

**TENSION AND VIOLENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 30 (JTA) -- Tension and violence escalated in south Lebanon over the weekend amid a new flurry of Katyusha rocket attacks on Israel. Two soldiers of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and one soldier of the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) were killed in skirmishes with unidentified gangs.

A diplomatic row broke out between Israel and the Irish contingent of UNIFIL. And former Israeli Chief of Staff Rafael Eitan proposed that Israel re-occupy south Lebanon up to the Litani River.

A number of Katyusha rockets were fired from north of the security zone Saturday, most of them falling short. At least one is believed to have exploded in Israel territory without causing casualties or damage. Israel Defense Force units spent all of Sunday searching both sides of the border for the impact points. They were hampered by rain and high winds.

But the rocket that burst in a Kiryat Shemona school yard Thursday, injuring three pupils and a teacher, was traced to the Lebanese village of Sharha, according to Uri Lubrani, Coordinator of Israeli Affairs in Lebanon.

Lubrani noted that Sharha was originally in the security zone but, at the request of the UN, was transferred, along with several other villages, to the Shiite Moslem militia, Amal, as a good will gesture. It was evacuated by the SLA and is now patrolled by Irish UNIFIL troops, Lubrani said.

**Sharp Retort From Irish UNIFIL Chief**

His remarks drew a sharp retort from the Irish UNIFIL commander who said he was asking the Foreign Ministry in Dublin to lodge a formal protest with Israel over "all the garbage being slung at us."

Military sources here said Lubrani was not trying to cast aspersions on the Irish troops but was objecting to UNIFIL's mandate which, according to the sources, prevented its units from taking adequate measures against terrorists operating in the areas it patrols.

**UNIFIL Casualties**

A UNIFIL soldier from Fiji died Saturday of wounds he suffered the day before when armed men attacked his battalion headquarters near Zadikin village north of the security zone. Two Ghanaian soldiers were wounded Saturday when a roadblock at Majid el-Salim came under fire. One of the soldiers died later.

It appeared, meanwhile, that the casualties caused by the Katyusha explosion in Kiryat Shemona were more serious than originally reported. A school boy was admitted to a Safad hospital Friday for treatment of a shrapnel wound in his head. First reports from Kiryat Shemona said the only injuries sustained were from flying glass and a stampede to the bombshelter.

Gen. Eitan, who was Chief of Staff during Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and is now a Knesset member for the ultra-nationalist Tehtiya Party, told

reporters Sunday that he would rather have the IDF back in Lebanon than risk the lives of Israeli children under the threat of rocket attacks. He said the best answer to Katyusha rockets was to extend the security zone northward to the Litani River.

**PERES SIDESTEPS WJCONGRESS**  
**REQUEST THAT ISRAEL TAKE AN**  
**OFFICIAL POSITION ON WALDHEIM**  
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 30 (JTA) -- Premier Shimon Peres sidestepped World Jewish Congress urgings Sunday that Israel take an official position on Kurt Waldheim, the former United Nations Secretary General accused by the WJC and others of having a Nazi past.

Waldheim, at this time, is a private citizen and nothing has yet been proven against him in a court of law, Peres told reporters shortly before leaving on a four-day visit to the United States. His remarks were seen as a means of heading off media pressure over the Waldheim issue while he is in the U.S. and an indirect rebuff to the WJC.

The WJC sent a letter to Peres over the weekend, calling on the Premier and his government to demand clarification from Waldheim, who is running for the Presidency of Austria in an election to be held May 5. The letter, sent also to Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel, was signed by Yitzhak Korn, executive chairman of the WJC's Israel branch, and Avi Bekker, director-general.

"It is clear that Waldheim lied about, and deliberately concealed, details about his activities in the Balkans in the years 1942-43, during the deportation of the Jews of Salonika to Auschwitz and the mass murder of partisans, women and children in Yugoslavia," the letter said.

**U.S. Lawmakers Call For Investigation**

It added that Israel must take a position "especially in view of Waldheim's special status (as Secretary General) when the UN was engaged in efforts to undermine Israel's very existence." The letter pointed out that members of the U.S. Congress have called for an investigation of Waldheim.

This was a reference to a resolution introduced on the Senate floor last week by Sen. Pete Wilson (R. Calif.) asking the Justice Department to examine documents submitted to it by the WJC to determine what part he had in Nazi war crimes. The resolution has the support of Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole (R. Kan.), according to the WJC, and will be acted upon when the Senate returns from Easter recess on April 8.

But Israel, for the time being, is officially non-committal. "We are following the issue but will not react until there is definite proof," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Saturday. There has been strong unofficial reaction, however.

Two Knesset members, Chaika Grossman of Mapam and Shevach Weiss of Labor, both Holocaust survivors, spoke out strongly against Waldheim in interviews published over the weekend. Grossman said it would be a "mark of disgrace" if the Austrian people elect Waldheim. Weiss said it was unbelievable that a Nazi may

be elected President of the country where Hitler was born. Both called for a Knesset debate on Waldheim. Justice Minister Moshe Nissim warned last week that Israel must "carefully consider" future relations with Waldheim should he become Austria's President.

Meanwhile, the WJC's secretary-general, Israel Singer, denied his organization was trying to influence the Austrian elections and defended it for raising the issue of Waldheim's alleged Nazi past at this time.

"Whoever says it would have been nicer if I had waited with the truth until after Waldheim's election is mistaken," Singer said in an interview in the Vienna daily Die Presse. "I would have revealed it in any case, even if it meant offending the Federal President."

The WJC's charges against Waldheim were supported by Yugoslavian newspapers. The Belgrade daily Vecernje Novosti reported Friday that Waldheim's name appeared on a 1947 list of wanted war criminals published by the United Nations War Crimes Commission.

#### ACCUSED WAR CRIMINAL REMANDED IN CUSTODY FOR ANOTHER 15 DAYS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 30 (JTA) -- Accused war criminal John Demjanjuk was ordered remanded in custody for a further 15 days by Jerusalem Chief Magistrate Aharon Simcha, sitting in a make-shift courtroom at the Ayalon Prison in Ramle last Friday.

Demjanjuk, 65, the former Ukrainian extradited to Israel from the United States last month, is suspected of being the notorious prison guard, "Ivan the Terrible," at the Treblinka concentration camp during the Holocaust.

Simcha said that there was sufficient evidence to warrant holding Demjanjuk in prison pending his trial. His statement came after he had asked police prosecutor Alex Ish-Shalom to comment on media reports that the Treblinka prison guard known as "Ivan the Terrible" had been killed during an inmate uprising at the death camp.

Ish-Shalom described the reports as imaginary, saying that no single person had come forward with proof that he himself had taken part in the killing of the prison guard or had been an actual eye-witness to his alleged death.

"It is all hearsay evidence -- and we have adequate proof to the contrary -- that Demjanjuk is indeed the notorious Ivan," the police official asserted.

Demjanjuk, asked if he had anything to say, protested that the proceedings were being carried out in Hebrew and that he had to rely on interpretation. The judge promised him that a translation of the full transcript of the proceedings would be made available to his attorney.

Demjanjuk's attorney in the U.S., Mark O' Connor, was present in the courtroom but did not participate in the hearing, as he has not yet received permission to plead before an Israeli court.

The Israel Bar Association has agreed to O' Connor's active appearance in court in view of his lengthy service for his client before U.S. courts, and the fact that it might be difficult to find an experienced Israeli lawyer ready to defend a man charged with war crimes against Jews. The Justice Ministry is to act shortly on O' Connor's request to represent his client in court.

#### TWO SOLONS CANCEL MIDEAST TRIPS AFTER THE ADMINISTRATION ISSUES AN ADVISORY; PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE IS CRITICAL OF ADMINISTRATION'S MOVE

By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, March 30 (JTA) -- Sens. Gary Hart (D. Colo.) and Bennett Johnston (D. La.) cancelled scheduled visits to the Middle East last week, which were to include a stop in Israel, after the Reagan Administration urged that members of Congress "reassess" their travel plans to the region.

A State Department official told a press briefing for foreign reporters last Friday afternoon that the advisory to Congressional officials was in response to recent threats by Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi that he would launch a wave of terrorism against Americans in the region.

But the Administration's advisory amounted to a "weakening of the American resolve to resist terrorism," according to a statement issued Sunday by Kenneth Bialkin, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "The interruption of foreign travel is exactly what terrorists want and the surrender to terrorist threats gives them the victory they seek," Bialkin asserted.

Hart announced last Friday that he was cancelling his trip to Israel, Egypt and Jordan after he was advised by Administration sources that the visit would "divert limited security resources." The State Department acknowledged that it had advised Congressional members and their staffs to "reassess" whether their trips to the Middle East were necessary at this time, but denied having directly requested that such visits be cancelled.

#### Explaining The Advisory

The officials who briefed foreign reporters said that "we've all heard the threats issued by Col. Qaddafi and we have suggested to them that we think real carefully about whether travel to the region at this time is essential or whether they would consider postponing it."

State Department spokesman Charles Redman, however, at an earlier briefing, stressed that the Administration's request only related to visits by members of Congress and that no general travel advisory had been issued. Redman said that "a fairly large number" of Congressmen and staff members had planned to travel to the Middle East during the Easter recess.

Hart planned to fly to Israel last Friday on a trip that was to include Egypt and Jordan. Johnston, who was to travel with Hart to Israel on the first leg of the separate Middle East tour, also cancelled his plans. Six members of the House of Representatives, however, are reported to be currently visiting the Jewish State.

#### 'Our Primary Concern'

But Hart said he had concluded that in light of the security situation, a visit would be "inappropriate" at this time. "It is important to demonstrate our commitment to our strong friends and allies in the Middle East, particularly in light of Col. Qaddafi's recent threatening statements," Hart said in a statement.

"But our primary concern should be for the safety of our Embassies and all American personnel in the region. It is paramount that our security resources be totally dedicated to increasing the maximum possible protection for American citizens in the Middle East."

## CABINET AGREES TO BAIL OUT TWO HISTADRUT-OWNED ENTERPRISES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 30 (JTA) — The Cabinet agreed Sunday to a \$315 million bail-out of Solel Boneh and Kupat Holim, the two largest Histadrut-owned enterprises which are tottering on the brink of financial collapse.

The decision, during a seven hour Cabinet session, was seen as an achievement for Premier Shimon Peres and a setback for Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai who argued that such large scale infusions of government funds into the economy could severely damage the current economic program which has turned the tide against inflation.

Gad Yaacobi, Minister of Economic Planning, said that while Modai's warning is valid, the alternative was the collapse of an organization with 14,000 employees, such as Solel Boneh, Israel's largest construction company.

The Cabinet will allow Solel Boneh to replace \$80 million in short-term debts with government debentures. Kupat Holim, Histadrut's all-embracing health fund, will be granted \$15 million by the government to defray debts for which payment is due immediately and a loan of \$100 million to meet its short term debts. Both enterprises are committed to streamlining their operations and laying off an unspecified number of employees.

The Cabinet also agreed to a five year, \$30 million loan to the cotton-growing industry. In the past, such issues triggered major controversies among the ministers. Most of Sunday's decisions were adopted unanimously. According to observers, this reflected Likud's readiness to accept much of what the Labor Party asks to avoid a Cabinet crisis less than a year away from rotation of power.

The Labor-Likud coalition agreement requires Peres to switch jobs with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir next October. Likud is determined to steer away from any confrontation that could wreck the unity governments before this happens.

## TWO CONTROVERSIAL AUSTERITY MEASURES APPROVED BY THE CABINET

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 30 (JTA) — Two highly controversial austerity measures — an education tax and a tax on old-age pensions — were approved by the Cabinet Sunday as the Knesset prepared for its final debate on the 1986-87 State budget package of which the new levys are a part.

The debate will open Monday and Premier Shimon Peres, who left Sunday night on a trip to the U.S., has warned that failure to adopt the budget could mean the end of the Labor-Likud unity coalition government. The budget was drafted mainly by Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai.

The new taxes were opposed in the Cabinet by three of his Likud colleagues — Housing Minister David Levy, Labor Minister Moshe Katzav and Minister of Science and Development Gideon Patt.

The education tax, approved last summer but never implemented because of lingering opposition in both Labor and Likud, will be set at \$60 for one child and \$120 for two or more children attending school. A Cabinet committee will work out exemption categories which are expected to include development towns and low income families.

The old-age pension tax will be a one-time levy applied to senior citizens with an income of over 800 Shekels a month apart from their pensions. A third unpopular measure, a tax on cars, was also approved by the Cabinet Sunday. It was introduced last year as a one-time tax but the Treasury has included it in the new budget package.

The tax is two percent of a car's value. Given the very high sales tax and customs duty on cars, this could amount to a substantial sum for car-owners. It is expected to bring about \$55 million into the State coffers.

## TWO SOBERING SETS OF STATISTICS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 30 (JTA) — Two sobering sets of statistics released here over the weekend showed a widening gap between Western and Oriental Jews in higher education and an unemployment rate among new immigrants four times higher than the national average.

Statistics from the Education Ministry indicated that while the general level of education in the country is rising, only 12.8 percent of Israelis from Oriental families received a higher education compared to 43.7 percent from Western families. Yosef Bashi, the Ministry's chief statistician, said the gap will narrow only when the government gives the problem high priority. At the present time, it is growing, he said.

Meanwhile, a Histadrut survey of 18 areas with high immigrant populations showed that 32 percent of people who immigrated to Israel during 1984-85 are unemployed. The survey covered 3,550 wage-earners.

Yitzhak Barkai, chairman of Histadrut's absorption department, said the highest levels of immigrant unemployment were recorded in Afula (64 percent); Carmiel (63 percent); Jerusalem (48 percent); Beer-sheba (47 percent) and Kfar Saba (40 percent).

Immigrant unemployment was only marginal in the central region, the Dan area, Raanana, Herzliya, Rehovot and the Arad district of the Negev.

## MILITARY SERVICE TO BE EASED

TEL AVIV, March 30 (JTA) — Military service required of all Israelis will be eased as of April 1 for newly arrived immigrants in order to aid the absorption process, a Defense Ministry spokesman announced here. The new system was decided on by the Defense Ministry in coordination with the Ministry of Absorption.

Newly arrived single immigrants between 24-28 years of age will be required to serve in the Israel Defense Force reserve for 120 days instead of the 12 months hitherto required. Immigrants over 48 years old on arrival will not be recruited for civil defense service as has been the practice up to now, unless they specifically request it.

The new regulations apply also to children of Israeli citizens who emigrated from Israel when they were under 15 years of age and to children born abroad to parents who are Israeli citizens but live permanently overseas.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES GERMAN AND JEWISH LEADERS CONFER ON SOVIET MINORITY RIGHTS

By Dr. Allan Kagedan

(Editor's note: Dr. Allan Kagedan, a policy analyst with the American Jewish Committee's International Relations Department, recently returned from West Germany, where he participated in the Conference on the Condition of Minorities in the Soviet Union under International Law.)

NEW YORK, March 30 (JTA) -- West German and Jewish scholars and leaders joined forces to call for an end to Soviet violation of the basic human rights of Soviet Jews and Germans.

The occasion was a Conference on The Condition of Minorities in the Soviet Union under International Law, held in Bonn, March 19-21, cosponsored by the American Jewish Committee and the University of Cologne's Institut fuer Ostrecht, with grants from The Elson and Volkswagen Foundations.

The meeting marked perhaps the first time that West German leaders committed themselves publicly to the cause of Soviet Jewry. Previously they preferred to focus on individual cases, like that of Anatoly Shcharansky. West German willingness to place Soviet Jewry on their public as well as private agenda with Soviet leaders represents a potentially significant development in light of recent intensified Soviet efforts to woo the Federal Republic away from its close alliance with the United States.

The conference drew some 50 scholars of international law and government from leading American and German universities and research institutions. Conference participants, among whom were many younger Germans, explored the Soviet and international legal norms appropriate for measuring the treatment, and advocating the cause, of the Jewish and German minorities.

In a concluding statement, participants declared Soviet practices regarding minorities to be violations of accepted international standards; called on the United Nations to adopt a Declaration on Minority Rights; and urged the UN Human Rights Commission to draft a Declaration on the Right to Leave and Return. Both UN initiatives, currently under discussion in diplomatic circles, were given a boost by this joint American and German support.

### A Pioneering Effort

In research terms, the Conference represented a pioneering effort to analyze the problems facing Soviet Jews and Germans. Each group numbers about 2 million, and in the 1970's 250,000 Jews and 85,000 Germans succeeded in emigrating from the USSR.

The fact that neither group possessed a viable Soviet territorial unit hampers their exercise of cultural rights. Both groups, moreover, experienced hostile incitement in the government-run media, and discrimination in employment and higher education.

Differences for both groups were discerned in socio-economic status, with Jews concentrated in the professions, and Germans focussed in skilled crafts and technical fields; in demography, with Germans having a significantly higher birthrate than Jews; and in the degree of desire for emigration, among the groups: an estimated 100,000 Germans have taken initial steps to emigrate as against some 400,000 Jews.

Participating in the Conference were prominent figures in the West Germany foreign policy establishment, including Volker Ruehe, deputy president of the governing Christian Democratic Party and its chief spokesman for foreign affairs; Lutz Stavenhagen, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs; and Richard Lowenthal, long-time architect of the Eastern European policy of the Social Democratic opposition. The Ambassadors to West Germany of Israel and Italy, as well as the U.S. Embassy's Political Counselor also attended.

### Common Concerns of Germans and Jews

The speakers who opened the Conference dwelt on the common interests of Germans and Jews in demanding Soviet compliance with international legal standards in their treatment of their Jewish and German minorities.

American Jewish Committee president Howard Friedman stressed that cooperation between Germans and American Jews on human rights issues was based on the fact that both lived in free societies and felt a moral duty to ease the plight of their less fortunate ethnic fellows in the USSR.

Ruehe urged Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to understand that political relations between East and West depended on such issues as Soviet treatment of its Jewish and German minorities, and that Soviet actions on Jewish emigration will indicate how serious the Soviets are about improving East-West ties.

Edward Elson, AJCommittee treasurer, said that, though the conference was scholarly in nature, the problems that the participants would be addressing were borne by real people, whose plight demands coordinated humanitarian action.

### FIRST FROZEN EMBRYO BABY BORN IN ISRAEL IS DOING 'EXTREMELY WELL'

TEL AVIV, March 30 (JTA) -- Israel's first -- and the world's fifth -- test tube baby born from a frozen embryo was successfully delivered at Sheba Government Hospital in Tel Hashomer Friday. The mother, 30-year-old Nilli Arad, and her six-pound, five-ounce daughter were reported doing "extremely well" by Dr. Shlomo Mashiach, who delivered the child by Caesarian section.

Mashiach, who heads Sheba Hospital's obstetrics department, noted that Israel is only the third country in which a frozen embryo was successfully transplanted into the mother. The four other births occurred in Melbourne, Australia, and Cambridge, England.

Nilli Arad and her husband, Zvi, had been trying for seven years to have a child. Various fertility procedures and an earlier attempt to implant a frozen embryo failed.

Mashiach explained that the embryos, raised in test tubes from newly fertilized eggs, are frozen slowly under computer control to a temperature of minus 180 degrees Celsius. After that, they are kept in liquid nitrogen for as long as required.

Nilli Arad's embryo was in deep freeze for a month before it was implanted in her womb.

\*\*\*

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Some 400 Jewish leaders from 86 communities in sixteen countries will take part in the week-long international Israel Bond 35th Anniversary Conference in Israel beginning March 30. The gathering will complete plans for the organization's expanded 1986 campaign.