demands has been met. Security sources indicated that the deportation of Arabs from the territories was a complicated legal matter.

SIX ISRAELIS WHO MET WITH ARAFAT IN TUNIS COULD FACE PROSECUTION FOR ENDANGERING NATIONAL SECURITY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 11 (JTA) — Six Israelis — three Jews and three Arabs — confirmed last night foreign press reports that they met with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat in Tunis over the

weekend. They could face prosecution for endangering national security. Rightwing members of the Knesset are already demanding that the two MKs in the group be stripped of their immunity and put on trial.

The delegation consisted of members of the Progressive List for Peace, a coalition of Jewish leftists and Israeli Arab nationalists which won two Knesset seats in last July's elections. They are Gen. (Res.) Matiyahu Peled and Muhammed Miari, both Knesset members; former MK Uri Avneri; Dr. Yaacov Arnon; Kamel Kaher, a lawyer; and the Rev. Riah Abu-El-Asal.

The delegation said they met with Arafat at the headquarters he established in Tunis after he was forced to leave Beirut in 1982. They said Arafat promised to disclose details of Israeli prisoners and missing soldiers in return for permission by the Israeli authorities to allow the re-burial in Hebron of its deposed mayor, Fahd Kawasme.

Kawasme, who held a high position in the PLO executive ranks after the Israelis ousted him from the West Bank, was assassinated in Amman, Jordan in December. He was buried there.

The Defense Ministry said its position is that "only when missing Israel Defense Force soldiers are returned to Israel will permission be granted to bury Fahd Kawasme in Hebron."

The delegation members complained that although they paid for use of the VIP lounge at Ben Gurion Airport for a press conference after their return from Tunis, the media was banned from that part of the terminal. As a consequence, they had to talk to reporters out of doors, surrounded by an angry crowd of hecklers who hurled insults and threats at them.

Police Asked To Investigate

Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir, meanwhile, has asked the police to investigate the delegation's visit to Arafat to determine whether it endangered State security. If the police find it did, members of the delegation could be prosecuted.

No action was ever taken in the past against Avneri, and other prominent Israelis who met with Arafat or other PLO representatives abroad because those contacts were not found to be a breach of security.

The meeting was criticized today by Labor MKs and stridently denounced by Likud and Tehiya spokesmen who demanded that Peled and Miari be placed on trial. Peled said he knew the PLO was considered an "enemy" but observed that it was necessary to talk to one's enemy in order to make peace.

Avneri said in a television interview today that the delegation proposed to Arafat convening an international conference on the Palestinian problem with the participation of Israel, the PLO, the U.S., and Soviet Union and other Arab states to search for a diplomatic solution. He stressed that this was their proposal, not an idea floated by the Israeli government. He said Arafat did not reject it out of hand and said he would discuss it with his colleagues.

ISRAEL LAUNCHES DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE REGARDING SPAIN'S ENTRY INTO THE EEC

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 11 (JTA) -- Three Israeli leaders will be going abroad within the next two weeks to wage what has been described as a diplomatic offensive with respect to the terms under which Spain is to be admitted to the European Economic Community (EEC).

Israel has a special interest inasmuch as it sees Spain as its most serious competitor in agricultural exports, especially citrus, to the European market. Spain's entry into the EEC has already been delayed and the issue will top the agenda of Premier Shimon Peres when he visits Italy early next week.

Italy presently holds the rotating chairmanship of the EEC and, like Israel, seeks to delay Spain's acceptance into the European Common Market for similar reasons.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir is scheduled to go to Europe in two weeks. He is to meet with the Foreign Ministers of France, West Germany and Holland in hopes of obtaining their support of Israel's proposed conditions for Spain's entry into the EEC.

President Chaim Herzog has left on a five-day visit to Luxembourg, France and Belgium and will address the Parliament of Europe tomorrow. He will meet with EEC officials as well. Pierre Pflimlin, President of the Parliament, rejected a demand by the Palestine Liberation Organization that it give them equal time and invite Yasir Arafat to address the international body.

Herzog and his wife, Ora, will dine with King Baudouin of Belgium in Brussels. They will meet with Jewish leaders in the three European capitals they visit.

FJA BOARD APPROVES \$25,000 GRANT TO JDC FOR FAMINE RELIEF IN ETHIOPIA

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 11 (JTA) -- The Board of Trustees of the Federation of Jewish Agencies of Greater Philadelphia has unanimously approved a grant of \$25,000 to be sent to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for use in famine-stricken Ethiopia.

"Hunger and suffering are specters that are covering the entire Ethiopian country. Untold thousands of helpless people are starving and dying. As members of the Jewish community, we feel that we are, indeed, all of our brothers' keepers and this grant is for the relief of Ethiopians in need no matter their creed or religion," the Federation leaders, headed by Bennett Aaron, Federation president, declared.

REAGAN AND FAHD INDICATE DIFFERENT CONCEPTS OF ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11 (JTA) -- President Reagan and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia met at the White House today and expressed the close friendship and cooperation between their two countries while indicating their different concepts of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"I continue to believe that a just and lasting settlement based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 is within reach," Reagan said in his welcoming remarks on the south lawn of the White House. "The security of Israel and other nations of the region and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people should be addressed in direct negotiations. It is time to put this tragedy to rest and turn the page to a new and happier chapter."

But Fahd, claiming that the Palestinian people were "victims of an unjust aggression," declared that "the Palestinian problem is the single problem that is of paramount concern to the whole Arab nation and affects the relations of its people and countries with the outside world. I hope, Mr. President, that your Administration will support the just cause of the Palestinian people."

Reagan stressed that "together, our considerable influence and our moral suasion can, at the very least, decrease the threat of war. If the Saudi and American governments focus their energies, progress can be made, especially in the lingering dispute between Israel and her Arab neighbors."

Reagan did not mention Lebanon but Fahd touched on the issue briefly. "The problem of Lebanon needs to be addressed in such a way that would guarantee the withdrawal of Israel from Lebanese territory and the achievement of Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity and full independence," he said.

During a picture-taking session in the Oval Office, Reagan said he was "optimistic" about his talks with Fahd "since the main thing we seek is to establish and make plain our great friendship for each other." Fahd said, "We have to think about a solution for all the issues and problems that confront us in that region."

Reagan, in the Oval Office and in his welcoming speech, stressed that Fahd was the first leader from the Middle East to come to Washington since his second inauguration.

Fahd, apologizing for his poor English, spoke in Arabic after a 21-gun salute which marked the start of his official week-long visit to Washington, the first by a ruling monarch of Saudi Arabia since King Faisal came here in 1971. Both Reagan and Fahd noted the "warm personal relationship" between their two countries that has existed ever since President Roosevelt met with Fahd's father, King Ibn Saud, 40 years ago.

HUSSEIN AND ARAFAT REPORTEDLY REACH ACCORD ON JOINT FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 11 (JTA) — King Hussein of Jordan and Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat have reached agreement on a joint framework for negotiations with Israel, according to a report from Amman today by Jordan's official news agency, Petra, which gave no details other than saying the two men had discussed the "reality of the Palestine issue in the occupied territory and in the international arena."

The report took West Bank Palestinian leaders by surprise and their reactions tonight were cautious and, in some cases, skeptical. There were some hopeful expressions but most West Bank political figures asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to comment said there were insufficient details about the reported Hussein-Arafat agreement to estimate its significance. There was no immediate official Israeli reaction.

It was learned here today that President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt has sent a message to Hussein, delivered to him by Mubarak's close aide, Osama El Baz. This indicated that Mubarak is exerting pressure on Hussein and Arafat to reach an agreement, something they have tried and failed to do at several meetings in the past two years.

According to sources here, Mubarak believes a Hussein-Arafat agreement would provide leverage for King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, currently visiting Washington — and for Mubarak himself on his forthcoming visit to the U.S. — to convince the Americans that the time has come to force Israel to the negotiating table.

The main obstacle between Hussein and Arafat is the latter's refusal to recognize United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 which affirms Israel's right to exist in secure, recognized boundaries. There are also differences between the Jordan-

ians and Palestinians on the mode of Palestinian representation at negotiations with Israel — whether the Palestinians would comprise a separate delegation or be part of the Jordanian delegation.

Another difference concerns the definition of confederal relations between Jordan and a future Palestinian state. It was too early to tell today whether these differences have been resolved and whether the Arabs have indeed succeeded in pushing Israel into a political corner.

Reactions By West Bank Leaders

Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem, a prominent moderate on the West Bank, told the JTA that he supported the agreement in principle and hoped it would create a political momentum in the area and the beginning of a dialogue between all parties concerned toward a just solution. Freij also expressed hope that the Israeli government would react in the same positive manner.

He noted that the Hussein-Arafat agreement came just as King Fahd of Saudi Arabia was beginning his week-long visit to Washington (see separate story) and suggested that this should give a boost to any political efforts for a settlement.

Mustapha Abdul Nabi Natshe, the deposed Mayor of Hebron, also thought the announcement from Amman was a positive development. But he preferred to wait and see whether and how it would be implemented. He also expressed hope that Israel would react in a positive manner rather than dismiss the move.

Ibrahim Dakak, a West Bank trade union leader who is considered a supporter of the anti-Arafat elements of the PLO, said it was too early to tell whether the accord "has any political significance because it is "all in the eyes of the beholder."

He maintained that everyone could interpret the statement according to one's own political views. Dakak observed that in the Arab world, people tend to use diplomatic terminology which often is meaningless. He said he did not consider the announcement an attempt to push Israel into a corner but rather "another trap for the PLO."

BEN ZION NEUSTADT DEAD AT 88

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Feb. 11 (JTA) — Ben Zion Neustadt, founder and editor emeritus of the Ohio Jewish Chronicle, died February 6, following a lengthy illness. A funeral service was held February 8. He would have been 89 years old on February 23.

Neustadt, a graduate pharmacist, came to Columbus from Indianapolis, Ind., in 1921 at the urging of community leaders who felt that a Jewish newspaper would boost the fund-raising effort for European Jewry. The first issue of the Chronicle appeared in February 1922. During a career which spanned 64 years, Neustadt served as advertising salesman, managing editor and publisher of the paper.

Forced to retire in 1958 because of ill health, Neustadt nevertheless maintained close ties with the paper. He continued to sell advertising for its New Year and holiday editions, to write an occasional article or editorial and to serve the present publisher, Milton Pinsky, in an advisory capacity.

Neustadt was a charter member of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation and the American Jewish Press Association and headed the B'nai B'rith Degree Team for many years. In addition, he belonged to the Jewish Center, Temple Israel and Congregation Tifereth Israel and many other organizations.

He was the recipient of many awards for his years of service to the community. In September, 1982, he was honored on the 60th anniversary of the Chronicle at a dinner.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

GIBRALTAR: THE TWIN FORTRESSES

By Milton Jacoby

GIBRALTAR, Feb. 11 (JTA) — The Jewish community of Gibraltar seems as strong as the mighty rock on which it resides. What amazes the visitor to this world-famed fortress is that the 600 Jews out of a total population of 30,000 can be such a dominant factor in the life and activities of Britain's Mediterranean outpost. The fact that both its Prime Minister and Mayor are Jews also helps.

Sir Joshua Hassan, the Prime Minister, not only firmly controls his small yet highly strategic domain, but keeps a close eye on the welfare of each and every Jewish citizen. He has served as Chief Minister from 1964 to 1969, and from 1972 to date.

Forthright and unassuming in manner, he has gained the respect of the leaders of all the countries bordering the Mediterranean because of his firmness and effectiveness in office.

Sir Joshua informed this reporter that "I like to put my Judaism on the table for everyone to see. Our island, consisting as it does of Catholics, Protestants, Moslems and Jews, is too small for any division, and we need and possess unity between all shades of opinion."

He continued: "It is all too easy for us, the Jews of Gibraltar, to be insular and apart, to exist in a pleasant cocoon. It is my view that we must break out of this mold and form close ties with the international Jewish world."

Sir Joshua has visited Israel three times, and has a daughter living in Jerusalem. An eloquent advocate, he has pled the cause of Gibraltar before the United Nations on seven occasions. His 33-year-old nephew, James Levy (who prefers to be called "Chaim"), is now president of the Jewish community.

Jewish Life On The Outpost

A barrister by profession, he is a partner with his celebrated uncle in a busy law firm. But his first love appears to be his communal responsibility which he practices with an infectious zeal and energy.

Levy described Jewish life on the outpost as being all-inclusive -- a day school for children up to the age of 12; from 12 to 18, the 70 youngsters continue their comprehensive Jewish education after their other classes. There is a youth club and a nursery. Gibraltar has four synagogues (perhaps too many for the current population), a Jewish cultural and social club, a kosher restaurant, kosher delicatessens, and a home for the aged.

The dynamic Levy insisted that "with all our Jewish activities and educational facilities going full blast, I'm convinced that Jewish continuity in our unique environment will be assured and even strengthened for the generations that follow ours."

Another leading figure in Jewish life is industrialist Moses Benaim, who serves as Honorary Consul for Israel, as his father, David, did before him. And his son, also named David, now Vice-Consul, will succeed his father in time. The position is non-paying but significant, since Benaim works closely with London and with the Consular Section of the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, and is able to grant visas to Moroccan Jews who wish to visit Israel.

A. W. Serfaty, the Jewish Mayor of Gibraltar, is a vigorous 74, and the descendant of a family that has been in residence since 1704, the year that marked the start of the British occupation. He notes that the first civilian census in 1730 recorded a substantial number of Jews, who have played a significant role in the affairs of the colony for more than

two centuries. Serfaty and his Catholic wife, whom he describes as a Zionist, have made visits to Israel. There is quite an incidence of marriages, he says, between Moroccan and Gibraltar Jews, as well as marital ties between Jews of Great Britain and the colony. Elected from among the members of the House of Assembly more than four years ago, he takes pride in the fact that the Jewish community has made such an impact; all businesses are closed on the Sabbath and the synagogues are thronged with young and observant Gibraltarians.

The visitor leaves this happy place with the distinct feeling of having observed twin fortresses: this heavily fortified British enclave, and the Jewish minority whose rock-like strength make it a major force in the destiny of Gibraltar.

SOME 5,000 HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS EXPECTED AT INAUGURAL ASSEMBLY

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 11 (JTA) — Some 5,000 Jewish Holocaust survivors and their families are expected to meet here April 21 to 22 to participate in the Inaugural Assembly of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors at the Civic Center, an event which will coincide with the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps.

Survivors and their families, according to Benjamin Meed, president of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, will also seek to evaluate the positive effects of the moral dimension of the Allied victory over Nazi Germany.

"It will be a time of reunion and exchange of memories, a mixture of joy and sadness, anger and hope; and a reaffirming experience that participants will cherish and which will have a positive effect on the rest of their lives," Meed told reporters at a news conference here.

'Time Has Taken Its Toll'

"Time has taken its toll," Meed continued. "More than 200,000 survivors most of them between the ages of 18 and 35 came to the United States after World War II when they emerged from the Nazi death camps. Perhaps half that many survivors are alive today."

"Many survivors see the American Gathering as the time when they can best bear witness en masse to the atrocities they experienced and the chance to search for loved ones who survived the war or for some word of the fate of those who did not."

The gathering in Philadelphia follows the 1983 gathering of some 20,000 Jewish Holocaust survivors and their families in Washington. In 1981, 5,000 survivors from 14 different countries met in Jerusalem for the first International Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

As in the past gatherings, the Civic Center will be transformed into a "survivors' village" where participants can gather according to the cities of their birth and the camps of their incarceration to meet each other again.

Central to the survivors' village will be a computer bank linked with the National Registry of Jewish Holocaust Survivors which now contains over 55,000 names. Survivors can use the computer system to search for friends or relatives and to learn of those who did not survive. The computer system aided in reuniting more than 600 people at the Washington Gathering two years ago. Among the scheduled events, there will be programs demonstrating solidarity with Israel and with oppressed Jews all over the world.