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TWO IDF SOLDIERS KILLED IN CLASH WITH TERRORISTS IN SOUTH LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Two Israel Defense Force soldiers were killed and two others were wounded in a clash with terrorists today in south Lebanon, the Army spokesman announced here.

The dead soldiers, both 19 years old, were identified as Eyal Cohen of Tel Aviv and Dror Hanan of Petach Tikva. They were the first IDF soldiers killed in Lebanon since last April and bring the Israeli death toll in the Lebanon war to 656.

Three terrorists were also killed in the clash, the army spokesman said, near the village of Majdel Selim on the edge of the security zone some four miles north of the Israel border near Kiryat Shmona.

The terrorists had in their possession Kalashnikov rifles, a rocket propelled grenade launcher and grenades, shells and a two way radio, according to the army announcement.

U.S. SAYS IT SEES ARAB SUMMIT MEETING AS 'SIGNIFICANT EVENT'

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration said today it sees the Arab summit conference, opening in Casablanca, Morocco Wednesday, as a "significant event" which it hopes will provide backing to efforts by King Hussein of Jordan to bring about negotiations with Israel.

"The participating heads of state are in a unique position to encourage the peace process," State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said. He added that "King Hussein is working hard to establish a process which will lead to a negotiated settlement. His efforts are worthy of support. We will look to the summit to reinforce King Hussein's initiative."

Kalb said the State Department has still not made any decision on whether any of the Palestinians on a list submitted by Hussein are acceptable as the Palestinian members of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for talks between the United States and the joint delegation.

But he said the U.S. "is prepared to meet" with such a group "and would hope such a meeting would take place as soon as arrangements can be mutually agreed. We see the meeting as supporting King Hussein's efforts to establish a process leading to a negotiated settlement of the Palestinian problem."

No. 2 State Dept. Official In Mideast

Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead is currently in the Middle East in what the State Department said was not "a negotiating mission" but "an opportunity" for the Department's new No. 2 man "to become broadly familiar with the region and personally acquainted with some of the key leaders."

His itinerary includes Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Morocco. He is not visiting Syria. Damascus has lambasted the Arab summit call by Moroccan King Hassan and said it will not attend the conference. Syria also opposes Hussein's efforts.

While Kalb gave no indication of what Whitehead will be doing besides learning about the region, it is obvious from the statement today that he will be seeking to encourage the Arab countries to support Hussein. He will also be seeking to allay Israel's concerns since Israel has maintained that there is no need for a separate U.S. meeting with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation before direct negotiations are held with Israel.

'Promising' Mideast Development

Kalb indicated that the U.S. would like to see the Casablanca summit as adding to what he termed "promising development in recent months" in the peace process. He listed the February II agreement between Hussein and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat, and "statements made by King Hussein during this visit to Washington (in May) and his activities thereafter."

However, while the U.S. has called for direct negotiations with Israel, Hussein has repeatedly stressed he wants an international conference which would include the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. The U.S. and Israel have opposed this and have particularly rejected including the Soviet Union in any Mideast negotiations. Apparently the U.S. hopes that the Arab summit could give Hussein the "international umbrella" he said in Washington he needs for talks with Israel.

U.S. Regrets Israel Cabinet Action

Meanwhile, Kalb urged the Israel government not to implement the stricter security measures for the West Bank and Gaza the Cabinet approved yesterday. "We deplore the recent acts of violence in Israel and the occupied territories which have led the Cabinet to announce that it may exercise these measures," Kalb said. "Nevertheless, we regret the Cabinet's decision, and hope that these measures will not be implemented. As we have said in the past, we consider such measures as likely to foster further tensions."

ISRAEL REJECTS ARAB CHARGES THAT CLOSING OF HOSPICE HOSPITAL IN OLD CITY WAS POLITICAL DECISION

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Israel rejected today Arab charges that the closure of the Hospice Hospital in the Old City of Jerusalem was the result of a political decision. Instead, Israel said "the Ministry of Health decided for purely medical reasons that the hospital in the Hospice building should be closed."

Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, said in a letter to Secretary General Javier Peres de Cuellar, that the decision to close the hospital was influenced by two major facts: the medical equipment in the hospital were out-of-date "resulting in inadequate medical care" and the structure of the building did not allow room for a suitable elevator. "Recently two women died in the maternity ward (of the hospital) because of poor medical treatment," the Israeli envoy pointed out.

Netanyahu added: "The decision to close the Hospice hospital is in line with the policy of the Ministry of Health of closing small hospitals and hospitals with one category of patient (such as women) anywhere in the country." He said that other hospitals in Jerusalem will also be shut down.

Last week, Jordan's Foreign Minister, Taher Masri, sent a telegram to de Cuellar demanding action to stop Israel from closing the hospital. He accused Israel of letting the hospital deteriorate and deliberately withholding funds for its development.

Residents To Get Medical Care Elsewhere

Netanyahu said in his letter that residents of the Old City who received medical care at the Hospice hospital "will now receive medical care at the Sheikh Jarrah Health Center and at Jerusalem's other hospitals, with health insurance arranged by the Ministry of Health. A first-aid station will continue to operate at the Hospice building and the doctors and qualified staff of the Hospice will be offered alternate employment."

Continuing, the Israeli Ambassador asserted, "Recent assertions that the closure of the Hospice will deprive the residents of the Old City of proper medical care are therefore totally unfounded. In fact, the number of mother-and-child health care stations in the Arab section of Jerusalem and in villages within the city limits has been steadily rising in recent years."

"Wide ranging medical supervision has also been instituted in Arab schools. Municipal assistance has been extended to Red Crescent stations in the city. These services, along with health insurance and hospitalization, enable Arab residents of Jerusalem to receive medical care on a par with that of the rest of Israel."

Netanyahu requested his letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.

HERUT PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING BREAKS UP AFTER SHAMIR STAGES CONTROVERSIAL VOTE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- A noisy session of the Herut Party's Central Committee broke up in disorder last night following a controversial vote staged by Herut leader and Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir to incorporate the tiny La'am faction into the party.

Tension was high at the meeting because what was at stake was added support for Shamir and, to a lesser extent, Ariel Sharon, the Industry and Trade Minister, in the continuing power struggle in Herut with Deputy Premier David Levy.

La'am members who, under the agreement with Herut, are to receive nine percent of the representation on Herut bodies, favor Shamir and Sharon over Levy, who hopes to oppose Shamir for Herut leadership when new Knesset elections are held. La'am has three members in the Knesset, part of the Likud bloc. They are led by Ehud Olmert.

Herut members delivered impassioned speeches last night for and against allowing the Central Committee, rather than the Party convention last held in 1979 and due to convene again by the end of this year -- to vote for the La'am merger. Levy wants the decision postponed to the convention.

Practically none of the speakers during the meeting could be heard because of loud arguments going on in the hall and between the members and the leaders on the platform. In many instances delegates rushed to the dais table and seized the microphone away from the speakers to make their own points on the proposed La'am incorporation.

Finally, Shamir rose and suddenly announced that a vote by a show of hands in favor of immediate incorporation of La'am was being taken and announced without pause that the majority had voted in favor.

The meeting dispensed in an uproar. Some Central Committee members said later they had not been issued voting cards while other observers and deputy delegates, not entitled to vote, proudly displayed voting cards they had been given.

Levy Rejects Vote

An angry Levy told reporters as he left the meeting that he did not recognize the vote, although he declined to say what action should be taken. He said the decision was "insignificant except that it has hurt very many members of Herut's Central Committee."

The Tel Aviv branch of the Israeli Journalists Association, meanwhile, published a sharp protest today of what it described as the man-handling of reporters during the meeting last night. The Association said that public groups such as the Herut Committee and other organizations should ensure that reporters can fulfill their professional functions without hindrance, and assaults on journalists were a threat to democracy.

TRAIN COLLIDES WITH PASSENGER VEHICLE KILLING FIVE ADULTS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Five persons -- three adult members of the Behor family of Moshav Tirat Yehuda and two adult relatives of the Hillel family of Moshav Bareket -- were killed when the vehicle in which they were riding was hit by a train at a crossing near Bareket last Friday.

Unlike the Moshav Habonim grade crossing, where 22 persons, including 19 children were killed in a bus-train collision last month, at a crossing which had no warning signals, the Bareket crossing had warning lights and a bell which operated when a train approached. Rail officials and local residents said the signals worked properly at the time of Friday's accident.

The rails at this point, not far from Lod, serve the not too frequently used Jerusalem to Haifa passenger line and local quarries. The road which crosses it, at one time little more than a track, is now fairly heavily travelled as it serves traffic travelling from the coastal area to the West Bank north of Jerusalem.

ACADEMIC CONFAB BEGINS IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Some 900 scholars of Jewish studies from all over the world convened in Jerusalem Sunday as the ninth World Congress of Jewish Studies began its week-long sessions on the Mount Scopus campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The world's largest gathering of academics involved in all areas of Jewish studies is held every four years in Jerusalem, under the auspices of the World Union of Jewish Studies.

About 400 of the participants came from abroad, including some 30 lecturers, among them delegates from Eastern Europe. Lectures and plenary sessions will deal with various aspects of Jewish studies -- bible, archaeology, Hebrew language, literature, the arts and folklore.

LONDON (JTA) -- Egyptian-born film actor Omar Sharif and two major American companies have been removed from the Arab blacklist of individuals and firms created as part of the Arab boycott directed against Israel, the World Jewish Congress reported here Monday.

DEATH OF FINANCIAL WHIZ-KID UNDER INVESTIGATION, PROBE WILL CONTINUE OF ALLEGED MISMANAGEMENT OF FUNDS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Michael Albin, the 41-year-old financial wizard who plunged to his death Saturday from a third-floor window in the police headquarters in Jaffa when left alone briefly during a fraud squad interrogation, was buried here today at a quiet funeral.

Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir of the Likud's Liberal Party, which Albin had supported, delivered a eulogy at the graveside.

Albin was the manager of the Israeli holdings and affairs of the international multi-millionaire entrepreneur Shaul Eisenberg until last year, when the two men quarrelled. Eisenberg allegedly charged Albin with the mismanagement of funds leading to heavy losses in such enterprises as the Ata textile complex, now in liquidation; the Israel Shipyards; and branches of the Israel Corporation.

Albin Regarded As 'Paymaster'

Albin was also regarded as the "paymaster" of the Liberal Party of the Likud. He had close contacts with former Finance Minister Yoram Aridor. During Aridor's tenure, Albin was said to have been the Eisenberg Group's prime conduit to the Likud government.

He was arrested Friday, and questioned then and on Saturday morning. Albin's interrogation reportedly followed police investigations and questioning of other business executives and financiers regarding fraud, stock manipulations, and financial misdealings.

A senior police source, quoted in Israeli newspapers, said Albin had been brought in for questioning following a complaint filed against him by Meir Rosenfeld, chairman of the Piryon Company. This is one of the concerns of the Eisenberg Group formerly run by Albin.

Probe Three Main Avenues of Suspicion

Interrogators pursued three main avenues of suspicion in questioning Albin, according to police sources. They are: that he had committed administrative irregularities while directing Piryon and other Eisenberg holdings; that he had committed theft by fraud amounting to \$2.1 million; and that he had published fraudulent financial declarations while raising money on the stock market.

Police said their probe, of which the investigation of Albin's activities is a part, will continue into the doings of other associates, as well. Albin's dealings at the Ata textile firm and the Israel Corporation may also come under investigation.

Police sources said that they had received a complaint from MK Ran Cohen of the Citizens Rights Party about Albin's activities at Ata. The complaint and other material presented by Cohen, however, had been passed on to the Securities Authority and had nothing to do with Albin's arrest.

The police probe is expected to touch on the dealings between the Eisenberg Group and the Industry Ministry at the time Gideon Patt of the Likud's Liberal Party was Minister. During that time -- which coincides with Albin's tenure as manager of the Eisenberg Group -- Ata received a government investment of \$10 million to buy new equipment. It was never purchased.

Eisenberg is said to have accused Albin and another manager he replaced, Yohanan Zuchovitsky, of misapplying funds supposed to have been channelled to Ata. Zuchovitsky is an old school friend of Albin's and a son-in-law of Eisenberg.

The investigation will also seek answers to questions regarding price manipulations on the stock market in the early 1980's, when general shares doubled or tripled but Ata's jumped 25-fold.

Since leaving the Eisenberg Group, Albin and Zuchovitsky have jointly invested in several enterprises, including Monitin monthly magazine and financial dailies and weeklies. Albin had reportedly been planning to move his interests and financial base to London. He returned from there last week, having left his family to settle into a new apartment in the British capital. He was arrested shortly after his return to Israel.

A senior police investigation has been scheduled into the circumstances under which Albin was left alone for a few minutes, contrary to standing police regulations, while his interrogators left the room for consultations.

His widow reportedly stated through an attorney that she was convinced Albin did not jump from the police station window of his own accord. His friends said, "Micky was a fighter. He would have fought any charges against him."

FRENCH MINISTERS DIVIDED ON SITE FOR STATUE HONORING ALFRED DREYFUS By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Alfred Dreyfus, who once split France in two, is now driving a wedge between two French ministers. Both Defense Minister Charles Hernu and Culture Minister Jack Lang are in favor of honoring Dreyfus with a statue but Lang wants it at the French military academy, Ecole Militaire, while Hernu favors the site of the former Ecole Polytechnique, which Dreyfus attended.

Lang, himself Jewish, ordered the sculpture last year. French Jewish painter, Tim, a part-time sculptor, planned a 10-foot high bronze sculpture which, he says, will be ready in about six months. Lang announced that he plans to have the monument erected in the main courtyard of the military academy in the heart of Paris.

Hernu, a fellow Socialist, announced that he is in favor of such a statue but that he wants it erected somewhere else. One of the sites he reportedly suggested is the former site of the Ecole Polytechnique, a top level military engineering school which Dreyfus attended. Hernu publicly argued that no one will see the Dreyfus statue as the academy grounds are closed to the general public. One of his spokesmen said Hernu wants the statue to be on view in a public place where "as many people as possible" can see it.

The French press, without citing any formal sources, claim that Hernu opposes the Ecole Militaire site "because he does not want any trouble in the army." These sources, reports said, fear that a Dreyfus statue at the academy might revive old passions which were generally believed dead and done forever.

Dreyfus was accused of "high treason" in 1894 and sentenced to life imprisonment and deportation to the French penal colony of Devil's Island. He was rehabilitated in 1906 after the Socialist Party, and numerous intellectuals, including writer Emile Zola, waged an energetic campaign on his behalf. His original trial and his ensuing rehabilitation split France at the time into two: the pro and the anti-Dreyfusards. Hernu reportedly fears that nearly a century later passions have still not subsided.

Assessment Of The Nairobi Conference: ZIONISM AND APARTHEID WERE THE MAIN OBJECTS OF CONCERTED ATTACKS By Marlene Goldman

NEW YORK, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Although the script at the United Nations End of the Decade Women's Conference in Nairobi called for a storyline that would raise the status of women while avoiding a dominating subplot of political rhetoric, Charlotte Jacobson, president of the Jewish National Fund and past national president of Hadassah, reported here that the issues of apartheid and Zionism stole the show.

"Since the Conference took place in Africa and there was an overwhelming amount of African delegates present, they were extremely keen to have their problems discussed," Jacobson, who recently returned from Nairobi, explained. "Therefore, apartheid was number one and the attack on Zionism and Israel, although strong, was second."

In the opening statements and presentations at the official UN Conference, Maureen Reagan, head of the U.S. delegation, indicated in her remarks that she was not opposed to discussion on apartheid and the Palestinian question, but that she was against these political issues invading the feminist cause of the Conference.

Jacobson contrasted Reagan's position with Margaret Papandreas, wife of the Prime Minister of Greece, who openly stated that everything discussed should be political -- "That's what we're here for" -- and then denounced Israel.

Jacobson conceded that, "As far as Israel and also the Jewish delegations from around the world were concerned, we came with a very serious goal: we wanted to discuss Israel."

Aggressive Soviet And Arab Blocs

But the Soviet and Arab blocs, who Jacobson found to be the two most aggressive proponents of anti-Israel, anti-Zionist slander, attempted to disrupt any session focusing on Israel. Jacobson recalled a particular workshop where one of the women doctors from Hadassah, in charge of community health, held a presentation in which she offered tangible advice to medical professionals from various countries.

When the fact that Israel has training programs and scholarships available was brought up, Jacobson charged that the Palestinians tried to interrupt the session by questioning how Israel could speak about community health when there were women in Israel who were refugees.

"The Palestinian delegation only came for one thing," Jacobson asserted, "to use every session as an attempt to attack Israel and Zionism. Whatever session you went into, they went in to try to take over."

Israel, Jewish Delegates Had Some 'Successes'

Here and there, Israel and the Jewish delegates did have some successes as with the community health affair. Jacobson said she was encouraged when the delegates from Africa and Asia started to bang on their desks and refused to allow the Palestinians to break up the session.

For the most part, the Israeli delegation was forced to weather an onslaught of incriminating accusations, such as a link of apartheid and Zionism. The 250 Jewish women countered by making positive presentations and by dividing up to cover different sessions and propose different points of view. Jacobson said that

for the apartheid equation, "we pointed out that Israel is only giving one-half of one percent of the commerce with South Africa," and that many countries in Western Europe are involved in much higher trade with them. "No matter what was wrong in the world, they tried to pinpoint it on Israel," said Jacobson.

Maureen Reagan, however, would not allow Zionism to come under attack as an obstacle to peace. Because of the strong leadership of the U.S. and Kenya, which influenced many African countries, the word Zionism was omitted from the final document. Jacobson believes this was significant because "It was the first time in ten years that the Communist bloc and Arab bloc were not successful."

Jacobson also noted a "great anti-U.S. atmosphere and, strangely enough, when you discussed an issue such as refugees from Afghanistan, which is an obvious-Soviet problem, those delegates presented the issue and did not have the courage to attack the Soviet Union as they would have the courage to attack the U.S."

The Soviet delegation made their theme peace, she continued, and suggested that the "American women have to push our government toward peace and have more demonstrations and marches as they have for peace."

Says The NGO Forum Was More Constructive

While the official Conference was mired in political controversy, the Non-Governmental Forum '85, which began a week before the Conference, dealt more with universal problems, such as battered women. "There were many constructive sessions," Jacobson stated. "but some sessions unfortunately deteriorated into political fights."

"In terms of setting goals," she added, "the Forum was more productive. In terms of voting, the UN had the only right to pass a resolution," which it was successful in doing.

As a result of the Nairobi Conference, Jacobson said she doesn't see how "any of these countries can ignore the fact that there are women's issues ... Very few countries can brush aside the role women play in the development, the economy, and the progress of that country." Continuing, Jacobson said:

"Many people ask me 'Was it worthwhile when you know what you were up against?' I'd say yes. You can't avoid a fight; you can't avoid your responsibilities of presenting your point of view ... I have learned that we have to stop talking to ourselves -- I mean the American Jewish people -- we have to get out to the uninformed people, the general Americans. They hear so much of the attack against us that we have to see they learn the positive."

While the storyline may have been sidetracked, Jacobson believes that the Conference was successful in focusing on the problems of women. Perhaps by the year 2000, the date set for a blueprint of projected accomplishments, concern for the status of women will be the main feature in every country, she said.

NEW YORK, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- The New Israel Fund, one of the first North American Jewish philanthropies to target Israeli donors, will spearhead a major fund-raising effort in Israel; the fund recently announced. "The New Israel Fund has always been a partnership between North American and Israeli Jews," declared Jonathan Jacoby, executive director of the Fund.