

THE LAST ANSAR DETENTION CAMP INMATES FREED; IDF BULLDOZERS LEVEL THE AREA
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 3 (JTA) -- The last 752 inmates of the Ansar detention camp were freed today and they had hardly left when a fleet of Israel Defense Force bulldozers moved in to level the large tented and hutted area.

The demolition proceeded rapidly amid clouds of dust and the roar of diesel motors. It underlined Israel's determination to get the IDF out of south Lebanon as swiftly as possible and to erase what had become a symbol of Israel's troubles, its ambiguous and changing role, in Lebanon.

The Ansar camp was established in the early months of the Lebanon war in 1982 when the IDF was sweeping victoriously toward Beirut. It was set up to house thousands of captured Palestinian terrorists, Syrian army regulars, suspected saboteurs and persons considered for one reason or another to be security risks.

In November, 1983, 4,500 prisoners were released from Ansar in exchange for six Israeli soldiers held by El Fatah, the terrorist arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Later, six more IDF soldiers taken prisoner by the Syrians were exchanged for 291 Syrian soldiers at Ansar.

But the depopulated camp filled up rapidly with new categories of terrorists, guerrillas and security risks. About 1,200 detainees were removed from Ansar yesterday and taken to a new, \$400,000 "escape-proof" prison compound inside Israel.

These were known terrorists, considered too dangerous to remain at large. But their transfer across the border has already raised troublesome legal questions for Israel.

Nature Of Latest Released Prisoners

The inmates released today were members of organizations hostile to Israel but, unlike those transferred yesterday, were not known to have participated in attacks on the IDF. Freeing them was a "calculated risk," according to Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy. But the IDF was prepared to take it to remove what the officer in command of the camp had called a "festering sore."

The prisoners were sent home. Most of them, about 450, live in parts of Lebanon already evacuated by the IDF. They were loaded onto Safari trucks which took them to the Litani River bridges. There they were turned over to representatives of the International Red Cross. The remainder were returned to their home villages in the areas still held by Israel.

The departing prisoners were dressed in blue track suits, provided them by the IDF. They looked like joggers rather than prisoners. Each carried his personal possessions and a letter from the IDF warning them to refrain from future hostile acts against Israel or suffer retribution.

"You have been released even though you have committed crimes," the letter said. "We shall be keeping a watchful eye on you." They left the camp singing nationalist songs and shouting anti-Israel slogans -- much of it apparently for the benefit of the television cameras of the international news media.

Ansar is located about 10 kilometers north of the Litani River and 15 kilometers from the coast. To some extent it marked the perimeters of the new IDF line in the western sector of south Lebanon. Its dismantling will hasten completion of the second stage of the IDF's three-stage withdrawal operation.

It was evident the IDF was losing no time. Bulldozers uprooted utility poles and other structures which were loaded onto trucks for transportation back to Israel. Also extracted were the concrete blocks on which the tents and huts had rested to prevent prisoners from digging escape tunnels.

Issue Of Legality

But if security measures were strict at Ansar, its administration was relatively benign. IRC representatives visited the camp weekly. The prisoners were also allowed regular communication with their families in Lebanon. This will no longer be feasible for the inmates transferred to the new detention camp in Israel. Experts differ on the legality of transferring prisoners from an occupied area into a foreign country.

But most legal authorities in Israel take issue with an IRC complaint filed in Geneva today that the transfer is in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention governing the treatment of prisoners of war. Israel does not regard these men as POWs because they do not conform to the Geneva Convention's definition of soldiers.

Under the Convention, a POW is a captured fighter who wears a uniform, is under the command of a recognized authority, bears arms openly and behaves under the established norms of behavior in combat.

The legal experts here say both the Geneva Convention and Israel's emergency regulations allow an occupying power to detain and transfer persons whose freedom might endanger the occupying army, their own safety and the safety of the residents among whom they live.

IDF CONTINUES TO COME UNDER ATTACK
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 3 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force is continuing to come under attack in south Lebanon and is in turn, pressing its searches of Shiite villages for suspected terrorists and weapons. Two attacks with Katyusha rockets and rocket-propelled grenades last night caused no casualties.

IDF forces today searched Tir Zibne village east of Tyre. According to sources of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), 300 male villagers were rounded up in the local schoolhouse for interrogation. UNIFIL said it was the 35th village searched by the IDF since the "iron fist" policy began a month ago.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin today visited the site of the Ansar detention camp in south Lebanon which is being dismantled and the new prison camp inside Israel where about 1,200 Ansar inmates have been transferred. (See separate story.)

Speaking to reporters later in Nahariya, Rabin repeated that if Shiite gunmen continued their forays against the IDF, the IDF would strike back with all the force at its disposal.

He said the extent of the proposed "security zone" to be established just north of the international border after the IDF leaves Lebanon has been determined. He would not disclose the size of the zone but said it would be patrolled by the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA).

MARCUS HOCHSTEIN, 21, DIES OF WOUNDS SUSTAINED WHEN HIS IDF PATROL WAS AMBUSHED IN LEBANON

TEL AVIV, April 3 (JTA) -- A 21-year-old Israeli soldier who died at a Haifa hospital yesterday of wounds suffered in south Lebanon Saturday, was a member of a prominent American-Jewish publishing family.

Pvt. Marcus Hochstein, the latest fatality sustained by the Israel Defense Force, was the son of Joseph Hochstein, former publisher of the Jewish Week of Washington, D.C. and a grandson of Philip Hochstein, former editor and publisher of The Jewish Week of New York.

His mother died three years ago. His father, grandparents, sister and brother moved to Israel in 1983 and live in Tel Aviv. Young Hochstein took Israeli citizenship in 1984 and joined the IDF, volunteering for a paratroop unit. He was a member of Kibbutz Beit Hashita which he visited at the age of 15 when spending the first of several summers in Israel.

Hochstein, who grew up and was educated in the Washington area, was accepted as a student at Tel Aviv University's Shiloah Institute. But he entered the army instead. He was fatally wounded when his detail was ambushed while clearing a mine from a road near Nabatiya.

VIRTUALLY NO REACTION IN ISRAEL TO A REPORT ABOUT THE WEST BANK BY Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 3 (JTA) -- The report by the West Bank Data Base Project showing that the Israeli government now controls 52 percent of the land on the West Bank, including every area with growth potential, has elicited virtually no reaction in Israel since its release here Sunday although it was featured on the front pages of major American dailies and drew prompt comment from the U.S. State Department which has yet to see the report.

The figures cited in the report, titled "Land Alienation on the West Bank: A Legal and Spatial Analysis" were disputed by no one here. But they hardly came as a surprise. Meron Benvenisti, a former Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem who heads the Data Base Project, presented similar data in the project's 1984 report which correctly predicted the conclusions of the new study.

Jewish settlers in the territory did not react, nor did government circles. Both take the line that the less said of Israel's control over the territories, the better.

A prominent Arab lawyer, Rajai Shehade, said in a newspaper interview published yesterday that he did not challenge Benvenisti's data but did take issue with his insistence that Israel's hegemony over the West Bank has reached the point where it is "irreversible".

Claims Israel Created 'Facts'

Benvenisti, long a sharp critic of Jewish settlement activities in the occupied territories, has maintained for some time that the socio-economic and demographic situation and other "facts" created by Israel in its 18 years of occupation have already rendered impossible any sovereignty other than Israel's over the land.

Shehade -- and the State Department -- do not agree with that premise. Shehade also contested Benvenisti's assertion that the government's acquisition of West Bank land was accomplished through

legal means, if not always in the best spirit of the law. According to the Arab lawyer, it is not enough to evaluate the land acquisition measures in terms of Israeli law only, but rather by the terms of international law and its application to territories under military occupation.

According to the latest Data Base Project report, 52 percent of the West Bank land, some 5.3 million dunams, have come under absolute government control through direct seizure or administrative restrictions.

The land has been seized in a number of ways, the report said: By declaring land previously held by the Jordanian monarchy to be State land; by expropriating Arab land, especially that of absentee owners; by seizing land for military purposes or for communal services, such as nature preserves; and by purchasing it from Arabs willing to sell.

Report Cites Statistics

Almost half the area seized has been taken over for military purposes, the report said. Only seven percent of the total Israel-controlled region has been designated for housing. But this alone is sufficient to house a population of 800,000-1,000,000.

Jewish settlers in the territory presently number about 45,000. A soon to be approved master plan for road construction in the West Bank will expropriate another 100,000 dunams, Benvenisti said. The Jewish population will soar to 100,000 before the turn of the century, he predicted.

The State Department said yesterday that it does not "share the view that activities on the ground rule out the possibility of a negotiated settlement". But it credited the Benvenisti report with pointing "to the urgency of achieving a negotiated resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on Israel's return of territory in exchange for a just and durable peace."

OSI DIRECTOR CONFIRMS THAT EMIGRE GROUPS SEEK TO HAVE OSI ABOLISHED By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 3 (JTA) -- Neal Sher, director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI), confirmed that various emigre groups in the United States were conducting a "vociferous" campaign in Washington aimed at having the OSI abolished.

Sher said in a telephone interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that various emigre groups have "fanned out to the Executive branch and Congress" in order to press their case. He did not identify the groups.

Sher was contacted following the release yesterday of a report by the World Jewish Congress charging that various Baltic and Ukrainian emigre groups and activists have engaged in "an intensive and shocking campaign aimed at undermining the Justice Department's Nazi prosecution program." (See April 3 Bulletin, P. 3.)

According to Sher, contacted at his Washington offices, the emigre groups "don't like the fact that the OSI deals with the Soviets" when seeking its main eye witnesses to atrocities committed by alleged war criminals.

Sher said that the emigre groups also object to the pursuit by the OSI of members of the emigrant community for activities that occurred during World War II. "I suspect this does not sit well with people the fact that there is blood on the hands of many of these collaborators," Sher said. The OSI, established in 1979, is the Justice Department's unit responsible for investigating, and when necessary, taking legal action against U.S. residents suspected of complicity in Nazi war crimes.

COOPERATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN HIAS AND THE INS FACILITATES PRE-PASSOVER ARRIVAL OF 21 IRANIAN JEWISH REFUGEES

NEW YORK, April 3 (JTA) -- Special cooperative efforts between HIAS, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM) have made possible the pre-Passover arrival of 21 Iranian Jewish refugees from Vienna, HIAS reported today. The participants in the mini-exodus, who landed at New York's Kennedy Airport this afternoon, have been awaiting U.S. immigration processing in Vienna for anywhere from seven to eight months.

Due to HIAS' special efforts, the INS, in an unusual procedure, issued its March visa approval list earlier than usual. In addition, ICM -- the agency responsible for refugee movements throughout the world -- agreed to add a special group flight to its schedule to facilitate the early April arrival.

According to Robert Israeloff, president of HIAS, "all stops were pulled out to make this a pre-Pesach departure. For these 21 Iranians, the words liberty and redemption are not merely idealistic symbols, but refer to actual and recent events in their lives. We were determined to make their migration complete before Pesach, and to see them reunited with their families in a free nation, so that they might be together to mark this ancient celebration of Jewish liberty."

For HIAS, 1984 and the first quarter of 1985 have seen a marked acceleration of Iranian Jewish refugees arriving in Western Europe. During 1984, some 450 Iranian Jews registered for immigration processing with the HIAS office in Vienna, close to 100 in Rome and smaller numbers in Paris, Athens and Geneva, HIAS reported.

BLACKS AND JEWS HOLD PASSOVER SEDER By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, April 3 (JTA) -- Passover began early this year, with Black Americans singing songs of freedom to a Soviet Jewish refusenik and Jews reciting the prose of a jailed Black activist in South Africa.

The occasion was the Freedom Seder, conducted here last night at the Religious Action Center of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), one of many being held in Reform synagogues all over the country this week under the sponsorship of the Kivie Kaplan Human Relations Institute. The seders are a joint project of the UAHC, the congregational branch of Reform Judaism in America, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Washington area Jews and Blacks gathered to take note of their common legacy of slavery and to reaffirm a shared pursuit of universal freedom in the spirit of the Passover holiday.

The co-hosts were the Rev. Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the NAACP and Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the UAHC. They led a group of about 30 Blacks and Jews in a celebration of freedom gained and in solidarity with those still oppressed.

They sang and recited an assortment of traditional liturgical pieces and folk songs and the writings of such activists as Anatoly Shcharansky, imprisoned in the Soviet Union, South African Nobel Peace Laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu, and the jailed anti-apartheid leader, Nelson Mandela.

"This holiday is particularly appropriate as a unifying symbol between the Black and the Jewish communities," Schindler said, "because it goes to the heart of what the Black movement is all about -- the quest for freedom."

In that spirit, the Passover Haggadah used at the Freedom Seders here and elsewhere this year provided a "Matza of Hope" to Soviet Jews and South African Blacks and listed 10 "modern plagues" to be fought rather than celebrated, such as war, discrimination and world hunger.

JEWS, CHRISTIANS GATHER OUTSIDE SOVIET CONSULATE TO HOLD A 'FREEDOM SEDER FOR SOVIET JEWS'

SAN FRANCISCO, April 3 (JTA) -- An estimated 100 Jews and Christians gathered yesterday outside the Soviet Consulate here to hold a "Freedom Seder for Soviet Jews," according to the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews.

The noon, hour-long demonstration, which centered around a fully-set Passover table, was organized to draw parallels between the suffering of Jews in ancient Egypt and the present suffering by Jews in the Soviet Union, said Lillian Foreman, president of the Bay Area Council.

Chairs around the table, which was placed across the street from the Soviet Consulate, were left empty. Enlarged photographs of Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience were set in a row down the center of the table. Foreman said "Jews in the Soviet Union cannot celebrate Passover, so we are doing it for them."

Demonstrators sang Passover songs, listened to talks by rabbis and Christian leaders and heard messages of support from Mayor Dianne Feinstein and many California Congressmen. Before dispersing, three rabbis left a seder plate and three boxes of matzo on the Soviet Consulate doorstep.

EXTRADITION EFFORT UNDERWAY By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, April 3 (JTA) -- The Netherlands government is urging Canada to amend an 86-year-old treaty between the two countries which has frustrated efforts to obtain the extradition of Jaap (Jacob) Luitjens, a resident of Vancouver, who was convicted in his native Holland in 1948 of collaboration with the Nazi occupation forces during World War II.

Luitjens was sentenced in absentia to 20 years in prison for "aiding and abetting" the enemy, a crime not covered by the Canada-Netherlands treaty of 1899. The Dutch Ambassador to Canada, Naboth Van Dijk, said his government has been trying for a number of years to negotiate a new treaty, so far without success.

Luitjens was found guilty of helping the Nazis track down Dutch resistance fighters and locating secret radio transmitters and receivers. He is also alleged to have killed a German army deserter and a Dutch resistance member. Luitjens has denied killing anyone but refused to go to Holland to answer the charges.

Van Dijk said he was surprised that Canada would not comply with a request from one of its Western democratic allies to do all it could to return a convicted war criminal to face justice.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Only 97 Jews were permitted to emigrate from the Soviet Union during March, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported.

KISSINGER SAYS CLIMATE IS NOT RIPE IN THE MIDEAST FOR SOLUTION TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 3 (JTA) --Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger last night suggested that the climate was not ripe in the Middle East for a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute despite the recent flurry of "procedural" suggestions aimed to activate the peace process.

"I do not believe this is the moment a comprehensive solution can be achieved," Kissinger told some 1,500 persons attending an Israel Bond dinner. While acknowledging the need for negotiations, he added that "peace must have content. It is not a process ... It must reflect an attitude."

Kissinger was the principal speaker at a dinner honoring author Elie Wiesel. The dinner at the Waldorf Astoria also marked the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps. A total of \$21.3 million in cash and commitments for purchases of Israel Bonds was realized from the event.

The dais included 40 Holocaust survivors, each of whom enrolled as members of the Israel Bond President's Club by purchasing \$100,000 or more in Israel Bonds. Wiesel, chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, became the first recipient of Israel Bonds' International Remembrance Award.

Searching For An Answer

In an emotional and philosophical speech, Wiesel expressed his pride in the survivors of the Holocaust and what they have accomplished, saying, "you chose to turn your anger into something creative."

Wiesel said he continues in search for an "answer" to how the Holocaust could have happened. "There are no answers," he said he has concluded. "I have studied theology and I have no answer. I have studied philosophy and I have no answer."

"I have studied psychology and psychiatry and I have no answer. As a man of literature I have no answer. The only response must be a moral response. We are the response and our children are the response. I am very proud of our children."

The International Remembrance Award presented to Wiesel is a bronze sculpture entitled "Isaiah" by Chaim Gross, which contains the following inscription on its base:

"Presented to Elie Wiesel, witness and chronicler who gives voice to Jewish agony and heroism during the Holocaust, who awakens the conscience of humanity for all generations to come."

The base also contains a quotation from Isaiah 58:1. Kissinger, who lost 30 members of his family in the Holocaust, was presented with a rare edition of Josephus' "History of the Jewish War," printed in Germany in 1574.

Peres, Herzog Praise Wiesel

Israeli Premier Shimon Peres, in a filmed message from Jerusalem projected on a screen for the dinner guests, praised Wiesel. "I can't think of anybody who could have put into words better than Eli Wiesel did the greatest tragedy that the Jewish nation has experienced," Peres said.

Israeli President Chaim Herzog also sent a congratulatory message to Wiesel, saying, "If any single individual has given unforgettable expression to this saga of Jewish suffering and survival it is Elie Wiesel... He has served as the great witness and imprinted on the conscience of humanity the agony of those who perished."

LUBAVITCHER REBBE'S BIRTHDAY PROCLAIMED 'EDUCATION DAY, U.S.A.'

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 3 (JTA) -- Every year for the last seven years they came, Senators and Representatives, to a celebration hosted by the American Friends of Lubavitch to mark the birthday of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, on the 11th day of Nissan in the Hebrew calendar. They donned white kippot and lauded the Rebbe and proclaimed his birthday as Education Day, U.S.A.

But yesterday, on Schneerson's 83rd birthday, only about a dozen Senators were able to attend, because of the heavy pressure of legislative business. Even Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R. Minn.), the long-time chairman of the event who has long been close to the Lubavitcher movement, was unable to appear.

But Rabbi Abraham Shemtov, national director of the American Friends, while obviously disappointed, said that he had received an outpouring of telephone calls and letters from Representatives and Senators. More important, he added, despite the busy Congressional calendar, both the House and Senate passed a resolution proclaiming April 2 as "Education Day U.S.A." and President Reagan signed the proclamation.

Sen. Arlen Specter (R. Pa.), who hosted the event in the House Senate Caucus Room, noted the admiration of Congress for the Lubavitcher Movement's dedication to education.

Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D. NY) used the occasion to support the Lubavitcher movement's effort for federal aid to parochial schools. He said that he long rejected the view that such aid is unconstitutional.

Representatives of the Lubavitcher movement from 35 states attended the ceremony. One of them, Rabbi Zalman Posner, of Nashville, Tenn., said that in his address to his followers Monday night, Schneerson stressed that Orthodox Jews are responsible for all Jews and for all humanity as well.

But the Rebbe pointed out that in order to have a universal message it first must be "rooted in something particular," Posner related. "The more one is Jewish the more he is ready to serve people around him," Posner said the Rebbe stressed.

Posner said that Schneerson sees those principles symbolized in a life of Moses Maimonides whose 850th birthday is Friday. The members of the Lubavitcher movement have been studying the work of Maimonides for the past year.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Tel Aviv municipality has declared this year the Rambam Year to mark the 850th birthday of the philosopher Maimonides, known as the Rambam. The city will introduce special lessons in local schools devoted to the personality of the scholar who greatly influenced Jewish thought. His birthday falls on April 5, or Nissan 14 on the Hebrew calendar. About 10,000 people participated in special festivities yesterday in Tiberias, near Maimonides' grave.

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- President Reagan was presented with a set of historic source materials concerning America's relationship with the Holy Land in a recent ceremony at the White House. The 71-volume reprint collection and the multi-volume Guide to America-Holy Land Studies, 1620-1948, was presented by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Institute of Contemporary Jewry and the American Jewish Historical Society.