

# ISRAEL CONFIDENT EGYPT WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO APPREHEND AMBUSH TERRORISTS

By Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, March 23 (JTA) — Israel expressed confidence Sunday that the Egyptian government will do everything possible to find and punish the terrorists who fatally shot an Israeli woman and wounded three other Israelis in a car ambush outside the Cairo International Trade Fair last Wednesday night. The victims were Israeli Embassy staff members in Cairo.

A statement issued by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir after Sunday's Cabinet meeting said he was satisfied with the way the Egyptian authorities are handling the case and the wide coverage it has gotten in the Egyptian media.

Israel's Minister of Tourism, Avraham Sharir, who was on an official visit to Cairo when the attack occurred, returned home Thursday night with a personal message from President Hosni Mubarak pledging to press the investigation into the attack and track down the assailants.

The plane that flew Sharir from Cairo also carried the body of Etti Tal-Or, 24, who was killed by the ambushers. She was the wife of an Embassy official. She was buried Friday at a cemetery in Beersheba, her home city, where Shamir delivered a eulogy. Her three companions who were flown to Israel immediately after the attack were reported in stable condition after surgery at Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer.

Vascular surgery was performed on Savid Zruya, who was struck by bullets in his chest and left thigh. Esther Yefet, 26, was hit in her jaw, left shoulder and wrist. Uri Ziv, 31, suffered wounds in both hands. Both underwent lengthy surgery.

## 40,000 Cairenes Visited Israeli Pavilion

The four young Israelis had been staffing the Israeli pavilion at the Trade Fair. The pavilion manager, Yossi Peri, reported that in the two weeks it was open prior to the attack, the Israeli exhibits were visited by about 40,000 Cairenes who eagerly picked up pamphlets and brochures promoting Israeli industrial and agricultural technology. Peri said that millions of dollars worth of orders were placed with Israeli firms during the fair.

The attack Wednesday night was the third on Israeli Embassy personnel in the Egyptian capital and the second to cause fatalities. Last August, Albert Atrakchi, an administrative attache, was killed in his car in the Maadi quarter of Cairo.

In June, 1984, another Embassy official, Zvi Kedar, was wounded by gunmen but survived. A group calling itself "Egypt's Revolution" claimed credit for those shootings and for Wednesday night's ambush killing.

There have also been at least two sabotage attempts, one against the Embassy in Cairo and the other aimed at the Israel Consulate in Alexandria.

## NEW EVIDENCE ON WALDHEIM'S PAST

NEW YORK, March 23 (JTA) — The World Jewish Congress today released a 1948 U.S. Army

document showing that, after World War II, both the Army and the United Nations War Crimes Commission (UNWCC) listed Kurt Waldheim as a suspected Nazi war criminal.

The document — a page from the Army's "Combined Registry of War Criminals and Security Suspects" ("CROWCASS") — reports that Waldheim's apprehension was being sought by Yugoslavia on suspicion of complicity in what the Registry listed as "murder."

Waldheim, who served as Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1972 to 1981, has been at the center of a storm of controversy since the first week of March, when the Austrian magazine Profil charged that he had falsely denied membership in two Nazi organizations, including the SA ("Brownshirt") stormtroopers.

A World Jewish Congress investigation discovered that Waldheim concealed for 40 years his wartime military service in Yugoslavia and Greece on the staff of Alexander Loehr, a notorious Nazi general who was hanged in 1947 for war crimes. Waldheim is currently a candidate for the Presidency of Austria.

## Disclosures In CROWCASS Listing

Waldheim's CROWCASS listing notes that he served during 1944-45 as a staff officer in Department IC (Intelligence) of the General Staff of Army C Group E ("Heeresgruppe E") in Yugoslavia. Army Group E was headed by General Loehr. On March 4, the WJC released a photograph taken from a German Army newspaper showing First Lieutenant Waldheim meeting with Loehr in Nazi-occupied Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, in late 1944.

Waldheim's CROWCASS listing also shows that he served as an officer in the Abwehr, the military intelligence service of the High Command of the German Armed Forces. This is the first time that Waldheim has been publicly linked to the Abwehr.

A WJC spokesman said today that his organization had located the Army CROWCASS document in public archives of the U.S. government. He expressed profound 'dismay' that the Army, in responding on February 20 to a Freedom of Information Act request made by the WJC for all documents "referring or relating to" Waldheim, had failed to disclose Waldheim's listing as a war crimes suspect.

According to the WJC, the Army instead made available three innocuous documents relating to Waldheim's post-war civil service employment in Austria, and claimed that these were the only locatable Army records pertaining to Waldheim.

Waldheim is listed on the CROWCASS document as suspect number 79/724 of the UNWCC. According to the WJC, Waldheim's listing by the now-defunct Commission means that there should be a 'case file' on Waldheim among the approximately 40,000 such files contained in the Commission's records.

Those records have long been in the custody of the UN, and access to them — even by UN member-nations — is permitted only by special permission of the UN Secretariat.

On March 6, the WJC released documents, including a 1980 letter from the U.S. Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti to Waldheim, thanking him for the agreement of the Secretariat staff to allow the U.S. Justice

Department to examine these files in connection with war crimes investigations it was conducting in this country. According to the Justice Department, the UN never did make the files available to U.S. authorities; nor did the UN accede to a request for access made at the same time by the Hellenic Foundation, an organization of Greek Americans that was conducting research on Nazi crimes in Greece.

Meanwhile, in Vienna, Waldheim continued to deny an alleged Nazi past. He said claims to the effect that he belonged to the SA and Nazi student groups stemmed from the fact that he went horse-riding with a student group that was later, without his knowledge, absorbed into the SA. This led Austrian Chancellor Fred Sinowatz to tell a news conference last week: "We take note of the fact that Waldheim was never a member of the SA, only his horse was."

#### AMERICAN ATTORNEY SUBMITS FORMAL REQUEST TO REPRESENT DEMJANJUK By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, March 23 (JTA) — The Justice Ministry is considering a request by an American attorney, Mark O'Connor, to represent alleged Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk when he stands trial in an Israeli court.

O'Connor, who came to Israel last week, submitted a formal request Friday to Meir Gabai, Director General of the Justice Ministry, and Dennis Gouldman, head of the Ministry's International Department. Justice Minister Moshe Nissim will consult with the National Council of the Chamber of Advocates. The question is whether a foreign attorney not a member of the Israel Bar may argue a case in an Israeli court.

If O'Connor's request is denied, an Israeli defense attorney will be appointed for Demjanjuk. But it appeared likely Sunday that the Justice Ministry will allow O'Connor to plead. A West German attorney was permitted to defend Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann at his trial in Jerusalem in 1961.

#### Basin For The Defense

O'Connor told reporters Friday that his defense of Demjanjuk will be based on evidence that the Ukrainian-born former U.S. citizen who was extradited to Israel three weeks ago is not the Treblinka death camp guard the inmates called "Ivan the Terrible" because of his relentless brutality.

According to the American attorney, he has "solid evidence" to support Demjanjuk's claim that he is a victim of mistaken identity. He said that once he is granted the right to appear for his client he will travel to Europe to secure further evidence.

#### Two Sets Of Testimony

As the case is shaping up, Demjanjuk's trial will pit the recent testimony of Treblinka survivors who have positively identified Demjanjuk from photographs, against testimony taken from other survivors many years ago that the guard known as "Ivan the Terrible" was in fact killed during an inmate uprising at Treblinka in 1943.

Evidence to that effect has surfaced in Israel since Demjanjuk was brought here. The latest information that may cast doubt on Demjanjuk's identity is the testimony given under oath by a Treblinka survivor, Elias Rosenberg, to the Jewish Historical Documentation Center in Vienna in 1947.

Rosenberg appeared before Tuvia Friedman, who ran the center on behalf of Hagana and later achieved prominence as a Nazi hunter from the documents amassed at his Haifa-based archives. His testimony was witnessed by Dr. Otto Schushny and Dr. Kurt Weigel.

According to Rosenberg, the sadistic guard who operated the Treblinka gas chambers was killed by Jews in August, 1943. Friedman has a signed copy of Rosenberg's five-page testimony, given in German.

Earlier, a 20-year-old report was found in the Bar Ilan University archives. It contains the testimony of another survivor, Abraham Goldfarb, given to a student researcher employed by the Bar Ilan Holocaust Research Center which in the 1960s compiled an oral history of Holocaust events from survivors who witnessed them.

According to Goldfarb, who died last year, "Ivan the Terrible" and another guard were killed by Jews who stormed the gas chambers in 1943 and their bodies thrown into the crematorium furnace. The Justice Ministry has refused comment because the case is sub judice. But the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial archives dismissed the report as unreliable.

#### Additional Corroborating Evidence Cited

O'Connor believes there is additional corroborating evidence. In reply to reporters who asked why Demjanjuk was stripped of his U.S. citizenship, the lawyer said the U.S. Justice Department succeeded in proving only that Demjanjuk did not obtain his citizenship by legal means. It did not prove that he and "Ivan the Terrible" were the same person, he said.

O'Connor visited Demjanjuk at Ayalon prison near Ramla where he is being held in isolation while the police examine evidence preparatory to drafting the charges on which he will be tried.

#### GOLAN DRUZE VILLAGES RETURN TO NORMAL AFTER MASS DEMONSTRATION

JERUSALEM, March 23 (JTA) — The four Druze villages on the Golan Heights remained quiet Sunday after a noisy mass demonstration against the Israeli government Friday in which one police officer was injured.

Several thousand Golan Druze converged on Majdal Shams, the largest of the villages, to protest a police raid on a local refrigerated warehouse where agricultural produce is stored. The police confiscated two tons of apples belonging to Druze growers who allegedly failed to submit income tax returns.

The Druze claim the Israeli authorities have been harassing them, especially since last month when Premier Shimon Peres visited the territory formally annexed by Israel in 1981. Police arrested 32 Druze youths for rioting. Violent demonstrations had also greeted Peres' visit.

The Golan Druze say they are citizens of Syria and loyal to that country. They refuse to accept Israeli citizenship and, for a long time after the annexation, would not accept Israeli identification cards.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### ISRAEL IS A REWARDING PLACE TO VISIT

By Marlene Goldman

(Editor's note: Marlene Goldman together with other American Jewish reporters recently traveled to Israel to investigate tourism and youth programs there. The trip was under the auspices of the American Zionist Youth Foundation and the Youth and Hechalutz Department of the World Zionist Organization. This is the first in a series of articles.)

**JERUSALEM, March 23 (JTA)** -- Israeli officials are concerned that the upsurge in terrorist incidents last year in Europe and the Middle East is causing a downturn in Israel's tourism industry as more and more Americans are reluctant to travel abroad.

This concern was expressed by Avraham Sharir, Israel's Minister of Tourism, and Michael Gidron, the director of information services for the Ministry of Tourism. In discussions here with American Jewish journalists the two officials stated that the increase in terrorist activity and the media focus on this has resulted in a serious decline of the number of Americans visiting Israel.

"There is an overall tendency of Americans to slow down their visits to European countries and elsewhere" as a result of terrorist activity, Gidron said. "Israel has been scarred for years with the seal that it wasn't safe" to visit, he added. But a decline in tourism has now become an international problem. "It's no longer a question of fear of travel to Israel per se," Gidron observed.

But Sharir expressed belief that it is too early in the year to calculate the long-term effect of terrorism regarding travel to Israel. "There is a downfall -- yes," in tourism to Israel at this time, Sharir said. But "when there was an earthquake in Mexico people stayed away. It's a natural reaction of people."

#### Concern About 1986 Prospects

Israel is worried about the prospects for 1986, according to Gidron, because of a decline in the bookings for hotels, airlines, sales of tour packages and in other tourism-related fields. Tourism is Israel's number one income producer, employing some 20,000 people. This amounts to about five percent of all commercial sector employees. Their jobs, as well as income from tourist spending, are threatened.

Gidron said that while there was a slight increase in overall tourism to Israel this January over January 1985, with 71,000 people as compared to 70,000, worldwide tourism to Israel for last month decreased by 14 percent from February 1985.

There was a total of 1.250 million worldwide visitors to Israel in 1984, spending more than \$1.2 billion. In 1985 the total number of tourists reached 1.436 million, with revenues exceeding \$1.4 billion. Nearly 428,000 of the tourists in 1985 came from the United States, 40 percent of whom were repeat visitors, according to a recent study by Israel's Ministry of Tourism.

Gidron pointed out that during the first seven months of 1985, the ratios of tourism to each month in 1984 rose by 20-30 percent. But for August through December 1985, when terrorist at-

tacks became the focus of media attention, the traffic of tourists increased by only 5-8 percent, for a yearly average of 14 percent. Most of that annual figure represented the 19-25 percent increase of tourists from Europe in contrast with a 6 percent rise from the U.S.

#### Effort To Curb Tourism Decline

In an effort to curb the drop in tourism, Gidron told the American Jewish journalists that Israel's Cabinet recently approved an additional \$2.150 million budget, effective April 1, for promoting and publicizing the tourism industry. This money, in addition to the Cabinet-approved 1986 direct promotion budget of \$4 million, will be targeted toward the media in the form of newspaper articles, magazine features, and television programs.

The current national print and advertisement campaign, "Come to Israel, Come Stay With Friends," emphasizes Israel's hospitality and cultural attractions. Ads in travel trade publications emphasize Israel's airport security, which requires security checks for each piece of luggage. These ads also emphasize that the safety of Americans in Israel has not been threatened by recent worldwide terrorist activities.

El Al, Israel's national airline, is promoting its year-round, non-stop service from New York to Israel. Sharir said that El Al is trying to convince other airlines to follow suit. This spring, TWA will resume non-stop services from New York to Israel while most international airlines offer one-stop flights.

While apprehension among American travelers revolves around safety, Gidron said that Israel's public tourist campaigns will not directly address the safety issue. Instead, he said that the message that "Israel is safe" will be illustrated through an emphasis on the normal day-by-day life Israelis lead, and by highlighting Israel's cities, sports, art, culture, theater and education.

The Ministry of Tourism brought 500 travel agents from the U.S. to Israel in December, January and February to see the country for themselves and, according to Gidron, to be "on-the-spot eye-witnesses" that Israel is safe to visit. They admitted that in Israel they felt safe and relaxed, Gidron said, and the purpose was for them to return home and share those feelings with potential visitors. Gidron said the Tourism Ministry plans to invite more media personnel for the same reason.

#### Emphasis Is On Arousing American Jews

Although Israel's appeal for tourists is not restricted to diaspora Jews, there is an emphasis on arousing American Jews, less than 20 percent of whom have ever visited Israel. "It's a distressing fact that so many of our people have not visited the State of Israel," Sharir said. "It baffles me."

Continuing, he said: "I don't believe a person can be a complete Jew without seeing Jerusalem. Jerusalem is the oldest city in the world and the youngest one .... It's renewing itself every day, constantly changing. You can rediscover it again and again, its history emerging and re-emerging before your eyes."

Gidron explained that "For the last five or six years we've noticed a continuous year-by-year partial decline and partial standstill in Jewish traffic from North America, the largest Jewish community, in contrast to a growing non-Jewish traffic to Israel."

A concentration on attracting American Jews is beginning to emerge in Israel. The Tourism Ministry recently invited 210 Conservative, Reform, Orthodox

and Reconstructionist rabbis from the U.S. and Canada to a three-day conference dealing with ways to promote travel to Israel. At the conference, which was organized by the Israel Bond Organization in cooperation with the Synagogue Council of America and El Al, the rabbis planned to organize a total of 390 tour groups this year.

Sharir noted that a special task force primarily for Jewish tourism has been established and is working with several organizations, including Hadassah, the Jewish National Fund, Israel Bond Organization, and the United Jewish Appeal. Its focus will be "to explain why it is important for a Jewish family to send their children to Israel -- at least once," Sharir said.

Israel, he added, is the land where the Bible comes to life and makes Jews feel proud "feasting their eyes on what our ancestors accomplished" and what is still being accomplished and the potential for ongoing and future accomplishments in every field of endeavor.

Sharir conceded that "I don't have any remedy for fear .... But look at the rewards one gets" by visiting the State of Israel. "I've seen people kissing the earth on their arrival," he said. "Show me another country that can fill one with such emotion."

#### FIVE EUROPEAN CHIEF RABBIS URGE POPE TO RECONSIDER PLANS FOR A CONVENT AT AUSCHWITZ CAMP SITE By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 23 (JTA) -- Five chief rabbis from four European countries have urged Pope John Paul II to reconsider plans by the Roman Catholic Church to establish a convent at the site of the Auschwitz death camp in Poland.

A letter to the Pontiff was signed by Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits of Britain; Chief Rabbi Rene Sirat of France; Max Warschawski, Chief Rabbi of Alsatia; Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania; and Chief Rabbi Mordechai Piron of Zurich.

They stated in their letter, "The site of the former concentration camp has become synonymous with the Holocaust (of the Jewish people)" and "turning it into a religious pilgrimage would be both painful and injurious." The proposed convent would house nuns of the Carmelite order from a half dozen countries, including Germany and Poland.

The Archbishop of Cracow, Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, has defended the project as "proof that goodness is stronger than evil." In a letter published in the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano* on February 21, he maintained that Auschwitz has become "a holy place for all of humanity and belongs to all nations."

Several Catholic organizations have launched fund-raising drives for the project convent. But a number of ranking Catholic clergy on Belgium, France and other countries have forcefully objected to the campaign and the idea of a convent at Auschwitz.

The five chief rabbis noted in their letter to the Pope that the Polish authorities had rejected a request to build a synagogue at the site on grounds that Auschwitz symbolized universal pain and suffering and could not be reserved for the use of any single faith. The letter argued that a Catholic convent at the site would be contrary to that ruling. They recalled also that "most of the Nazi criminals practiced this same religion."

#### URUGUAY'S F.M. SAYS HIS NATION'S FRIENDSHIP WITH ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE

MONTEVIDEO, March 23 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias confirmed that President Julio Sanguinetti will visit Israel next month and will also visit the United Nations peace-keeping force in the Sinai, of which Uruguay is part. "As a symbol of this adherence, Uruguay stands for peace, Uruguay stands for Israel and this will always be so," Iglesias told a B'nai B'rith forum here last week.

The Foreign Minister, who was keynote speaker in B'nai B'rith District 25's first monthly speakers forum of the year, assured his audience that his nation will not alter its friendship with Israel despite the fact that Uruguay will open up to the Third World.

Iglesias, a noted economist who for many years has served as executive head of the Economic Commission for Latin America of the United Nations, explained that Uruguay and other Latin American countries had to begin "establishing relationships and doing business with all nations" if they were to solve their economic crisis. "But," he emphasized, "this does not mean that there is even the slightest change in our traditional friendship with Israel."

B'nai B'rith International's assistant director for South America, Alfredo Neuburger, reported that the Foreign Minister's speech was warmly received by the audience that included presidents of Jewish umbrella organizations and the Zionist Federation.

Neuburger noted that the forum was highlighted "by the fact that B'nai B'rith of Uruguay this year celebrates its 50th anniversary of vital activity in this South American country."

#### RABBIS URGE PARENTS NOT TO SEND CHILDREN TO CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOLS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 23 (JTA) -- Israeli rabbis are exhorting parents not to send their children to non-Orthodox religious schools or to State-run religious schools that are co-educational. They also object to schools where Jewish and Arab pupils might meet.

The two Chief Rabbis -- Avraham Shapiro (Ashkenazic) and Mordechai Eliahu (Sephardic) -- distributed a statement in the Ramot, French Hill and other Jerusalem neighborhoods exhorting parents against enrolling their children in the Masorati (traditional) schools officially known as "Tali," a Hebrew acronym for "enhanced Jewish studies."

These schools, though not formally linked with the Conservative movements in Israel, offer more intense Jewish studies than secular State schools without the Orthodox approach of the State religious schools.

But for another group of seven Orthodox rabbis, even the State religious schools are off limits because boys and girls are taught together and meetings have been planned between Jewish and Arab youngsters. This group, which includes Ashkenazic and Sephardic rabbis who head yeshivas, issued a statement demanding that the authorities in charge of mixed schools "transform them into separate schools for boys and girls."