

**Weekend Developments In South Lebanon:
IDF MAJOR KILLED IN LANDMINE ACCIDENT;
IDF PULLBACK TO BE COMPLETED IN A
MATTER OF WEEKS, PERES TELLS TROOPS
By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, April 14 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held in Kibbutz Kfar Blum today for Maj. (Res.) Ben-Zion Gvirtz, killed in south Lebanon last Thursday when his jeep overran a landmine. Another soldier was wounded.

Gvirtz, 36, a Peace Now activist, had told friends shortly before starting his last tour of duty in Lebanon that he might have refused to serve there had it not been for the government's decision to withdraw the Israel Defense Force as quickly as possible. His jeep was escorting a tractor employed to dismantle IDF posts when it hit the mine.

Meanwhile, Premier Shimon Peres told troops in Tyre that the pullback of the IDF would be completed "in a matter of weeks." Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin promised that the IDF would be completely out of the Tyre area by April 24, the eve of Israel's Independence Day.

Gen. Ori Orr, commander of the northern front who has overall responsibility for Israeli troops in Lebanon, said the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanese soil would be completed "by the beginning or middle of June." Troops have also been told they would be out of Lebanon before June 5, the third anniversary of the IDF invasion which started the Lebanon war.

IDF Denies Atrocity Charges

The IDF was kept busy over the weekend denying atrocity charges. One, a report from Beirut, claimed Israeli soldiers were involved in the massacre of civilians in Yahmor village, south of Lake Karoun in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. Eight members of one family were killed, according to Shiite Moslem sources, during an IDF search of the village.

But the IDF said its men arrived at Yahmor after the massacre had taken place and they subsequently put it under curfew. According to the IDF, the killings resulted from a clash between supporters of the Shiite militia, Amal, and members of the pro-Damascus Lebanese Syrian Nationalist Party which claimed credit for recent suicide car-bomb attacks on the IDF.

The IDF also denied a report today in the Sunday Times of London accusing Israel of being involved in a secret prison in Al-Khiyam village in south Lebanon where the inmates were said to be held under appalling conditions.

An IDF spokesman said the prison is operated "solely and independently by the South Lebanon Army (SLA)" under the direct command of Gen. Antoine Lahad. The SLA is armed and financed by Israel but the IDF insists it has nothing to do with the prison where 70-80 inmates are confined to subterranean cells, according to the Sunday Times.

A 16-year-old Lebanese youth, Mohammed Mahmoud Bourro, captured by the IDF last February 23 in Suk Al-Arbiye village with a Mercedes car containing 400 kilograms of explosives, admitted he had

been recruited by the Amal militia as a suicide bomber. Bourro insisted he was not a religious fundamentalist but had agreed to undertake a mission against the IDF in order to help his father, a Beirut policeman, arrested after his car ran over the daughter of a prominent Amal official.

The youth told Israeli interrogators that his instructors assured him he had a "good chance" to escape alive because he would be provided with a flak jacket and the car would be fitted with armour plate.

He said he had been told by two Shiite clergymen, Sheikh Hassan Trad and Haj Ali Meiri, who were supposed to prepare him "spiritually" for the death mission, that he would be absolved of all his sins which included eating pork, non-attendance at prayers in mosques and enjoyment of Beirut nightlife. But, the youth said, he did not believe them. "I didn't believe I would become a saint," he told his IDF interrogators.

**In The Aftermath Of Bank Leumi Bombing:
JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS IN PARIS ASK
POLICE FOR MORE SECURITY MEASURES
By Edwin Eytan**

PARIS, April 14 (JTA) -- Jewish organizations in Paris have asked police to increase security measures to protect Jewish installations and facilities in the aftermath of Saturday's bombing of Bank Leumi, the fourth such attack against the bank since 1977.

The extremist leftwing group, Direct Action, today claimed responsibility for Saturday's bombing as well as for separate bombings during the day of a French government office dealing with immigrants and the office of an extreme rightwing newspaper, Minute.

A communique by Direct Action said the bombings were carried out by its "Sana Mohaydaleh Commando Unit." The unit is named after the 16-year-old Shiite suicide bomber who killed two Israeli soldiers and a local civilian and wounded two other Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon last Tuesday.

The bomb at the bank went off at 4:25 a.m., wrecking the building and shattering windows and causing structural damage to the Paris bureau of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, shops, cafes and other office buildings on the street where the bank is located. A police officer on the scene after the bombing said that had the bomb gone off one hour earlier it might have had disastrous consequences as a nightclub and a late night cinema adjacent to the bank were filled with people.

Long Record Of Attacks

Direct Action has had a long record of anti-Israel and anti-Zionist attacks. Police authorities investigating this Saturday's bombings as well as other recent bombing incidents said that several organizations might be involved in the terrorist attacks. They believe that Direct Action might have split into two factions: "hardliners" who recently murdered a French Army General, and "moderates" who carried out Saturday's attacks.

The distinction between the factions according to the investigators, is that the "hardliners" strike to kill while the "moderates" content themselves with causing material damage. Investigators also believe that there is a connection between the "hardliners" branch of Direct Action and the recently outlawed West European

branch of the "Armed Lebanese Revolutionary Factions," identified as a Marxist group, and German neo-Nazis.

The view of the investigators is based on the arrest a few days ago in Paris of a West German neo-Nazi activist, Godfried Hepp, described as an important member of the illegal Nazi Party. He is suspected of having worked with the Lebanese factions. Police say Hepp was identified and found on the basis of information discovered in a terrorist hideout in Paris last week. The hideout, in an apartment in the northwest of Paris, contained 20 kilograms of explosives, several detonators, submachineguns and pistols.

A gun found in the apartment was believed by police to have been used to kill Israeli diplomat Yaakov Barsimantov and American deputy military attaché Col. Charles Ray in 1982. The explosives found were of the same type which had been used to blow up the Rue Copernic Synagogue in Paris in 1980 killing four and injuring 20 people.

Hepp and one of his former accomplices, Walter Kexel, were mentioned as possible suspects in the terrorist squad machinegun attack on Jo Goldenberg's restaurant on the Rue des Rosiers in Paris' Jewish quarter on August 9, 1982. Six people were killed and 20 were wounded in that attack. Kexel later committed suicide in a West German prison and Hepp had "vanished" until his arrest last week.

REAGAN ASSAILED FOR HIS PLANNED VISIT TO A GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 14 (JTA) -- President Reagan's planned visit to a German military cemetery during his trip to West Germany next month was assailed over the weekend by representatives of American Jewish organizations.

The representatives, in denouncing the decision to visit the Bitberg cemetery where some 1,800 German soldiers who died during the Battle of the Bulge and later battles are buried, also noted Reagan's refusal to pay homage to the victims of the Holocaust by visiting the site of the Dachau concentration camp.

Joining the chorus of protests against the visit to Bitberg was the American Legion which noted the White House's assertion that a visit to lay a wreath at Bitberg would aid in the reconciliation of the German and American people 40 years after the conclusion of World War II.

"Honoring German war dead while ignoring the thousands of Allied war dead who fought there and the millions of European Jews who were victims of the Third Reich has nothing to do with reconciliation," the American Legion said. "The allies of World War II did not fight for world conquest. The Germans of that era did."

Visit 'Goes Beyond Insensitivity'

Kenneth Bialkin, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said the President's planned visit, announced Friday in Santa Barbara, "goes beyond insensitivity and becomes deeply offensive. The President's action becomes even more incomprehensible in light of his refusal to pay his respects at Dachau."

In urging that the President "reconsider this ill-advised decision," Bialkin said: "A new beginning in our relations with the new Germany is a laudible goal. But when the first step of that new

beginning is taken in a way that diminishes Hitler's victims ... the result is a deep insult to the soul of remembrance." Daniel Thurst, executive vice president of B'nai B'rith International, said the President's "willingness to visit a German military cemetery shocks us, precisely because it will reopen old wounds—and in a way that will stir the bitterest resentment, not just among Jews but among former American soldiers and the soldiers of our allies and the families of the victims who fell to Nazi Germany's madness."

Rabbi Marvin Hter, head of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said, "It is simply inconceivable that there can be any commemoration of the defeat of Nazi Germany without focusing on the main agenda of Nazism: The 'final solution' of the Jewish people and murder of many other innocent victims. If the President of the United States can visit a German cemetery, he certainly can visit Dachau or Bergen-Belsen."

Nathan Perlmutter, director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said, "Visiting the gravesite of one's former enemies is an act of grace. Doing so while by-passing the gravesites of the victims of that enemy is insensitive. The President has shown his intuitive compassion on many occasions It is plain that in addition to this newest offense to the victims of Nazism, the President himself has been the victim of awful advice."

'An Incredible Act Of Callousness'

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, called the President's decision "an incredible act of callousness. The President wants to symbolize reconciliation with the new Germany, a worthy goal. But that neither requires nor is enhanced by a decision that insults the men who gave their lives in the war against Nazi tyranny, and that seeks to bury the memory of Nazism by pretending it never happened."

Menachem Rosensaft, founding chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, said, "It is a calculated, deliberate insult to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust for President Reagan to pay homage to German soldiers, soldiers who wore the swastika on their uniforms and who died fighting to prevent the allied forces from liberating the Nazi death camps, while at the same time refusing to visit the site of the Dachau concentration camp."

In an unusually strong statement, Rosensaft, who was born in the displaced persons camp of Bergen-Belsen in Germany, said "By his actions, President Reagan is demonstrating that he has no concern whatsoever for the remembrance of the Holocaust. He is violating every principle of decency and is aligning himself completely with all those who seek to forget or even deny the Holocaust. President Reagan's total lack of sensitivity shocks the conscience."

Benjamin Meed, president of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, said, "We are extremely saddened and bewildered" by the planned visit to Bitberg, and urged the President to reconsider "in the name of Holocaust survivors, their family and friends."

MEZUZAHS IN SPACE

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 14 (JTA) -- Astronaut Jeffrey Hoffman, a crew member aboard the current five-day mission of the space shuttle Discovery, is carrying in his personal flight kit four mezuzahs and two atarot, the inscription on the collar of a tallit.

The 40-year-old Hoffman of Clear Lake City, Texas, a suburb near Houston, is the first Jewish male astronaut to go up into space. Judith Resnik was the first Jewish woman to go into space when she was a crew member last June aboard the shuttle Discovery.

Hoffman, active in Congregation Shaar Hasholom as past president of the men's club, spoke with Rabbi Arnold Stiebel, spiritual leader of the congregation, about doing something of "Jewish interest" during the Discovery flight.

The four mezuzahs include one of hand blown glass designed by Shirley Kagan, who with Brenda Bernstein runs a Judaica gallery in Manhattan. The others are ceramic designed by Marcia Penzer of Woodmere, Long Island.

Hoffman, an astrophysicist, plans to present the glass mezuzah to the Israel Museum. One of the ceramic ones will go to the Jewish Museum in New York, another to Congregation Shaar Hasholom and the fourth he will hold onto for personal use, Stiebel told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Peres Sustains Severe Political Blow: CABINET VOTES 10-9 NOT TO APPROVE WEIZMAN'S VISIT TO CAIRO

JERUSALEM, April 14 (JTA) -- Premier Shimon Peres sustained a severe blow to his status and prestige today when his Cabinet voted 10-9 not to approve the visit to Cairo tomorrow by Minister-Without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman who had been invited by Egyptian Prime Minister Kemal Hassan Ali.

As an angered and embarrassed Peres pointed out to his ministers afterwards, this was the first time the Cabinet has ever failed to approve a minister's trip abroad. "I regard this as very serious indeed," Peres said.

According to political observers, unless the Ministerial Defense Committee or the 10-man "inner cabinet" comprising senior Labor and Likud ministers reverses the decision when it meets to discuss the matter tomorrow, the Labor-Likud unity coalition government is not likely to survive. Peres would be almost certain to resign after suffering such a personal rebuff, the observers said.

But they believe the decision will be reversed, that Weizman would leave for Cairo, if a little late, and that the Likud ministers, having made their point, would not force a crisis confrontation.

Nevertheless, serious damage appeared to have been done to the sometimes strained but generally good working relationship between Peres and Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier.

Shamir Led Cabinet Fight

Shamir led the fight against the trip at today's Cabinet session. Sources close to Peres said the Premier had been led astray. They said he and Shamir had agreed privately last week that Weizman would make the trip which was officially designated a good-will visit in his private capacity.

Cabinet sources said Shamir balked at what he considered the changed nature of Weizman's trip after his agreement with Peres. He referred to a published interview with Osama Al-Baz, a close aide to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, in which the Egyptian diplomat was quoted as saying that Weizman's meetings with Hassan Ali and Foreign Minister Abdel Ismet Meguid would be preparatory to a Mubarak-Peres summit meeting.

Shamir also complained about the relatively large press entourage which was to accompany Weizman and to pronouncements by the Minister-Without-Portfolio making a "big event" of the visit.

Shamir has consistently opposed any involvement by Weizman in foreign policy matters generally and in the Israel-Egyptian relationship in particular. His objections are grounded in Weizman's well known position as a dove and his insistence that he alone, as Foreign Minister, conducts Israel's foreign policy.

Shamir has also come under heavy pressure from hardliners in his own Herut party and from the right-wing opposition faction, Tehiya, to assert his command of foreign policy by negating Weizman's trip to Cairo. Shamir had already instructed Israel's Ambassador in Cairo, Moshe Sasson, not to accompany Weizman on any of his meetings with Egyptian officials.

Labor Let Down By Their Allies

At today's Cabinet session, the Labor ministers were let down by their presumed allies, Yigael Hurwitz of the one-man Ometz faction and Religious Affairs Minister Yosef Burg, leader of the National Religious Party, both of whom abstained in the vote.

Another Labor ally, Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein of the Shinui faction, was absent, as was Interior Minister Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz of the religious faction, Shash. The latter is considered an ally of Likud.

Peres noted that Weizman had been invited by the Egyptian Premier and that he, Peres, after consulting with Shamir, had informed the Egyptians that Weizman would be coming. (By David Landau)

FIRST JEWISH WOMAN ELECTED TO BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME By Haskell Cohen

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., April 14 (JTA) -- Senda (Berenson) Abbott, a pioneer in the development of women's basketball, will be the first Jewish woman to be enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame on Monday, July 1.

Lee Williams, executive director of the Hall, indicated that this marks the first time a woman will be enshrined in the national Hall of Fame. Presently there are 143 men and four teams inducted into the museum and shrine dedicated to the American game.

Abbott was known as "the Mother of Women's Basketball." While serving as director of physical education at Smith College in Northampton, Mass., she introduced the sport to the female students. The first women's game was played March 22, 1893, at Smith.

A native of Vilna, Lithuania, Abbott, working in conjunction with Dr. James Naismith, founder of the game, wrote the official rules for women's basketball in 1892. She chaired the U.S. Women's Basketball Committee and was editor of Basketball Guide for Women. Through her influence on the Smith students for 19 years, basketball spread through many parts of this country.

From 1911 to 1921 she chaired the physical education department at the Burnham School in Northampton, Mass. She died at the age of 86 in 1954. She has been elected to the Hall of Fame as a contributor.

Male Jewish inductees in the Hall include: COACHES: Arnold Auerbach 1968; Harry Litwack 1975. PLAYERS: Barney Sedran 1962; Nat Holman 1964; Max Friedman 1971; Adolph Schayes 1972. CONTRIBUTORS: Abe Saperstein 1970; Edward Gottlieb 1971; Maurice Podoloff 1973. REFEREES: David Tobey 1964.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

SENEGAL IS IN THE FOREFRONT OF
ALIENATE ISRAEL FROM BLACK AFRICA
By Abraham Foxman and Abba Cohen

(Editor's Note: Abraham Foxman is associate national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and head of its international affairs division. Abba Cohen is deputy director of the ADL's Middle Eastern affairs department. The article was written on the eve of Senegal President Abdou Diouf's scheduled arrival in the United States this week.)

NEW YORK, April 14 (JTA) — Senegal's record of unremitting hostility toward Israel is comparable to that of the most extreme Arab states. Indeed, while Israel maintains contacts in varying degree with the majority of African countries (including those which are openly hostile), under the present regime of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, Israeli initiatives have been rejected even at the most informal and unofficial level.

Diouf and other Senegalese officials have declared, time and again, that Senegal has absolutely no intention of resuming diplomatic relations with Israel, now or in the future.

Senegal has been in the forefront of efforts to alienate Israel from Black Africa. In early 1982, Saudi Arabian leaders were reportedly assured by Diouf that his country would vigorously oppose renewed Israeli attempts to gain diplomatic acceptance by African states that broke off relations after the 1973 war.

Several months later, Diouf pledged to Arab League Secretary General Chedi Klibi that Senegal would work to block any renewal of diplomatic relations between Africa and Israel and that his country would seek to persuade African states to link the issue of South Africa with that of Israel.

In the past several months there have been reports of discussions between Senegal and the Arab League to establish a joint program to combat Israeli "infiltration" of Black Africa. And, in March of this year, Senegal initiated the formation of an African-Arab interparliamentary committee that will be devoted to addressing the Israeli "threat" in Africa.

Pressures States Friendly To Israel

Senegal has even attempted to create strains between Israel and those African countries that have chosen to reestablish ties. Early this year, for example, in a move characteristic of hostile Arab states, Diouf pressured the Zairian government not to invite the Israeli Ambassador in Kinshasa to the official welcoming ceremonies for President Diouf's visit to Zaire.

Senegal has been active within the Islamic world as well. As a member of both the Islamic Congress organization and the Moslem Solidarity Conference, Senegal has participated in the adoption of virulent anti-Israel resolutions, including those that call for "Jihad," or Holy War, against the Jewish State.

Senegal's relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization have also deepened over the last three years. In June, 1982, in an exchange of letters with PLO terrorist leader Yasir Arafat, Diouf pledged continued support for the "restoration of Palestinian rights." Senegal also proposed a separate

United Nations seat for "Palestine" occupied by the PLO. Since that time, Senegal-PLO solidarity has been emphasized during two meetings with Arafat in Dakar and in Tunis.

It should be noted, in this regard, that in 1967 Senegal was the first Black African state to grant official recognition to the PLO. Senegal's founder and first President, Leopold Senghor, once described as a "champion of the PLO," encourage the terrorist organization at that time to open an office in Dakar.

Leading Anti-Israel In The UN

Even at the UN, where anti-Israel animus is rife, Senegal stands out. At every opportunity, Senegalese representatives fiercely condemn Israeli policies and actions. In Senegal's position as chairman of the UN Committee of the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, it has played a prominent role — indeed, a leading role — in efforts to vilify, castigate and discredit Israel.

Hostility, however, has not always marked Senegal-Israel relations. During the 1960's, in fact, ties between the two countries were cordial. Cooperative agreements were signed on a wide range of issues, including agricultural development, air transport, youth training programs and the modernizing of industrial infrastructure. Israeli agronomists shared their renowned expertise in the cultivation of arid lands with Senegalese farmers.

Israeli doctors were dispatched to the African country during the yellow fever epidemic of 1966 and Israeli medical teams went into the Senegalese countryside to set up first aid programs for villagers living in remote areas.

In the political realm also, Senegal sought an active role in Arab-Israeli mediation. In 1972, for example, Senegalese President Leopold Senghor headed a delegation of four African leaders who hoped to help heal the Middle East conflict.

Turning Point In Israel-Senegal Relations

The 1973 Yom Kippur War was the turning point in Israel-Senegal relations. Senghor took an openly pro-Arab stand during the hostilities and, under Arab pressure, broke relations with Israel. In the following years, despite a number of meetings with Israeli leaders (as well as one with American Jewish leaders) and rumors of an impending restoration of ties, Senegal continued to pursue an increasingly pro-Arab posture. The change in Israel-Senegal relations is a reflection of several factors.

Senegal has severe economic difficulties. It is heavily dependent on Middle East oil imports and has sought Arab bank loans to aid in development, relief and other economic programs.

Some observers see the pro-Arab stance as a vehicle by which Senegal can achieve its ambition to become the leader of the non-Arab Islamic world and a powerful and influential actor in African-Arab affairs. Others view the change in policy as a way to pacify Senegal's Muslim population, estimated at over 90 percent of the country and which includes several fundamentalist sects.

Finally, with the replacement of Senghor, a Christian, with Diouf, in 1981, a Moslem, Senegal's policy tilted even further to the Arab side. The much-hoped for reconciliation between Black Africa and Israel will be almost certain not to include Senegal, at least in the near future, at least under the present regime.