

TWO CONFESSED JEWISH UNDERGROUND MEMBERS EXPECTED TO BE SENTENCED SOON
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 28 (JTA) -- A Jerusalem District Court judge is expected to pronounce sentence shortly on two confessed members of a Jewish underground network held responsible for a series of terrorist acts against West Bank Arabs, including murder, attempted murder and conspiracy to blow up Islamic shrines.

Rabbi Dan Beeri, 40, a French-born Catholic convert to Judaism, and Yossi Edri, 25, the first of nine defendants who reached plea bargaining agreements with the prosecution, testified this week. Beeri admitted complicity in a plot to blow up the Dome of the Rock mosque on the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem. Charges of membership in a terrorist organization and attempted assassination of three West Bank Arab mayors in June, 1980, were dropped.

Two IDF Officers Will Be Tried Separately

Two Israel Defense Force officers, Shlomo Livyatar and Ronni Gilo, who were allegedly active in the underground, will be tried separately pending the outcome of the large trial which opened a year ago, after the underground was exposed by police.

Altogether, 27 men were indicted. One of them, Avinoam Katrielli, 24, was tried separately last year for illegal transportation of weapons in connection with the Temple Mount plot. He was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment, based on his confession.

Katrielli was released last month for good behavior after serving 10 months of his sentence. Two indicted suspects are still at large. But 18 remain in jail pending a court decision on the admissibility of the confessions they made initially and later repudiated.

Trial Has Strong Political Implications

Most of the accused are Orthodox Jews from the West Bank, members or supporters of the militant Gush Emunim. Their trial has strong political ramifications. They were arrested after police foiled a plot to plant bombs in five Arab-owned buses in East Jerusalem. Subsequently they were linked to assorted acts of violence against West Bank Arabs over a four year period.

The trial created a sensation when it opened last spring. After several courtroom sessions, the prosecution and defense agreed to a postponement until after the Knesset elections, held last July 23. It was resumed in September but the proceedings came to a virtual halt because of the disputed confessions. The accused were denied bail.

Beeri, in a statement to police in the early stages of the investigation, made public only two days ago, claimed that Rabbi Moshe Levinger, leader of the Gush Emunim in the Hebron area, participated in a meeting four years ago at which destruction of the Islamic shrines on the Temple Mount was discussed.

The meeting was held at Kiryat Arba, the Jewish township overlooking Hebron which is regarded as the main Gush Emunim stronghold in the West Bank. Beeri, who admitted to being present, said it was attended by two of the alleged leaders of the underground, Menahem Livni and Yehuda Etzion, in addition to Levinger.

According to Beeri's testimony, the destruction of the Islamic holy places was intended to provoke Egypt into abandoning the peace process with Israel, thereby forestalling the return of Sinai to Egypt.

The plan was not carried out at the time, according to Beeri, because the chief instigators were in Yamit attempting to thwart government orders to evacuate the Jewish township in Sinai. Beeri said that after Yamit was abandoned, he dropped out of the plot.

A Controversial Sidelight

A controversial sidelight of Beeri's testimony was the visit by the district court judges to the Heichel Shlomo, headquarters of the Chief Rabbinate, to hear Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu testify to Beeri's good character and his excellence as a teacher and scholar. Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir had ruled that the Chief Rabbis may not be summoned to court.

But MK Shulamit Aloni of the Citizens Rights Movement sharply criticized the judges. She maintained that their visit to the Chief Rabbi undermined the sovereignty of secular law in Israel and was in contempt of court.

Meanwhile, the police are continuing to search for the two missing suspects. One of them, Ira Rappaport, is believed to be in the U.S. The other, Yossi Indor, reportedly is hiding out in Israel.

Until these latest developments, the trial had almost slipped from public view because of the protracted legal negotiations and the absence of dramatic confrontations. Two Knesset members, Deputy Speaker Meir Cohen-Avidov of Likud and Yuval Neeman, leader of the Tehiya Party, called attention to it recently when they visited the U.S. to raise funds from Jewish sympathizers for the families of the accused.

SHOULD ISRAEL PAY ATTENTION TO U.S. PUBLIC OPINION? TWO SOLONS DIFFER
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 28 (JTA) -- Two U.S. Senators differed today on whether Israel should pay attention to public opinion in the United States.

Sen. Steven Symms (R. Idaho) told the 150 persons participating in the 1985 Washington Mission of the New York United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies that Israel, by bowing to U.S. pressure in Lebanon in 1982, "snatched defeat from the jaws of victory." Symms said that at the time he told the then Israeli Ambassador, Moshe Arens, to "ignore" both the American press and the State Department "and do what you have to do to prosecute the war to a victory."

He said that if Israel had kept up the fighting in Beirut for another 72 hours, despite the heavy casualties it might have caused, "everything would have worked out. I think the Syrians would have been forced to come to Israel to make a settlement. The way it happened, they got off the hook" and the situation has worsened with terrorists returning to south Lebanon, Symms said.

He added that Israel has bowed to this type of pressure at the end of three wars. He said the same thing happened to the U.S. in Korea and Vietnam where, he said, the wars were won on the battlefield but lost in Washington.

But Sen. Christopher Dodd (D. Conn.) said that although he supported Israel's objectives in Lebanon "it is extremely important what the American public thinks about Israel, and you can't ignore it."

He said while Israel is the "best ally in the world" of the U.S., there are forces here who want to see the strong ties "fractured and broken apart." He said to tell Israel to ignore public opinion is not in Israel's interests.

"Maintaining and building the political base of support for the State of Israel in this country is absolutely and fundamentally essential to its survival and security," Dodd declared. "Without that fundamental base of support in a democracy Israel's security is jeopardized."

Symms replied that while he agreed with some of what Dodd said, "The New York Times, believe it or not, does not always represent what mainstream America thinks," Symms said. This was greeted by loud applause.

Dodd and Symms were among seven Senators who appeared in a forum on "American Strategic Role in the Middle East" on Capitol Hill which began the day long program of the UJA-Federation Mission. The others were Senate Majority leader Robert Dole (R. Kas.), and Sens. Joseph Biden (D. Del.), John Glenn (D. Ohio), Robert Kasten (R. Wis.) and Sam Nunn (D. Ga.).

When the Senators were asked about the growing influence of Arab-Americans on Capitol Hill, Biden replied they were not the main reason that supporters of Israel had lost some fights in Congress, such as the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia in 1981. He said one reason is that there are no more "giants" in the Senate like Sens. Hubert Humphrey (D. Minn.), Henry Jackson (D. Wash.), Jacob Javitz (R. NY), and Frank Church (D. Idaho) who could sway the Senate with their moral force.

Biden said the major power that helped force the AWACS sale through the Senate was the large corporations with "significant economic investments" in Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries. He said they brought pressure upon Senators opposed to the sale from larger corporations as well as from small companies on the local and state level. He stressed that "economic muscle" still plays a major role in foreign policy.

As for future arms sales to Arab countries, Kasten said that because Israel is cutting its defense budget, there is a consensus in Congress not to approve arms sales to its Arab opponents which would improve their qualitative or quantitative military capacities.

Dodd, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, reported that the Committee last night approved the Foreign Aid Bill for the 1986 fiscal year which includes the Reagan Administration's request for Israel of \$1.8 billion in military aid, an increase of \$400 million, and \$1.2 billion in economic aid.

Kasten said he expects the Administration to recommend whether Israel should get additional economic aid in a couple of months. However, he predicted the Administration would propose an additional \$1.5 billion for Israel over a two year period, \$800 million in the first year and \$700 million in the second.

Ernest Michel, executive vice president and campaign director of the UJA-Federation, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the annual trip to Washington has grown larger each year, and has become the group's most popular event and one of its major fundraising programs.

SENATE UNIT ADOPTS A REQUIREMENT ON SALE OF AWACS TO SAUDI ARABIA By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 28 (JTA) -- The Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously approved last night a requirement that before any AWACS are delivered to Saudi Arabia, President Reagan certifies to Congress that the Saudis have contributed to the peace process in the Middle East.

The requirement was proposed by Sen. Alan Cranston (D. Calif.) as an amendment to the Foreign Aid Bill which was adopted by the Committee. When the Senate approved the sale of the AWACS in 1981, Reagan sent a letter to then Majority Leader Howard Baker (R. Tenn.) saying that before delivery he would certify that the Saudis had been helpful in the peace process as well as several technical requirements to protect the security of the technology in the AWACS.

The first five AWACS are scheduled to be delivered in January. The Cranston amendment would now make Reagan's promise a requirement under law if adopted by the full Senate and the House. Rep. Michael Barnes (D. Md.) is introducing a similar amendment in the House.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- An alert passer-by was credited Thursday with averting an explosion outside a Jerusalem bank. Police sappers were summoned to the Bank Hapoalim branch on Hebron Road in the Tal-piot section after the passer-by spotted a suspicious-looking parcel attached to a bicycle that was propped against a wall of the bank. They found a relatively small explosive charge in a nylon bag which was safely dismantled.

BONN (JTA) -- Simon Wiesenthal was presented Wednesday with the Grosses Verdienstkreuz (Grand Service Cross), one of West Germany's highest awards, for his contributions to the reconciliation between Jews and Germans. "You have devoted your life to this task despite the deep suffering you experienced under the National Socialist reign of terror," Chancellor Helmut Kohl wrote in a letter of congratulations to Wiesenthal.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Two recently arrived immigrants from the Soviet Union have urged Israel Radio, which can be heard in Moscow, to broadcast news about job opportunities because Jewish activists in the USSR are worried about reports of rising unemployment in Israel. Michael Rapaport and Konstantin Golecko, both in their 20's and married, arrived in Israel less than a month ago. At a meeting this week with Absorption Minister Yaacov Tsur, they said that despite jamming, Israel Radio should report job openings and describe in what fields, especially high technology, vacancies exist.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- A bill that would make denial of the Holocaust a criminal offense punishable by up to three year's imprisonment, has passed its first reading in the Knesset and is expected to become law without difficulty. It has been approved by the Justice Ministry. The measure was introduced by MK Elazar Granot of Mapam.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES
THE OTHER FACE OF ISRAEL:
A REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK**
By Murray Zuckoff

(Last article in a series.)

JERUSALEM, March 28 (JTA) — Israel is not only a place, it's also a state of mind, a bitter-sweet reality. It's ebullience, verve and vitality. It's the quiet measured pace of 19th century Mea Shearim, and the now, the in, the where-it's-at dizzying and be-dazzling Dizengoff Street.

It's where a Cabinet Minister can stand on a street corner chewing the fat with a crony and where a disgruntled citizen can chew out a Cabinet minister. It's where the speech of a Prime Minister is interrupted on TV and radio so that an international soccer match in which an Israeli team is involved can be telecast and broadcast.

It's where young men and women soldiers stand at bus stops waiting to hitch rides. It's where bus drivers are kings and riders are peasants in their eyes. It's where motorists vie with each other to see who can drive faster than a Concorde plane. It's where every red-blooded Israeli aspires to become a "pakid" (bureaucrat) and where every pakid reigns supreme in his or her own office or cubicle.

It's Yad Vashem and King David's Citadel. It's where every street is named after known or obscure Zionists, Jewish writers, poets and philosophers — and American Presidents like "Avraham Lincoln." It's arms tattooed with concentration camp numbers, faces from almost every corner on the globe, and where the worst form of intermarriage is that between a Litvak and a Galitzianer.

Israel is also a place where primary school students dressed as American Indians put on a Purim play for recently arrived Ethiopian Jewish immigrants at the Kfar Saba absorption center. Why American Indians? A Jewish Agency official was quick to explain: "Why not? Who's to say that Mordechai and Esther weren't Indians?"

Israelis have always been known for ignoring lines and for breaking into them at will at bus stops, at supermarkets, at movies, wherever. It was a challenge. The usual response from those waiting was always a boisterous, "Rega, Rega," (roughly translated as "wait a minute" or "hold it.") No more. Lines are respected, and if someone should revert to the primeval, the offender will immediately say, "slicha" (excuse me.) Unbelievable, but true.

Taba is little more than a hotel and a strip of sandy beach. The Egyptians and Israelis are trying to settle a dispute over the ownership of this enclave near Eilat. But the Israeli and Egyptian soldiers who stand on either side of the border, which is demarcated by nothing more than two oil drums with a heavy metal rod across them, are more concerned with who is going to get the latest container of coffee for each other than who owns the land. Fraternalization is the order of the day.

Some 40 members of the 80-member United Jewish Appeal Ambassadors' Mission visited an Air Force base somewhere in the Negev. While there, they planted trees. With uncanny adroitness, every one of them picked up a shovel, dug up some earth and patted it down around the saplings.

Having finished their task, they boarded a waiting bus to take them to their next destination. As the bus, filled with contented UJA tree planters, left the base it passed by the area of the planting. Out in the field IDF soldiers were busy re-planting the saplings, "doing right what we screwed up," some of the UJA members said wistfully.

Kibbutz Grofit, in the Negev near Eilat, across from Aqaba, has what might be a unique relationship with Jordan. Through a tacit agreement with the kibbutz and with the Israeli government, Jordanian security authorities notify the kibbutz whenever they know or suspect that terrorists might be in the vicinity. The Jordanians are practical about this arrangement — they don't want their only port city disrupted, and so they keep the kibbutz informed. "A cat couldn't slip through the area without us being informed," said one leading member of the kibbutz.

One of the hottest items in Israel is a T-shirt with the inscription: "America, feel safe. Israel is behind you."

Owners and workers in the "shuk" (open air market) in the Old City are inveterate hawkers and talkers. They entice customers into their emporiums by assuring each and every passerby, "Come in, doesn't cost anything to look." Once in, the customer is asked his place of residence. In my case, the answer was New York. It seemed as if almost every merchant — if one took seriously every one of them — had either visited New York, intended to visit it or had friends or relatives who lived or had visited the city. Invariably, the areas were identified as "Central Park West," "Forest Hills," or "West End Avenue." Real Arab enclaves.

Tourists love to take pictures. And what better place is there than at an absorption center for Ethiopian Jews. The ever-smiling youngsters are a joy to behold. And so, on this afternoon a group of American tourists were cocking shutters, flashing bulbs and having a time photographing the Ethiopian youngsters and each other photographing the youngsters. One of the Ethiopian children turned to his counselor and asked, in all innocence: "Are Americans born with cameras?"

Few Israeli civilians are seen in Nablus. The few that are are cabbies. It seems that they come here to have work done on their cars because the mechanical work is better and cheaper than it is in Jerusalem. Although it might take a whole day for the job to be done, the cabbies don't mind. While waiting for their cabs, they sit around at the local cafes and sip coffee at a leisurely pace.

On a recent Saturday night a group of young Orthodox Jews sat around a TV set in a hotel lobby. They were entertained by an episode of the popular "A-Team," with Hebrew subtitles. They chortled and chuckled with delight whenever the A-Team good guys would clobber the baddies.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, addressing the Ambassadors' Mission, stressed that the basic threat to

Israel's national existence comes from the Arab armed forces and that "the limited threat to Israel, not the major one," is posed by terrorism.

"Whenever we deal with Israel's security we have to bear in mind the existence of these two levels of threats. No terror organization can threaten the very existence of Israel, not the PLO, not the Shiites and who knows who in the future. But at the same time they carry out the daily threat to the normal way of life of the Israelis. When we talk about Lebanon, we talk only about terrorism. Lebanon never was and will not be in the foreseeable future an Arab country that can build an armed force that can be of any threat to Israel."

Premier Shimon Peres, addressing the same mission, said: "I know that many of us were suspicious that deep in our hearts we want to expand, we want to gain land. Nothing is more wrong than that. We have withdrawn from Sinai though we could have remained there. We are withdrawing from Lebanon though we have the military strength to stay there. What we are doing represents a policy, a moral commitment, not a military must nor an expediency in political terms."

Israel is land and it is people. Since 1948, Israel has absorbed more than 1.8 million Jews from 120 countries, speaking 70 languages. But above all else, Israel is a word -- and that word is Shalom.

SURVEY SHOWS INTERMARRIAGE AMONG FRENCH JEWS IS PERSIVASE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 28 (JTA) -- From the mid-sixties until now, more than 50 percent of French Jews who married took a non-Jewish spouse, according to a survey carried out by the French National Research Center and the Hebrew University's Institute of Demographic Studies.

The 400-page study, just released here by the National Research Center, also found that there are 535,000 Jews currently living in France, about 200,000 fewer than previous estimates, and that the average age of French Jews is increasing.

The principal authors of the study are Prof. Doris Bensimon of Caen University, who is chief research scientist at the National Research Center, and Dr. Sergio Dela Pergola, of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. They reported that the high rate of intermarriage "is particularly serious" for the future of the Jewish community because 60 percent of the Jewish partners in mixed marriages are women.

The researchers noted that in French society "it is the father who is the dominant note in the family's religious practices and cultural options." They predicted that there will be fewer Jewish males available for marriage in the years ahead, according to demographic trends in France, and that consequently, an ever larger proportion of Jewish women will marry non-Jews.

On the basis of current demographic trends in Western Europe as a whole, and especially in the European Jewish community, the study predicts "at the best" a stabilization of the French Jewish community and probably a drop in its numbers by the end of the century. The French Jewish community is the largest in Western Europe.

Dela Pergola warned that the community's average age will continue to increase and this ageing process will affect the number of active community members. This factor must be borne in mind by Jewish community leaders and organizations when they allocate resources and lay the groundwork for educational institutions during the next 10-15 years, Dela Pergola wrote.

So far, community leaders have had no comment on the study's findings. Most lay and professional leaders said they have not yet had an opportunity to thoroughly study its hundreds of pages and dozens of tables and graphs.

ROCKEFELLER U., WEIZMANN INSTITUTE COLLABORATION MADE POSSIBLE BY \$5 M CONTRIBUTION BY RAPID-AMERICAN CORP.

NEW YORK, March 28 (JTA) -- An unprecedented collaboration between two of the world's foremost research institutions, the Rockefeller University and the Weizmann Institute of Science, will be made possible through a contribution by the Rapid-American Corporation (R-AC), it was announced today by Mona Ackerman, R-AC president.

A new foundation, the Foundation for the Rockefeller University and the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science, Inc., will be funded by the Rapid-American Corporation through a contribution of \$5 million which is expected to generate \$500,000 per year from investment.

It is anticipated that the beneficiaries of the new foundation will ultimately share in an aggregate of at least \$14 million.

"The magnitude of the research efforts undertaken by these two institutions is enormous and they have already contributed significantly toward finding solutions to the world's most pressing problems," Ackerman said. "Our ardent hope is that the award will enable the Rockefeller-Weizmann scientific teams to work together even more intensively and fruitfully to eradicate disease."

According to Dr. Joshua Lederberg, president of the Rockefeller University, the establishment of the new foundation will bring the two institutions closer together in ways that would not otherwise have been possible.

"We expect that the foundation will support work in many fields, but many of its initial efforts are likely to be in biomedical research areas like cancer biology, the neurosciences, molecular genetics, immunology, plant genetics and parasitic diseases, as well as other fundamental science," Lederberg said. "Research in these fields would impact on a wide range of human problems."

Prof. Michael Sela, president of the Weizmann Institute of Science, said that this new formal link with the Rockefeller University will serve as the catalyst for Weizmann and Rockefeller scientific teams, both in New York and in Israel, to deepen their range of potentially life-saving research. "The formalization of the Weizmann Institute's link with the Rockefeller University adds a bold new dimension to the relationship between the two institutions -- we are most grateful to the Rapid-American Foundation and the Riklis family," he said.

Additionally, the subjects and findings of the research supported through the new foundation will form the basis of international symposia involving leading scientists from institutions throughout the world.