

ISRAELI TROOPS BEGIN SECOND STAGE OF PULLOUT FROM LEBANON; SPEED DEPENDS ON WEATHER IN COLD MOUNTAINS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 5 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force has already begun the second stage of its withdrawal from south Lebanon, which the Cabinet decided Sunday was to commence immediately. Military sources said that non-operational equipment and supplies are already on the move. But an IDF spokesman denied Beirut reports today that the departure of Israeli troops from the Bekaa valley in the eastern sector of south Lebanon has been speeded up. The speed with which supplies and equipment can be moved depends in large measure on weather conditions, the sources said. The mountainous areas of south Lebanon are buried in snow and temperatures are frigid.

The Beirut reports said the Lebanese regular army is standing by to occupy the areas vacated by the IDF. According to Beirut, some villages and hilltop positions have already changed hands. Lebanese sources and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said the IDF is continuing its "iron fist" searches of Shiite Moslem villages in south Lebanon believed to be bases for guerrilla attacks on Israeli units.

The IDF searched Saalah village east of Tyre today, shortly after a UNIFIL contingent of Ghanaian troops was sent there to investigate the death of a man under suspicious circumstances.

Speculation On Mosque Bombing

Meanwhile, the explosion that wrecked a mosque in Maareke village yesterday, killing at least 12 persons, continued to generate friction between Israelis and the Shiite population. The Lebanese blame the Israelis for the blast because an IDF unit searched the village two days earlier for weapons and guerrillas. IDF spokesmen continued today to deny any Israeli involvement. Among the dead were several leaders of Amal, the Shiite militia, who had been in scrapes with the IDF.

One of them, Mohammed Saad, is said to have planned the bombing that destroyed an IDF headquarters building in Tyre in November, 1982, in which 75 people including 43 Israelis were killed. Another was Hallil Jeradi, an Amal spokesman, who boasted earlier this week that he had eluded the IDF's search of Maareke. He threatened that Shiite forces would attack Israelis inside Israel.

Dr. Yossi Olmert of Tel Aviv University's Dayan Center for Middle East Studies, an expert on the Shiites, said it would have been "absurd" for the IDF to bomb the mosque because it would only intensify local hostility toward Israelis. Security sources suggested that the bombing could have been an accident—premature detonation of an explosive device being prepared for use elsewhere. Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli affairs in Lebanon, thought it was the result of a feud between rival Shiite factions.

The mainstream Amal has frequently clashed with the extremist Hezbollah (Army of God) faction which is influenced by the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini of Iran.

FRENCH BUSINESSMAN REPORTS MENGELE IS ALIVE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 5 (JTA) -- A French businessman says he has concrete proof that Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz death camp doctor is alive in Paraguay. The non-Jewish Lyon-based businessman told the French daily "Lyon Matin" that friends in Paraguay told him Mengele lives in the Pratis-Gill area between the Filadelfia and Neuland regions. The paper did not reveal his name for security reasons.

The businessman says Mengele was seen by local inhabitants who formally recognized him from published pictures. He is usually accompanied by four bodyguards. The Pratis-Gill area, writes "Lyon Matin," is run by a sect of Prussian origin, the Mennonites, which is protecting other former Nazis as well.

VOA OFFICIALS TO GO TO ISRAEL TO DISCUSS ERECTING TRANSMITTER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 5 (JTA) -- Officials of Voice of America Radio will come to Israel at the end of this month to begin discussions with Israeli officials on the technical aspects of a powerful transmitter the U.S. wants to erect in Israel to boost its broadcasts to the Soviet Union.

Maariv reported today that the American technicians had hoped to come here this week but were asked by the Israelis to postpone their visit. The paper said Israeli officials stressed that the delay was not due to any desire to postpone the negotiations for political reasons but simply to allow more time for internal discussions of the project.

According to Maariv, the transmitters will be used to relay VOA broadcasts to the Soviet Asiatic republics whose proximity to Israel relative to their distance from Western Europe would help overcome Soviet jamming.

The Israelis were under considerable pressure from the Reagan Administration to allow a VOA transmitter on their soil. Some officials here expressed concern that Israel could become embroiled in the superpower conflict. They were assured that no VOA programs would be prepared in Israel.

PERES, LIKUD EXCHANGE BARBS ON VALUE OF MUBARAK INITIATIVE

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, March 5 (JTA) -- Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's peace initiative, although still to be formally and officially explicated, has triggered a bitter partisan battle between the Labor and Likud components of the unity coalition government.

Likud has been on the offensive since Premier Shimon Peres and several fellow ministers met in Jerusalem last week with Ossama El-Baz, a personal emissary of Mubarak. According to Likud, Peres and his associates were naively taken in by the Egyptian President whose recent proposals were intended solely to impress U.S. public opinion in advance of his meeting with President Reagan in Washington March 12.

Today, Peres shot back, accusing Likud of being afraid to talk peace. The Premier spoke at a meeting of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. Yesterday, while visiting Eilat, he insisted there was merit to the Egyptian plan, though he made it clear

that Israel would not buy all of it. Deputy Premier David Levy, considered by many the future leader of Likud's Herut faction, claimed today that Likud saved Israel from the perils inherent in Cairo's diplomatic demarche. According to Levy, that danger was an American dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization in the guise of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to Washington.

This was the real aim of the Mubarak initiative, Levy contended, and because the Labor Party, principally Peres, was so anxious for negotiations, it was "blinded" to realities. Fortunately, said Levy, the Likud partners in the national unity government acted to foil Mubarak's scheme.

Peres' counter-attack today was directed largely at former Defense Minister Moshe Arens, a Herut hardliner who is presently a Minister-Without-Portfolio. Arens "sat in" on the meeting with El-Baz in the absence of Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the Herut leader who was visiting Europe last week. It was Arens who initially heaped scorn on the meeting, telling his Likud colleagues afterwards that there had been no advance preparation and that two other participants, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Ezer Weizman, a Minister-Without-Portfolio attached to the Prime Minister's Office as liaison with Israel's Arab community, had "drifted" away from the guidelines which delineate the unity coalition government's policies.

Arens Claims He Stopped 'Drift'

Arens said he had to intervene several times to correct the "drift." He accused Rabin, a Laborite, and Weizman, head of the new Yahad faction, of having intimidated to the Egyptian emissary that the Camp David accords would be Israel's "opening position" in any negotiations but need not be binding as the talks progressed. Arens said he had to remonstrate that the coalition pact specified unequivocally that the Camp David framework is basic to the government's policy.

Peres referred today to "a certain minister" -- obviously Arens -- who he said "remained consistent" in his opposition to Israel's peace with Egypt. "This minister had opposed the original peace negotiations and the Camp David accords and he is opposed to the resuscitation of the peace process now," Peres declared. Arens, who was at the time chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, voted against the Camp David agreements in 1978 and against the Israel-Egyptian peace treaty in 1979.

Peres said he wondered why "a shudder seems to go up the spines of some Likud members" at the prospect of some progress in the peace process. "Whom are we afraid of?" the Premier asked.

He said that in a private conversation he had with El-Baz prior to their meeting with the other ministers, the Egyptian said his country is aware that many Israelis suspected Mubarak's initiative was a public relations stunt. Peres said El-Baz, who is chief of staff of the Presidential Office in Cairo and one of Mubarak's closest advisors, sought to convince him that this is not so; that Egypt genuinely desires progress toward a comprehensive peace settlement.

The Egyptians want "to start quickly, but then to advance with all due caution," Peres said. He confirmed that he had proposed an across-the-board approach to all the outstanding disputes between the two countries in their bilateral relations. He also denied Arens' charge that the

meeting with El-Baz had been ill-prepared and that Likud was not informed in advance. Peres said he had consulted with Shamir who never betrayed confidences or leaked the contents of secret conversations. Those same rules of behavior should have applied to Arens who was standing in for the absent Shamir, Peres said.

Peres said in Eilat yesterday that the Egyptians do not make the renewal of good relations with Israel conditional upon any specific act by Israel. What they hope for is a general improvement in the atmosphere in Israel toward peace efforts.

"The Egyptians told us: Let's start the process quickly. It may take a while, but even the first step is an achievement," Peres said. He said he would welcome a meeting with the Jordanians and Palestinians, as suggested by Mubarak.

"We welcome a meeting between an Israeli delegation and a Jordanian or Jordanian-Palestinian delegation without PLO representatives ... We've given an emphatic 'yes' to that suggestion," Peres said. But, he added, "We don't accept the second (Mubarak) proposal that a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation go to the U.S. to negotiate with the Americans and afterwards negotiate with Israel."

Peres stressed he was trying to break the deadlock with Cairo. "People are coming to us at all hours of the day and night and we have gone there, again at all times of the day and night. We've started talking. I view the very fact of dialogue as a welcome thing," Peres said.

He was referring to the meeting with El-Baz which was held at night and ran into the early hours of the next morning and to the fact that coincidental with that meeting, Gen. Avraham Tamir, director of the Prime Minister's Office, went to Cairo for talks with Egyptian officials.

A caucus of the Likud Knesset faction yesterday seized on Arens' derisive report of the El-Baz meeting to attack Labor. Michael Dekel, said to be Shamir's choice for the vacant post of Deputy Defense Minister, accused Peres of "misleading the nation and preparing to spring elections on us" next fall. Pessach Gruper, of Likud's Liberal Party faction, said the meeting with El-Baz had been so ludicrous that "I would laugh if this weren't my government and my country."

Haim Kaufman, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, attacked Peres for failure to visit the disputed Taba region which is close to Eilat. He claimed it was a deliberate omission which would weaken Israel's claim to the tiny strip of beach that Egypt insists is part of Sinai.

MARIE-JOSEPHINE PONTILLON DEAD AT 60

PARIS, March 5 (JTA) -- Marie-Josephine Pontillon, one of Israel's earliest and staunchest friends in France, died here Sunday night, aged 60. She was the wife of Socialist Senator Raymond Pontillon, also known as one of Israel's closest supporters and a personal friend of Israeli Premier Shimon Peres.

Mrs. Pontillon, affectionately known as "Marie-jo" started helping Israel in the fifties obtain French-made arms and technological help. She served at the time as one of French Socialist Party Secretary General Guy Mollet's closest aides. She also served as a go-between at the time of the 1956 Suez operation when French and Israeli forces fought as allies against Egypt's Colonel Nasser.

200 ANTI-SOVIET PROTESTORS ARRESTED

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 5 (JTA) -- More than 200

demonstrators, including some 100 rabbis, were arrested today in front of the Soviet Mission to the United Nations on Manhattan's East Side.

The arrests were made by police after the demonstrators tried to approach the front entrance of the Mission following a one and a half hour rally on behalf of Soviet Jews.

The demonstration was co-sponsored by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) and the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry (LICSJ) in cooperation with the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry (GNYCJSJ).

Carrying placards on behalf of Soviet Jews, the rabbis, who arrived from the entire metropolitan area, New Jersey and Connecticut, and the other demonstrators, chanted slogans calling for the release of Jewish prisoners in the Soviet Union and an end to the persecution of Jews in that country.

The rabbis were dressed in prayer shawls. During the demonstration the Shofar was blown. According to the organizers of the rally, the mass arrest of rabbis is unprecedented in the 300 years of American Jewish history. According to a spokesman for the SSSJ, the rabbis were charged with disorderly conduct and released after they were booked by the police.

Spiritual Genocide Charged

Rabbi Avraham Weiss, chairman of the SSSJ, addressing the rally, charged that "There is a spiritual genocide in Russia today," directed at the Jewish people. He said that today's event in front of the Russian UN Mission was "timed to coincide with the visit to Washington of a high-level Kremlin delegation, headed by Vladimir Shchebelsky, (Communist) party boss of the Ukraine and a Politburo and Central Committee member. It is also exactly a week before the opening of the long-awaited US-USSR arms talks in Geneva, and the day before the Jewish Fast of Esther, who in the Bible saved her people from mass extermination," Weiss declared.

He added: "We are telling the Kremlin: 'No more 'business as usual' while persecution takes place. We are saying to the White House: We want action now."

He vowed that the Jewish community will continue "to stage mass arrests at Soviet offices" until progress is made "toward the redemption of our brethren from their imposed darkness."

He said that today's rally was part of "Operation Redemption" begun last January by American Jewry to save Soviet Jews.

GENOCIDE CONVENTION RATIFICATION FACES NEW DELAYS AS LUGAR, HELMS PROPOSE SENATE ADD RESERVATIONS

By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, March 5 (JTA) — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee was urged today by the Reagan Administration as well as its own chairman, Sen. Richard Lugar (R. Ind.), to work toward Senate ratification of an international convention against genocide concluded 36 years ago.

But separate recommendations proposed at hearings today by Lugar and Sen. Jesse Helms (R. N.C.) for the adoption of reservations suggested approval of the convention is even further from sight than it was last autumn when a promised filibuster led by Helms forced the measure to be temporarily shelved.

The International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was concluded in response to the atrocities committed against Jews in World War II. It was signed by President

Harry Truman on December 11, 1948 and has subsequently been signed by 95 other countries and endorsed by every President since Truman except for Eisenhower. But the treaty has failed to win Senate ratification largely because of conservative opposition.

The treaty defines genocide as any act "committed with intent to destroy in whole or part a national ethnic, racial or religious group." It calls for recognition by all signatories that "genocide, whether committed in time of peace or war, is a crime under international law, which they undertake to prevent and punish."

Helms and other conservatives have long opposed ratification of the treaty as compromising U.S. sovereignty. Among his objections is an article stipulating that disputes involving charges of genocide by one party to the convention against another "shall be submitted to the International Court of Justice at the request of any of the parties to the dispute."

World Court Jurisdiction Questioned

Lugar said today he would support ratification of the treaty, as he did when the committee approved it last September, but on the condition that a reservation be included in any final ratification resolution making submission of disputes to the World Court contingent on acceptance of the court's jurisdiction by all parties involved. A similar reservation was included in a suggested substitute for ratification of the resolution proposed by Helms.

Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, said in his testimony to the committee today that the Reagan Administration would support Lugar's recommendation. In his prepared statement, Abrams called for prompt ratification of the treaty saying, "The best time for Senate approval is right now."

But he concurred with Lugar's suggestion that the attempt by Nicaragua last year to unilaterally bring its charge of U.S. mining of its harbors to the World Court should serve as a warning against approving the treaty without qualification. Lugar said, "We have only to consider our recent experience in the Nicaraguan case, when the Sandinista regime sought to use the court for political purposes, and the court, sadly, did not resist such abuse."

No Legal Obstacle Seen

Acting Assistant Attorney General Ralph Tarr and Davis Robinson, a legal advisor to the State Department, both said in their initial testimony that they saw no legal obstacles to ratification of the treaty as it now stands. But Helms made clear in his statement and subsequent remarks at the hearings that his opposition to ratification continues and that he would only vote in favor of a resolution approving the treaty after numerous qualifications were made.

Helms blocked the resolution from leaving the committee for a time last September, then finally permitted it to pass by voting "present." But a promised conservative attempt to delay a full Senate vote resulted in the adoption of an alternative Senate resolution endorsing the principles of the convention.

At the hearings today, Helms suggested, as he has done previously, that the convention could be used unjustly against the Jewish State for its treatment of Arabs. The committee did not schedule a date to consider reservations proposed in today's hearings.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Yad Vashem, the heroism and Holocaust remembrance authority, will publish the full history of the Holocaust in 25 volumes.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND BISHOP CITES CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANTI-SEMITISM THROUGH THE CENTURIES

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 5 (JTA) -- A leading Bishop of the Church of England has made one of the most candid admissions by a Christian religious leader about the anti-Jewish traditions of Christianity and their responsibility for the Nazi Holocaust.

Dr. John Baker, Bishop of Salisbury, in a document published last week, says Christianity, more than any other religion, had succumbed to the disease of racism. He blamed the poison of anti-Judaism, developing into anti-Semitism which Christianity had spewed out from the earliest times.

Baker, chairman of The Church of England's Doctrine Commission, made his remarks in a report commissioned by the General Synod, of The Church of England, its representative body of priests and laymen.

In a searing passage, Baker, a noted theologian, writes: "No matter that Jesus was a Jew, that thousands of Jews formed the first Christian churches, that the Jewish scriptures constituted, for nearly 200 years, the only Christian Bible, the Jews were those who had rejected and killed the Son of God: And into that indictment Christians were able to funnel all the hatred and humiliation they themselves felt at having been rejected by Judaism."

New Testament Reappraisal Urged

In the Gospel of St. John, he adds, the word Jew is always used pejoratively. "They are the Massa Damna." In the Passion narratives of both St. John and St. Matthew, attempts are made to blame the death of Jesus not only on Jewish leaders but on the whole Jewish people.

"An act of theological penitence, and a conscious and publicly declared reappraisal of the Biblical insights, including a disowning of the distorted features of the New Testament, is essential if the churches are to address themselves to their part in the racial situation with cleansed consciences."

Commenting on the Bishop's statement, The London Times said it reflected growing opinion among Christian theologians that the mere disavowal of anti-Semitism was not a sufficient response to the Holocaust.

"Passages in the New Testament, and the ancient tradition that the Church is the New Israel after the Jews' rejection of their Messiah, are held to be ideas in which anti-Semitism could regeminate because they contain an implicit rejection of the Jewish people's right to exist as a distinct religious community," the Times added.

STEG HEADS FRENCH JEWISH GROUP

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 5 (JTA) -- Prof. Adolphe Steg, a French surgeon, was elected today president of the Alliance Israelite Universelle, one of the oldest Jewish organizations. Steg, 61, replaces Jules Brunschwig who has headed the Alliance since 1976 and has decided to retire.

The Alliance Israelite Universelle was founded in 1860 to propagate modern educational methods with a heavy accent on Judaism and French culture. At the time of its centenary the organization ran over two dozen schools with 50,000 students in eight countries. Many of these schools are run with the active help of the governments concerned, including those of Arab countries.

Steg, a former president of the Representative Council of Major French Jewish Organizations, is a prominent surgeon and heads the urology department at one of Paris' major hospitals. A Knight in the Legion of Honor he has long played a prominent role in French Jewish life. It is believed that he will give a new impetus to the Alliance which some of its critics say has been in a partial lethargy in recent years. Many of its educational activities were curtailed after the independence of Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria and the change of regimes in Iran. Brunschwig succeeded Nobel Prize winner Rene Cassin who took over the Alliance presidency at the request of General Charles de Gaulle in 1944. De Gaulle believed the Alliance could play an important role in the propagation of French culture in North Africa and Third World countries.

MACCABIAH TO DROP NATIONAL FLAGS TO SYMBOLIZE UNITY OF JEWISH PEOPLE

By Haskell Cohen

TEL AVIV, March 5 (JTA) -- The International Maccabiah Games Committee approved a resolution at its closing session last Friday which calls for the elimination of the display of national flags from all future Maccabiah Games, thereby breaking a tradition begun in 1932 at the first set of games.

Michael Kevehazi, chairman of the organizing Committee for the games, indicated that the action was taken in order to accentuate the fact that the 12th Maccabiah Games, due to open at the refurbished Ramat Gan stadium on July 15, is to symbolize the unity of the Jewish people.

"We are getting rid of national flags because they are a symbol of the separation of Israel and our people in the diaspora," Kevehazi said. He announced that the theme of the upcoming games will be "The Gathering of the 12 Tribes."

The Maccabiah Games are recognized by the International Olympic Committee as one of that group's regional set of games. Kevehazi said that the ICC has a strong lobby calling for similar action -- the elimination of all national flags at future Olympic Games -- because such flags, he said, are a part of the negative nationalistic aspect of the contest.

Ten members of the United States Committee Sports for Israel, sponsor of the American Maccabiah delegation, attended various meetings during the five day session here. An expected 550 persons will make up the U.S. Maccabiah team and will require financing amounting to \$1.65 million.

GERMAN TOWN RESTORES JEWISH CEMETERY

By David Kantor

BONN, March 5 (JTA) -- The town of Neuwied in the Rhine valley will hire unemployed workers to restore the old Jewish cemetery there, it was just announced. They will be supervised by experts and Jewish representatives, including rabbis, who will be consulted in advance.

The number of workers to be hired was not stated. The project will be funded in part by the Federal Labor Office in Nuremberg. According to a spokesman for the town, the restored cemetery will be incorporated into a public park as a place for "meditation."

A different development occurred in the town of Mayen where the local authorities rejected an initiative by high school students to restore a building that housed a Jewish school founded in 1878 and was the last vestige of Jewish life there after the Nazi era. The town fathers said the project could not be undertaken because of the high costs involved.