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2 ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILLED, 2 WOUNDED IN AN AMBUSH IN THE JORDAN VALLEY By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29 (JTA) — Two Israeli soldiers were killed and two were wounded in a gun battle with an infiltrator in the Jordan Valley at dawn today. The Israelis were on a routine patrol when they were ambushed from a dry river bed near Mehola. The infiltrator was killed by reinforcements who rushed to the scene. Mehola is in the West Bank.

The dead soldiers were identified as Sgt. Ronen Reichel, 19, of Holon, and Cpl. Shay Singer, 19, of Upper Nazareth. The wounded men were helicoptered to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem where their condition was reported satisfactory tonight. Doctors said they underwent surgery and would be discharged in a week.

The infiltrator was in civilian dress — jeans, a checkered shirt, and kefiya on his head. Documents found on his body identified him as a soldier in the Jordanian army, but Israel Defense Force sources were not certain of their authenticity. A search of the ambush area indicated the infiltrator crossed the Jordan River near a Jordanian army post.

Maj. Gen. Ehud Barak, Commander of the central region, told reporters later that it was too early to implicate the Jordanian army in the incident or to say whether Jordan has changed its policy of many years to prevent incursions against Israel from Jordanian soil. He noted that the Jordan Valley has been quiet since 1981.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy visited the scene of the clash. An account was sent to Premier Shimon Peres who is presently visiting West Germany. The Israel Air Force attacked Palestinian terrorist bases in south Lebanon shortly after the Jordan Valley incident, apparently in response to it. (See separate story.)

ISRAELI AIR FORCE JETS RAID TERRORIST BASES IN SOUTH LEBANON By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29 (JTA) — Israel Air Force jets raided terrorist bases in south Lebanon today and returned safely to their bases. The pilots reported direct hits, a military spokesman said.

He identified the targets as a two-story building, housing units of the anti-Arafat El Fatah group headed by Abu Moussa, and two single-story structures serving Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. The three buildings were on the outskirts of the El Hilwe refugee camp near the coastal town of Sidon.

A Beirut radio report said at least five Palestinians were killed and six wounded. The report said the attack lasted seven minutes and was carried out by four Israeli planes firing air-to-ground rockets.

Today's attack was the first by the Israel Air Force this year on targets in Lebanon and the first in south Lebanon since 1982. The targets were far from the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon which is protected by Syrian SAM-2 surface-to-air missiles.

Elsewhere in Lebanon today, troops of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) defused automatic firing devices on four 107 mm. Katyusha rockets aimed at Israel. UNIFIL has reportedly dismantled nine Katyusha rockets in the past week. A large roadside bomb was detonated safely near a UNIFIL post outside the Shiite Moslem village of Kafra in south Lebanon today.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA MORE TESTS MADE TO DETERMINE WHETHER MENGELE IS REALLY DEAD By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA) — The Justice Department has sent to Brazil an expert in physical anthropology from the Smithsonian Institution to conduct additional tests of the remains exhumed from a cemetery near Sao Paulo believed to be those of the notorious Nazi death camp doctor Josef Mengele.

The anthropologist, Donald Ortner, said in a telephone interview that he did not want to comment on the outcome of the tests he conducted during his one-day visit to Brazil earlier this month. He did say, however, that he was in the process of editing a report that will be submitted to the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI).

In addition, Ortner said he believed the report would be incorporated into a final report, scheduled for release next month, by a team of 17 highly respected forensic experts who visited Sao Paulo last summer to conduct tests to ascertain whether the body exhumed from a cemetery at Embu, near Sao Paulo, under the name of Wolfgang Gerhard, is in fact that of Mengele.

The preliminary report by the forensic team concluded that the body uncovered in the cemetery was that of Mengele, who is reported to have drowned in a swimming mishap at Bertaggio Beach on February 7, 1979. The preliminary report stated that within reasonable scientific certainty, the remains were those of Mengele.

'A Dramatic Development'

However, Eli Rosenbaum, a former prosecutor with the OSI and now general counsel of the World Jewish Congress, described Ortner's visit to Brazil as "a dramatic development." He also pointed out that the findings of the preliminary report failed to mention what Rosenbaum describes as one of the two "known unusual physical identifiers" that would make certain the remains were those of Mengele.

Mengele became the subject of a massive international manhunt just months prior to the uncovering of what are believed to be his remains. The Israeli, West German and United States governments coordinated intense efforts to locate the Nazi war criminal, known as the "angel of death" for his experiments on inmates at the Auschwitz death camp during the Holocaust.

Most American Jewish organizations who have closely monitored the hunt for Mengele through the years tended to support the findings of the preliminary report. According to one source familiar with the forensic team's efforts, the final report to be issued next month in New Orleans on February 11 at the Hyatt Regency during a convention of forensic experts will reach the

same conclusions as the preliminary report. But Israel has not officially closed the books on the Mengele case. It has reportedly sent officials to Brazil to conduct further tests of the remains and the personal belongings discovered at the residences where he is said to have lived the last years of his life. A report is expected soon from the West Germans, and then from the U.S. on the Mengele affair.

Questions Still Linger

But according to Rosenbaum, questions still linger about the forensic team report, and in particular, its failure to mention at any point the discovery of traces of the bone disease sepsis osteomyelitis. Mengele is said to have had the rare bone disease in 1926-27, and according to Rosenbaum, the disease would not mask itself soon thereafter. He suggested that it would be detectable in the remains uncovered in Brazil.

But this, too, remains in dispute. Ortner asserted in the interview that osteomyelitis, depending on the degree in which it was contracted, may not be detectable. Nonetheless, Rosenbaum said it was "extraordinarily disingenuous" of the report to not have found any detection of the disease.

It is unclear to what degree Mengele suffered from the disease, which involves a serious inflammation of the bone marrow. According to a two-part series on Mengele this week by syndicated columnist Jack Anderson, "A medical school colleague of Mengele has stated that the osteomyelitis was so severe that a piece of diseased leg bone broke off and had to be removed surgically."

While Ortner said he did not want to discuss details of his tests in Brazil, he did say he found certain features in the skeleton that required further study. He was not part of the original forensic team and had only a passing interest in the team's work in Brazil. But he said he does not expect the final report by the forensic team to be much different than the team's preliminary findings. "I honestly don't think there will be any surprises," Ortner said.

Other sources in the American Jewish community with close contacts among the forensic team that was in Sao Paulo last summer suggested that Ortner did not find any trace of the disease. These same sources said Ortner's report, as interpreted to the JTA, would confirm that there was no trace of the bone disease, thus confirming the conclusions reached by the forensic experts.

A Justice Department official refused comment on the Ortner visit to Brazil. Mike Wolf, deputy director of the OSI, told the JTA that the department did not want to comment on Ortner's visit until he issued a written report on his studies.

Possibility Of Hoax Still Remains

Anderson reported this week that there are other nagging questions that remain unanswered. He cited an internal document of the WJC which noted that "Mengele had earned a Ph.D. in anthropology."

It continued, "Mendele's family is among the wealthiest in Germany ... moreover, he was in contact during his years in South America with ... Nazi sympathizers." Therefore, the WJC document stated, "Mengele was in a position from the standpoint of scientific, financial and logistical resources, to pull off a fairly sophisticated hoax."

Anderson also wrote: "Leaving out the circumstantial evidence, all that is left is a number of similarities

ties between the remains and Mengele: sex, height, age at death, the gap between the upper front teeth, the skull/photograph match and the apparent matching of the few teeth that were found to old dental records. 'Any minimally competent hoaxster' could have found a body with most of these similarities, and added the rest, the WJC claimed."

Anderson's associate, Lucette Lagnado, who has done extensive research on the Mengele issue, said in a telephone interview that the possibility of a hoax remains. "If anybody could have, he had the expertise," said Lagnado, who is writing a book on the death camp doctor.

"Mengele was fascinated with anthropology ... it was his passion," said Lagnado. Mengele, she added, "was a hoaxster." But Lagnado remains convinced that when the forensic team issues its final report next month, they "will make an extraordinary statement" that the bones exhumed from the grave in Sao Paulo were those of Mengele.

Rabbi Marvin Hier of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles said he was "99 percent certain" that the bones exhumed in Brazil were Mengele's. He said this conviction comes largely from the fact that there has not been a single definitive citing of Mengele since 1979.

BRITAIN ENDS PROCESSING OF DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE ARAB BOYCOTT OFFICE

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 29 (JTA) — The British Foreign Office today finally stopped its controversial practice of processing documents on behalf of the Arab Boycott Office.

The documents are part of the procedure for approving trade deals with Britain. At least three Arab countries — Iraq, Jordan and Tunisia — insist on signatures on these documents being authenticated by the Foreign Office. The certificates confirm that goods being sold to the Arab world do not originate in Israel or contravene the boycott rules in other ways.

The decision to end this cooperation by the Foreign Office was apparently taken on the instructions of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher after being told of Israel's long-standing annoyance about it by visiting Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

The British decision is seen as a gesture of goodwill toward Israel and a reflection of the good impression made by Peres on Thatcher and other British leaders.

Arab Boycott Won't Weaken

Although the step was today warmly praised by United Kingdom-Israeli trade circles, there is no chance of it weakening the influence of the Arab boycott over British business and industry as a whole. Authentication of the certificates formerly processed by the Foreign Office will simply be practiced by the British-Arab Chamber of Commerce in London and equivalent bodies in Arab capitals.

Britain is also maintaining two other restrictions on trade with Israel. Arms supplies to Israel are still frozen, under the embargo introduced when Israel invaded Lebanon. Despite the present world oil glut, Britain also refuses to sell North Sea oil to Israel under a policy originally introduced because of the 1979 world oil shortage.

Only a few days before Peres arrived in London, a leading British oil company refused to supply one million barrels of crude on the grounds that the would-be purchaser was acting for Israel. Nevertheless, UK-Israeli trade is running at record levels.

PERES, KOHL ESTABLISH CLOSER LINKS

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 29 (JTA) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl said last night that an important political aim of West Germany is to help safeguard Israel's future and maintain its viability. He spoke at a dinner honoring Israeli Premier Shimon Peres, who winds up a three-day visit to West Germany today with a visit to West Berlin. Stringent security measures have been taken there.

Kohl announced earlier the creation of a joint German-Israeli research and development foundation to be headquartered in Israel. He said the Federal Republic would make available 75 million Marks (about \$30 million) for the project and the Israel government would provide a matching sum.

Kohl, appearing with Peres at a press conference, said several of his Cabinet ministers will visit Israel shortly to discuss details of the enterprise. He said research in medicine, biology and irrigation will be among its major activities. One of the aims of the new foundation will be to develop products and processes based on Israel's experience in settling desert areas.

Differences Are Minimized

Kohl and Peres seemed to go out of their way to demonstrate German-Israeli friendship and minimize their differences on political and diplomatic issues. Peres spoke of international terrorism, saying that the European countries which have condemned terrorism and decided not to supply arms to Libya are on the right track.

He said he had discussed briefly with Kohl proposed German arms sales to Arab countries and stressed Israel's opposition to arms shipments to any country technically in a state of war with Israel.

The German Chancellor said, "We feel closely linked with Israel and therefore it is our practical duty to assist in Israel's development and to stand by her. We do this in our bilateral relationship, within the European framework and within the United Nations."

Speaking of the Arab-Israeli conflict, he said the difficulty in resolving the issue lies in reconciling the right of Israel and all nations in the region to live within recognized and secure borders, with the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people. He added, however, that the right of self-determination for the Palestinians is limited by Israel's right to exist.

Peres Urges A Strong, United Europe

Peres urged a strong, united Europe, "and may I say, a Europe which is not only united about our problems." With respect to self-determination, the Israel leader said the principle is practical only in democratic societies. "I wonder whether this is at all possible in a non-democratic country... Freedom must precede self-determination."

Peres said Israel is strong enough not to seek victory in another war but to find solutions that will avoid wars. "This is the number one challenge for our country and its leaders — to negotiate a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict," he said.

Peres and Kohl conferred privately for two hours yesterday and for an additional hour with their respective aides present. They met again after last night's dinner for further talks on the Middle East and bilateral matters.

Peres' visit to West Berlin today will be the first by an Israeli Premier to the former capital of the Third Reich. He will meet with a German youth group there and will visit the Jewish community center.

At The World Jewish Congress: ISRAEL, WORLD JEWRY URGED TO SEEK IMPROVEMENT IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS TO SECURE SOVIET JEWRY EMIGRATION

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) — An Orthodox Jew who is the most prominent recent emigrant from the Soviet Union, has called on Israel and world Jewry to seek a broad improvement in East-West relations as the "sine qua non" for Soviet Jewish emigration.

Ilya Essas, who changed his name to Eliyahu when he arrived in Israel on January 22 with his family, told a packed session of the World Jewish Congress 50th anniversary assembly here that "if relations are not good (between East and West) we cannot expect anything" by way of aliya for Soviet Jews. Essas, described as a "bal teshuva," was an aliya activist in the USSR and leader of a Jewish religious revivalist movement there, said to closely resemble the Hasidic sects.

He was granted an exit visa to immigrate to Israel after WJC president Edgar Bronfman intervened with the Soviet authorities on his behalf. His parents live in Israel.

Essas told the 800 WJC delegates and their guests at the session that for him the controversy over quiet diplomacy versus public activism was irrelevant. Both approaches are required, he said, in order to marshal the forces of the free world to bring their influence to bear on the Soviet leadership.

Informed sources believe his emigration at this juncture was a deliberate gesture by the Kremlin toward the WJC and Bronfman, who has travelled frequently to the Soviet Union in recent years to plead the cause of Soviet Jewry. Essas, a mathematician who became a full professor at age 20, lost his job after applying to emigrate more than 10 years ago.

MUBARAK URGES FRANCE TO SET UP WORLD PEACE CONFERENCE ON THE MIDEAST By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 29 (JTA) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak asked France today to help set up an international conference on the Middle East. Mubarak asked President Francois Mitterrand to help organize a preliminary West European group which would contact "both parties" — Israel and the Palestinians — to help set the stage for the actual conference.

Mubarak told reporters after his meeting with Mitterrand, "If the PLO accepts UN Security Council Resolution 242 there is no reason why it should not take part in the peace talks." He said the PLO "has not rejected the Jordanian proposal for the acceptance of Resolution 242 but is seeking a formula which would also ensure the recognition of their right to self-determination."

Asked about a possible meeting with Israeli Premier Shimon Peres, he said: "We shall meet in the future. There is no doubt about it. I cannot say when."

Mubarak is leaving tomorrow for Bonn for meetings with West German leaders. There is no chance that he will meet with Israeli Premier Shimon Peres because Peres is leaving West Germany tonight to return to Israel upon his completion of his official visit there.

At The World Jewish Congress Assembly: BRONFMAN SAYS USSR MUST BE INCLUDED IN MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS, BUT ONLY AFTER USSR RESUMES TIES WITH ISRAEL

By David Friedman

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, last night urged inclusion of the Soviet Union in the Middle East process, but only after Moscow resumes diplomatic relations with Israel.

"I do not think that the peace process can achieve any permanent results so long as the Soviets camp outside the tent," Bronfman told some 800 persons attending the opening ceremony of the WJC's 50th anniversary plenary assembly at the Jerusalem Theater.

"The road to peace runs not only through Washington, but also through Moscow," he stressed. But he warned that "clearly, there can be no seat at any Middle East table for the USSR if it does not have full diplomatic relations with Israel." He said that some Arab states have urged Moscow to take this step.

Bronfman said there was good reason to hope that the improved relations between the United States and the Soviet Union will broaden to include talks about Mideast peace. He said they should also cover human rights.

Differs With NCSJ Leader

Bronfman took issue with a statement by Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), who in a recent interview with The New York Times said that if conditions are not improved for Soviet Jews, American Jews will demonstrate against the arms negotiations.

"We reject any linkage between arms control and the Soviet Jewry issue," Bronfman said. "We have not, and we will not, make one dependent on the other." He said an arms agreement will benefit all mankind, including Soviet Jewry.

Jerry Goodman, executive director of the NCSJ, who is attending the conference, was upset by this statement. He said that the NCSJ position is the same as was stated to President Reagan when Abram, Bronfman and others met with him at the White House last September.

Goodman said this was, that while there was no formal linkage there is a linkage in that American public opinion will not accept an arms agreement if the Soviet Union cannot keep its agreements on human rights.

Bronfman reiterated that the WJC position has always been that the Soviets should allow those Jews who want to emigrate to do so, free the Prisoners of Zion and allow them to go to Israel, and let Jews who want to remain in the USSR be free to practice their religion and pursue their culture without discrimination.

Dulzin: 'Repatriation Is The Only Solution'

But Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, said "repatriation is the only solution for the two- and-a-half million Jews of the Soviet Union. There is no future for them in the Soviet Union -- not as a community, not as a national minority, not as a culture or a religion."

Dulzin also stressed to the opening ceremony audience that "we must not permit neshira (dropouts) to endanger the exodus. What is at stake is not the freedom of choice of a few, but the future of an entire community."

Bronfman said he has "half-convinced" the Soviets "that it is in everyone's best interest to inaugurate direct flights carrying Jewish emigres from Moscow to Tel Aviv."

Both President Chaim Herzog and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek urged the need for tolerance and respect for pluralism in their remarks at the ceremony.

"We have been and continue to witness certain phenomena utterly alien to the Jewish people, to our religion and to our tradition," Herzog said. "These manifestations of intolerance and fanaticism are sometimes imported from abroad, often encouraged, and indeed financed from abroad. The recurring crises they bring about can also have a most damaging effect on world Jewry as a whole."

Herzog urged the WJC to address itself "not only to the disabilities suffered by Jews, but to the proliferating menace which is coming to expression within the Jewish people. We must work together to save our society, our ethical tradition, our future in the true spirit of our people."

Kollek, noting that Jerusalem was the "indivisible capital of Israel," said it can remain so "in comfort only if it shows tolerance and a feeling for plurality." He said this is not to please anyone else but "we owe it only to ourselves" and to world Jewry.

"What we want to have for Soviet Jewry, a minority ... we have to give to minorities here," Kollek said. "We cannot be in a position where people will ask you when you fight for the rights of Jews everywhere, why don't they do the same in Israel, why don't they do the same in Jerusalem?"

Kollek praised Bronfman and his three predecessors as WJC presidents for being men of "independent views" with a "willingness and the courage even to criticize the State of Israel."

The ceremony opened last night with Israeli youngsters, including recent arrivals from Ethiopia, carrying in the flags of participating countries. Dr. Gerhart Riegner, co-chairman of the WJC Governing Board, presented the Nahum Goldman Medal to Yitzhak Korn, chairman of the WJC Israel Executive Committee, who participated in 1936 in the founding assembly of the WJC in Geneva.

TAU ASTRONOMER HELPING TO ANALYZE DATA RADIOED BACK TO EARTH FROM URANUS

TEL AVIV, Jan 29 (JTA) -- A Tel Aviv University astronomer is one of a small team of specialists analyzing data radioed back to earth from the unmanned U.S. spacecraft Voyager II when it passed within 50,000 miles of Uranus last Friday.

Prof. Aharon Avitar flew to Pasadena, Calif. last week at the invitation of the Jet Propulsion Laboratories to join the 17-member plasma study team there. He is a member of Tel Aviv University's Planetary Studies Circle which is headed by Prof. Yehoyakin Yosef. The Israeli group had been concentrating on Uranus recently.

Voyager II is now more than 2.5 million miles from Uranus, travelling at 33,000 miles per hour for a 1989 rendezvous with the planet Neptune. The plasma team is part of a staff of 200 scientists examining the data.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Pan-American Airlines officially opened its U.S. to Israel service Tuesday. The "inaugural flight" which brought 34 American VIPs, including former Vice President Walter Mondale, on a junket to Israel as guests of the carrier took place nearly three months after the service actually began. Pan Am's first commercial flight to Israel landed at Ben Gurion Airport last November 1.