

ISRAELI PLANES BOMB TERRORIST BASE

TEL AVIV, April 9 (JTA) -- Israel Air Force planes bombed a terrorist base near Shamalin, Lebanon and returned safely to their bases today.

The Druze village, halfway between the coastal town of Damour and the mountain town of Aley on the Beirut-Damascus highway, was described as the staging area of pro-Syrian Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists who oppose PLO chief Yasir Arafat.

Reports from Beirut today said 10 Palestinians were killed and 10 Druze injured in the air raid. Four others were reported buried under the rubble of a two-story building identified as the terrorist headquarters. Eye-witnesses said the building was destroyed by a single bomb.

An Israel Defense Force outpost near Tyre came under fire this morning. There were no casualties. The outpost is at Burj El-Shamali, a Palestinian encampment outside Tyre.

MAJORITY OF ISRAELIS WANT IDF OUT OF LEBANON AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 9 (JTA) -- An overwhelming majority of Israelis want the Israel Defense Force pulled out of Lebanon completely and as quickly as possible. But only a minority are willing to entertain the idea of giving up territory in exchange for peace.

These are the results of a series of polls taken a month ago by the Modi' in Ezrachi Research Institute and published this week. The poll was conducted among 1,184 adult Jews, excluding members of kibbutzim and residents of the West Bank and the Golan Heights.

With respect to Lebanon, 63.3 percent of the respondents were in favor of immediate withdrawal. Another 15.3 percent believed the withdrawal should proceed according to the present three-stage formula. A withdrawal with no set timetable but implemented according to prevailing circumstances was favored by 16.8 percent.

Only 1.7 percent felt the IDF should remain in Lebanon permanently and 0.9 percent that it should remain there for at least another year.

Few Want To Give Up West Bank Settlements

No more than a third of the respondents were prepared to give up any Jewish settlements on the West Bank in exchange for peace; another third opposed even a temporary freeze on settlement activities in the territory.

The poll found only 8.3 percent of Israelis willing to give up all Jewish settlements for peace and 25.7 percent ready to give up some of them. A substantial 31.8 percent opposed any stoppage of settlement activity while 26.9 percent would freeze settlements at their present number.

Asked if they were ready to give up any areas of the West Bank for peace with Jordan, 43.5 percent opposed any territorial compromise, 33.6 percent would agree to a partial compromise and 16.6 percent thought Israel should give up the entire territory if peace was offered in return.

MURDERED SOLDIER HAD JUST RETURNED, UNSCATHED, FROM DUTY IN LEBANON
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 9 (JTA) -- Sgt. Akiva She'Altiel was buried today in his home town of Rosh Ha'ayin. He had only just returned, unscathed, from a tour of duty in Lebanon. To the thousands who attended the funeral, the tragedy of the 21-year-old soldier's death had an extra bite of irony. It was as violent as any on the battlefield. But it occurred in Israel, not far from his home.

She'Altiel was the latest victim of a hitch-hike killer, murderers who prey on personnel of the Israel Defense Force. His body, battered and bruised about the head, strangled by a rope left knotted around his throat, his wrists and ankles bound by handcuffs, was found yesterday at the end of a dirt road halfway between the Jewish settlement of Beit Arye and the Arab village of Deir Balut. The site is only seven miles south-east of Petach Tikva.

The dead soldier was first spotted on Sunday, by young women from the Arab village. They mistook him for a local shepherd napping just off the road surrounded by cultivated fields, groves of olive trees and the deep Wadi Shilo lush with spring greenery. But the body was still there the next morning. A farmer reported it to Abdallah Ode, Mayor of Deir Balut. He promptly summoned the police.

All day yesterday and until noon today, security forces ranged over the placid rural area searching for clues. Then they were gone and no trace of the tragedy remained. "We have no idea who is responsible for this gruesome murder," said Mayor Ode. "There is no way we could have known anything."

She'Altiel apparently was not murdered near where his body was found. After returning from Lebanon, he was assigned to duty at Beit Naballah, a transportation base just east of Ben Gurion Airport. He left there Saturday for leave at home. A friend drove him to a point on a busy highway where soldiers hitch rides. He was unarmed. Soldiers inside Israel are not required to carry arms when off duty.

Police Trying To Unravel The Mystery

When and by whom he was picked up remains a mystery which the police are trying to unravel. They suspect that more than one person was involved in the brutal killing of the healthy young soldier whose excellent record got him assigned to represent his unit at an Independence Day ceremony at the Presidential residence in Jerusalem.

Hitch-hiking is the way Israeli soldiers travel around the country, to and from their home towns or anywhere else. It is a way of life and, for more than a few, a way of death.

Last December 11, the decomposed body of Hadass Kedmi, a 20-year-old woman soldier, was found in a wooded area on Mt. Carmel. She had disappeared 12 days earlier while trying to hitch a ride on the main highway just outside Haifa to her home in Kfar Masaryk on Haifa Bay. She had been raped and brutally murdered.

At about the same time, police were still searching for another soldier, David Manos, who had disappeared weeks earlier near where Kedmi was last seen. Manos is still missing.

"A week ago my brother was in Lebanon," said Rahavam She'Altiel after Akiva's funeral today. "But it was so close to home that he was murdered so brutally," the young man said. He added bitterly, "I am a Kahane man. The country should be closed to Arabs after six o'clock in the evening."

He was referring to Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the extremist Kach faction who advocates the expulsion of all Arabs from Israel. The vast majority of Israelis abhor Kahane's patently racist views. But the violent death of a loved one sears the emotions.

NEW STREET SIGN HONORS WALLENBERG
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 9(JTA) -- Mayor Edward Koch, who today unveiled a new street sign honoring Raoul Wallenberg, called on the new Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, to disclose the fate of the Swedish diplomat who saved more than 100,000 Hungarian Jews from the Nazi Holocaust. Wallenberg was arrested and imprisoned by the Red Army when it liberated Budapest 40 years ago.

In a ceremony at the Isaiah Wall across from the United Nations, Koch unveiled a street sign designating the west side of First Avenue from 42nd Street to 49th Street as "Raoul Wallenberg Walk."

"It is not clear if we are naming this street in his (Wallenberg's) honor or in his memory," the Mayor declared, adding: "We would like the Soviet Union to ascertain that." He noted that despite the fact that the Soviet Union declared that Wallenberg died in July 1947, there have been many witnesses over the years who reported seeing the Swedish diplomat alive somewhere in a "Soviet Gulag," Koch said.

Calling Wallenberg "a modern saint," Koch said that today's unveiling of the "Raoul Wallenberg Walk" is a symbolic act, one of many to come, "to insure that his name will be remembered in history."

Magnus Faxen, the Swedish Consul General in New York, said that today's event is in Wallenberg's honor not in his memory because "we consider him still alive." He said that efforts to discover the fate of Wallenberg will continue and thanked the City of New York for the honor it rendered the missing diplomat.

The ceremony, which was also attended by members of the City Council and the Wallenberg Committee of the United States, ended with the singing of "We Shall Over Come," by the All City Concert Choir.

BOOK PUBLISHING FIRM WHICH SENT OUT MISLEADING 'STORY OF PASSOVER' REGRETS 'OFFENSE' TO JEWISH COMMUNITY

NEW YORK, April 9 (JTA) -- Ideals Publishing Company of Milwaukee has announced that it was placing a label on remaining inventory of a children's Passover storybook stating that the book relates the Passover story from an inter-religious view because it includes Jesus at the Last Supper.

"Any subsequent reprints will carry this proviso," Ideals president Donald Gottschalk said in a prepared statement issued last Thursday. Ideal "expresses regret to its friends in the Jewish community for any offense that the publishing of the book...

has caused the community. It was not our intention to do this and we are sorry for causing a disruption during the Holy season," the statement said.

The JWB Jewish Book Council in cooperation with national Jewish community relations agencies protested the publication of "The Story of Passover for Children," a glossy, full color paperback marketed by Ideals, saying it "is misleading. We ask that it be recalled and remarketed under a title that represents what it is: 'A Christian Storybook of Passover for Children.'"

According to Blu Greenberg, president of the JWB Jewish Book Council, "Nestled neatly between the recounting of the Passover story and a description of the way the holiday is traditionally celebrated in the Jewish home -- is the story of Jesus, 'a Jew from Nazareth, (who) ... broke bread with friends at his last supper when Passover prayers were said.'"

Marybeth Owens, managing editor of Ideals, told the Milwaukee Sentinel that the book probably would be retitled in future editions with a Christian emphasis on the Passover. She told the Sentinel she agreed that the book "should have had a clearer, more informative title and that it could be construed for publication strictly for the Jewish community."

Booksellers Halt Sales

Following the alert issued by the JWB and other Jewish organizations, Barnes and Noble book chain decided to pull the book from the shelves and to halt any further sales. Bookazine, a major book distributor, returned its unused inventory to Ideals, the JWB reported. Walden book store chain called the JWB Jewish Book Council to thank it for alerting them to the issue.

Greenberg, in reaction to Ideals, said "In its decision to relabel the story of Passover for Children, as well as its timely apology, Ideals Publishing Corporation of Milwaukee, has responded to the Jewish protest with openness, goodwill and a sense of responsibility. For this we express our appreciation. We also acknowledge gratefully the support and action of many booksellers throughout the country who withdrew these books until they could be properly labeled."

NEW YORK (JTA) -- In a dramatic response to an urgent appeal from the United Jewish Appeal for cash for Jewish needs in Israel and overseas, major federated communities throughout the United States accepted the challenge and remitted \$10 million to the UJA during the last two days of March, according to Bernard Bornine, UJA national cash chairman. This enabled the UJA to send the Jewish Agency a total of \$36 million through March 31, specifically for the absorption of Ethiopian Jews. Overall, cash collections for the first quarter of 1985 came to \$115 million, a 28 percent increase over the \$90 million collected last year.

BONN (JTA) -- The Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia has banned the letters SS and SA from vehicle license plates because of their association with the Nazi era. According to the State Transportation Ministry, many motorists have requested the letters. Also banned, although specifically requested, are the letters KZ, the German abbreviation for concentration camp, and HJ which once stood for Hitler Jugend.

CONGREGATION IN HAWAII USING TORAH THAT ONCE BELONGED TO CZECH JEWISH COMMUNITY, ALL OF WHOSE MEMBERS WERE EXTERMINATED BY THE NAZIS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 9 (JTA) -- A Torah that once belonged to a Jewish community in the Czechoslovak town of Polna, all of whose members were exterminated by the Nazis, is now being used by a five-year-old congregation in Hawaii.

Sen. Daniel Inouye (D. Hawaii) described the event to the Senate last week which brought the 200-year-old Torah to Congregation Beth Shalom in Kona, Hawaii. "In 1940, as the country fell under the boots of the Nazis, Polna's Jewish community was deported to the concentration camps never to return," Inouye said.

The Torah and other communal possessions were sent to Prague where they were part of 15,000 Jewish manuscripts, books and other objects with which the Nazis wanted to create "a museum of the extinct race." These items later became part of the Jewish Museum in Prague.

Involvement Of CJF Official

Last year, through the efforts of Mark Talisman, director of the Washington office of the Council of Jewish Federations, 350 of these items were brought to the United States where they are being viewed across the country as part of a major exhibit sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution called, "The Precious Legacy."

Earlier, however, Czechoslovakia sent more than 1,500 Torahs to London where they are being cared for at the Westminster Synagogue. Recently, Jacob Tzur, president of the Jewish Federation of Hawaii, and Barry Shain, its executive director, asked Talisman's help in receiving one of the Torahs for the Kona Synagogue which has grown to 60 families, about the size of the Polna community when it was destroyed.

Talisman and his family accompanied the Torah to Hawaii where a ceremony was held, attended by some 250 persons, Jews and non-Jews. Talisman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that as the ceremony was going on they could see through the window a group of whales passing which the native Hawaiians at the ceremony noted was a good omen.

'Allow Us To Remember The Horrors Of The Past'

"Having the Polna Torah in our midst, in Hawaii, in the loving care not only of the growing congregation of Beth Shalom but among all of us, serves to allow us to remember the horrors the past which allowed Polna's Jewish community to be destroyed completely, but allows each of us to remember that loss, so as to never allow such cruelty to happen to anyone ever again," Inouye told the Senate.

"From these ashes has arisen in Kona the hope and prayers of a bright and creative future filled with peace which now emanates from our remembrances of those who have perished."

SPECIAL TO THE JTA ON THE RECORD

NEW YORK, April 9 (JTA) -- What did Jews living in the United States really feel about the events of this momentous quarter-century between 1900-1925--World War I? America and their immigration? Russia and the 1917 Revolution? Assimilation?

One rich and lively source of information on the attitudes of American Jews in the early 20th century is the collection of 7,000 78 RPM recordings of people Jewish songs of this period preserved at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. YIVO is currently marking the 60th anniversary of its founding in 1925.

In an interview at YIVO, Henry Sapoznik, archivist of the Max and Frieda Weinstein Archive of YIVO Sound Recordings, said, "These RPM's are the recorded equivalent of the old town crier. They called an event to the attention of the public, gave information on it, and then added a message."

It is the popular and commercial nature of these records that makes them such a good source of information, said Sapoznik who will discuss the attitudes reflected in these recorded pop songs, in his talk on "How We Heard It: Jewish History on 78 RPM's" on Wednesday, April 17 at 7 p.m. at YIVO, 1048 Fifth Avenue (corner of 87th Street). He will "illustrate" his talk with selections from these rarely heard Yiddish and English golden goodies.

Reflected Feelings Of Jewish Community

The records were produced by commercial companies (all but one non-Jewish) for a strictly Jewish audience. They sold at 75 cents each at a time when workers earned \$2 a day. "The recorded songs reflected how Jews felt about themselves," Sapoznik said. "If the community didn't relate to the songs, they wouldn't have bought the records."

The recorded songs, many of them from the Yiddish theater, contain little criticism of American society, Sapoznik said. The earlier ones sing the glories of immigration to America -- "it's good to be here." The later ones of the period began to exhibit nostalgia for the old country -- "as it was and as they would have liked it to be."

The lack of criticism at a time when Socialism and Zionism were "hot issues," is also due, in part, to the commercial nature of the companies, which included Columbia and Victor and scores of smaller labels, some of which produced only a few Jewish records, Sapoznik noted.

The records, he said, "reflect a community in transition." If the words themselves don't show this, the music does. Often there is a mid-song transition from Yiddish-style music to American style (rag-time) music. One 1918 song, "Regards from the Trenches," has two bars of "Dixie" as a "thumbprint" of Americana, he said.

The Son Of Holocaust Survivors

Sapoznik, who did the music for the acclaimed YIVO film about Polish Jewry, "Image Before My Eyes," is the son of Holocaust survivors. His parents are both musical -- his father, a cantor and his mother, a folksinger. He holds a degree in ethnomusicology from the City University of New York and is the founder of the Yiddish klezmer band, Kapelye.

Sapoznik said in the interview that 55,000 Jewish records were put out in the United States between 1895 and 1942. "Many are still in people's basements, closets, or attics and they don't even know it." Urging people to "unearth" these unique and precious treasures, Sapoznik added that YIVO has already put 3,000 of its 78 RPM records on tape and is in the process of working on a catalogue to make them more easily accessible.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF ZIMBABWE

By Kevin Freeman

BOSTON, April 9 (JTA) -- Several Conservative rabbis have expressed "their keen interest" in going to Zimbabwe to fill that Jewish community's need for a rabbi and spiritual leader, according to Rabbi Richard Yellin of Temple Mishkan Tefila in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

Describing it as "a mission of mitzvah," Yellin said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he had approached rabbis about the post in Zimbabwe at the convention of the Rabbinical Assembly in Miami last month. He suggested that a good candidate for the post would be either a student just out of rabbinical school or a retired rabbi.

Yellin has a special interest in the Jewish community of Zimbabwe. Many members of his synagogue are former residents of Zimbabwe. Also, he returned last month from an eight-day visit to the country formerly known as Rhodesia.

The 42-year-old rabbi was invited to Zimbabwe by the representative body of Zimbabwean Jewry, the Central African Board of Jewish Deputies. He had been asked as an outsider to assess the community's operations and needs, and perhaps provide suggestions for strengthening relations with other groups in Zimbabwe and, in general, its stature among world Jewry.

Community Is At A 'Crossroad'

Yellin described Zimbabwean Jewry as being at a "crossroad" -- filled with probabilities of taking off positively or going down negatively. He cited several reasons for this view, among them the economic situation and travel restrictions, both of which have a direct effect on the Jewish community.

According to Yellin, government imposed currency restrictions "present limitations" on free enterprise. "All those involved in capitalist endeavors are in a bind," he said. There have been rumors of nationalizing private industries, although this has not happened, he said.

Furthermore, the government's Marxist-Socialist rhetoric, along with support for the Palestine Liberation Organization, which has an Embassy in Harare, and Zimbabwe's general rhetoric for so-called liberation movements in the Third World makes the "Jewish community very, very nervous," Yellin said.

But despite these aspects of life in Zimbabwe, the Jewish community lives relatively modestly and there are Israelis in the country and according to Yellin, Zimbabweans privately trade with Israel.

History Of Zimbabwean Jewry

Zimbabwean Jewry dates back to the late 1800's. In 1880, four Jews participated in a pioneering trek across the Limpopo River into the African Kingdom of Monomotapa which is now part of Zimbabwe. In 1893, 30 Jews participated in the nearly 600-strong white army during the bloody Matabele War.

There are other reports that chronicle the growth and development of the Zimbabwean Jewish community, such as the first Jewish meeting at the Masoni Hotel in Salisbury, now Harare, to the souring of the Jewish relationship with the former regime of Ian Smith, Premier of white minority-ruled Rhodesia.

The Jewish community reached its peak some time ago at 7,500 persons, and has slowly declined in population since 1980 with the establishment of majority rule. The new government aligned itself with other liberation movements, and broadcasts aggressive anti-Zionist rhetoric familiar in some Third World nations.

Three Jewish Schools In The Country

There are three Jewish schools in Zimbabwe, two in Harare and one in Bulawayo. In past years, when the Jewish community there was larger, the Jewish schools had a registration of some 500 Jews. But today, as the community has dwindled, so has the schools' enrollment. Perhaps 10 to 20 percent of the students currently enrolled in Jewish schools are Jewish. The others are Black and white non-Jews. The government funds Jewish schools in Zimbabwe.

There remains a "Hebrew curriculum of Jewish-Zionist orientation, created by the Jewish community" in the schools, Yellin said. The children wear yarmulkas and receive Hebrew instructions. All three schools are "truly multi-racial, multi-religious" and they are "a vision of what the government would like to do" with the whole country's school system, "at least rhetorically," the rabbi said.

Yellin also met with the Minister of Information, Dr. Nathan Shamuyarira, who talked of the government's hope for a multi-racial, multi-religious state. Yellin engaged in a discussion of the essence of Zionism, he recounted, informing the Zimbabwean official that Zionism is a national liberation movement. Yellin left Shamuyarira, at his request, information distributed by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Yellin met with officials of the Roman Catholic church, and leaders of the Anglican, Presbyterian and Methodist churches, urging that they extend contacts with the Jewish community, including speaking to Jewish congregants, conducting exchange programs and building coalitions.

A Poignant Comment

One poignant comment, Yellin said, came from a leading member of the Jewish community there. He said that if Zimbabwean Jewry can make it in that country, "it will be the first time in history that a sizable Jewish community will be able to succeed and do well in this kind of environment."

"So Black Africa has a lot at stake riding on the success and well-being of the Jewish community in trying to create an open society," said Yellin.

He and Rabbi Murray Saltzman of the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, were recently named as co-chairmen of the Synagogue Council of America's National Task Force on Minority Rights. The SCA was not actively involved in Yellin's visit to Zimbabwe.

PARIS (JTA) -- The 850th anniversary of the birth of Maimonides was celebrated in Bucharest. Hundreds gathered for a series of lectures depicting the great Jewish philosopher, doctor, scientist and legislator. The opening lecture was given by Rumanian Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen who spoke on Maimonides "the legislator." The entire symposium will be repeated as thousands of would-be listeners did not manage to squeeze into the packed halls.