

SPECIAL UNIT SET UP TO INVESTIGATE THE CLASH ON THE TEMPLE MOUNT

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9 (JTA) — The Jerusalem police have appointed a special panel to investigate the clash on the Temple Mount yesterday between members of the Knesset's Interior Committee and an angry Moslem crowd that allegedly threatened their lives.

The police safely evacuated the MKs. But the latter, mostly rightwingers, insist the police should have taken tough measures to curb the mob instead of mounting a rescue operation. Committee chairman Dov Shilansky (Likud-Herut) said today that he would refuse to testify before the police investigators because he thought the police action itself should be investigated.

The Temple Mount, site of the Al-Aksa mosque and Dome of the Rock (Mosque of Omar), is the third holiest site in the Islamic faith. It is accessible to all visitors but only Moslems are permitted to worship there, a situation that rankles ultra-nationalist Israelis.

While the Interior Committee says it was on legitimate business — to investigate complaints that the Moslem religious authorities allowed illegal construction — it was accompanied by three hardliners who have long demanded an end to the special privileges given Moslems there.

These were Tehiya Party MKs Yuval Neeman and Geula Cohen, who are not members of the Interior Committee, and nationalist activist Gershon Salomon who has frequently led groups of Jews in attempts to hold prayer services on the Temple Mount.

Officials of the Waqf, the Moslem religious council in charge of the holy sites, said the presence of well-known agitators for Jewish religious rights on the Temple Mount was a provocation. For that reason, the Muezzin (the Moslem crier who calls the hours of prayer) summoned the faithful over the public address system to "defend" their shrines.

Says MKs Attacked Without Provocation

Shilansky said today that Neeman, Cohen and Salomon had every right to be present, as well as the reporters and television crews invited to accompany the Committee members. He demanded that the Muezzin be arrested and charged with incitement.

While the Knesseters claim they were attacked without provocation, the Moslem Supreme Council claims the MKs deliberately violated the ban on cameras at the holy site. This is one of the matters the police investigators will look into.

The panel is headed by Ami Fleissig, chief of investigations at Jerusalem police headquarters. Cohen has refused to cooperate with him on grounds that a police officer cannot investigate his superior.

The MKs' quarrel is with Jerusalem Police Chief Haim Albalade, who ordered his men to evacuate the threatened legislators. There is reportedly a move afoot in the Knesset to demand that the State Attorney General investigate the incident, not the police.

Frayed tempers were hardly eased by another incident today resulting in the arrest of three ultra-nationalist Jews. The three clashed with Moslem guards on the Temple Mount when they attempted to raise an Israeli flag on the site and sang Hatikva, the national anthem. They claimed they represented Tehiya. But Neeman, leader of the rightwing party, denied prior knowledge of their escapade.

Another prominent hardliner, Minister of Commerce and Industry Ariel Sharon of Likud, visited the Temple Mount this morning, after first coordinating with the police. There was no incident. Sharon stated that the site should be freely accessible to both Moslems and Jews for prayers.

The question of Jewish prayer is complicated. The government has banned it for political reasons ever since the Temple Mount was seized by Israel in the 1967 war.

Orthodox Jews are forbidden for halachic reasons from praying at the site because of the presence of Islamic shrines. For that reason, Orthodox members of the Interior Committee did not accompany Shilansky to the Temple Mount yesterday, nor did most Labor MKs for political reasons.

Shilansky vowed to return late yesterday but was forced to abandon his plans under pressure from colleagues after Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel firmly ruled it out.

Meanwhile, police and border police are maintaining a high-profile presence at the site to forestall further incidents. They will remain there through Friday morning when the Moslem faithful attend services at the two mosques.

POLICE TRYING TO FIND LEADER OF TERRORISTS WHO ATTACKED VIENNA AIRPORT By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, Jan. 9 (JTA) — Austrian police are trying to track down the alleged leader of the three-man terrorist gang that attacked the El Al counter at Vienna airport December 27, killing two persons and wounding 29.

One of the three was killed and two were wounded and captured after a police chase. But the "fourth man," said to have given the others their orders, is at large. According to a television report today, the authorities are in possession of a forged Tunisian passport in the name of Ali Ben Bechim, 28, bearing a photograph of the wanted terrorist.

Inquiries have established that he entered Austria on December 22, travelling from Damascus via Budapest. He spent the following days at various hotels in Vienna and gave the others their instructions only hours before the airport attack.

The four terrorists who simultaneously attacked El Al passenger facilities at Rome airport also carried forged Tunisian passports. They are believed to have been provided by Libya which recently expelled Tunisian workers and seized their passports.

But Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz reiterated today that Austria will not join the United States in economic sanctions against Libya, announced by President Reagan Tuesday night. Nevertheless, Austrian authorities are

trying to close loopholes that have allowed terrorists unrestricted entry into the country. Gratz said that citizens of certain countries he did not name will in the future be required to apply for a visa before entering Austria. The new rule will apply also to diplomats from those countries. Austria and Tunisia have in the past waived visa requirements to allow for the free movement of tourists between the two countries.

Foreign Ministry sources said they intend to cut down the size of the large Libyan Peoples Bureau which serves the function of an Embassy in Vienna. Critics have repeatedly maintained that the size of that representation was out of proportion with the scope of Austrian-Libyan relations. Recently, a shipment of weapons intended for the Libyan Bureau was halted by Vienna police.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

FORMER REFUSENIK SAYS HE HARBORS LITTLE HARD FEELINGS TOWARD THE USSR

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Jan. 9 (JTA) — Mark Nashpitz says he cannot explain why after nearly 15 years he was suddenly granted permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union to Israel. But despite the years of harassment and difficult times, including five years in internal exile, he says he harbors little hard feelings toward the Soviet Union or its people.

"I'm not anti-Soviet," he asserted in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency at the offices of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. "It's just not my country. We wanted out of the Soviet Union. They can have their problems; they're not my problems."

Nashpitz, 37, along with his wife Ludmilla and their five-year-old son Benjamin, arrived in Israel last October after having first applied for an exit visa to Israel in January, 1970. He was denied exit because he was a "relative of an illegal emigrant."

Nashpitz's father, Chaim, defected while on a mission with a delegation to Denmark some 30 years ago, when Mark was eight years old. Nashpitz who now lives in Tel Aviv, has since been reunited with his parents, Ita and Chaim of Haifa. Ita Nashpitz was allowed to leave the Soviet Union in 1974.

Now Studying In Jerusalem

Nonetheless, though he can't explain the sudden change of heart on the part of the Soviets — he was given 48 hours to leave the USSR once informed of the decision — he does give much credit to persistent efforts on the part of activists in the U.S., Congress and, in particular, the Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity.

Mark, a dentist specializing in mouth diseases, lost his practice in the Soviet Union and is now studying in Jerusalem to sharpen his skills and learn the use of new instruments and technology. His visit to the U.S., his first trip to the West, included receiving an award presented to him by Alpha Omega at its annual conference in Boston last month.

Nashpitz was also accorded a Capitol Hill reception last week held by Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R. N.Y.). Gilman said that since he was first elected to Congress in 1972, he has taken an active role in seeking permission for Nashpitz to emigrate.

"Mark's presence in our midst today," Gilman told the audience in Washington, "is concrete proof that the issue of human rights for Soviet Jews is not really an ideological exercise engaged in only at the policy level."

Gilman pointed out that over 400,000 Soviet Jews have begun the application process to leave the Soviet Union. They are, he said, "real flesh and blood individuals, not merely names on placards or photographs on demonstration posters."

Says Russians Aren't Anti-Semitic

In the interview yesterday, Nashpitz said he does not feel the Soviet people are anti-Semitic. "The Russian people, I think, are not anti-Semitic," he said. The government, he added, "has good propaganda" which, he noted, delivers almost a daily dosage of attacks on Israel and Zionism.

He said that Soviet citizens don't know or understand the concept of Zionism. With this, he pointed to a program that will be aired over the Public Broadcasting System throughout the United States. The documentary, "The Jews of Moscow," scheduled to be broadcast next week, provides a fairly accurate view of the life of refuseniks in the Soviet Union, he said.

Documentary On Moscow Jews

Nashpitz, along with a host of invited guests and reporters, previewed the documentary Tuesday evening at WNET-TV, the PBS station in New York. The 60-minute documentary, narrated by Theodore Bikel, was first produced for Danish television by Samuel Rachlin, a Danish TV correspondent who just completed a seven-year assignment in Moscow.

The program, while depicting efforts of Jews in Moscow to maintain their religious traditions and cultural roots, also focuses on the work of the Soviet Anti-Zionist Committee, composed of a handful of Jews. The Committee claims there was collusion between the Nazis and Zionists and that all those Jews wishing to emigrate have already done so.

At the conclusion of the film, there is a brief interview with, among others, Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, who recently returned from a business trip to the Soviet Union. It has been widely reported that Bronfman has been acting as an intermediary between Israel and the Soviets for an airlift of Jews from the Soviet Union.

Responding to this report, Bronfman tells the interviewer, Hedrick Smith, a former Moscow Bureau Chief of The New York Times, that "I have no indication of it and I think I certainly would have had that been the indication." He also termed the reports as "made out of cloth."

In addition, Bronfman also said that although the Soviets publicly reject the idea of linking human rights to increased trade with the U.S., "privately I think there's definite linkage and I think that one can deal with this on a private level."

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The consumer price index rose by only a quarter of one percent during the last two weeks of December after rising a half of one percent during the first two weeks, according to figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics Wednesday.

The overall inflation rate for December, due to be published January 15, is expected to be about one percent and remain around that level in January and February.

PAUL ZUCKERMAN DEAD AT 73

DETROIT, Jan. 9 (JTA) — Paul Zuckerman, a long-time leader in philanthropic endeavors on behalf of Israel, its education institutions, and world Jewry, died here yesterday of cancer at the age of 73. Services are scheduled for tomorrow.

Known for his boundless energy — he logged 250,000 miles a year in his fund-raising work — Zuckerman once said, "How can you get tired when there is so much to do and so little time to do it?"

Zuckerman served as president of the United Jewish Appeal, 1975-76, its general chairman, 1972-74, and chairman of the Israel Emergency Fund in 1967. He was also treasurer of the United Israel Appeal, and chairman of the World Fund-Raising Committee of the reconstituted Jewish Agency.

Other Jewish organizations he served as an officer included the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), the Jewish Agency, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and the Jewish National Fund.

In recent years, he increasingly devoted himself to work on behalf of various educational projects and institutions. He served in various official capacities for Ben Gurion University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, American ORT Federation, Boys Town Jerusalem, and Akim, the Israeli organization to benefit the retarded.

Deeply Felt Loss

Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Zuckerman's death "is a loss that is deeply felt by the citizens of the State of Israel From the establishment of the State and on through years of historic challenge, (he) was at the forefront of efforts in Israel's behalf"

The United Jewish Appeal, in a statement signed by national chairman Alex Grass, Board of Trustees chairman Robert Loup, and president Stanley Horowitz, said of Zuckerman, in part: "A deeply compassionate individual and a distinguished son of Detroit, he always gave generously of his time and talent to help others. His humanitarian service spanned many decades, setting a standard of excellence that will serve as a model for generations to come."

Zuckerman was born in Istanbul in 1912, when it was still known as Constantinople, the son of Joseph and Rose Popper Zuckerman. Raised in Detroit, he attended a Jesuit college, dropping out in his junior year because of lack of funds in the Depression year of 1932.

'The Peanut Butter King'

His first job was driving a truck — "in those days it paid extremely well" — then working as a haberdasher, and a drug-store and warehouse clerk. The man who was to become the largest independent producer of peanut butter in the world began making the popular spread in an old garage with second-hand equipment.

Zuckerman experienced some initial ups and downs before earning the sobriquet of "The Peanut Butter King" bestowed on him by President Lyndon Johnson. A leading food manufacturer and distributor, his business associations included being a director of Super Sol Market of Israel. At the time of his death, he was chairman of the Velvet-O' Donnell Corporation.

Zuckerman served as president of the United Jewish Charities in Detroit and chairman of the Allied Jewish Campaign. The Detroit Jewish community honored him by planting 10,000 trees as "Zuckerman Forest" in the hills overlooking Jerusalem. He, in turn, built Detroit Park in Jerusalem, where Jewish and Arab children play together.

Involved In Numerous Causes

Zuckerman once told an interviewer he "became involved with the United Jewish Appeal the day I was born, because I'm Jewish." His commitment deepened, he said, when the State of Israel was born. "I was elated because finally there was a place for the survivors of the Nazi Holocaust. From then on, I devoted most of my time not only to Israel but to other countries where existing conditions made emigration impossible."

Soviet Jewry — an issue he once called a "humanitarian must" — was a major concern for Zuckerman. He told a reporter in 1972 that "the Jackson-Vanik bill was born in my living room at 3 o'clock in the morning" when the idea of holding out the Most-Favored Nation (MFN) status as an incentive was first put forward. The bill, passed in 1974, "worked for a while — over 250,000 Jews escaped from Russia," he added.

Zuckerman was also involved with the social problems in Israel engendered by the influx of Soviet Jews, particularly the resentment on the part of previous immigrants who were "hovering around the poverty level." He placed the responsibility for that problem on the shoulders of American Jewry and other communities outside Israel who, he said, between 1948 and 1967, "contributed insufficient funds to properly absorb those refugees who saw in Israel that long dreamed-of freedom."

Active, as well, on behalf of various general humanitarian concerns, Zuckerman was named by President Johnson to head the U.S. Food for Peace Committee in Detroit. He was a Board member of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and received the Vatican's Knight of Charity Medallion.

Recipient Of Many Honors

His many honors also included a Human Rights Medallion from the American Jewish Committee, a citation from the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S., an honorary fellowship from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and an honorary doctorate of philosophy from Bar Ilan University. A life member of the Zionist Organization of America, he learned about a month before his death that he had been selected to receive this year's Brandeis Award.

Queried about when he'd begun taking trips to Israel, Zuckerman replied, "Started in 1956 and have not stopped!" He maintained a home in Caesaria, where he tried his hand at painting and sculpting. He also collected works of art and antiques as an avocation.

Zuckerman was once asked what he considered his most significant achievement. His reply summed up a lifetime of involvement: "Being and acting Jewish!" He underscored the word acting.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel had its best tourist year in 1985. A record 1,430 million visited the country, a 15 percent increase over the previous year, according to figures released by Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir this week.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA THE TAPING OF THE TALMUD By Daniella Niv

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9 (JTA) — A teenager lies on the grass outside the building, "Walkman" ear-phones on his head and a book in his hands. At first glance he looks as if he is relaxing between classes, listening to the latest hits while reading a novel. A closer look reveals that he is actually listening to the recording of a lesson on a tractate of the Talmud, which he is following in the book.

Beit Midrash Torah (BMT), a yeshiva in Jerusalem's Bayit Vegan neighborhood, primarily for youth from the diaspora, is in the process of producing the entire Talmud on cassettes. All the recordings have already been completed, and the institute is now bringing out each tractate in an attractive cassette binder, complete with reading aids to help the student follow the lessons. Each month a new tractate is being produced, and sixteen of the planned 30 binders are already available.

"The project is of recent vintage," said Rabbi Moshe Horovitz, director and founder of BMT, in a recent interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "It started off five years ago when we recorded individual classes." The project snowballed thanks to the impetus of a class of 15 boys who decided to record the entire Talmud.

"We discovered that there was a rabbi in Beit El, Shabtai Sabato, who was also recording his classes on cassettes. A contingent of boys from BMT went out there to ask whether he could give us copies of his cassettes, and the upshot was that Sabato came to BMT, bringing his entire class with him to work with us on the project," Horovitz said. "Our plans at first were not so grandiose, but our spiritual appetite grew with time."

The BMT now has a cassette library and students can take out the tapes of the tractates they are studying. The project is in line with the institute's concept of learning: "The main goal of an educational institute should be to bring the student to the point where he can do individual study and research, where he is self-propelled and disciplined," Horovitz pointed out.

A 3,000-Hour Class

The institute, which is run by the Torah Education Department of the Jewish Agency, celebrated the completion of the recordings in the presence of the country's two chief rabbis. "By then we had the entire 'Shas' (the Hebrew acronym for The Six Orders of the Mishnah) on tapes," said Horovitz.

Sabato said he sat with his class for a total of 3,000 hours, spending an hour on each page of Talmud. Afterwards, the tapes were spliced and edited, leaving only the teacher's voice lecturing. With each cassette encompassing some two or three pages of the Mishnah or Gemara, the complete Talmud takes up exactly 1,000 tapes.

"It is not intended to diminish from the role of the teacher," Horovitz said. "On the contrary, it is to serve as a teacher's aid and not as a primary source of study; the teacher guides his students in the use of the cassettes." The system, however, does not work for everybody — the student must be self-disciplined to study by himself with the cassettes, Horovitz conceded.

Sabato also believes that the modern technological aid does not break down the traditional role of

the rabbi-teacher. "It restores the Talmud to its original role; that of the Oral Law," he said. It strengthens, rather than weakens, the role of the teacher, since "the rabbi nowadays cannot spend hours with his students, as they did in medieval times when every rabbi had perhaps three or four students whom he taught during his entire lifetime." Today the teacher spends only a few hours a week with his students; therefore the cassette only strengthens the bond, enabling the student to receive more instruction, Sabato observed.

Cassettes Have Reached Numerous Countries

Recordings of the Talmud have been bought from BMT and 10 cassette libraries have been opened in Israel, Horovitz said. In addition, the Talmudic cassettes have reached numerous countries, and some have even been smuggled into the Soviet Union, according to Sabato. He added that the aid opens up new vistas for blind students, who until now have had no access to the Talmud.

White Beit Midrash Torah has recorded the Mishnah and Gemara in Hebrew, elsewhere in the world recordings are being prepared in English and in Yiddish.

"Yeshivot in the United States are now in the process of recording the Talmud in English and some tapes are being prepared in Yiddish," Horovitz said.

"A student who comes from the diaspora can study the entire 'Shas' in four years, even if he does not have a good command of Hebrew," Sabato observed. "Today, with the help of this modern aid, there is nobody who can say: 'I would like to study, but do not have the means to do so.'"

WORLD JEWISH LEADERS APPEAL TO PUBLIC OPINION TO HALT THE MASSACRE OF LEBANESE JEWS

NEW YORK, Jan. 9 (JTA) — The leaders of the Jewish communities of Britain and France joined the chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations this week in appealing to world opinion to "halt the massacre" of Lebanese Jews "whose government has confessed its impotence to protect them."

The appeal, which denounced "the taking of hostages and the systematic selection of Jewish victims," was signed by Kenneth Bialkin, chairman of the Presidents Conference; Dr. Lionel Kopelowitz, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews; and Theo Klein, president of CRIF (the Representative Council of French Jewry).

The Jewish leaders issued their statement after the second of five Jewish hostages seized by Islamic terrorists in Lebanon was found dead in Beirut. They addressed their appeal "to the human conscience, to the leaders of religious groups and to governments," declaring:

"It is no more acceptable today than earlier in this century that Jews should be murdered simply because they are Jews. This time, other voices than ours must be raised in solemn protest. Today, silence is a crime."

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The 10-man inner Cabinet failed Thursday to reach any decision regarding new Egyptian proposals on resolving the Taba dispute. The Cabinet decided it will meet again on Sunday to consider the proposals.