

Vol. 63 - 68th Year

Friday, September 27, 1985

No.182

ISRAEL TO SEEK EXTRADITION OF TERRORIST KILLERS OF THREE ISRAELIS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 26 (JTA) -- Israel will seek extradition of three terrorists who murdered an Israeli navy veteran, his wife and their friend aboard a yacht docked at a marina in Larnaca, Cyprus Wednesday. The victims, Reuven Paltur, 53, his wife, Esther, 50, of Haifa, and Avraham Avneri, of Arad, were shot to death. Their bodies were flown to Israel today for burial tomorrow.

The terrorists surrendered to Cypriot authorities about 10 hours after they seized the yacht in what appeared to be an attempt to take the Israelis hostage. Elias Georgidis, a Cypriot government spokesman, identified them as Elias Yehiya and Nasif Mahmoud, both 22 and George Hannah, 27. The three claimed to be Palestinians but had no documents to prove their identity. According to reports from Larnaca, one is believed to be German.

Premier Shimon Peres, Acting Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Justice Minister Moshe Nissim conferred early Thursday morning. Immediately afterwards, Nissim instructed Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir to draw up the necessary documents for extradition.

Possible Obstacle To Extradition

While Israel and Cyprus have no mutual extradition treaty, both countries are among the 16 signatories to the European Economic Community's (EEC) general extradition agreement whereby any one of them can request the extradition of a person who has committed a crime against a national of the other.

The only obstacle in the way of extradition will arise if the Cypriot authorities claim the murders were politically motivated, in which case extradition can be denied. The killers have been remanded in custody for eight days by a Larnaca court pending trial.

Killers Sought Release Of Captured PLO Prisoners

It is generally assumed in Israel that the killers belong to Force 17, the elite unit of El Fatah, the terrorist arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization which has recently carried out "showcase" terrorist acts. The PLO disclaimed responsibility. But Israeli sources said this may be because the gunmen failed in their mission. It apparently was to hold the three Israelis aboard the yacht hostage for Israel's release of about 20 PLO terrorists, including ranking members of Force 17, captured at sea by the Israel Navy in recent weeks.

The captured terrorists had been enroute to Lebanon from where they planned to infiltrate Israel, according to documents in their possession. Israel is skeptical of the PLO disclaimer because persons purporting to speak for Force 17 telephoned the Jerusalem office of the French news agency, Agence France Presse, two weeks ago saying they were planning to retaliate for the Navy's seizures.

An anonymous telephone call to the same news agency Wednesday claimed Force 17 took over the Israeli yacht in Larnaca because the three Israelis aboard were secret agents monitoring the movements of Palestinian boats between Cyprus and Lebanon while

posing as tourists. Israeli sources flatly denied the allegation. The murders occurred Yom Kippur morning but were not reported here until Israel Radio resumed broadcasting at 7 p.m. last night, after the Day of Atonement. Many Israelis who tuned into the BBC hourly news heard of the attack at 9 a.m. yesterday.

The murder victims left Haifa September 16 on a short holiday cruise to Cyprus. On arrival at Larnaca they tied up at the tourist marina. There were perhaps a dozen other Israeli yachts at the marina at the time, along with Lebanese yachts.

Killers Were Heavily Armed

According to reports from Cyprus, the gunmen, armed with Kalachnikov assault rifles, Browning automatics, pistols and grenades, boarded the Israeli yacht at about 4:30 a.m. local time yesterday. Apparently they encountered Esther Paltur who appeared to have put up a struggle. She was the first to be shot. Her body clad only in a nightgown, was left lying on the deck for 10 hours, until the gunmen surrendered.

Cypriot police are not certain when Paltur and Avneri were murdered. Their bodies were found in the yacht's cabin when police boarded the vessel at 2 p.m. Both men were bound hand and foot and each was shot several times in the head. It was not certain whether they were already dead when the killers began bargaining for the release of the Force 17 men held by Israel.

At their demand, the Cypriot Interior Minister, Dinios Michaelides, came to the marina to negotiate, as did the Egyptian Ambassador to Cyprus and two representatives of the PLO from Nicosia, the capital. At one point the terrorists threatened to blow up the yacht if their demands were not met. They set at 10 a.m. deadline but did not carry out the threat. They threw down their weapons and surrendered at 1:55 p.m.

Israel's Ambassador to Cyprus, Meir Gavish, who was on home leave, flew to Cyprus in an Air Force plane yesterday accompanied by army communications experts. By the time they landed, the three Israelis had been found dead and the Ambassador returned home.

The Cypriot government sent a message of condolence to the government and people of Israel. The message also stated that Cyprus did not want to be dragged into a conflict between other parties but wished to live in peace with all.

Paltur, who owned the yacht, was described by friends ~~Thursday~~ as a dedicated sailor who served in the Israel Navy and was active in the Sea Scouts and other movements promoting seafaring among Israelis.

2 PERSONS INJURED BY TERRORIST BOMB

JERUSALEM, Sept. 26 (JTA) -- Two persons were slightly injured in a terrorist bomb blast in Jerusalem this morning. The charge exploded behind a bus-stop on Mt. Scopus, site of the Hebrew University campus.

The capital's Police Chief, Inspector Haim Albaldes, warned the public once again to keep a watchful eye open -- especially during this holiday period.

Last week, citizens' wariness prevented a terror tragedy in the heart of the ultra-Orthodox Mea Shearim quarter. A car filled with gas canisters and explosives was left parked on the roadside just near the Four Species market where Jerusalemites come each year before Sukkot to buy the lulav and etrog for the festival.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem police have indicated they will probably not press charges against a 65-year-old Petah Tikva man, Meir Braverman, who shot and killed an Arab near Herod's gate early Tuesday morning. Braverman said the victim, Hassan Hussain Mashara, had attacked Braverman's wife as the couple stood by Mashara's fresh bagel stall.

Eyewitnesses broadly bore out Braverman's version, and local people noted that Mashara, 38, has a long history of mental illness. Braverman was released on bail over Yom Kippur and told to return to Jerusalem police headquarters today for further questioning.

14 PERSONS WOUNDED AS BOMB RIPS THROUGH BRITISH AIRWAYS OFFICE

ROME, Sept. 26 (JTA) — A powerful bomb exploded at the British Airways office yesterday, wounding 14 persons, some seriously. Police arrested a Palestinian, Hassan Atab, 18, who had confessed to hurling the explosive through the door of the airline office.

Atab told police he was a member of the Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Moslems, the same group which had claimed responsibility for a grenade attack on a Rome cafe on September 16. The Organization is strongly opposed to Yasir Arafat's leadership of the PLO and is believed to have ties with the pro-Syrian anti-Arafat group led by Abu Nidal.

Atab told police he was born in the Shatila refugee camp in Beirut and had acted out of "hatred" for Israel. Another Palestinian, Ahmad al Hussein Abu Sareya, 26, charged with the September 16 attack against the Cafe de Paris, just up the street from yesterday's blast, also said he grew up in a Beirut refugee camp.

The explosion yesterday sent shards of glass some 60 yards along one of the city's most fashionable neighborhoods, smashed windows in nearby buildings, and shook the American Embassy building around the corner.

BRITAIN SIGNS \$4.3 BILLION ARMS DEAL WITH SAUDI ARABIA

LONDON, Sept. 26 (JTA) — The British and Saudi Arabian governments signed a memorandum of agreement today for the sale by Britain of 132 warplanes to the Saudi kingdom valued at \$4.3 billion exclusive of the cost of spare parts and support facilities.

Described by a British spokesman as "our biggest arms deal ever," it was angrily opposed by Israel but may have had the tacit blessings of the Reagan Administration. The Saudis recently dropped plans to buy U.S. F-15 jet fighter-bombers, apparently because a long drawn-out battle seemed inevitable between the Administration and majorities in both houses of Congress which oppose U.S. arms sales to Arab states technically at war with Israel.

The sales agreement was initiated here today by the Defense Minister of Saudi Arabia, Prince Sultan Ibn Abdellaziz, and British Defense Secretary Michael Heseltine. The deal is for 72 of the highly rated Tornado jet fighters which are built by a British-West German-Italian consortium, 30 PC-9 defense aircraft and 30 Hawk trainers. Sources here said the Saudis originally intended to buy only 48 Tornados but increased their order after deciding not to seek the F-15s.

Israel's Acting Foreign Minister Moshe Arens summoned the British Ambassador in Tel Aviv, William

Squire, to the Foreign Ministry Monday to convey his government's extreme displeasure over the Saudi arms deal, then pending. Arens said Israel was especially disturbed by the Tornados' high speed, low level penetration capabilities which suits them for raids against Israel from the Saudi air base at Tabuk.

Today's arms deal is without conditions, meaning that Britain did not stipulate that the weapons must not be used against Israel.

FRANCE SIGNS \$2 BILLION ARMS SALE AGREEMENT WITH IRAQ

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Sept. 26 (JTA) — France and Iraq have concluded an agreement for the sale of 24 Mirage F-1's, equipped for in-flight refuelling and capable of firing air-to-sea Exocet missiles.

The plane's manufacturer, Marcel Dassault, 93, personally announced the sale last night, saying that Iraq has agreed to pay for the planes in cash, some 15 billion Francs, or some \$2 billion. The planes will be delivered over an 18-month period.

Iraq already has 89 F-1's but the new model will have, thanks to their in-flight refuelling facilities, a far longer strike range. They will carry two 30 mm. guns and seven air-to-air to air-to-sea missiles.

The Exocet is the super sophisticated air-to-sea missile used with devastating effects by the Argentines during their battle with the British over the Falkland Islands. Iraq has used the Exocets to strike and sink tankers carrying Iranian oil from the Kharg terminal.

French experts at last night's press conference held by Dassault, privately told reporters they were deeply impressed by the high level maintenance of the planes by the Iraqi ground crews and by combat capabilities of the air crews. The French technicians said that the long war with Iran has given the Iraqis the combat experience needed to turn them into a modern and efficient air force.

KOLLEK EULOGIZES AXEL SPRINGER

JERUSALEM, Sept. 26 (JTA) — "Israel has lost a man who was very close to her," Mayor Teddy Kollek said in his eulogy for Axel Springer, the West German publishing empire mogul who died Sunday night in West Berlin of a heart attack. He was 73 years old.

Kollek said he had also lost a personal friend, whom he had known for 20 years. The mayor noted that Springer regarded Jerusalem as his second home. Springer owned a house on King David Street.

Kollek recalled that Springer came to Israel during her most difficult times, such as the first days of the Six-Day War in 1967 and the Yom Kippur War in 1973. "He used to defend the case of Israel in every form and every forum," Kollek said. "He was a central fighter against the supply of German arms to Arab countries. He did his utmost to prevent the sale of Leopard tanks to Arab armies. There was not one speech of his in which he failed to mention Jerusalem."

Premier Shimon Peres also expressed sorrow over the death of Springer, whom he described as a great friend of Israel and the Jewish people.

Journalist Francis Ofner, an advisor to the Axel Springer Publishing Group in Israel, who had known the publisher for over 20 years, described him as a brilliant journalist, a top negotiator and a generous and warm human being. Ofner said Springer had been motivated in his defense of Israel and the Jewish people by the Jewish sources of Christianity, and by the German debt to Israel.

Springer, who built West Germany's largest publishing empire, was closely associated with the Christian Democratic Party and was a leading conservative voice for three decades. His Group published Bild Zeitung, Die Welt, Bild am Sonntag and Welt am Sonntag, among numerous other publications.

MUBARAK CALLS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE AS A WAY TO RESOLVE THE MIDEAST CONFLICT

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 26 (JTA) -- President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt called yesterday for the establishment of a Palestinian state as a way of resolving the Middle East conflict.

Addressing the General Assembly, the Egyptian leader, in surprisingly short remarks on the Middle East situation, said that Egypt believes that UN resolutions regarding Palestinian rights and self-determination must be implemented.

"The Palestinian people still live under the yoke of occupation and military rule in the West Bank and Gaza," Mubarak charged. "Israeli settlements are still being established on their land, and restrictions imposed on their movement and political, economic and cultural activities. Collective punitive measures are still practiced against the Palestinian people and acts of violence and extremism are still escalating."

Mubarak also said that there is a necessity for halting demographic changes in the occupied territories and said that Arab, Islamic and Christian rights in Jerusalem must be maintained.

France Supports Hussein's Initiative

The Foreign Minister of France, Roland Dumas, speaking before the General Assembly today, declared that his government supports King Hussein of Jordan's initiative of February 11 in which he reached an agreement with the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Yasir Arafat, for a joint delegation to negotiate with Israel.

"My government -- as it has demonstrated on many occasions -- is ready to support the efforts of those who sincerely desire to work for peace, which can be based only on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338," Dumas stated. "To endure, it must take into account two principles that are indivisible. Mainly, the right of people to exist in security, and the right of the Palestinians to self-determination, with all that this implies."

POLISH PRIME MINISTER AND WJC OFFICIALS HOLD FRIENDLY MEETING

NEW YORK, Sept. 26 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Wojciech Jaruzelski of Poland told a group of World Jewish Congress officials here last night, at a meeting held at his request, that the Polish government hoped Western Jewish communities would reciprocate with goodwill for efforts by his government on behalf of Jewish causes.

Jaruzelski met for about an hour at the Polish Mission to the United Nations with Edgar Bronfman, WJC president, Kalman Sultanik, WJC vice president, and Elan Steinberg, WJC executive director.

With the Polish Prime Minister were Stefan Olsewski, the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs. Sultanik told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the meeting was a friendly one.

Jaruzelski referred specifically to Polish government efforts to restore the Jewish pavilion at Ausch-

witz and the abandoned Jewish cemeteries in Poland. He also cited documentations sent to the Museum of the Diaspora in Tel Aviv.

Jaruzelski formally invited the WJC officials to a meeting scheduled in Warsaw in December, for which the meeting at the Polish Mission last night was a preliminary event, to discuss "outstanding issues."

Bronfman, responding generally for the WJC delegation, said that improved relations between the Polish regime and the Western Jewish communities depended greatly on the restoration by Poland of normal relations with Israel, broken off by the Soviet government in the 1967 Six-Day War.

Sultanik said he had raised the issue of the Auschwitz exhibit which the Polish government is sponsoring, first at the United Nations in December and January, starting December 16, and then going on tour of American cities. Sultanik said the exhibit should stress the sufferings of the Jewish victims of the Nazi genocide and that Jaruzelski assured him it would.

7 PERSONS INJURED IN ATTACK ON BUS PASSING THROUGH HALHOUL ON ITS WAY TO KIRYAT ARBA

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 26 (JTA) -- Seven persons, five Jews and two Arabs, were injured tonight when an Egged bus enroute to Kiryat Arba was fired upon as it passed through the town of Halhoul, near Hebron.

Five of the injured persons were expected to be discharged from Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem during the night but a spokesman for the hospital said two others might need surgery. None was in danger, the spokesman said.

The bus was Route No. 60 -- the line that serves Kiryat Arba and the Jewish settlements of the Etzion Bloc. Another attack on an Egged bus -- this one less serious -- took place in Jerusalem this afternoon: a firebomb was thrown at the vehicle as it passed Mt. Zion. There were no injuries. (See story, P.1.)

Meanwhile, the army today bulldozed into dust a fine looking house in a Hebron suburb in which a man lived who is suspected of having stabbed to death an Israeli soldier a month ago. The bulldozing was screened at length on Israeli television. It is a measure intended to deter potential terrorist killers in the future.

The soldier, Avraham Sorek, a reservist aged 37, was knifed as he guarded the house in the Hebron Casbah where earlier several rightwing Knesset members had taken over an apartment. A second soldier was wounded in that incident.

The military authorities said the suspect, aged 22, had acted alone, out of nationalistic motives.

In a separate development today, the authorities reported that they had arrested eight men suspected of comprising a terrorist cell operating in the Bethlehem area.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- A team of top officials flew to Cairo Thursday to map out the schedule for a new round of talks on Tabu. The team, led by Gen. (Res.) Avraham Tamir, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, expects to hold three or four lengthy meetings with Egyptian and American aides over the weeks ahead, beginning next week. Their aim is to prepare for a "policy decision" by the Israeli Inner Cabinet.

There will be no Bulletin dated October 1, because of Succoth.

SHAMIR ACCUSES PLO OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR MURDER OF 3 ISRAELIS IN CYPRUS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Sept. 26 (JTA) -- Israel's Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir accused the Palestine Liberation Organization today of responsibility for the murder of three Israelis aboard a yacht in Larnaca, Cyprus yesterday. "Yom Kippur was disturbed by a cold-blooded and savage murder by the killers of the PLO," Shamir told a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations here.

The Israeli minister said the PLO perpetrated and stood behind all recent acts of terror in Israel. "These acts of terror were done by the PLO and its leader (Yasir) Arafat," he said. Shamir added, "We will find a way to put an end to it. We will overcome it. We will overcome them."

Shamir charged that the PLO has not changed its nature, though, he noted, attempts have been made recently, even in Western countries, to prove the contrary. "The PLO is a terrorist movement. Their acts are a combination of murder, crimes and lies. They perpetrate crimes of terrorism and then they deny it," Shamir said.

Cites Israel's Economic Achievements

Turning to another subject, Shamir pointed out that this is the first anniversary of Israel's Labor-Likud unity government which, he said, has recorded considerable achievements in the economic field and the Lebanon problem. Shamir, leader of Likud, is scheduled, under the terms of the unity coalition agreement, to replace Laborite Shimon Peres as Premier in October, 1986.

He said that while Israel's economy has still not recovered, there is a feeling in the government that the direction taken is positive. "We feel we are making progress," he said. As for Lebanon, he said the situation is much better than last year when Israeli forces still occupied part of that country and noted that the PLO is no longer on Israel's northern border. There is a feeling of security for the inhabitants of Galilee, he observed.

Shamir said that despite differences in the national unity government, there is agreement on a number of principles. These are, he said, no negotiations with the PLO; no Palestinian state; commitment to the Camp David accords; readiness to negotiate with Jordan without preconditions; and rejection of negotiations with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. In addition, he said, the government is united in its opposition to an international conference to solve the Middle East conflict.

Refers To Criticism Of Some U.S. Jewish Leaders

Shamir referred to his recent remarks to a Jerusalem Post reporter (David Landau, who is also Jerusalem Bureau chief of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency) about contacts some American Jewish leaders had made in Arab countries. He said he appreciates the efforts of Jews on behalf of Israel's well-being.

But he stressed that it has been the position of all leaders of Israel over the years "that there are most delicate and most important issues that only elected officials of Israel can deal with. These are relations with our neighbors and matters relating to Israel's security."

Shamir said these issues are a matter of "life and death for the Jewish State" and that the Israelis themselves have to negotiate them and not "people

living abroad." He said the Arabs try to separate and drive a wedge between Jews around the world and in Israel and the Israelis and Jews abroad should not play into their hands.

"I have nothing personal against those mentioned in the article. It is a matter of principle, something which is related to our future," he said.

Shamir was referring to his remarks reported in the Jerusalem Post and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency a week ago, angrily attacking a group of American Jewish Congress leaders who visited Cairo and Amman, and Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, who visited Moscow to discuss the plight of Soviet Jews with Soviet officials.

Says U.S.-Israeli Relations Are 'Excellent'

Turning to Israel's relations with the international community, Shamir described U.S.-Israel relations as "excellent, better than ever before." He said Israel is looking for improved relations with Japan, following his recent visit there, and he hoped the improvement would have a positive impact on Israel's economy.

He also expressed hope that Spain will soon open diplomatic relations with Israel. He called the U.S. to use its influence with Spain to that end.

Shamir, who met here this week with Egyptian Foreign Minister Abdel Ismat Meguid, said Egypt is willing to seek new avenues, other than conciliation or arbitration, to solve its border dispute with Israel over Taba. But, Shamir said, the Egyptian minister would not promise that after the Taba dispute is resolved, Egypt will return its Ambassador to Israel.

The Egyptians, said Shamir, want progress on the Palestinian question before they return their Ambassador. He declared, however, that Israel cannot accept the Egyptian approach that brings up one new issue after another as a condition for a general improvement in relations between the two countries.

He said he offered the Egyptian Foreign Minister to establish two commissions, one on the ministerial level and one on the high officials level, to seek progress on the Palestinian question.

Historic Meeting With Hungary's Foreign Minister

Meanwhile, Shamir at the United Nations today had what his spokesman and aide described as an historic meeting with the Foreign Minister of Hungary, Peter Varkonyi. It was the first meeting ever between an Israeli and Hungarian foreign minister.

Shamir's aide said the half-hour meeting was held in a "friendly atmosphere." He said the Hungarian minister said his country was willing to expand commercial, cultural and sports contacts with Israel and expressed a willingness for the two countries to exchange visitors in unofficial capacity.

The Hungarian Foreign Minister emphasized, however, that his country is part of the Eastern bloc. He made that point two or three times, Shamir's aide said. The aide noted that "the importance of the meeting was in the fact it took place."

Shamir also met today with Belgium's Foreign Minister, Leo Tindemans, Foreign Minister Joe Clark of Canada and the Foreign Minister of Finland, Paavo Vayrynen. He discussed bilateral questions with all three, his aide said.