

WIDE DISCREPANCIES FOUND IN ACCOUNTS ABOUT DEATHS OF CBS-TV CAMERAMEN
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 25 (JTA) — An examination of various "eye-witness reports" has exposed wide discrepancies in accounts of the incident last Thursday when two CBS television news cameramen were killed in the course of a battle between the Israel Defense Force and armed Shiite terrorists in south Lebanon.

Israel was initially condemned by the CBS network chiefs in New York and the foreign news media which alleged that an Israeli tank had fired at point blank range at the television crew in Milki village. But Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, speaking to workers here today, showed a clipping of a story filed by a British journalist who noted that at the time of the incident, the area was full of Shiite terrorists.

That report would seem to bear out the IDF's contention that it was impossible to distinguish between the CBS employees and the terrorists who wore civilian garb. A French woman journalist filed two contradictory reports. In her first account she claimed the incident was a "deliberate attack." In a report later the same day she said it was "clearly a mistake, not a deliberate attack."

The so-called "eye-witness" reports placed the IDF tank that fired the rockets anywhere from 300 meters to three kilometers from the victims. The Jordanian television's Hebrew broadcast from Amman last night said the tank fired on the cameramen from a distance of "half a meter" which would place it some 20 inches from its target.

CBS vice president for news, Ernest Leiser, visited the scene of the incident today. Leiser conferred yesterday with Premier Shimon Peres' media adviser, Uri Savir. The CBS executive said afterwards that the incident may have been due to a "tragic mistake" which deserved further investigation. That was a far cry from the original CBS charge that the IDF fired deliberately at the camera crew out of hostility toward the media.

Rabin: Israel Has No Demands On Lebanon

Rabin, meanwhile, told his audience in Tel Aviv that the IDF is getting out of Lebanon as quickly as possible. He stressed that Israel has no demands whatsoever on Lebanon, not even a peace agreement. "We want to be able to live quietly and let them live quietly. We want to live quietly on both sides of the border," he said.

However, the Defense Minister warned: "We should make it clear now that there will not be a one-sided situation. If they won't let us live, their lives won't be worth living." He explained that if Israel continued to be attacked from Lebanese soil after the IDF departs, it will use "the full force of the IDF, on land, from the air and from the sea, which will teach something — it is better for all of us to live at peace and in quiet."

The most sober note sounded by the Defense Minister was his frank statement to the workers that cuts in the defense budget will mean laying off many hundreds of defense establishment employees and civilian employees of the army.

PALESTINIAN TO FACE TRIAL IN 1982 BOMBING OF ROME SYNAGOGUE
By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, March 25 (JTA) — A 24-year-old Palestinian who served a 20-month prison sentence in Athens for smuggling explosives will be extradited shortly to stand trial here as an alleged accomplice in the October 9, 1982 terrorist attack on Rome's main synagogue in which two-year-old Stefano Tache was killed and 33 worshippers were wounded.

Last Tuesday, the Greek Minister of Justice, Jargos Alexandros Mangakis, signed an extradition order requested by the Italian government for Abdel Osama Al Zomar who was living in Italy on a student visa at the time of the attack.

Al Zomar, born on the West Bank, was arrested at Kipi on the Greek-Turkish border on November 22, 1982 after 60 kilos of TNT was found in the trunk of his Mercedes car. A companion, Mohammad Al Foyez, was also arrested but since released.

Al Zomar had been posing as a student in Italy, first in Perugia and later at the University of Bari. He never showed up for exams. A letter he wrote from his Athens prison cell to a friend in Bari provided the first clue of his involvement in the synagogue attack.

A court of appeals in Piraeus ruled in favor of extradition on April 29, 1983. But Greek law mandated that he complete the sentence for the crime he was convicted of in Greek territory.

Al Zomar's term was up nine months ago. His lawyer managed to postpone extradition proceedings by invoking Art. 3 of the European Convention of Paris to argue that Italy could not guarantee his protection in a "hostile" environment.

While the legal ramifications were being argued, the suspect remained in confinement in Athens. With the extradition order finally signed, he is expected to be brought to Rome in the next few days under escort by Interpol agents.

U.S. PRAISED FOR ITS ROLE IN WEEKEND AIRLIFT OF ETHIOPIAN JEWS FROM SUDAN
By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, March 25 (JTA) — Two leading American Jewish organizations today praised the United States for its role in the secret airlift of hundreds of Ethiopian Jews from the Sudan to Israel over the weekend.

But at the same time they sought to keep a tight lid on any further public disclosure of details of the operation beyond what has already appeared in the American news media.

Israel continued its silence on the rescue of Ethiopian Jews, as it has since Operation Moses was halted January 6 due to premature disclosure of its details. The White House and the State Department had no official comment on the latest airlift or the role played by the U.S. government.

The Official Word Is 'No Comment'

President Reagan told reporters Saturday at the White House that he had "no comment" on the operation. A State Department spokesman, Brian Carlson, was quoted as saying, "We have no comment and we don't plan to have anything."

In keeping with the Administration's policy of remaining quiet on details of the mission, White House Chief

of Staff Donald Regan said, "I'm not going to comment on that case," when asked about reports of the airlift during an appearance Sunday on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press." "I think in cases where we make humanitarian efforts to rescue various types of people, I think instead of reporters and senior Administration officials discussing it in public, its best left to the historians," Regan said.

"You can blow these things very easily," Regan continued. "And I would suggest that in the future we may be trying to rescue either ethnic or religious groups who are trapped for one reason or another. And I don't think it serves any good purpose to discuss it."

Statements By Two Jewish Organizations

Kenneth Bialkin, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, in a statement, said "As an American I am filled with pride. As a Jew I am filled with gratitude by the unselfish and humanitarian action of our government and of the personal involvement of Vice President George Bush and President Reagan."

He added that "what they did here shows that the United States is willing when it has the opportunity to do so to help those people who want to help themselves in seeking freedom."

The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, in a statement, said, "We are profoundly moved by the report of the three-day operation completing the evacuation of virtually all of the Ethiopian Jews left in the refugee camps after the airlift was halted in January, and we welcome the actions of the United States government. It is very much in the spirit of the special relationship of the United States and Israel."

Media Reports Of The Airlift

According to media reports of the airlift, the operation involved the United States Air Force, the CIA and the State Department. The evacuation, the reports said, brings to Israel virtually all Ethiopian Jewish refugees who were stranded in Sudan after the airlift carried out by Israel from November to January was halted. Some 8,000 Jews were reportedly brought to Israel during that operation.

The Los Angeles Times, which carried the first reports of the three-day evacuation, said that it was worked out by Bush in a meeting March 6 with Sudanese President Gaafar al-Nimeiry. The Times reported that Nimeiry told Bush he had no objection to the removal of refugees from Sudan as long as it was done quickly and quietly, and according to other reports, that it was not conducted with Israeli planes.

The White House is widely reported to have given its approval for the operation. While there are no precise figures of how many Ethiopian Jews were flown out on the propeller-driven C-130 transport aircraft, it is reported that about 900 Ethiopian Jews lived as refugees in Sudan for about a year.

They were believed to have been in the Gedaref area, about 200 miles southeast of Khartoum. The Times correspondent reported early last Friday morning that the area in the Tawawa refugee camp where the Jews were housed was deserted.

The operation, the Times correspondent in Sudan, Charles Powers, reported, began at dawn last Friday. The Ethiopian Jews "were moved in a top secret and closely timed operation." He wrote that "the refugees, who had been moved during the night from Tawawa, a camp six miles away, were loaded swiftly, probably in groups of 80 to 90 with each plane staying on the ground as long as necessary."

Powers, reporting from Gedaref, was detained in a state security compound for 16 hours and released when the operation was completed. He quoted unnamed sources as saying Nimeiry should easily ride out any criticisms for tacitly backing the second airlift.

EEC MINISTERS EXPECTED TO ISSUE JOINT RESOLUTION ON THE MIDEAST

By David Kantor

BONN, March 25 (JTA) — Despite protests by Israel, the foreign ministers of the 10 European Economic Community (EEC) member-states are expected to release a joint resolution on the Middle East in Brussels next weekend which, according to diplomatic sources here, will deal with the situation in Lebanon and in the Israel-occupied territories.

According to the sources, there will be no departure from the June, 1980 Venice declaration of the EEC leaders which called for self-determination for the Palestinian people and "association" of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Middle East peace process.

Israel rejected the declaration at the time. Israeli envoys in Western European capitals recently have tried to convince the EEC governments to issue no further statements on the Middle East. Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, on his visits to West Germany, Holland and Belgium last month, warned his hosts that a new EEC declaration would not be useful and could only encourage extremist elements in the region.

But according to diplomats here, the EEC ministers have reached an "understanding" on the new joint declaration. Before publication, it will be reviewed by the 10 EEC heads of state who are scheduled to meet in Brussels for a routine European summit.

TWO PROMINENT PALESTINIANS SAY THAT JOINING A JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN DELEGATION WOULD REQUIRE PLO APPROVAL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 25 (JTA) — Two prominent Palestinians, mentioned as possible members of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to negotiate peace with Israel, made it clear today that were they to be asked to join such a delegation they would need the prior blessings of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

But Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem and former Mayor Rashad A-Shawa of Gaza said that so far nobody has approached them to join any delegation. Freij, a leading moderate who has long urged peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Palestinian Arabs, said that any Palestinian invited to participate in peace talks would have to receive the public approval of the PLO's executive committee before he accepted.

Shawa told visiting members of the Citizens Rights Movement (CRM) that he would be willing to participate in a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to negotiate with Israel. But he doubted the Israelis would allow him to. He added that even if he was part of a general delegation, he was sure it would not act against the dictates of the PLO.

Shawa was asked by the CRM people if Jordan and the PLO could go any further to advance the peace process. He called on the PLO to conditionally recognize Israel. He said PLO chief Yasir Arafat could make recognition of Israel conditional on Israel recognizing the Palestinians' right to exist. "I would urge this," Shawa said.

Israel's official position, repeated by Premier Shimon Peres at yesterday's Cabinet meeting, is that it opposes prior talks between a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the Reagan Administration, as proposed by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE OTHER FACE OF ISRAEL

By Murray Zuckoff

(The second article in a series.)

JERUSALEM, March 25 (JTA) — Israel's economy is an equal opportunity victimizer. All segments of the population — workers and businessmen, moshavim and kibbutzim, and the young and the old, especially those living on pensions and fixed incomes — are adversely affected.

People are bewildered not only by the devaluation of the Shekel but by its daily fluctuation. In a period of two weeks this month, the Shekel went from 771 to the Dollar to 792. No one knows from one day to the next what the prices of commodities will be — except that it will in all probability be higher.

Every morning and every afternoon people line up in front of banks to get the latest Shekel readings. It's unnerving for Israeli consumers but a paradise for tourists. Merchants and tourists are both armed with pocket calculators to translate prices of goods into the tourists' home currency. Many shops and hotels will offer a 10 percent discount and elimination of the 15 percent value added tax if the consumer pays in foreign currency.

Dollars are being hoarded by Israelis and kept in safe places in the home or in bank safe deposit boxes. A case in point: some safe deposit boxes were recently broken into in a Jerusalem bank and the owners declined to come forward to identify the contents. The assumption was that the boxes contained undeclared dollars.

Sublimation Through Jokes

To cushion the debilitating effect of the Shekel devaluation and fluctuation, Israelis have developed bleak jokes. One is: Israel no longer needs the law of gravity. It's been replaced by the law of the Shekel. Everything falls within its vicinity. Another joke: If the shaky position of the Shekel continues, it is going to be renamed the Shekel. And, a variation of an oldie but a goodie: In America, money talks. In Israel, all the Shekel says is goodbye.

The economic "balagan" (total chaos) has been attributed to the peace with Egypt, which cost Israel at least \$5 billion, not including the oil lost in the Sinai; the war in Lebanon at an estimated cost of \$3.5 billion; defense outlays; repayment of foreign debts, and a general mismanagement of the economy over a period of years.

Israelis tend to react to these explanations very much like the poor Jews in the shtetl who had become accustomed to receive a weekly stipend of five groshen from a local wealthy Jew. One week the stipend was reduced to two groshen. "Why?" asked the poor Jew. "Because I had a bad week," the wealthy one responded. "You had a bad week, so I have to suffer," the poor Jew complained.

An Explosive Issue

But jokes aside, the economy — with unbridled inflation at 800 percent and seven percent unemployment at this time — next to the war in Lebanon, is an explosive issue for the government. In fact, when Premier Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin addressed meetings of the United Jewish Appeal Ambassadors' Mission they stressed this is the most crucial task Israel has to deal with.

In February, for example, the consumer price index rose by 13.5 percent. It was the first double-digit inflation figure since November. Retail prices in

January had climbed by 5.3 percent. The Histadrut is seeking a cost of living increment of about 14 percent. But by the time this increment is implemented, some 10 percent of it will have been eroded.

Old People Are Seriously Affected

One segment of the population most seriously affected by the economic turmoil are the old who live on fixed incomes and pensions. For these people, writes D'vora Ben Shaul in *The Jerusalem Post*, "life is a never-ending struggle for survival. The hand-to-mouth existence forced upon this sector of the economy deprives its members not only of peace of mind but even of the basic essentials of proper diet as well as adequate heat in the winter months For many of these pensioners the dream of the golden years has turned into a nightmare of deprivation."

Some 300,000 people receive old-age pensions from the National Insurance Institute. Half of them are living below the Institute's official poverty line. While about half of those receiving old-age benefits from the Institute have official supplementary incomes in the form of jobs, private pension funds from their former jobs or taxable dividends, "the other half eke out a living on pensions of less than \$120 a month for a single person and \$190 for a couple," Ben Shaul writes.

In several neighborhoods in Jerusalem, some of the old people gather quietly on the eve of the Sabbath to receive some meat, fish, fruits and vegetables from the managers of the supermarkets. Their dignity doesn't permit them to ask for food; they stand by inconspicuously and wait for the managers to motion to them to pick out what they need.

Unemployment is on the rise. Employment in industries oriented toward the domestic market has come to a near stand-still. There are some jobs available in research and development and in export-oriented industries. Gad Yaacobi, minister of economics and planning, said recently that this trend is expected to continue. "I have little faith that work openings will be created soon in any great number in any other sector than export-oriented industries," he stated.

Earlier this month Labor Minister Moshe Katsav complained bitterly about the jobless situation. "Not only is the commitment the government undertook for full employment not being carried out, but no body has even been formed to create employment or to prevent unemployment," he wrote in a letter to Premier Shimon Peres.

Coping With Unemployment

Coping with unemployment is exhausting and frustrating. But some jobless find ingenious and inventive ways to deal with the situation. In Jerusalem, two women have founded the Jerusalem Bartering Club where members can swap their unwanted possessions for goods and services they would otherwise have to buy.

According to the co-founders of the club, Rhoda Elovitz and Theresa Terry, "In the beginning, before Shekels, there was bartering. Early man traded furs for weapons and food. We feel the Israeli economy has come full circle and it's time again to reinstitute this primitive, yet efficient, system." The club, they point out, was founded as a mutual support group to help those struggling to make ends meet.

Merchants are also affected by the gyrations of the economy. While many of them are enjoying brisk business, as consumers, on a spending spree, are buying household and luxury items now as a hedge against price hikes later, they are also being hit by spiraling municipal rates.

In Haifa, for example, private businesses, factories and shops staged a one-day close-down protest against increases in municipal rates. A week earlier, the City Council approved rate increases of 600 to 900 percent above last April's assessments.

Haifa's Chamber of Commerce Secretary Arieh Mehaoul charged that the increases, slated to take effect next month, would make the city a more expensive place to live and to run a commercial enterprise than Jerusalem or Tel Aviv. He said that some small and medium-sized businesses would be paying more in municipal rates next month than in taxes.

Problems Of The Moshavim

The moshavim, which have been suffering economic hardships for some years, are facing more problems. Hundreds of Galilee moshavim members blocked the road between Safad and Moshav Meron and dumped thousands of eggs on the highway on March 10. Police used force to break up the demonstration which moshav movement leaders said was part of a campaign to force the government to give aid to needy settlements.

The protestors, including hundreds of moshav children, chanted slogans, including, "Bread and work" and "The Katyushas have not made us leave the northern border, but the subsidies will." According to Rahamim Yakuti, secretary of the Galilee moshavim, changes in recent years in the poultry industry, with the emphasis turning from raising chickens for meat to raising them as egg producers, has caused serious financial problems for the farmers.

There is now a surplus of 40 million eggs and there is no way moshav farmers could raise prices, he said. Subsidy money has not been forwarded to the producers for four months and some 25 moshavim are now in the red by a total of \$10 million, he added. Other demonstrations are being planned by moshavim members.

The Wedding Of The Decade

And while economic concerns were high on the agendas of Israelis, many took time out to participate in or wonder about the wedding of the decade. Some 2,000 guests, many uninvited, attended the wedding of Uri Zohar's son to the daughter of Arik Einstein. Zohar produced and directed a trilogy of films in the 1960's celebrating the sabra, and Einstein starred in all his movies.

Robert Rosenberg, reviewing this spectacular in The Jerusalem Post, wrote: "The two fathers symbolized back in the sixties, an irreverent yet somehow idealistic Israel. This marriage ... symbolized Israel of the 1980's, asking itself questions and finding answers in religion." Zohar, who had been part of the swinging Tel Aviv crowd in the 1960's, turned to religion in the mid-'70's and persuaded Einstein's wife to turn away from the world of the Dizengoff cafes.

The day after the wedding there were reports in the newspapers about thousands of children wandering through the streets of Haifa searching in vain for the city's traditional Purim parade. They couldn't find it because it was cancelled as a budget-cutting measure.

(Next: The Ethiopian Jews)

HOOPER STAR AULCIE PERRY CHARGED WITH POSSESSION AND USE OF NARCOTICS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 25 (JTA) -- Aulcie Perry, one of Israel's leading and most popular basketball stars,

has been charged in a Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court with possession and use of dangerous drugs. Perry is also scheduled to testify in the case of Yitzhak Kotlovsky of Bnei Brak who has been charged with supplying Perry with seven doses of heroine on three separate occasions in February.

Although Kotlovsky is charged with buying heroine and supplying it to friends free of charge, the charges against Perry mention sums of money paid, including a doll worth 92 Swiss Francs Perry brought back from Switzerland while returning from a basketball match in Zagreb, Yugoslavia.

Perry did not attend last night's scheduled practice and has declined to comment on the charges. Maccabi Tel Aviv's management also declined comment but noted that Perry has not yet made known his plans for next season.

The 31-year-old Perry, a Black American player, came to Israel from the United States 10 years ago, converted to Judaism and married a local fashion model. He has been one of the mainstays of the Israel--and twice European -- champion Maccabi Tel Aviv team.

JEW IS ELECTED TO EXECUTIVE OF TUNISIAN LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN

PARIS, March 25 (JTA) -- The Tunisian League for the Rights of Man elected Serge Edda, a 42-year-old Jewish businessman of Tunis, to its executive committee at the organization's annual general conference yesterday, the Tunisian news agency, Tunis Arab Press (TAP) reported.

Edda was confirmed by an overwhelming majority of the 300 delegates who flatly rejected the protest by one of their number that he was "fundamentally opposed to the election of a Jew because all Jews are by definition Zionists."

According to the news agency report, the conference president interrupted the proceedings to propose a resolution condemning all forms of discrimination "whether racial or religious." This, by implication, was a repudiation of the anti-Jewish statements made in the course of what was described as a stormy debate.

A large number of delegates asked that the delegate who made the anti-Semitic statements be barred from the organization, TAP said. But its report did not name the delegate or say whether he was indeed ousted from the League.

The League of Human Rights was established in Tunisia in 1977. Its executive committee has since been enlarged to include representatives of most major political parties and organizations in the country.

CORRECTION

The first sentence on page 4 column 1 in the March 25 Bulletin should have read: It isn't that Israelis have become indifferent or callous to the events around them, just that they are developing ways to insure themselves against events which were thrust upon them and over which they have no control.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Evgeny Aisenberg, Kharkov's only Hebrew teacher, was arrested on March 19, and charged with allegedly "defaming the Soviet state and social system," the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported. A former engineer, he has actively sought repatriation to Israel since the late 1970's. He is the 10th unofficial Hebrew teacher to be arrested in the Soviet Union since July, in a campaign the State Department called a "major, sustained crackdown on Hebrew teachers and other Jewish cultural activists."