

**21 PERSONS, MOST OF THEM TEENAGERS  
ON OUTING, KILLED IN BUS-TRAIN  
COLLISION NEAR HAIFA; 17 INJURED**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 11 (JTA) -- Twenty-one people, most of them junior high school pupils, were killed today and 17 injured when a speeding train crashed into a bus stalled on a railroad crossing south of Haifa.

The authorities said the accident was one of the worst, if not the most disastrous transportation calamity in the country's history. Several of the injured youngsters were reported to be in serious or critical condition in hospitals in Haifa and Hadera.

All were aged 12-13 and were members of the same seventh grade class at the Brenner Junior High School in Petach Tikva. The victims were in the second bus of a four bus convoy taking them on an outing to a nature preserve near the seashore at Moshav Habonim, about 12 miles south of Haifa.

Four of the dead were adults, including the bus driver, a teacher and two other adults accompanying the children, Israel Radio reported. The Petach Tikva municipality decided to hold a mass funeral tomorrow for the victims. All shops and businesses in the city will be closed in mourning.

**No Gates Or Warning Signals**

The doomed bus, like the others, chartered from the Egged company, was driven by a woman who, according to Egged officials, had several years' experience. The convoy was travelling on a little used sandy road which crosses the main Tel Aviv-Haifa railway line. The level crossing is one of some 300 on secondary roads which are not equipped with gates or warning lights although the crossing is marked by signs.

According to police accounts, the bus driver slowed down as she approached the crossing and then for reasons unknown, proceeded to drive over the tracks. Police believe that the bus became stuck in the railroad ties or stalled. A Tel Aviv-to-Haifa passenger train slammed into its rear tossing the vehicle 165 feet where it landed on its side.

The locomotive driver, travelling at his authorized speed of 60 mph, sounded a long blast on his whistle when he spotted the bus blocking the track about 600 feet ahead. Railway officials said a train at that speed required 1,825 feet to come to a full stop. The locomotive engineer was treated for shock at a Haifa hospital.

**Peres Visits Hospitalized Children**

Premier Shimon Peres visited the surviving children at the Haifa hospitals where they had been rushed after the collision by ambulance and helicopters. Other survivors and the bodies of the dead were taken to a Hadera hospital.

The Brenner Junior High School was a scene of anguish as scores of parents overcome by anxiety and grief tried to find out if their children were on the fatal bus. Doctors and psychologists were on

hand trying to console the parents. The children in the three other buses were sequestered at Moshav Habonim until substitute drivers arrived to transport them back to Petach Tikva. The drivers of the rest of the convoy were all in a state of shock.

Transport Ministry officials said long range plans to provide automatic gates and warning systems at the 300 little used grade crossings were held in abeyance because of budgetary constraints.

**MENGELE'S SON SAYS FATHER DEAD,  
MAKES STATEMENT TO PROSECUTOR**

By David Kantor

BONN, June 11 (JTA) -- The son of Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele said today that his father died in Brazil in 1979 and that he was informed of his death at the time.

Rolf Mengele, 41, a lawyer in Freiburg, issued that statement confirming a West German Radio report this afternoon that he had informed the State Prosecutor in Frankfurt that he knew of his father's death six years ago.

He said he had "no doubts whatsoever" that the body exhumed at a cemetery in Enbu, near Sao Paulo, over the weekend was the remains of Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz death camp doctor who was the object of an international manhunt. According to his statement, he visited Brazil in 1979 shortly after he was informed of his father's death.

Mengele's son refused to meet with reporters gathered outside his office and outside the family home in Guenzburg, Bavaria where the Mengele clan owns a prosperous agricultural machinery factory. A spokesman for the family said it has always refused to discuss the elder Mengele's activities during World War II "and will continue to do so."

**Expresses Sympathy For Victims**

The statement issued by Rolf Mengele concluded with an expression of sympathy to "all the victims and relatives." He did not elaborate but was presumed to be referring to the estimated 400,000 people Josef Mengele selected for the Auschwitz gas chambers, mostly Jews and the thousands of other inmates on whom he performed fatal or crippling medical experiments.

There was no explanation today as to why the Mengele family kept silent for six years if it had positive knowledge of the death of its notorious member. The remains exhumed in the Brazilian cemetery, now undergoing forensic tests to establish identity, reportedly belonged to a man who drowned in a swimming mishap in 1979 and was buried under the name Wolfgang Gerhard.

The Brazilian authorities ordered the exhumation on the basis of claims by an elderly couple of Austrian origin that Gerhard was in fact Josef Mengele, a man who had lived with them for a time. Another immigrant to Brazil, Gitta Stammer, 65, also claimed Gerhard was Mengele, a man who managed her husband's farm for years under an assumed name. She said he admitted his identity when she confronted him with a newspaper photograph of Mengele and made threats against her children if she denounced him.

Tests being made on the exhumed remains have not yet produced conclusive evidence as to the identity of the body. Skeptics have noted however that Mengele's alleged death, a secret for six years, was revealed only after the U.S., West Germany and Israel embarked on the first international effort to track down Mengele since the end of World War II. More than \$1 million in rewards have been offered by Israel, West Germany and Jewish organizations for information leading to the capture and trial of the war criminal.

German experts have established beyond doubt that Mengele's family in Guenzburg supported Josef Mengele financially during his long stay in South America where he found refuge shortly after World War II. The experts said the family is convinced Mengele is dead and hopes to produce evidence bearing this out in a few days.

According to the Frankfurt prosecutor, family members complied with requests from the war criminal's associates in South America not to report his death. In letters to the family, these associates gave two reasons. One was concern for their own security and the other their desire to see Israel waste millions of dollars trying to trace a "phantom" Mengele.

**KLARSFELD REMAINS SKEPTICAL**  
By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 11 (JTA) -- Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld is still skeptical of reports that war criminal Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz death camp doctor, died in Brazil six years ago.

He said he might consider that Mengele is dead "only after the Israeli police will have confirmed this possibility" in a few months time. Klarsfeld was commenting on the statement by Mengele's son, Rolf Mengele, that he had been informed of his father's death in 1979. (See separate story.) "Actually, I shall never be certain that he is dead. My doubts will persist forever," Klarsfeld said today.

The French-Jewish lawyer and his German-born wife, Beate Klarsfeld are waiting to hear from Israeli and American investigators before taking anyone's word that the remains of a man buried near Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1979 after drowning, are those of the wanted war criminal. The remains were exhumed and are undergoing forensic tests to determine identity.

"His (Mengele's) family obviously wants to convince the world that he is dead," Klarsfeld said.

**21 RABBIS ARRESTED FOR DEMONSTRATING OUTSIDE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON**  
By Theo Stone

WASHINGTON, June 11 (JTA) -- Twenty one rabbis were arrested in front of the Soviet Embassy here yesterday while protesting the plight of Soviet Jews and showing solidarity with 24 rabbis and one Lutheran minister who were arrested last month at the same Embassy.

The protest and arrest are part of an organized effort by the Soviet Jewry movement using the same techniques that have proved so successful in the anti-apartheid protests in this city at the South African Embassy.

There is, however, a bitter twist to the Soviet Embassy protest which has not marred the anti-apartheid arrests. Whereas the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia has not prosecuted the South African Embassy protestors, the 24 rabbis arrested last month along with the Lutheran minister, are going on trial.

The trial, scheduled to begin today at the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, was postponed at the request of the court. Evidently, when the court clerk scheduled the rabbis' trial for this date, he did not realize its importance and scheduled 28 other cases for the judge on this date.

The attorney representing the rabbis agreed on the new trial date of September 4 and also requested two additional hearings before the trial date. At one hearing, set for July 26, the court will hear a motion filed by the defense attorney challenging the constitutionality of the D.C. law prohibiting protesting within 500 feet of an embassy.

At the second hearing, scheduled for August 6, the defense will argue to receive documents to discover why the U.S. Attorney is selectively prosecuting the Soviet protestors and not the South African protestors.

Soviets Demand Prosecution

Jesse Jacobs, a spokesperson for the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, said the request for prosecution of protestors violating the 500 foot boundary is at the discretion of the particular embassy which is the subject of the protest violations. The South Africans have not asked for prosecution, but the Soviets have made it clear that they want prosecution, according to Jacobs.

The rabbis, all from the Washington area, "look forward to the trial to serve as an additional focus for their convictions that the issue of freedom for Soviet Jews and other dissidents has reached a critical stage," according to a statement issued by the Washington Board of Rabbis.

The Board, commenting on the prosecution of the rabbis by the Attorney's office, said, "We believe that it is especially unfortunate that once arrested the decision made by the U.S. Attorney to prosecute us was dictated by the Kremlin."

In a brief, but dramatic protest outside the courthouse here this morning, one of the 24 rabbis, Gary Fink, said, "We do not seek special treatment, we simply ask for equal treatment under the law." In decrying what he said is the U.S. Attorney's bowing to the wishes of the Soviets, Fink added, "How sad it is that the U.S. Attorney seems more concerned with foreign policy than with the equal application of the law."

Only one of the 24 rabbis, Gerry Serotta, and the Lutheran Minister, Rev. John Steinbruck, have been arrested at the South African Embassy protesting apartheid policies. They were not prosecuted for that misdemeanor, and that fact will be an important element of the defense. Serotta is Hillel director at George Washington University.

Police Take Harsh Attitude

At yesterday's protest at the Soviet Embassy, during which the 21 rabbis were arrested, the police appeared to take a much harsher attitude toward the demonstrators than at last month's demonstration, according to Fink, who is also a spokesperson for the Washington Board of Rabbis. Police attempted to block the demonstrators from walking in front of the embassy and tried to get them to the side.

Fink felt that there was an attempt to manipulate the demonstrating rabbis away from the television and photograph cameras. The press was also pushed across the street. Fink said there was much more resistance this time and the arrests were conducted in the alley next to the embassy where pictures could not be taken. The rabbis were held in jail for more than six hours, charged and then released.

## PERES SAYS LESSON OF LEBANON WAR IS THAT IT WAS MISTAKE, ESPECIALLY EXCEEDING ORIGINAL OBJECTIVE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 11 (JTA) — Premier Shimon Peres said today that the most important lesson Israel learned from the Lebanon war is that it was a mistake. The most serious mistake, he said in an interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. (CBC), was the expansion of the war far beyond the limited objectives announced when the Israel Defense Force invaded Lebanon on June 6, 1982.

Peres was interviewed after the last IDF forces left Lebanon yesterday. He noted that his government had said the final pull-out would take "from seven to nine months" and was accomplished within eight months. A small cadre of IDF officers remained in Lebanon as liaison and advisors to the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) in the security belt just north of the international border.

Israel has reserved the right to send the IDF back into Lebanon to deal with any terrorist threat to Israel's border towns which might develop. Once the threat has been eliminated the IDF would withdraw.

### Original Plan Was 'Useful'

Peres told the Canadian radio reporters, "The basic lesson is that if you make up your mind and decide on a limited operation, you shouldn't be tempted to expand it even if the opportunity arises. If the operation 'Peace for Galilee' had remained within the framework decided on before it started, it would have been a quite useful and successful operation. But the minute it became more of a war and less of an operation and it lasted for more than four days as planned and extended beyond the planned 40 kilometers (25 miles) it became a mistake. Don't make a mistake is the major lesson," Peres said.

The Premier, who heads a Labor-Likud national unity coalition government avoided apportioning blame for the mistake. The invasion of Lebanon was launched by the Likud-led government of Premier Menachem Begin and was planned and executed by then Defense Minister Ariel Sharon. Its officially announced objective was to drive Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists beyond artillery and rocket range of Israeli towns and thereby guarantee "peace for Galilee."

But the victorious IDF pressed northwards to Beirut and its objectives were expanded to the total destruction of the PLO and the establishment of a friendly Christian-led government in Beirut. While the PLO military infrastructure was destroyed and PLO fighters were forced to leave Beirut, Israel's political objectives were not realized.

### Doesn't Want To Return

The war cost Israel 654 soldiers killed and 3,000 wounded and several billion dollars of the national wealth it could ill afford. The Lebanon war is acknowledged to be responsible in no small measure for Israel's ongoing economic crisis. The PLO has returned to Lebanon and the government in Beirut is dominated by Syria which continues to occupy two-thirds of the country.

"Wars are easy to start but difficult to wind up," Peres said. Asked under what circumstances the IDF would re-enter Lebanon, he said "We are not

looking for any permanent presence in Lebanon. We have a functional responsibility. That is the difference. We are not looking to be stationed somewhere or have a presence somewhere. Surely not in Lebanon. We are not looking for the soil in Lebanon, the waters of Lebanon or the politics of Lebanon. We shall act or react only when an imminent danger will arise vis-a-vis our own villages and people," Peres said.

Meanwhile, two groups claimed responsibility today for firing two Katyusha rockets from the Lebanese security belt into Israel yesterday. The rockets, aimed at an Israeli village, exploded in an orchard causing no casualties or damage. The groups claiming credit were the Lebanon National Resistance Movement believed to be a loose federation of small armed bands and the pro-Syrian Popular Struggle Front.

### LAW ON CIRCUMCISION PROPOSED IN NY

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA) — Reform leaders have sharply attacked a proposed amendment to the New York Public Health Law which, according to the bill's sponsor, seeks to inform parents of new born children that a circumcision performed by a doctor or other "non-religious practitioner may not satisfy the religious requirements of any faith."

The amendment is a "violation of the principle of church-state separation and in direct conflict with Jewish law," according to Rabbi Bernard Zlotowitz, director of the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues. Zlotowitz said Reform leaders have engaged in a state wide effort urging defeat of the measure in the State Assembly Standing Committee, which is scheduled to hear the bill next week.

But the bill's sponsor, Sheldon Silver (D. Manhattan) claimed that the Reform leaders were taking the bill out of context and that it is not an attempt to discriminate against non-Orthodox mohalim or ritual circumcisers, as Zlotowitz has charged. According to Silver, the bill's purpose is purely "informational."

### Requires Written Consent

The amendment, as proposed before the Committee, reads in part that "no circumcision shall be performed by any non-religious practitioner on any minor without written consent by at least one parent or legal guardian. Such written parental consent shall contain a statement that such circumcision is a purely medical procedure and does not satisfy the religious requirement of any faith."

Zlotowitz has termed the proposed bill "outrageous," and said that the "state has no business adopting any legislation defining what may or may not satisfy religious requirements. Such an amendment is clearly unconstitutional and a blatant effort to discredit non-Orthodox Jewish mohalim. And it is in direct conflict with Jewish law which states that 'anybody may perform a circumcision'."

Zlotowitz charged that the "true purpose" of the amendment "is to bring the power of the state into play against non-Orthodox mohalim by making it appear that only so called religious practitioners — by which he (Silver) means Orthodox mohalim — may perform circumcisions." But Silver told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that he seeks simply to have hospital staff inform parents or guardians that the circumcision is being performed for medical purposes and thus does not come under religious edict.

## SYMPOSIUM STRESSES VITRIOLIC SOVIET CAMPAIGN AGAINST JEWS, JUDAISM, ISRAEL

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA) -- An array of anti-Jewish propaganda, including "satirical" cartoons equating Zionists with Nazis to a feature length "documentary" portraying Jews who wish to leave the Soviet Union for Israel as "traitors," was presented yesterday at an all-day symposium on Soviet anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism.

The symposium, co-sponsored by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) and the Jacob Goodman Institute of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), was described as a "response to the vitriolic campaign in the USSR which vilifies the Jewish people, the Jewish religion, Zionism and the State of Israel."

"Anti-Semitism in the form of anti-Zionism and anti-Israel propaganda is repeated in the Soviet Union with increasing frequency, permeating all aspects of the media," according to Dr. Joseph Sternstein, NCSJ vice chairman and former ZOA president, who chaired the symposium.

### Anti-Semitic Film Screened

"It reverberates with familiar themes geared toward discrediting individual refuseniks and Soviet Jews as a whole, and delegitimizing Israel as the historic Jewish homeland," Sternstein added.

The symposium, held at the Jacob and Libby Goodman ZOA House here, opened with a screening of "Hirelings and Accomplices," a 27-minute "documentary" broadcast on Leningrad television in November 1984.

The film seeks to unfold a Zionist "conspiracy" operating in concert with the Central Intelligence Agency and influential "powerbrokers" of the American Jewish community, according to the NCSJ. One segment of the film focuses on several leading Soviet Jewish activists, identified as "traitors who betray their country in return for material rewards from the West."

Sternstein described the film as a "quasi-documentary, which vividly reflects the Soviet propaganda line equating Soviet Jews who seek to emigrate with anti-Soviet behavior."

### Resolution Aimed At Soviet Committee

A resolution was approved at the symposium urging the "Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public," a government-sponsored group which has figured prominently as an outlet for Soviet anti-Jewish propaganda since its inception in April, 1983, to "stop the spread of lies and group hatred as a violation of international law and standards."

The resolution also deplored the Committee's "constant campaign of slander as a serious threat to the status and security of Jews everywhere" and pledged to further "expose the heinous anti-Jewish campaign in the Soviet Union," calling upon Western public opinion and governments to do the same.

A personal account of Soviet anti-Semitism was provided through a videotaped interview with Alexandra Finkelshtein, a former refusenik who, after a 12 year struggle, was permitted to emigrate to Israel in December 1983.

Participants at the symposium sought to examine the effect of anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic propaganda on Jews and non-Jews in the USSR and beyond Soviet borders, as well as the historic and current perspectives of anti-Jewish sentiments.

## SOVIET HEBREW TEACHER SENTENCED

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA) -- Kharkov Jewish activist Evgeny Aisenberg was convicted of "defaming the Soviet State" and sentenced to two and a half years in a labor camp, the Coalition to Free Soviet Jews reported today. Aisenberg, 33, had been intensively involved in studying and teaching Hebrew and Jewish culture since 1978, when his pro-emigration activities led him to lose his job as a mechanical engineer.

The major evidence used against him was the text of three Purim skits which he participated in last year. Aisenberg will be forced to separate from his wife, Marina, who has breast cancer and requires surgery.

"Once again, the mere observance of Jewish holidays is interpreted by the Soviet government as 'circulating false fabrications against the State,'" said Coalition chairman Herbert Kronish. "The real fabrication, however, is the charge of slander. A Purim skit is simply not a defamation of the Soviet State."

### BLACK LEADER STRESSES NEED FOR BLACK-JEWISH COALITION

MONTICELLO, N.Y., June 11 (JTA) -- William Tatum of New York, co-founder of the Black-Jewish Coalition, told the Oneg Shabbat session of the 76th annual convention of B'nai Zion here that "the need for coalition between Blacks and Jews in America is so evident that it is hard to understand why we are walking further and further away from it."

Another speaker at the Oneg Shabbat, Helen Kirshblum, past president of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, told the 400 delegates that Black-Jewish relations had begun auspiciously with the march at Selma, Alabama, when Jews joined with non-Jews and Blacks in demonstrations on behalf of voting rights for Blacks. She said those relationships had deteriorated "unfortunately" in the years since, hitting "rock bottom" during the controversy over the statements made by Louis Farrakhan, who had spoken out repeatedly on behalf of Democratic Presidential primary candidate Jesse Jackson, using openly anti-Semitic canards in many of his speeches for the candidate.

Tatum, who is editor-in-chief of the Amsterdam News, also said that "although Blacks and Jews have been at each other's throats in America over the past several years, oft-times blaming each other rather than blaming the power structure of this country, over perceived slights, advantages and disadvantages, it is abundantly clear that this has been a tragic error."

### Travelled To Bitburg

He explained his concern over the decline of the coalition as one reason for his decision to join American Jews in a journey to Germany to protest President Reagan's decision to lay a wreath at a grave in Bitburg which contains bodies of Waffen SS troops.

Tatum asserted that there was no option for Black Americans but to speak up for Jews, adding "for if the time ever comes for the Black Americans to be spoken up for, who will be there?"

Reserve General Uzi Narkiss, chairman of the Information Department of the World Zionist Organization, who was commander of the Central Command that liberated Jerusalem in 1967, discussed the current Middle East peace efforts involving King Hussein of Jordan.

### Struggle For Jerusalem Stressed

Narkiss said it was "important to continue the political struggle in order that Jerusalem may remain the capital of the State of Israel and of the Jewish people."