

ISRAELI SOLDIER KILLED IN EXCHANGE BETWEEN ISRAELI FORCES, LEBANESE ARMY; 623rd FATALITY SINCE 1982
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 7 (JTA) — An Israeli soldier was killed in an exchange of fire today between units of the Israel Defense Force and the Lebanese army in south Lebanon, a military spokesman announced this evening. His death brought to 623 the fatalities suffered by the IDF since it invaded Lebanon in June, 1982.

A report from Beirut said both sides used tanks in an engagement that lasted three hours. Israeli sources said the duration was about 30 minutes. Initial reports said no casualties had been reported by either side.

Military sources here said the IDF views the incident with gravity but believes it was a "local initiative" by a local commander. It was the third such clash in recent days between IDF units and Lebanese regulars, precipitated, the Israelis say, by Lebanese attempts to interfere with IDF pursuit of guerrillas. Senior IDF and Lebanese army officers were reported to be in contact to prevent future clashes.

According to the Israeli account, today's incident developed after an IDF patrol observed suspicious movements by a group of men travelling in cars with Lebanese license plates northwest of Nabatiye. They had crossed the line that marks the IDF's new positions after completing the first stage of its withdrawal from south Lebanon.

House-To-House Search Continues

The IDF patrol gave chase and the intruders withdrew toward Katouria E-Sayed village, just across the line. At that point, the Israelis say, a Lebanese army unit in the village opened fire on the patrol and the patrol returned the fire. Lebanese officers claimed the IDF shelled the village approaches and fired from helicopters.

Elsewhere in south Lebanon, the IDF continued its house-to-house searches for guerrillas and weapons in Shiite Moslem villages and the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) suffered casualties in clashes with guerrillas. IDF units were attacked twice last night, near Adweir village and on the outskirts of Nabatiya without sustaining casualties. Military sources said attacks on the IDF have escalated since the "iron fist" policy — tough reaction and preventive measures — was adopted in south Lebanon last month but IDF casualties have been fewer.

IDF search operations today focussed on Halesiya and Sarousiya villages. A house was destroyed in the former, according to a spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

JEWISH FAMILY SURVIVES BOMB BLAST
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 7 (JTA) — A family of Jewish settlers in the West Bank escaped injury last night when their car triggered a roadside bomb in the Hebron area. The device was similar to those employed against the Israel Defense Force in south Lebanon but the incident was the first of its kind in the West Bank.

Security forces found a leaflet near the site of the explosion signed by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a terrorist organization led by Nayef Hawatmeh. It said the bomb was planted in reprisal for the forced closure of Arab shops in Hebron by the Israeli authorities.

The incident occurred at about midnight when a family of four was returning from a Purim party to their home in Moshav Beit Hagai in the southern Hebron hills. The car apparently tripped a wire that touched off an explosive charge. The driver, Haim Didovsky, said, "We thought a hand grenade or Molotov cocktail was thrown at us. The explosion was loud." He said he remained calm and continued to drive at high speed, stopping several meters down the road. He then fired into the air to summon help. Security forces rushed to the scene and began a large-scale manhunt.

CHIEF RABBINATE, AGUDAT ISRAEL CALL OFF BANK LEUMI BOYCOTT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 7 (JTA) — The Chief Rabbinate and the Agudat Israel Council of Sages have called off the boycott of Bank Leumi. The Aguda newspaper, Hamodia, announced that a satisfactory arrangement has been made with the bank and its subsidiary, the Africa-Israel Investment Co. which is building a luxury hotel, the Ganei Hamat, near Tiberias.

The boycott was imposed by the religious establishment some months ago on grounds that a wing of the hotel was being built on the graves of Jewish sages buried many centuries ago. Orthodox Jews in Israel and abroad were exhorted to withdraw their deposits from the Bank Leumi and to cease doing business with it. Many complied.

But the arrangement, details of which were not disclosed, did not satisfy the ultra-Orthodox Atara Kadisha (Holy Site) faction, the principal activity of which appears to be guarding the sanctity of Jewish graves. It declared that the boycott will continue because the hotel would be the scene of "revelry and licentiousness over the graves of venerable rabbis."

PURIM MEANS RADIO HOAXES, TRAFFIC JAMS IN ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, March 7 (JTA) — Purim was marked today by an "April Fool"-like prank by the Army Radio station and mammoth traffic jams in Tel Aviv where a carnival and some 5,000 runners from Israel and 15 other countries pre-empted the streets for a local version of the Boston and New York marathons.

The Army Radio—Galei Tzahal — stole the show this morning with a straight-faced report that an American multi-millionaire who died last week left his \$5 billion fortune to the State of Israel, solving in one massive cash infusion, Israel's economic crisis.

According to the broadcast, the benefactor stipulated two conditions: Former Finance Minister Yoram Aridor must be re-instated and the Treasury must adopt the controversial plan to make the U.S. Dollar Israel's official currency. The newscast included live interviews with Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai, who is at present in Washington, and solicited reactions from coalition and opposition members of the Knesset.

Telephone lines were open to questions from listeners who were told that the import ban on luxury items was lifted as soon as the huge bequest was known. Most listeners did not fall for the hoax -- a traditional "Purim spiel" of the Army Radio. But it became the talk of the town.

Three Marathons Run

In Tel Aviv, where traffic congestion is a daily way of life, motorists simply gave up in despair. The streets were jammed with local residents and visitors watching two Purim events -- the annual Adloyada carnival arranged by shopkeepers on Sheinken Street--a thoroughfare that has gone to seed but is now in the process of "gentrification" -- and the fifth Tel Aviv Marathon organized by the Hapoel Sports Club.

There were actually three marathons -- a 21 kilometer "mini race"; a 42 kilometer main race; and a five kilometer run for elderly men and women, young children and war invalids in wheelchairs.

A Frenchman was winner of the main marathon. Jean-Pierre Charbanel did the 42 kilometers in two hours and 23 minutes. It was his second win since 1981. A Hungarian and an Italian runner finished second and third. The first woman across the finish line was Iris Kristensen of Denmark.

In the short race, the oldest runner was 78-year-old Yosef Bein who participates in all local marathons. The youngest was a four-and-a-half-year-old boy.

The carnival and parade on Sheinken Street, drew some 50,000 spectators. More than 500 policemen were on hand to allow traffic to periodically cross the line of march and occasionally to interrupt the marathon. But vehicles were stalled for as long as two hours at some intersections. More than two million candles and a half million packages of chocolate and wafers were distributed nationally by the Habad Hasidim to new immigrants, soldiers, hospitalized persons and war orphans. For the new immigrants from Ethiopia, this was their first Purim.

SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIAL THROWS PETITION BACK AT STUDENTS AS 700 LOBBY CONGRESS FOR SOVIET JEWS

WASHINGTON, March 7 (JTA) -- An unidentified official at the Soviet Embassy here, discovering a petition left by two American university students with whom he had discussed Soviet Jewry, angrily hurled the petition out on the street behind the departing pair.

The petition called on the Kremlin to permit Jews to emigrate and was signed by some 700 students who had come to the capital last week to lobby Congress. The lobbying effort was part of the ninth annual Washington meeting of the Student Coalition for Soviet Jewry, sponsored by B'nai B'rith International.

The SCSJ was founded at Brandeis University Hillel from which it expanded nationwide. Most of the students are leaders of their college B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation.

The two students who went to the Embassy were Debbie Ornstein and David Shapiro, both of Brandeis University. Ornstein, of New York, said they talked with an official in the Embassy for some 15 minutes.

But according to Ornstein, when the pair "got too specific" about Soviet treatment of Jews, "we were eased out." While they were departing, she left the petition behind. A few minutes later she

heard the official shout at them and throw the petition into the street in front of the Embassy. Since he spoke in Russian, she was unable to understand what he said, Ornstein said.

Importance Of Lobbying Stressed

Earlier, the students heard Avital Shcharansky, wife of refusenik Anatoly Shcharansky, and Gerald Kraft, president of B'nai B'rith International, stress the importance of student lobbying for Soviet Jewry.

Kraft, who gave an overview of the status of Jews in the USSR, pointed out that the United States and the Soviet Union are scheduled to hold arms talks in Geneva next week and stated that now is a critical time to lobby on their behalf.

Rep. Steven Bartlett (R. Tex.), SCSJ honorary co-chairman, told the students who came from more than 60 colleges in some 40 states that the issue of human rights is not restricted to one or even several countries. Human rights, Bartlett declared, are universal and called for constant enforcement.

During the afternoon, the students split up into dozens of groups to lobby their local Congressmen and Senators. The largest group, of about 150, heard aides of Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D. NY) describe letters Moynihan and Rep. Jack Kemp (R. NY) were sending both to their colleagues and President Reagan.

Administration Action Urged

The letters were similar to those sent by Bartlett, Rep. Robert Garcia (D. NY) and Sens. Paul Simon (D. Ill.) and John Danforth (R. Mo.) which were sent to members of both Houses.

All of the letters discussed the desperate situation of Soviet Jews, pointed out that the United States has a unique role in that, alone among the nations, it can affect permanent change regarding the plight of Soviet Jews. They called for immediate action on behalf of Soviet Jews. Moynihan and Kemp were scheduled to deliver their letter to the White House tomorrow.

Bartlett, Garcia, Simon and Danforth declared in their letters: "If we cannot secure the right of Soviet Jews to emigrate, the existence of the refusenik community and Jewish cultural life in general will be increasingly jeopardized. The world has lost so much. Let us do our part, we who live in freedom, to reach out to those who remain enslaved."

BODIES TO BE REBURIED IN ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 7 (JTA) -- The bodies of 10 Jewish Palestinian volunteers who fought in the British Army in Europe during World War II will be brought to Israel for reburial from Poland where presumably they were killed after being taken prisoner by the Germans. The Polish authorities gave permission.

According to the Israeli news agency Itim, only one of the graves has been positively identified -- that of Israel Abba Zasler, whose sister Hannah Houseman has spent the last 40 years trying to learn the whereabouts of his remains.

Zasler was captured by the Germans while serving in a British Army communications unit near Athens, Greece in April 1941. He was taken to a prison camp in Upper Silesia where he was forced to work as a miner. It has been established that in 1943 he was fatally shot by a German guard and buried in the camp grounds.

The graves of Zasler and the as yet unidentified other Jewish volunteers were discovered by a Belgian national who searched for them at Houseman's request. Permission was obtained from the Polish authorities to exhume the remains and return them to Israel.

REAGAN ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO DEMAND MORE ECONOMIC REFORMS FROM ISRAEL BEFORE AID INCREASE

By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, March 7 (JTA) -- After meeting with Israeli Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i yesterday, Secretary of State George Shultz reiterated today the Reagan Administration's position against recommending economic aid to Israel until it adopts further substantive economic reforms.

Moda'i reportedly told Shultz at their meeting that Israel faced political constraints and had done all it could to reform its economy by introducing budget cuts and instituting other austerity measures. But Shultz has requested another meeting with the Finance Minister this afternoon. An Israel Embassy official said he expected this meeting would be an important one.

Meanwhile, the Secretary of State, in his testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, said the Administration intends to hold back on recommending a specific level of economic aid "pending further discussion with Israel and further evolution of its stabilization program." The Administration, Shultz said, had indicated its "willingness to provide extraordinary assistance in support of a comprehensive Israeli economic program that deals effectively with the fundamental imbalances in the Israeli economy."

Without such a program, "additional U.S. assistance would not resolve Israel's economic problems but merely help perpetuate them," he said.

More Military Aid Recommended

The Administration has recommended that Congress approve \$1.8 billion in military aid for Israel, an increase of \$400 million over the amounts requested and received from Congress last year. But the Administration has held back on submitting a figure for economic aid for the fiscal year 1986 budget. Israel has requested \$4.05 billion in aid altogether, as well as an additional \$800 million in emergency financing to be tacked on the budget for fiscal year 1985.

All in all, it has requested emergency aid of \$1.5 billion that would extend over a period of two years. All of the Israeli aid is a grant.

Moda'i to meet this afternoon with members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East. The committee is expected to begin consideration of the annual foreign aid bill in two weeks and the Administration has said it hopes to submit precise figures for requested economic aid to Israel before then.

Mubarak Asks More Funds

The Congressional subcommittee hearings of yesterday and today took place less than a week before President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt arrives in Washington with his own foreign aid requests. The Egyptian President has asked for a \$1 billion economic aid package for the 1985 fiscal year.

In his testimony today, Shultz referred only to the Administration's recommendation for an increase in Egyptian military aid. He also maintained that the military aid level requested for Israel would help it keep its "qualitative edge over potential adversaries in the region."

FRENCH JEWS WORKING WITH ARABS TO COMBAT RACISM FROM RIGHT

NEW YORK, March 7 (JTA) -- The organized

French Jewish community has joined with Arabs from North Africa and other newly arrived immigrants to France to fight the growing anti-foreigner campaign by right-wing groups, Theo Klein, president of the Representative Council of French Jewry (CRIF), told an audience of Jewish leaders here.

Klein spoke at a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

"Racism is racism, whether it is directed against Jews or Arabs or any minority group," he said. "For that reason, we feel a sense of solidarity with the immigrant population, many of whom are Arabs. And we long ago learned that we cannot ask the non-Jewish world to join our struggle against anti-Semitism if we ourselves are blind to racist attacks against other groups."

Klein singled out Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the rightwing National Front, as the most prominent figure in the anti-foreigner campaign in France. Le Pen has been accused of anti-Semitism and some of his associates are known anti-Semites. He "says he is not anti-Semitic," Klein observed. "At the same time, however, he makes clear he has no use for Jewish artists or for Jewish culture or for Mme. Simone Veil," the former President of the Parliament of Europe and a former member of the French Cabinet who is an Auschwitz survivor.

Jews Politically Active

Klein noted that with a population of 700,000, the French Jewish community is the largest Jewish community in Europe outside the Soviet Union and the most politically active. He said Jews are identified with both major political parties and are considered an influential voting bloc. The only party in France with no Jewish support is Le Pen's National Front, he said.

According to Klein, who practices law in Paris, President Francois Mitterrand is the "best President. French Jewry has ever had or is likely to have." He described the community's relations with the government as "excellent" and said Mitterrand "knows Israel, understands the Jewish community and has warm relations with both -- even if he does not necessarily agree with Israel on the Palestinian question."

Klein was invited by Mitterrand to accompany the French delegation he led to Moscow last year as the President's personal guest. While not a member of the official delegation, he was present at official functions, including the farewell dinner in the Kremlin. He also met with Jewish refuseniks in the Soviet capital. "I came as a representative of the Jewish community, not as a personal friend of the President. The Soviets knew that it was a symbolic act by Mr. Mitterrand to invite me to Moscow," the French Jewish leader said.

SPANISH TIES WITH ISRAEL URGED

MADRID, March 7 (JTA) -- A delegation of B'nai B'rith Canada officials participating in its leadership mission expressed the hope that Spain would open diplomatic ties with Israel in "the not too distant future."

"We join with those within domestic Spanish circles who expressed confidence that when the national interests determines the right moment for ambassadorial exchanges with Israel in the not too distant future, the action will be justified not only in increased trade relations with Israel and the West but also a drawing together in mutual respect and cooperation with world Jewry," the delegation said in a statement.

The statement was issued by Alan Borden and Frank Diamond, B'nai B'rith Canada president and executive vice president, respectively, as the delegation celebrated Purim at the Madrid synagogue. The delegation is scheduled to travel to Israel after meetings in Spain with Canadian officials and Spanish governmental authorities.

SPECIAL REPORT
ATLANTA JEWS, BLACKS GO TO SELMA
TOGETHER TO REMEMBER 'BLOODY SUNDAY'
 By Vida Goldgar

(Editor's Note: Vida Goldgar is editor and publisher of The Southern Israelite, Atlanta.)

ATLANTA, March 7 (JTA) — Twenty years ago, it was "Bloody Sunday" in Selma, Alabama. Those who are too young to remember the tragic events in March of 1965, watched 20-year-old televised film clips showing Sheriff Jim Clark and his brown shirted posse tear into civil rights marchers with billy clubs, tear gas and bullwhips.

By contrast, Sunday's commemorative march might be called "Sunny Sunday." Under sunny skies, Selma city police, including several Black women officers, impressively lined the streets of Selma as nearly 3,000 people reenacted the 1965 march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, Alabama State Patrol cars lined the highway and official protective helicopters circled endlessly overhead, alert for any possible disruption. There was none.

At the crest of the bridge, leaders of the march, including Atlanta City Councilman John Lewis, who had his skull fractured in the 1965 march, and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, knelt for a brief moment of prayer.

Then, singing "We Shall Overcome," the marchers continued up the Selma-Montgomery Road.

As it had begun in 1965, this week's march started with a rally at the Brown's Chapel AME Church. Today, the street on which the church stands has been renamed for Martin Luther King Jr. What the street was called in 1965 is lost to all but long-time Selma residents.

Former Foes Get Together

During church services preceding the rally, repentant Selma Mayor Joe Smitherman, who was mayor in 1965 as well, sat next to Jesse Jackson. The Rev. Joseph Lowery, head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, spotted Rabbi Alvin Sugarman of Atlanta's The Temple standing in the rear of the church and invited him to the dais.

Later, Rabbi Sugarman addressed the rally in front of the church. Many of those who spoke to the assembly had been part of the march in 1965. The rabbi had been in Selma, too. But his experience was different. As he told the crowd, Selma was part of his territory when he was a travelling salesman in the early 1960s. "I was told," he said, "When you get over there, don't you talk religion, don't you talk politics and don't talk about segregation. You gotta keep your business connections happy."

He then related an incident that happened only blocks from the Brown Chapel. "One morning I came in and a buyer phoned in and said he was late. He came in with mud all over his boots and said, 'I'm sorry son, I was late; I was out in the field beatin' up a bunch of niggers.' And he said that," Rabbi Sugarman added, "as matter of fact as if he'd had a flat tire. I never walked in that man's store again and two years later I left the business world and entered rabbinic school."

Rabbi Affected City

Rabbi Sugarman grew up in The Temple under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Jacob Rothschild, whose outspoken support of the Civil Rights movement affected not only his successor and his congregation, but the city as a whole.

The rabbi came to Selma this week with a busload of Atlantans representing the Black/Jewish Coalition, established by the American Jewish Committee's Atlanta Chapter in 1982 to provide a forum for dialogue on issues of concern to Blacks and Jews in Atlanta.

Cecil Alexander, co-chairman of the coalition with John Lewis, rode the bus, along with his son and daughter. Alexander and his late wife Hermi were among the early supporters of the Civil Rights movement, providing a meeting place in their home where Black and white leaders could meet, away from the public eye. Sunday, he said:

"The Selma to Montgomery march was a watershed in history that led to legislative action that changed the face of America. The Jews at that time were concerned and involved with eliminating the blot of racism and discrimination in America, and supported and participated in many facets of the Civil Rights movement."

"Our concern is no less today that our country should live up to the promises of the Declaration (of Independence) and the Constitution and we join hands with Black Citizens of America commemorating this historic event."

The bus left Atlanta soon after 9:30 a.m. after breakfast at The Temple. Though it wasn't planned that way, the travellers were almost evenly divided among Blacks and Jews, with a handful of white Christians as well. No one could overlook the fact that several state and city officials might not hold their elected positions were it not for what happened at Selma and the ensuing enactment of the Voting Rights Act. These included Georgia State Representatives Tyrone Brooks, Douglas Dean and Billy McKinney and City Councilman Bill Campell.

Also on board was City Councilman John Lewis's wife Lillian (celebrating her birthday) and their young son, John Miles.

Young, Old Share Experience

Other passengers on the Coalition bus included representatives of Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC), the Coalition of Conscience, the Martin Luther King Center for Non-Violent Change, American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Atlanta Board of Education and others who wanted to walk in the footsteps traveled by Blacks and Jews 20 years ago.

Parents brought their children, both young and young adult, to share with them the commemoration of a unique moment in history.

There was even a rumor that Jesse Jackson had requested a seat on the bus, but not only was there a waiting list for seats, but it turned out that he needed to be in Selma earlier than the bus would arrive. As Sherry Frank, AJC's Southeastern director, who initiated the bus trip, said, "The response from Black and Jewish leaders... was overwhelming. We had to turn people down when our bus filled up."

Frank said, too, "This trip was a reaffirmation of our shared values, of our deep commitment to equality and social justice and to our rededication to the cause of human rights and civil rights. It is a symbolic act as well as a substantive act which allows us to strengthen our coalition and repudiate racism, anti-Semitism and bigotry."

BUCHAREST (JTA) — Rumanian Chief Rabbi Dr. Moses Rosen will run once again in the forthcoming parliamentary elections for his seventh term.