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**TEEN-AGE SHIITE SUICIDE BOMBER
KILLS TWO ISRAELI SOLDIERS**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 10 (JTA) -- Two Israeli soldiers were killed by a teen-age suicide bomber who blew up her car when it drew abreast of their jeep at a road intersection in south Lebanon yesterday. Two other soldiers were wounded and a local civilian was killed by the blast.

The dead soldiers were identified as Lt. Yiftach Paschor, 21, of Kibbutz Ein Hanatziv and Cpl. Mendel Melamed, a 37-year-old reservist from Al-fei Menashe. They were in a jeep at the Badr Al-Shouf crosspoint keeping watch over an Israel Defense Force convoy that was removing equipment from the Jezzine region, the northernmost part of south Lebanon still under IDF control.

The suicide bomber was identified as Sana Mahaydaleh, a 16-year-old Shiite from the Zaharani region of south Lebanon. Only recently she appeared on a Beirut television program to declare her desire to become a "martyr" and enter heaven by killing "the highest number possible of our enemies." The Lebanese National Resistance Front claimed responsibility for Mahaydaleh's suicide mission.

Eye-Witness Account

One of the wounded Israeli soldiers, Yoni Roth, 20, of Kibbutz Mishmar Hayarden, provided an eye-witness account of the bombing. He said the IDF convoy carrying dismantled equipment was passing through a roadblock at Badr Al-Shouf which separates the IDF zone from the Druze-controlled Shouf mountains.

He said a white Peugeot-404 car suddenly appeared, was allowed to pass without stopping through a Druze checkpoint, and attached itself to the tail of the IDF convoy.

He said the car was driven by a young girl in a red sweater who was the sole occupant. When it approached the guard jeep at the crossroad, Lt. Paschor signalled the driver to halt. She complied when the Peugeot was alongside the jeep. The officer apparently ordered the driver to get out of the car for identification.

According to Roth, "My driver said, 'let's see what she looks like when she gets out' ... and then when she didn't get out, he yelled 'she's a suicide' and then the blast occurred." IDF sources estimated that the car contained 20-30 kilograms of explosives.

They said there was no doubt that the driver detonated the explosives herself. She was not a dupe used unknowingly to drive a booby-trapped car. The car was reduced to a mass of twisted metal and no trace of the girl's body remained.

**MURPHY TO VISIT SYRIA DURING
HIS VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 10 (JTA) -- Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, will be going to Syria when he leaves for a visit to the Middle East "very

shortly," the State Department announced today. Department deputy spokesman Edward Djerejian would not give either the date or itinerary of Murphy's trip in announcing that Murphy would visit Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Syria "among others." He explained that no specific advance information is given because of security reasons.

Djerejian described the purpose of Murphy's visit as "to explore with the parties means of maintaining the recent momentum in the search for peace. As we have noted there has been movement in recent months which we regard as positive and upon which we want to build."

The addition of Syria to Murphy's long expected trip comes after Djerejian made a public statement on March 29 that Murphy "would welcome another opportunity" to discuss Mideast issues with Syria.

"While there are obvious differences between our position on the peace process and that held by Syria, the United States is committed to supporting movement toward peace between Israel and all its Arab neighbors," Djerejian said at the time.

Syria has been opposed to the efforts to get King Hussein of Jordan and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat to agree on a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for direct negotiations with Israel.

According to reports today from Tunis, a communiqué issued there by the Revolutionary Council of El Fatah, the military arm of the PLO, said it endorsed the accord between Arafat and Hussein and stressed that the "participation of the PLO" must be "on an equal footing" at an international peace conference under United Nations auspices. The Council's endorsement of the February 11 "joint action formula" was reportedly final. The reports also said that Arafat left today for Amman to hold talks with Jordanian leaders.

Basis For Murphy's Trip

The decision to send Murphy to the Middle East came after Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's visit in Washington in early March in which he urged more direct involvement by the United States in the Mideast peace process. The Arabs reportedly would prefer that either Secretary of State George Shultz or National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane, rather than Murphy, make such a visit.

Djerejian seemed to indicate today that no such visit was in the works although there have been reports that Shultz, who is scheduled to go to Israel on May 10, may also visit Jordan and Egypt. "He's going to Israel on May 10 to participate in the Holocaust commemoration period," Djerejian reiterated.

However, it was announced today that Shultz will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in Vienna on May 14, so presumably he will have time to go to some Arab countries if he so wishes.

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA
TRIFA REMAINS IN PORTUGAL**
By Milton Jacoby

LISBON, April 10 (JTA) -- Archbishop Valerian Trifa is a man without a country. But he has found a haven in Portugal under mysterious circumstances.

Deported by the United States in August 1984 for his alleged role in the massacre of Rumanian Jews in 1941, he went to Portugal where he continues to live in comfort in Lisbon under the protection, it is reported, of neo-Nazi groups.

At the expiration of Trifa's temporary visa last November, the Minister of Internal Affairs, largely in response to protests by Jewish leaders within and without Portugal, revoked his right to further residence. Trifa, who appealed that decision, still lingers on here and no one cares to predict when he may be forced to leave the country.

Time seems to be on his side. Even if the minister's order is upheld, the case must be brought before another court whose function would be to find at least two countries willing to receive Trifa, and to which he would be ready to go. It appears obvious that this man with "a dark past," according to the U.S. Department of Justice, is the beneficiary of long and cumbersome legal procedures.

What seems strange is that despite the sweeping investigation by authorities in Washington, the government of Israel and its Embassy in Lisbon prefer not to become involved in helping bring Trifa to justice. Dr. Joshua Ruah, the leader of the Jewish community of Portugal, confesses his continuing frustration at the delays and difficulties in expelling Trifa.

The Archbishop's deportation from the U.S. was based on considerable evidence compiled by the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI), relating to his activities as a leader of the fascist Iron Guard in Rumania and his complicity in a pogrom against the Jewish community in Bucharest in 1941.

Neal Sher, the director of the OSI, has dubbed Trifa "our most notorious and visible defendant ... his deportation was OSI's highest priority ... he has left the U.S. in disgrace, his dark past having been exposed to the public."

Trifa entered the U.S. in 1930 and resided in Michigan for 30 years before his deportation was ordered in 1980. It remains to be seen how successful he will be in avoiding a second deportation, this time from Portugal, and which other country will accept a man accused of responsibility in the extermination of thousands of Bucharest Jews.

WEIZMAN TO GO TO CAIRO NEXT WEEK TO MEET WITH EGYPTIAN LEADERS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 10 (JTA) — Minister-Without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman plans to go to Cairo next Monday to meet with Egyptian leaders. The Cabinet must first approve his trip, although Foreign Ministry sources stressed that it would be "private."

Weizman, whose Yahad faction won three Knesset seats in last July's election and joined in alignment with the Labor Party, is one of the closest ministers to Premier Shimon Peres. He met yesterday with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir for what was described as a preparatory discussion in connection with his trip. Shamir in the past has vociferously opposed Weizman's involvement in foreign policy matters, especially those concerning Israeli-Egyptian relations.

That involvement has discomfited the rightwing of the political spectrum. The Tehiya Party urged Shamir yesterday to oppose Weizman's trip to Egypt in order to show that he (Shamir), not Weizman, is running Israel's foreign policy.

But the trip apparently will take place. Weizman has not publicly defined its purpose. He hopes to meet with President Hosni Mubarak, Prime Minister Kamel Hassan Ali and Foreign Minister Abdel Ismet Meguid. He is said to feel that he can contribute to furthering the peace process with Egypt by helping resolve the current disputes between the two countries, notably over the Taba region near the Sinai border which Israel and Egypt each claims.

Weizman At Odds With Shamir On Taba Issue

Weizman's views on a resolution of that dispute are known to differ sharply from Shamir's. The former Air Force commander has always been a political maverick. A leader of Herut, credited with organizing its successful election campaign of 1977, Weizman served as Defense Minister in the first Likud-led government of Premier Menachem Begin. The late Moshe Dayan was Foreign Minister.

Both men played pivotal roles in achieving the Camp David accords of 1978 and the Israel-Egypt peace treaty a year later. But shortly afterwards, Weizman resigned over what he felt was the Likud government's foot-dragging in the peace process with Egypt. He was promptly drummed out of Herut and remained in political obscurity until he formed Yahad to run in the 1984 elections.

He is now once again at odds with Herut whose ranking representative in the unity government is Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier Shamir. Their differences at the moment center on Taba where the Egyptians are insisting the dispute be submitted to arbitration. This is strongly opposed by Shamir who seeks broad negotiations with Cairo encompassing all unsettled issues between the two countries, including Taba.

Weizman, however, has hinted privately that he would readily agree to international arbitration over Taba. He believes such a concession by Israel would open the way to a general improvement of relations with the Egyptians.

PROSPECTS OF LIBERAL-HERUT MERGER SUFFER SEVERE SETBACK

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 10 (JTA) — Prospects of a merger between the Liberal Party and its Likud partner, Herut, suffered a severe setback today when the Liberals' internal court ruled that the party's Central Committee had no authority to decide the matter.

The Central Committee was scheduled to meet April 16 to vote on two proposals for a merger and one against. Now a decision will have to await the Liberal Party convention which, though long overdue, is not expected to convene in the immediate future. Political observers said that the court's decision rendered merger a dead issue and that Herut, which has been pressing hard for it, will probably abandon the idea.

Merger was favored by most Liberal ministers and by the party's Knesset faction. It was strongly opposed by many prominent Liberals who threatened to secede and form their own faction if it occurred. Their argument was that the larger, and notably more hawkish Herut would swamp the centrist Liberals and leave no room for ideological moderates.

It was this group, head by Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, and Shlomo Lehat, the popular Mayor of Tel Aviv, who appealed to the party's internal court for a ruling on the Central Committee's authority to act on the issue.

The Central Committee had before it a proposal for an early merger, drafted by Justice Minister Moshe Nissim in consultation with Deputy Premier and Housing Minister David Levy, a rapidly rising power in Herut.

Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai, while favoring a merger with Herut, offered a counter-proposal by which it would be effected gradually, over a considerable period of time. Modai apparently expected the anti-merger faction to be defeated in the Central Committee and believed it would then support his proposal as the least objectionable from their point of view.

But Dulzin, one of the original signers of the Gahal agreement 20 years ago which brought the Liberals and Herut into a loose alliance, the forerunner of Likud, said Monday that he could not support a merger. He observed that the Herut party under Menachem Begin two decades ago was "very different from the post-Begin Herut party" of today.

Another anti-merger Liberal, former Deputy Finance Minister Yehezkel Flumin, charged that the proponents of merger "have sold the party's principles for seats and positions." Most political observers were convinced that the threat of secession by these and other Liberals was not a bluff and would indeed take place if the two Likud components merged. Lehat conceded that secession was risky but said he was confident a new Liberal faction would make a good showing in the next elections.

B'NAI B'RITH WOMEN PLAN TO END ITS PRESENT AFFILIATION WITH THE B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL

WASHINGTON, April 10 (JTA) -- Climaxing several years of public exchanges, the executive board of B'nai B'rith Women (BBW) has approved a resolution calling for the development of a plan to terminate BBW's present affiliate relationship with B'nai B'rith International (BBI), according to Beverly Davis, BBW president.

The resolution was adopted in response to a proposal approved last fall by the BBI to admit women into its generally all-male lodges and chapters. BBW officials publicly assailed the BBI action as a threat to BBW's status as "an independent Jewish women's organization," adding that it was "important" that the organization's identity "remain intact."

Davis said that language was included in a "Platform of Purpose" for the agency adopted at a 1978 BBW convention. She said the proposed plan for disaffiliation will be presented to a special Delegate Assembly, to be convened in Chicago June 30-July 1 and that a final plan of action will be presented to the delegates to the next BBW biennial convention in Las Vegas in March, 1986.

After the executive board vote, Davis said "BBW has been moving in this direction for a long time." She said BBW leaders will devote the next several months to discussions with members about the potential of a new organization.

A series of "town hall" meetings have been scheduled in 50 cities to poll the BBW members and obtain their views about a separate and new Jewish women's organization, Davis reported. In addition, 18 regional conferences have been scheduled in major cities to explore organizational options with regional leaders, she added. She said BBW currently has more than 120,000 members in 834 chapters.

The action of BBI which brought the long-simmering controversy to a head was adoption at a BBI convention last September of a resolution calling on Gerald Kraft, BBI president, to set up a special committee to develop a plan for "full and equal membership" for women to be submitted to the 1986 BBI convention.

Daniel Thursz, BBI executive vice president, said at the September convention that implementing the plan would require a constitutional amendment approved by two-thirds of the delegates at the 1986 convention.

He added that section 145 of the BBI constitution specifies that "members of B'nai B'rith lodges must be men of Jewish faith, of good moral character and at least 18 years of age." He said the projected amendment would likely replace "men" with "persons."

'These Have Been Injustices'

Seymour Reich, BBI senior vice president, who was acting chairman of the study committee which proposed acceptance of women, said the committee treated the issue as one of male bias against women members.

Reich declared that "the fact that women have not been admitted to membership in B'nai B'rith in the United States for 141 years does not make it right. At worst these have been injustices; at best, they have been cultural lags. There is no valid reason for B'nai B'rith to continue its anachronistic membership policy."

Kraft, responding to the concerns voiced by BBW leaders, said there was no intention on the part of BBI to eliminate BBW as an independent Jewish women's organization.

RARE MAIMONIDES CODEX TO BE EXHIBITED

BUDAPEST, April 10 (JTA) -- The Hungarian government has for the first time offered the rare Maimonides Codex for public exhibition, following a request from the World Jewish Congress and the intervention of the Central Board of Hungarian Jews, the representative body of Hungarian Jewry and the WJC affiliate here. The Maimonides Codex is one of the most famous illustrated Hebrew manuscripts in existence. Currently part of the world renowned David Kaufman collection of the Budapest Army, the manuscript is of Maimonides' Mishneh Torah and is of Italian origin dating back to approximately 1482-1520.

A facsimile edition of some of the illuminated pages was published a few years ago in Hungarian and English versions by Dr. Alexander Scheiber, the late director of the Budapest Rabbinical Seminary.

The Hungarian government granted permission for the Maimonides Codex to be exhibited under the auspices of UNESCO. At its last session, UNESCO adopted a resolution proposed by the WJC calling for formal commemoration this year of the 850th anniversary of the birth of Maimonides, the great Jewish philosopher, educator and physician.

BONN (JTA) -- The East German Peoples Republic will open a museum at the site of the former Buchenwald concentration camp, near Weimar, on April 12, in connection with the 40th anniversary of the defeat of the Nazis. The official news agency, ADN, said the museum would focus on the resistance by camp inmates to their Nazi guards. In line with past practice, the ADN announcement made no reference to the fact that many of the camp inmates were Jews.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES CUBA LIBERALIZING ITS RELIGIOUS LIBERTY POLICY TOWARD CUBAN JEWS

NEW YORK, April 10 (JTA) -- The Cuban government, reversing a long-standing policy, has agreed to liberalize its religious liberty policy toward the small Cuban Jewish community, including permission for a rabbi to visit and conduct religious services on major Jewish holy days, the American Jewish Committee reported today.

The announcement of improved religious conditions for Cuban Jewry was made by Dr. Jose Felipe Carneado, director of the Religious Affairs Division of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party (Oficina de Asuntos Religiosos del Comité Central del PCC), during a meeting held on March 19 with three leaders of the Cuban Jewish community: Dr. Jose Miller, president of the Jewish Community of Havana; Moises Asis, secretary general, and Abraham Berezniak, a Jewish leader.

Details of the liberalized policy were made known by Asis in a communication sent to Jacobo Kovadloff, an Argentinian who is director of South American affairs for the American Jewish Committee.

Leo Nevas, chairman of the AJC's International Relations Commission, and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, AJC's international relations director, characterized the development as "an important breakthrough for the continuity and survival of the 800-member Cuban Jewish community."

Wide-Ranging Agreement Cited

According to the AJC report, the Cuban official has agreed "to help Cuban Jewry open a kosher restaurant in Old Havana, maintain and take care of synagogues and Jewish cemeteries, and open a Sunday religious school for Jewish children and young people."

Significantly, Carneado agreed also to grant visas to rabbis who will be allowed to conduct religious services during the major Jewish holy days. According to Kovadloff, "in previous years, rabbis who had visited Havana had been denied the right to officiate in the synagogues."

The Cuban government promised also to allow a mohel, a ritual circumcizer for initiating Jewish children into the covenant of Judaism, to come to Cuba for carrying out this basic religious tradition.

The AJC was informed that Carneado has invited the Cuban Jewish leaders to submit to him a written report on the current situation of the Cuban Jewish community and its major religious, educational, and cultural problems, promising that "the Cuban government is willing to help solve these problems."

Nevas and Tanenbaum made public for the first time the fact that Kovadloff had visited Cuba three times during the past two years in order to express solidarity with Cuban Hebrews. (Cuba is the only Latin American country in which Jews are called "Hebrews" since the word "Jews" still retains a derogatory connotation in Spanish.)

During his visits, Kovadloff brought as gifts from the American Jewish Committee to the Cuban Jewish community many Spanish and English-language books, records and cassettes of Jewish religious and cultural content. Among recent contributions to the Havana Jewish Patronato, the library and communal institution, were Jewish prayer books in Spanish (Devocionario Judío, in Spanish and Hebrew), the Passover Hagadah, and the Sabbath Hagadah.

Nevas and Tanenbaum reported that Kovadloff last traveled to Cuba in September 1983, where he participated in Yom Kippur and Succot services with Cuban Jews. They reported also that during the past 20 years, American Jewish Committee offices in Mexico, directed by Sergio Nudelstejer, and in Buenos Aires have regularly sent religious and educational materials to Cuban Jewry. Similar materials have been sent to Havana by the AMIA, the Jewish Federation of Argentina.

The AJC officials made known also that the Canadian Jewish Congress annually sends kosher Passover foods, matzos, and wine to Cuban Jewry. Jewish ritual slaughtering is also allowed for observant Cuban Jews at the Havana abattoir.

Kovadloff reported that many books on "Hebrews" and on religious-ethnic pluralism have been made available to the Jose Martí National Library in Havana. He said he found only two Spanish-language anti-Semitic publications in that library, published in Mexico and Moscow.

Nevas and Tanenbaum disclosed that Kovadloff had met in recent years with high-ranking Cuban government officials to arrange for the emigration of Jews who had requested exit permits. Noting that President Fidel Castro and Cuban officials had met in recent years with American Catholic bishops and Protestant leaders, Nevas and Tanenbaum expressed concern over the fact that Cuban Jewish leaders had been denied a meeting with Carneado and other government officials for some 10 years.

Kovadloff played a crucial role in urging that this discrimination come to an end, and he encouraged the Cuban Jewish leaders to seek the present meeting, which proved to be positive and constructive.

The AJC was informed also by the Cuban Jewish spokesman that with the permission of the government they recently (March 25) held a public commemoration of the 850th anniversary of the birth of Maimonides, the 12th century Spanish Jewish scholar.

Possible New Era

In their communication to the AJC, the Cuban Jewish leaders expressed the hope that these developments "will mark the beginning of a new era for the (Hebrew) community."

At the next meeting of the Steering Committee of the AJC's International Relations Commission, Nevas and Tanenbaum said, "we will examine what concrete steps might be taken to help the Cuban Jewish community realize to its fullest these new possibilities for enriching their spiritual and cultural life as Jews."

They said also that discussion would take place to see what could be done to help improve relations between Cuba and the United States as well as between Cuba and Israel.

About 15,000 Jews lived in Cuba prior to the 1958 Cuban revolution. The Hebrew Community House, with about 200 members, is the largest of three synagogues in Cuba that remain open.

BONN (JTA) -- A cooperation agreement has been signed in Jerusalem between the Hebrew University and the Academic Center for Jewish Studies at Heidelberg University.

It will further the Academic Center's bid for formal recognition and may result, some time in the future, in the issuance of certificates of ordination for rabbis at Heidelberg. The Academic Center is the only institution of its kind in a German-speaking country.