

**ISRAEL CAUGHT BETWEEN UNIFIL, SLA
OVER AMAL HOLDING SLA SOLDIERS
AND SLA SEIZURES OF FINNISH TROOPS**

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, June 9 (JTA) — Israel was embroiled over the weekend in a serious conflict between its ally, the South Lebanon Army (SLA) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The incident, described by sources here as "bizarre" and "complex", occurred last Friday when 11 soldiers of the mainly Christian SLA were removed from their positions in the south Lebanon security zone allegedly by members of the Finnish contingent of UNIFIL and handed over to Amal, the Shiite Moslem militia.

Gen. Antoine Lahad, the SLA commander, seized 24 Finnish soldiers to hold against the return of his own men. Last night he released four of them as a "goodwill gesture." The Cabinet was briefed on the incident today and discussed its diplomatic and military repercussions.

Israel accepts the SLA version of the incident — that its men were kidnapped by the Finnish unit in collusion with Amal. The Amal leader in Beirut, Nabih Berri, has demanded that Israel free Lebanese detainees at the Atlit military prison in Lebanon in exchange for the SLA men. Informed sources said today Israel would not accede to this demand.

Israel To Cooperate With UN Inquiry

But Israel announced today that it would cooperate with an inquiry committee set up at the orders of the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to investigate the incident. The committee is instructed to report its findings by Tuesday when de Cuellar's deputy, Brian Urquhart, arrives in the region. Another UN official, Jean-Claude Aimee, met today with Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche to discuss the incident.

Israeli officials reiterated today Premier Shimon Peres' pledge by telephone to Prime Minister Kaleva Sorsa of Finland that Israel would "do everything" to ensure that the Finnish soldiers held by the SLA would not be harmed and eventually would be released.

"Senior defense establishment sources" quoted by Israel Radio today said Israel had proof that there was prior coordination between the Finnish unit of UNIFIL and Amal. Peres told the Cabinet that an Israel Defense Force investigation bore out the SLA version of events rather than that of UNIFIL which indicated the SLA men were seized by Shiites. A group of 28 SLA soldiers deserted recently.

Defense sources were quoted as saying that Israel would continue to support the SLA even if this caused inconvenience to UNIFIL. The SLA is totally dependent on Israel for its food, arms, equipment and other supplies. Israel is determined that the SLA patrol the security zone in south Lebanon to prevent the infiltration of Palestinian terrorists or hostile guerrillas. The last IDF units left Lebanese soil Thursday, June 6, the third anniversary of the invasion of Lebanon. But a cadre of IDF officers remained in the security zone as liaison and advisors to the SLA.

Israel acknowledges that UNIFIL is dissatisfied with its arrangements with the SLA and that there was abundant altercation, provocation and tension between the SLA and UNIFIL long before the IDF withdrew.

But the Israelis accuse UNIFIL of bias toward Amal which they insist is improper. UNIFIL refuses to recognize the SLA because it is an "armed force" and not a "regular force", the nomenclature used by the UN to differentiate the numerous "militias" operating in Lebanon from regular armies.

UNIFIL has always contended that it need not maintain contact with the "de facto forces" as it has called the SLA. But Israeli sources point out the UNIFIL's contact with Amal is just as irregular since Amal is also a non-governmental force.

Some Israelis believe the incident may have a favorable outcome from the point of view of Israel because UNIFIL might feel obliged under the circumstances to deal formally with the SLA. Israel Radio reported today that the deputy commander of UNIFIL has received permission from his superior officers to talk to Gen. Lahad, the SLA commander. According to the radio he will ask for permission to interview the commander of the SLA unit holding the Finnish soldiers.

Israel Wants Modus Vivendi

Israel is interested in a reasonable modus vivendi between UNIFIL and the SLA, especially now that the IDF has quit Lebanon. The dispute apparently is over control of the security belt. UNIFIL holds that it is mandated to deploy as far south as the international border and has sole responsibility for guarding the region against infiltration. Israel has based its security plans on the SLA, successor to the late Maj. Saad Haddad's Christian militia which cooperated with Israel in south Lebanon for years before the June, 1982 invasion.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who returned to Israel from the U.S. this afternoon, said the incident was very serious and that every effort would be made to ensure the safety and freedom of the detained UNIFIL and SLA soldiers. He remarked that "it is lucky that it is with the Finns" that the incident occurred. This reflected the view of many Israelis that the Finns are the most neutral group in UNIFIL.

**RABIN WARNS ISRAEL WILL RETURN TO
LEBANON IF BORDER TOWNS ARE ATTACKED
By Yitzhak Rabi**

NEW YORK, June 9 (JTA) — Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned here that Israel will conduct raids into Lebanon if terrorist acts against Israeli settlements and civilians in the north will take place from Lebanon.

"We will not tolerate any one-sided terrorism," Rabin declared at a luncheon attended by more than 400 delegates to the 72nd Annual National Commission meeting of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith Friday.

"In defense of Israel, we will react. If there will be no normal life on our side of the border, there will be no normal life in south Lebanon," said Rabin, who arrived in New York Thursday after concluding

talks with top Reagan Administration officials in Washington. Rabin noted that Israel's three years in Lebanon did not eliminate the threat of terrorism against targets in northern Israel. He said that Israel which completed Thursday its withdrawal from Lebanon, has kept "a security zone" on the Lebanese border with Israel, which is controlled by the South Lebanon Army (SLA) which is loyal to Israel. He said that Israel will continue to train and arm those forces in south Lebanon, and, if necessary, "will come back to help them."

But Rabin stressed that the Israeli forces which would enter Lebanon would not stay there and would return to Israel proper on completion of their Israel mission.

"We hope that the principle of live and let live will prevail now on both sides of the border. We hope people on both sides will be able to live in peace," Rabin said.

Wants 'Warmer' Ties With Egypt

On the issue of peace in the area, the Defense Minister said that one of Israel's major goals now is to make the present cold peace between Israel and Egypt "warmer." He expressed the hope that the peace between Egypt and Israel will broaden the process of peace in the Middle East. He said "The only possible candidate" for peace with Israel now is Jordan. He said Israel's position is to sit with Jordan for direct negotiations without preconditions.

Rabin reiterated the Israeli government's position against a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation with members of the PLO. He said, however, that Israel welcomed a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation with Palestinian leaders from the West Bank and Gaza who are not affiliated with the PLO.

Rabin also rejected the idea of an international conference to solve the Middle East conflict. He termed such a conference "a dinosaur that should be avoided."

Jewish Determination Strengthened By Bitburg

The luncheon honored Warren Phillips, publisher of the Wall Street Journal, who accepted the ADL's Hubert H. Humphrey First Amendment Freedoms prize in behalf of his newspaper.

Kenneth Bialkin, ADL president and chairman of the Conference of Major American Jewish Organizations, another speaker, touched on the recent incident of President Reagan's visit to the Bitburg cemetery. Bialkin said "our support for Israel and our determination to expose and resist anti-Semitism wherever it appears have been strengthened by the Bitburg experience."

INOUE DECLARES SENATORS SUPPORT REDUCING INTEREST RATE FOR ISRAEL

NEW YORK, June 9 (JTA) — Sen. Daniel Inouye (D. HI) said today that his proposal that the United States reduce the interest rate on loans to Israel from 12 to five percent has received a "favorable response" from his Senate colleagues.

Such a move would send a "strong, unmitigated, clear as crystal message to Israel that the United States stands by her," he told the closing session of the annual meeting of the National Commission of B'nai B'rith.

Inouye, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, added that it would also "demonstrate that the United States recognizes Israeli sacrifices for peace." He said it would help alleviate Israel's

"unprecedented economic burden by reducing the interest charges over the life of its U.S. loan portfolio by \$8.5 billion. The U.S. charges other nations, 'some not even friendly' to the U.S., an interest rate of five percent, Inouye said.

ISRAEL EXPORTS GO UP

JERUSALEM, May 9 (JTA) — Israel's exports, which have registered low figures for a long period, increased by 12 percent in April and May, largely due to a rise in military exports, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Exports totaled \$1.6 billion in the first five months of 1985 as compared to \$1.5 billion during the same period last year. The figure for May was \$503 million.

The largest increases were recorded in optical and precision instruments, metallurgics, machinery and electronics. However, it is not certain whether the increased exports will improve Israel's balance of trade, since imports also increased in May.

OSCAR COHEN DEAD AT 77

NEW YORK, June 9 (JTA) — Oscar Cohen, a leader in the field of human relations who for 25 years was associated with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, died here yesterday at the age of 77.

During most of his tenure with the ADL which started in 1948, Cohen served as director of its national Program Division in charge of education programs to combat anti-Semitism and racism and to advance democratic ideals and intergroup understanding.

He was directly responsible for the University of California study entitled "Patterns of American Prejudice" which led to the publication by Harper & Row of eight books on the subject. He worked closely with sociologists Melvin Tumin, Gordon Allport, Arnold Rose, Martin Deutsch and others and was responsible for developing such ADL publications as "A Nation of Immigrants" by President Kennedy and "American Jews: Their Story" by Oscar Handlin.

Cohen guided the ADL Program Division's efforts to develop educational programs on human relations for such groups as the Job Corps, Walter Reade Hospital and various branches of the U.S. armed forces. In addition, the ADL produced a series of 12 filmstrips on Judaism under his leadership for use in Catholic parochial schools. He retired in 1974, but continued as a consultant.

Cohen, born in Canada and educated at the University of Toronto, helped organize the Canadian National Committee on Refugees in an effort to secure the entry into Canada of refugees of all faiths forced to flee Germany during the Nazi era. He was director of the Detroit Jewish Community Council from 1946-49.

He served in the Canadian army from 1941-1949, retiring with the rank of Lt. Colonel. He was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his military service.

A memorial service will be held at the ADL's national headquarters here on Friday.

PARIS (JTA) — French President Francois Mitterrand inaugurated an exhibition last week tracing the Jewish people's contribution to world civilization over the last 3,000 years. The exhibition, called "From the Bible to Present Days" for the first time shows outside Israel part of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Also on view are priceless archaeological objects including some dating back to the Second Temple.

ISRAEL TO CONTINUE SEARCH FOR MENGELE DESPITE REPORTS FROM BRAZIL HE DROWNED IN 1979
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 9 (JTA) — A Justice Ministry spokesman said today that Israel will continue the search for Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele despite reports from Brazil that the Auschwitz death camp doctor died there by drowning six years ago.

As long as there is no definite identification of the body found in Brazil Israel will continue its efforts to capture Mengele and bring him to justice and the \$1 million reward for information leading to his capture and trial remains in effect, Yitzhak Feinberg of the Justice Ministry said.

He was referring to the remains of a man buried under the name Wolfgang Gerhard in a cemetery in Enbu, 20 miles south of Sao Paulo in 1979, the victim of a swimming mishap. The body has been exhumed and is undergoing forensic tests. Mengele's dental X-rays were flown to Sao Paulo from West Germany over the weekend to help with the identification.

Report Called Fraud

Israelis and Nazi-hunters here and abroad are largely skeptical of the information that has emerged so far, which apparently has almost convinced some Brazilian officials that the body belongs to Mengele. Menahem Ruskak, head of the Nazi War Crimes Department of the Israel Police declared in a radio interview today that Mengele is still alive.

Ruskak maintained that the report on the body was a fraud perpetrated because for the first time since the end of World War II a serious international effort has been mounted to track down Mengele and substantial rewards have been offered by Israel, West Germany and by organizations such as the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Sources here noted that ever since Israel offered its reward, the search centers in Israel, the U.S. and West Germany have received information indicating that Mengele is alive, adding to similar information amassed over the years. Sources also observed the "remarkable" coincidence: As the heat was being turned on Mengele, it is suddenly alleged he has been dead six years. The question raised is why the people who provided this information chose to remain silent until now.

The Brazilian authorities were led to the body in Enbu on the basis of claims by an elderly couple of Austrian origin, Wolfram and Lisolette Bossert, that a man they found out was Mengele had lived with them for a time and died while swimming. The Bosserts, who are Brazilians citizens, claimed they kept silent for fear of being accused of sheltering a wanted war criminal.

Another immigrant to Brazil, Gitta Stammer, 65, who is from Hungary, told police that Mengele lived with her family between 1961-74 under an assumed name and managed the family farm. She said in Sao Paulo over the weekend the man admitted he was Mengele after she confronted him with a newspaper photograph.

Stammer said she and her husband feared to denounce him because he made veiled threats to harm their children. She said the man died in a 1979 drowning.

Sao Paulo police chief Romeu Tuna said last week that documents and a diary produced by the

Bosserts made him "90 percent convinced" that the man buried in Enbu was Mengele. Israeli, West German and U.S. officials involved in the search for Mengele and forensic experts from those countries arrived in Sao Paulo over the weekend to assist in the investigation. The Brazilian authorities reportedly rejected their help in identifying the remains which include a skull with seven teeth.

The tests on the remains began Friday and according to sources in Brazil it could be a matter of days or weeks before conclusive evidence is produced.

Vienna-based Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal, in New York over the weekend, was quoted in press reports as saying he was "less skeptical" now than last Thursday when he heard the first reports of Mengele's alleged drowning.

Wiesenthal Center Urges Caution

In Los Angeles, Rabbi Abraham Cooper, Associate Dean of the Wiesenthal Center, said the Center welcomed the seriousness with which the Brazilian authorities are conducting the investigation. But he said, all information pertaining to the alleged death of Mengele should be considered with caution.

U.S. officials said that Neil Sher, chief of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) involved in the international search for Mengele, is in Sao Paulo to help with the investigation.

Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R. NY) said in Washington "we should not jump to any quick conclusions" about the reports from Brazil. He warned they may be a "Mengele smokescreen" and urged the Justice Department to send a team of four forensic specialists to Brazil to verify whether or not the exhumed remains are those of Mengele.

A federal prosecutor in West Germany said Friday that the police were treating the case seriously but he also cautioned against jumping to conclusions. Hans Ebergard Klein, the Frankfurt official in charge of the Mengele case, said at a press conference Friday that there was little data to go by. The only positive knowledge is that Mengele was about 5 feet 10 inches tall and was born on March 16, 1911 which would make him 74.

He said the dental records sent to Sao Paulo were from 1938 and may be of limited value in determining the identity of the remains. "A lot can happen to a man's teeth in over 40 years," he said.

ELECTED OFFICIALS ARRESTED IN PROTEST

NEW YORK, June 9 (JTA) — A New York Congressman and 13 other elected state and city officials from New York and New Jersey were arrested outside the Soviet Mission to the United Nations here Friday in a protest demonstration against the treatment of Soviet Jews.

The demonstration was the ninth in a series of peaceful actions known as Operation Redemption which is organized and sponsored by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ). Friday's episode coincided with the trial in Kharkov of Evgeny Eisenberg who is charged with "anti-Soviet slander" although his real defense was teaching Hebrew which is forbidden in the USSR.

Among the legislators taken into custody and released on their own recognizance for arraignment July 19 was Rep. Major Owen (D. NY) and Alan Karcher, Speaker of the New Jersey State Assembly. The others included members of the New York State Senate and Assembly and four members of the New York City Council.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES IRELAND PREPARES TRADITIONAL WELCOME FOR NATIVE SON, HERZOG

By Maurice Samuelson

DUBLIN, June 9 (JTA) -- The people and government of Ireland are preparing their traditional "hundred thousand welcomes" to an Irish-born president of a foreign state whose command of the Gaelic language puts to shame that of most other Irish people.

The fact that this honored guest, Israel's President Chaim Herzog, is an observant Jew merely heightens the keen interest with which he is being awaited in this devoutly Catholic country. He has been invited despite the fact that Irish troops serving in south Lebanon are sometimes caught in the dangerous crossfire between Israel and its neighbors, and that often the Irish blame the Israelis.

There is therefore deep anxiety that no harm befall the Irish troops in the Middle East in advance of the visit which will take place from June 17-22.

But even if such a mishap occurred it might merely lend the Herzog visit a serious political content which it does not at present contain.

Sentimental Journey

Whether or not the hosts or guests admit it, this state visit is a largely sentimental affair, prompted by the Irish people's pride and curiosity over this gifted Irishman with a difference.

Judging by the preparations being made here, President Herzog and his wife will be received with a warmth reminiscent of that accorded some 24 years ago to the first Roman Catholic President of the United States, John Kennedy.

The key ingredient of the Herzog visit will be the same: the pilgrimage to the home where the exile's family originated. In Kennedy's case, it was a trip to a tumble-down shack which his paternal great grandfather left for the great trip westward across the Atlantic.

Father Was Ireland's Chief Rabbi

For Vivian Chaim Herzog, the high point will be his return to the rambling Victorian house off Dublin's South Circular Road where his late father, the Reverend Dr. Isaac Herzog, held court as the first Chief Rabbi of the newly independent Irish Free State.

It was from the same house, No. 33 Bloomfield Avenue, now named Saint Anthony's, that 50 years ago the Herzogs emigrated eastward. They settled in the Holy Land where Herzog senior was to become the first Chief Rabbi of independent Israel and Chaim its first Irish-born head of State. Chaim's younger brother, Yaakov served as one of Israel's most brilliant diplomats before dying in his late fifties.

To Inaugurate Jewish Museum

After seeing his childhood home, Herzog will stroll round the corner of Walworth Road to inaugurate a new museum devoted to the history of the Jews in Ireland.

It is housed in a small make-shift synagogue used by Jewish immigrants from Russia early in the century. It was also the first Dublin home of another Zionist couple, the late Sam and Rachel Brown, who together with five of their eight children settled in Israel.

The other components of the visit are less personal: A trip to the southwest of Ireland; a State reception at Dublin Castle given by Irish President

Patrick Hillery; and a dinner hosted by the Herzogs at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, one of the most splendid 16th century buildings in the whole of Europe. In Dublin, too, Herzog will lay a wreath at the memorial to those who gave their lives that Ireland should be free.

An oddity of the visit -- which further underlines its essentially human dimension -- is that although Ireland and Israel maintain full diplomatic relations, they do so without maintaining embassies on each other's soil. Ireland talks to Israel through its Athens Embassy; Israel communicates with Ireland via its envoy in London.

Israelis Want Dublin Embassy

This tends to be a source of irritation. The Israelis, with their deep-seated hunger for the widest possible international recognition would dearly love to have an Embassy here. They regret that Dublin is the only capital of a member of the European Economic Community without an Israeli Embassy.

The Irish also hanker for international status but achieve it by their full membership in the EEC and, as conscientious members of the United Nations, they frequently volunteer to keep the peace in other peoples' wars. The poorest member of the EEC (excluding Spain and Portugal who join it shortly) the Irish only have 25 embassies in other countries, and say that the low level of trade with Israel -- totalling \$45 million a year -- does not warrant opening another one.

Nevertheless it would be wrong to discount the very real interest shown here in the achievements of Israel: its vibrant revival of Hebrew (compared with the faltering efforts to expand the use of Gaelic); the Israeli successes in farming and modern technology, and establishment of a formidable national army. These are quite apart from the two peoples' common heritage of suffering and their fight to become a nation once again.

But these are still only the rich backcloth of what, at the end of the day, will simply be the return of a famous and successful man to the country and memories of his boyhood.

SOVIET JEWISH ANTI-ZIONIST DENIED VISA BY STATE DEPT.

By Theo Stone

WASHINGTON, June 9 (JTA) -- A spokesman for the State Department has confirmed that the Department refused to issue a visa to Soviet General David Dragunsky, who is the chairman of the Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public.

Dragunsky, who supports such theories as that Zionists, during World War II, worked hand-in-hand with the Nazis to kill Jews and other innocent victims was scheduled to speak before a luncheon of the Jewish Section of the Communist Party, U.S.A.

According to the State Department spokesman, Dragunsky was denied the visa only because he applied too late. For Soviet officials of certain rank and status, he said, they must apply for an entry visa at least 30 days before the date of arrival. The spokesman said Dragunsky simply did not comply with that time frame. A representative of the Communist Party U.S.A.'s Jewish section, when queried by a Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent about the visa denial, responded, "so?" and hung up the telephone.

Glenn Richter, director of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry in New York, monitors closely the activities of Dragunsky and his committee. Richter characterized the Jewish general as a "self-hating Jew of the worst kind," and as "the Soviet Union's token Jew."