

**ATTACK ON ARGENTINE SYNAGOGUE
RENEWS FEARS OF JEWISH COMMUNITY**

BUENOS AIRES, May 29 (JTA) — A synagogue in the heart of Rosario, the second largest city in Argentina, was the target of an arson attempt earlier this week, the World Jewish Congress reported here.

According to the Latin American branch of the WJC, the incident, which was condemned in a published statement by the DAIA, the representative body of Argentine Jewry, has contributed to the climate of concern affecting the Jewish community. There is a profusion of anti-Semitic and Nazi material for sale at news kiosks and book stores, and signs of growing pro-Arab activity threatening the Argentine-Israeli relationship.

In Parliament, the WJC noted, Antonio Paleari, a Peronist Deputy, has submitted a draft resolution requesting that the government not allow Argentine officials to go to Jerusalem where a forest in the name of Gen. San Martin, the Argentine national hero, will be inaugurated in July.

PLO Pushing For Recognition

Moreover, Saad Chedid, who publishes the magazine "Palestine Studies," and who has become the unofficial spokesman for PLO positions, gave a press interview in which he stated that "the diplomatic recognition of the League of Arab States by Argentina implies the recognition as a state of the PLO, as it is a member with full rights of the League." He added, "It is now up to the PLO to request the opening of an information office or an Embassy."

Beyond these developments, it has been announced that a meeting of the Argentine Arab community will take place in Rosario to take up an agenda which will include consideration of the role of Arab institutions in Argentina, the relationship of Argentine politicians vis-a-vis the Arab community, and analysis of Arab-Argentine relations.

To complete the picture, the Argentine press has just reported the sale of 20 domestically-built Pucara combat planes to Iraq, although the same reports indicate that the transaction is yet to be finalized.

IDF FREES 249 SHIITE PRISONERS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 29 (JTA) — The Israel Defense Force today released 249 Shiite Moslem prisoners who returned to their home villages in south Lebanon. The prisoners were originally detained on suspicion of carrying out or planning attacks on IDF units in Lebanon and were held in the Ansar camp in south Lebanon.

The camp was shut down two months ago as Israeli forces completed the second stage of their withdrawal. Most of the detainees were released at the time but others, including the men freed today, were transferred to a prison camp in Israel.

Military sources said they were being allowed to return home to re-enforce the Shiite militia, Amal, in its efforts to prevent Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists from re-infiltrating south Lebanon where they would pose a threat to the security belt along the Israel border.

Amal reportedly has been effectively halting the movement of PLO men to the south to ensure their control of the region. The Shiites are also engaged in a bloody battle with Palestinians in the refugee camps in Beirut.

But the IDF continued to take harsh measures against Shiites suspected of collaborating with terrorist groups in south Lebanon. Today it destroyed four houses in the Shiite village of Tir Harpa inside the security zone, just north of the Kibbutz Hanita in Israel. It destroyed three houses in a neighboring village yesterday. Military sources said the houses were owned by collaborators.

**ISRAEL COMBAT PLANE WILL BE
SEEN FOR THE FIRST TIME OUTSIDE
ISRAEL AT THE PARIS AIR SHOW**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 29 (JTA) — The Lavi, Israel's second generation all-purpose combat plane, will be seen for the first time outside Israel at the annual Paris Air Show opening this week at Le Bourget Airport. About a half million visitors are expected.

The prototype of the Lavi, which its manufacturer says is definitely slated for production, will be the show-piece at the Israeli pavilion where a welter of other highly sophisticated Israel-made military hardware will be on display — and for sale to foreign buyers.

S.N. Ariav, president of Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI), builders of the Lavi, told a pre-opening press conference here today, "The decision to build the Lavi is definite." He said this has been confirmed by Premier Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The Israel government is the principal shareholder in IAI and its main customer.

According to Ariav, the Lavi's first flight is due in 1986 and it will become fully operational in 1992. It will replace the Kfir, Israel's first generation jet fighter-bomber. A total of 300 Lavis are planned for production and will give the Israel Air Force "its mainstay all-purpose system," Ariav said.

Sales In High Technology Markets

The aircraft executive, who is due to retire next month and will be replaced by Moshe Kenet, said IAI has developed such advanced technology that 70 percent of its overseas sales go to high technology markets such as the United States and Western Europe. Total turnover last year was \$900 million of which \$430 million came from exports. The turnover in fiscal 1985/86 is expected to increase by five percent, Ariav said.

Other advanced weaponry to be on display at the Israel pavilion includes what Ariav described as a full line of integrated all forces enhancement equipment for either total national defense or specific air, land or sea force application at any unit level.

One of these items is the latest in offensive and defensive missiles, the Barak-1, a vertical launched "hard kill" shipborne defense system. Israel will also show a variety of "proven-in-use" software and hardware equipment.

IAI, which produces for the civilian market as well as the military, will show off its new business jet, the "Astra" which broke all speed records in its category when it landed at Le Bourget yesterday. The plane completed the Tel Aviv-Paris flight in four hours and 35 minutes.

GOVERNMENT WINS OVERWHELMING VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR ITS PRISONER EXCHANGE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 29 (JTA) — The government won an overwhelming vote of confidence in the Knesset today for its controversial prisoner exchange. The Knesset also rejected three opposition motions to establish a commission of inquiry into the Lebanon war.

By a vote of 65-6 with 16 abstentions, the Knesset accepted Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin's statement earlier in the week that Israel had no option but to accept the terms of the prisoner exchange in which 1,150 Palestinians serving sentences for terrorist offenses were released on May 20 in return for three Israeli soldiers held captive by a Palestinian terrorist group in Damascus.

The negative votes were cast by the rightwing Tehiya Party and the extremist Kach Party.

Lebanon War Inquiry Defeated

The vote against an inquiry into the Lebanon war was 37-15 with 23 abstentions. Likud was vehemently opposed and the Labor MKs, by pre-arrangement, abstained. Premier Shimon Peres made it clear that he felt this was not the time for a probe of the war which could bring down the Labor-Likud unity coalition government.

For that reason, he urged the Labor Party Knesset faction not to support the motions for an inquiry. Inasmuch as Labor would not vote against such a move, it was agreed to abstain.

JEWISH SETTLERS TRY FRIENDLY PERSUASION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 29 (JTA) — Jewish settlers in the West Bank are resorting to friendly persuasion to convince local Arab leaders to take a hand in ridding the territory of Palestinian terrorists released in the May 20 prisoner exchange.

A delegation of settlers from Elon Moreh, near Nablus, yesterday visited the Arab village of Deir el Khatab to urge the mukhtar (village leader) to make sure that freed terrorist Samir Saleh Yussef departs. Yussef was convicted on December 2, 1980 of murdering an Arab suspected of collaboration with Israel. He was serving a 25-year prison sentence when he was among the 1,150 Palestinians freed from Israeli jails in exchange for three Israeli soldiers held captive by a Palestinian terrorist group in Damascus.

Some 600 of the released convicts were allowed to return to their homes in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel. Jewish settlers in the territories are determined that they leave. At least three are known to have fled to Jordan after several days and nights of harassment and threats by settlers.

The settlers are now employing peaceful means, to avoid intervention by the security forces, but mainly not to spoil the chances for the early release of alleged members of a Jewish terrorist underground presently on trial or serving sentences for acts of violence against Arab civilians.

A spokesman for the settlers told the mukhtar of Deir el Khatab, Suleiman Mustafa Abdul Karim, "We come to you as friends." But there was an underlying threat of violence as the spokesman added, in broken Arabic, "We are telling the residents of the village that there are those among us in the Jew-

ish settlements who will not remain idle if the released terrorist does not get out of here. We want to avoid unpleasantness and to maintain good neighborly relations," he said. The settlers came to the village apparently unarmed, except one of them who openly carried a gun. He was identified as Avner Uzan. He wore a yarmulka with the symbol of Rabbi Meir Kahane's extremist Kach Party which advocates the expulsion of all Arabs from Israel and the territories regardless of whether or not they are guilty of crimes.

The settlers have the names of the released Palestinians, obtained from the International Red Cross which participated in the prisoner exchange. The mukhtar told the visitors politely that he would convey their demands to the family of Yussef but that he was in no position to force the man to leave his home.

The settlers went to Yussef's home to be told by his brother that he had gone to the Jordan valley. They said they would return to make sure he had left.

No Intervention By Security Forces

Security forces in the West Bank have not intervened so far in the settlers' drive to oust released terrorists. But sources in the defense establishment called their tactics childish.

Meanwhile, one of the terrorists freed on May 20 and re-arrested three days later for allegedly inciting against Israel in a local mosque, was released yesterday by order of a Jerusalem magistrates court after he promised not to engage in anti-Israel activities. The man, Mussa Awda, had been serving a life sentence for murder. He has since returned to his home in the Silwan quarter of East Jerusalem.

AMNESTY FOR JEWISH UNDERGROUND DEFENDANTS BECOMING EXPLOSIVE ISSUE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 29 (JTA) — The question of amnesty for alleged members of a Jewish underground terrorist gang now on trial or serving sentences for crimes of violence against Arabs in the West Bank is rapidly building up into an explosive issue in Israel.

The demand for immediate release of the Jewish suspects on trial and those already convicted arose from West Bank settlers in reaction to the controversial and generally unpopular prisoner exchange of May 20. Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir, leader of Likud, went so far as to promise the wives of the defendants yesterday that their spouses would be released shortly.

Shamir visited the women who are on a hunger strike outside the Knesset building. He was reported to have been himself in an emotional state when he begged them to end their fast because their husbands soon would be freed. He claimed this was the wish of the majority in Israel. "We have been acting on this issue for quite some time now. There is a campaign, a war. There is no need for this strike," he said.

No National Consensus

It is apparent, however, that there is no national consensus on the issue. The Peace Now movement, campaigning vigorously against release of the Jewish suspects, has organized a mass rally outside the Prime Minister's residence for this Saturday night intended to express public outrage over what it sees as an attempt to circumvent the law.

Peace Now has succeeded in drawing huge crowds to its rallies in the past, mainly in issues involving the war in Lebanon. It remains to be seen how much public support it can muster against amnesty for the alleged Jewish terrorists.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir is expected to submit to Premier Shimon Peres next week the legal opinion Peres requested with respect to a reprieve for the defendants. Peres made the request in response to demands by Likud ministers in his national unity coalition cabinet for release of the prisoners. It was expected to cool the issue, which could lead to a crisis in the Labor-Likud partnership.

President Chaim Herzog, who has the exclusive prerogative to grant clemency in criminal cases, reiterated today that he would not consider any requests for amnesty until the trials now underway are completed and sentences are pronounced.

He made it clear that he would not in any case act under pressure while the issue is the focus of political debate. Herzog declared further that he would not be a party to any attempt to destroy the rule of law which is the only guarantee of an orderly society.

U.S. SEEMS TO BE FAVORING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO NEGOTIATE SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 29 (JTA) — The Reagan Administration appeared today to be moving away from its opposition to an international conference to negotiate a settlement of the Middle East conflict.

This stance was disclosed when President Reagan, in replying to questions from reporters after his two-hour meeting with King Hussein of Jordan, said that while the United States has differences with Hussein over a conference, this issue is being discussed with the Jordanians. The Administration has maintained up till now that a settlement can only come through direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs.

Hussein, in his prepared remarks after his White House meeting, said that on the basis of the agreement he signed with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat on February 11 and on his recent talks with the PLO, Jordan and the Palestinians are ready to negotiate a peace settlement "within the context of an international conference" based on all the pertinent United Nations resolutions, "including Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338."

In response to questions, Hussein said that "we need an international umbrella to offer us an opportunity to negotiate." He stressed that in this context, there would be direct negotiations between a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and Israel.

A senior Administration official, briefing reporters later, said that the U.S. continues to believe that an international conference would still be a "setback" to the peace process since it would essentially be "political theater," a stage for "rhetoric."

But he added that "nothing is static." He said the Administration understands Hussein's "desire for international support for whatever agreement might emerge from a negotiating process."

Israel has opposed an international conference, particularly one that includes the Soviet Union, as has the U.S. in the past. Reagan would not comment when asked about possible Soviet participation. But Hussein made clear that such an international conference, as called for in his agreement with Arafat, would include the five permanent members of the Security Council — the U.S., Soviet Union, France, Great Britain and the People's Republic of China.

The King also seemed to stress that an international conference would mean that this would not be the first time he would negotiate with Israel. When asked about this, he pointed to the 1973 Geneva Conference without explanation. This conference dissolved without any results. But the senior Administration official today maintained that it led to the two Sinai agreements between Israel and Egypt and the agreement between Syria and Israel on the Golan Heights.

Hussein repeated his assertion that the PLO now accepts Resolutions 242 and 338 through its general backing of all UN resolutions in the Hussein-Arafat accord. Asked about this, Reagan said that the U.S. has not changed its position for dealing with the PLO.

The senior Administration official said the U.S. still wants a more explicit acceptance of the two Security Council resolutions from the PLO as well as acceptance of Israel's right to exist and an end to terrorism.

Might Be Last Chance To Seek Peace

Both Reagan and Hussein stressed that this might be the "last chance" to seek peace in the Middle East. Reagan explained that the conditions "have never been more right than they are now" and might not be so again.

He said Hussein has taken "courageous steps forward" which the U.S. hopes "can lead to direct negotiations based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 by the end of the year. And we'll do our part to help bring this about." Hussein, saying that this was a "unique opportunity for peace," declared that an "active and balanced role of the United States is an essential element."

Reagan said the U.S. goal is a "just, lasting and comprehensive peace which satisfies the legitimate right of the Palestinian people and provides for the security of all states in the region, including Israel."

Hussein said a "just, comprehensive and desirable peace in the Middle East should secure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right of self-determination within the context of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation."

Reagan also stressed that the U.S. recognizes Jordan's economic and security needs and will do what it can to help it. Hussein would not respond when asked if he had discussed arms with Reagan.

The willingness by Hussein and Reagan to answer questions from reporters after their statements is unusual. Usually after a visit by a foreign leader with the President, the two make statements and then the foreign leader departs the White House without answering any questions from the press.

HAIFA THEATER A SUCCESS IN GERMANY

BONN, May 29 (JTA) — The Haifa Theater, which has been touring West Germany for the past two weeks, had a distinguished visitor for its performance tonight before a capacity house in Duesseldorf. President Richard von Weizsaecker of the Federal Republic joined the large audience in applauding the actors and playwright after a three-hour performance of "The Ghetto."

He attended the production at the invitation of Noam Semel, managing director of the Haifa Theater. His appearance was seen as a gesture of solidarity with Israel as represented by its troupe of actors. On Tuesday, they presented an Arabic-Hebrew version of Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" at a Bonn Theater. There were strong allusions to the Arab-Israeli conflict in the production which was acclaimed for its artistic merit.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES
THE JEWS OF THE FAR EAST**

By Ben Frank

(Part Two Of A Three-Part Series)

TOKYO, May 29 (JTA) — Jews arrived with Commodore Matthew Perry in the 19th century when the U.S. naval officer opened Japan to trade with the West. The Jewish community today, as then, can best be described as "transient." It is so transient that the synagogue here collects dues on a monthly basis. Of the 150 families, more than half are Americans, 15 percent are Israelis and 15 percent are Russians. There are also several dozen Jewish families in the city of Kobe.

Transient is the word used here to describe this community of young men and women engaged in foreign trade, finance, transportation, insurance and banking. There are also young Jews attached to the diplomatic corps as well as many American Jewish graduate students on fellowships. It is not uncommon to see Jews with Oriental spouses.

15 Percent Intermarriage

According to Michael Schudrich, a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the dynamic spiritual leader of the Jewish community here, 15 percent of the community is interracially married. In half of these marriages, the Oriental spouses have converted and a number of those who have not converted still raise their children as Jews.

Attending Shabbat services at the synagogue is an exhilarating experience. The services appear to be of the Conservative movement of Judaism, but a fact sheet on the synagogue states that as "the only synagogue in Eastern Japan, it can neither be Orthodox, Conservative or Reform, but serves the membership of all shades of belief."

It is one of the few synagogues in the non-Anglo-Saxon world where the majority of the congregants speak English, including Rabbi Schudrich. Services are held at 6:30 Friday evening and at 9:30 Saturday morning. The synagogue, located in the Jewish Community Center at 8-8 HIROO, 3-CHOME, Shibuya-Ku, is on a choice piece of land. A few years ago the Jewish community sold a parcel of the land and made a financial coup. As a result, the community became self-sufficient.

The synagogue is packed on Jewish holidays and the more than 500 to 600 Jews, including those who are not affiliated, also come to the community center which tries to provide a vigorous social life for its members as well as Sunday school which has 65 children.

The center boasts of many activities, including bar mitzvahs, weddings and other simchas. There is a mikvah on the premises, a kosher meat kitchen, and kosher wine and matzah are flown in for holidays and festivals. There is also a library and a bulletin board which includes articles by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith dealing with developments in the Jewish world written by Dr. Frank Reiss, director of the European Affairs Department of the ADL in New York.

There are many Israeli companies in Japan and an Israel Embassy. The Israelis here participate in Jewish community activities. Many religious diamond merchants from Israel visit Japan, trying to find an outlet for this depressed commodity. But Jewish traders always have been coming here, according to records, probably since the 16th century when the Portuguese and Dutch arrived on the islands to trade.

When Commodore Perry arrived in 1853, a small number of Jewish merchants who came with him settled down in the principal port cities of the islands. Later, the Russian revolution of 1905 and particularly that of 1917 compelled many Jews to settle in Japan. After World War I, there were about 1,000 Jews in Japan. During World War II, many Jews were transported from Japan to Shanghai in China.

After World War II, many American Jews, some ex-GIs, were stationed in Japan. A number of them even settled in Tokyo which has the power to draw people from every part of Japan and from many foreign countries.

Japan is attractive to people because of its economic standing. In 1980, its GNP was the third largest in the world. A country about the size of Montana, Japan has virtually no physical resources. Yet it supports over 115 million people (half the population of the U.S.), exports more than \$75 billion worth more goods than it imports and has an investment rate which is twice that of the U.S.

No wonder, therefore, that so many foreigners come to Japan. No wonder, then, that Jews also come here to learn and to explore. And they have a wonderful synagogue to visit and an exciting community center where they can meet fellow co-religionists.

(Tomorrow: The Jews of China)

**REFORM GROUP TAKES ISSUES WITH
CONSERVATIVE BAN OF 51 MKS**

NEW YORK, May 29 (JTA) — Officials of the Association of Reform Zionists of America said they had adopted, on behalf of the American Reform movement, a resolution taking issue with a resolution approved by the Conservative rabbinate, which declared 51 Knesset members unwelcome as speakers to American Conservative synagogues.

The action by members of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), the association of Reform rabbis, was adopted in response to those Knesset members, mainly from Likud and the National Religious Party voted recently in support of changes of the Law of Return which would have discredited the validity of Conservative and Reform conversions of Jews planning to settle in Israel. The Knesset again rejected that proposal last January.

The ARZA resolution said there was a need "to educate Knesset members about America's non-Orthodox community" and that this would not be possible if the Knesset members were "excluded from American synagogues."

The ARZA position, adopted at an executive committee meeting, said most Knesset members "have little or no understanding of non-Orthodox Judaism or about the anger which Reform Jews feel towards efforts to de-legitimize their movement."

The ARZA officials also declared that "progressive movements committed to pluralism cannot in good conscience support boycotts or blacklists against individuals because of a vote they have cast; most one-issue boycotts are wrong in principle and ineffective in practice."

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JERUSALEM (JTA) — A new affiliation agreement has been signed between the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School and the Boston University School of Medicine, providing for joint meetings, conferences and research as well as possible faculty and student visits and exchanges between the two schools.