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**ATTEMPT TO BOMB EL AL PLANE FOILED**  
By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, April 17 (JTA) -- A young woman was arrested at Heathrow Airport Thursday morning after attempting to board an El Al 747 airliner with a large amount of plastic explosives.

The woman, in her 20's, described as of "European appearance," was seized by police after the explosives were found concealed in her luggage at the El Al check-in counter in a secluded part of the airport's terminal, which was immediately cleared of all passengers. A man who was thought to be with her ran off before he could be detained. He was described as of "Middle Eastern" appearance.

The woman, who was not immediately identified, was trying to board Flight LY016 bound for Tel Aviv which arrived here from New York. After the explosives were discovered in a false bottom of a suitcase tagged for the aircraft's cargo hold, flights out of Heathrow were suspended for about 4 1/2 hours.

**El Al Guard Spotted Suspicious Luggage**

Police Superintendent Stewart Higgins said the explosives, weighing about 10 to 20 pounds, contained a timing device "that could have been set to explode at any time." He credited an El Al security guard with averting a tragedy at the airport. Higgins said the guard "wasn't happy with the appearance of the luggage. It appears it was discovered through the keen eye of El Al security." Baggage handlers said the woman was only about 30 yards from boarding the El Al plane when the discovery of the explosives was made.

Later in the day, British police disclosed that the explosives were intended to destroy the aircraft shortly after it left the airport. They said it would have killed the more than 400 passengers and crew aboard and could have caused many casualties on the ground. Police also said that the woman who carried the concealed explosives may have been ignorant of the contents of the luggage given to her by the man who fled. She herself had said after she was detained that the man had asked her to do him a favor and to take the luggage with her to Tel Aviv.

**Fears Of Renewed Terrorist Incidents**

The incident heightened fears that Britain as well as the United States will become the target of renewed terrorist incidents following the U.S. air strike against Libya on Monday. The Heathrow Airport incident coincided with Thursday morning's rocket attacks on the British Ambassador's residence in west Beirut and the discovery of three bodies believed to be those of kidnapped Britons.

Fears of anti-British terrorism were sounded Wednesday night in a heated debate in Parliament over Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's decision to permit U.S. F-111 bombers to operate from British air bases in their foray against Libya.

Although the government won a comfortable majority at the end of the six-hour debate, its support for President Reagan's tough action was criticized by several of its own opposition mem-

bers, including former Prime Minister Edward Heath, as well as members of the Labor Party.

Many of the politicians who criticized Thatcher in the debate argued that Middle East terrorism could only be eradicated by a settlement of the Palestinian issue acceptable to the Arabs, and that the attack on Libya made the Mideast conflict more intractable, undermined British security, and weakened its influence in the area.

Heath, the Conservative Prime Minister at the time of the Yom Kippur War, claimed credit for the fact that at that time he refused to let the Americans use British bases in Cyprus to help the beleaguered Israelis in the early stages of the war. Supporters of Thatcher reminded Heath that he had also been an important member of the Conservative government of the late Sir Anthony Eden which in 1956 launched the Suez operation against Egypt, much to the anger of the United States.

**IDF OFFICIAL WHO COMMANDED THE ENTEBBE OPERATION PRAISES THE AMERICAN AIR STRIKE AGAINST LIBYA**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 17 (JTA) -- A senior Israel Defense Force officer declared Wednesday night that the American air strike against Libya Monday was the opening round in a war against a state which openly supports international terrorism and that the U.S., "once having begun a fight against terrorism, must continue" it "until it achieves results."

Maj. Gen. Dan Shomron, Deputy Chief of Staff of the IDF who commanded the Entebbe hostage rescue operation on July 4, 1976, also stressed in a television interview that the raid proved the effectiveness of modern U.S. air weaponry and the ineffectiveness of Soviet-ground-to-air missiles with which the Libyans are armed.

Shomron lavished praise on the U.S. for undertaking the strike against Libya. It was the first time a major power has taken action against international terrorism, he said.

"The harm (to Libya) doesn't lie in the damage to houses or in the numbers killed. The harm lies in the damage to a ruling center. This is the first time that, in the context of terrorism, an administration has been hit, and the head of that administration himself, namely (Muammar) Qaddafi, the ruler of Libya," Shomron said.

**Far-Reaching Significance**

"The significance is far-reaching. But it must be borne in mind that Libya is a unique phenomenon ... a state whose ruler supports a revolutionary ideology. In fact he is involved everywhere in the world where there is unrest and revolt," the IDF general said. "In fact, Libya is a terrorist state, unlike other countries that work by proxy in a limited sector," he maintained.

Shomron named Syria as an example of the latter but did not think the Libya raid would necessarily have to be followed up by similar operations against Damascus. He said that while Syria aids terrorism it did so "by proxy and

within tactical-local range, even against us (Israel). It will never admit to being a terrorist state as an ideology. At the political level this is a tolerable state of affairs and it is very different from Libya, where the leader openly stated "I am leading the terrorism in the world," Shomron said.

In addition, he said, "We must bear in mind that in the background is the Soviet Union, a superpower, which perceives Syria as its primary foothold in the Middle East with Libya being of a lower order even though it is also a client state."

Shomron suggested that Syria would learn from the U.S. strike against Libya that "the U.S. plane overcomes the Eastern missile ... that it is impossible to rely to a large extent on this equipment against the Israel Air Force. In my view the fact that the (Soviet SA-5 missile),<sup>20</sup> which is a strategic missile and from the (Syrian) point of view was supposed to be a deterrent element vis-a-vis Israel, was exposed in its weakness."

He said the lesson for the U.S. was, "Once having begun a fight against terrorism" it "must continue" because "if they stop in the middle, they will accumulate all the damage; because terrorism will go on, all the political and other damage accruing from this kind of operation will accumulate against them. Therefore, I believe that once having taken this very serious decision, they (the U.S.) took into account that this move will have continuity until it achieves results."

**WALDHEIM CONCEDES HE KNEW ABOUT ATROCITIES AGAINST YUGOSLAV PARTISANS**  
By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 17 (JTA) -- Austrian Presidential candidate Kurt Waldheim conceded for the first time in an interview published here Thursday that he was aware of atrocities committed against Yugoslav partisans, though he remained insistent that he was not involved in the atrocities.

Waldheim, the 67-year-old former United Nations Secretary General, also said in the interview with The New York Times that he was unaware of the deportation of Greek Jews from Salonika, and also from Vienna, even though he visited the Austrian capital during the war.

"I only heard that there were measures against Jews, that they were taken away without knowing where to -- we didn't know. But I didn't know it was such a mass affair," he said of the deportation of Jews from Vienna, which started in 1939.

Waldheim, the conservative Peoples Party candidate in next month's Austrian elections, said he was aware of atrocities against Yugoslav partisans while he was an officer preparing daily battlefield reports in the Balkans. "I knew that," he said, "but I also knew that many German soldiers were trapped and executed in a similar way."

**'I Have a Clean Conscience'**

"It was a nasty, dirty confrontation, although I have to add immediately I was far away from these atrocities, and I just got the reports. I had to forward them, put them together, to forward to the high command. I have a clean conscience, that's why I'm very relaxed, very relaxed, although I tell you in an emotional way."

Despite Waldheim's assertions that he had no knowledge of the deportation of thousands of Jews from Salonika, the head of that Jewish community, Leon Benmajor, said in an interview in a television documentary that it was "a monstrous lie that Waldheim did not know of the fate of the Jews of Salonika." The special documentary on Greek Jews during the war was broadcast in Rome earlier this week.

On April 24, 1943, said Benmajor, a Holocaust survivor, 3,000 Jews had to cross the entire city to the ghetto from where they were then deported. "Even the stones of Salonika knew of the drama of the Jews," he added. "Is it possible that Waldheim did not see the yellow stars on our chests, the Jewish cemetery destroyed by the Germans, the shops displaying Jewish property signs, and the Nazis storming into our homes?"

"Even a simple soldier could have observed these things, even a simple German, and Waldheim was much more. He was a secretary to the General of the Nazi troops stationed five kilometers from Salonika," Benmajor continued. "This lie conceals other things." If definitive proof is gathered, Waldheim should be put on trial for war crimes, Benmajor said.

**INTERFAITH FREEDOM SEDER HELD OUTSIDE THE SOVIET CONSULATE**

SAN FRANCISCO, April 17 (JTA) -- Under the watchful view of Soviet surveillance equipment, an interfaith group of local clergy staged a "Freedom Seder" Tuesday outside the Soviet Consulate here. The seder included a fully set Passover table in the street directly in front of the Consulate gates.

"God hears the cries of Soviet Jews and we must also," said the Rev. Emil Authelet, north coastal area minister of the American Baptist Churches of the West. "Yet His cry needs a human voice. We are to be that voice in today's world."

Authelet is one of the eight interfaith clerics who organized the Freedom Seder. The eight clerics led the Passover service in the reading of the specially written Freedom Seder haggadah--the telling of the exodus, which in this case drew parallels with the plight of Soviet Jews.

Eight Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience were the focus of this year's Freedom Seder, in large photographs set in a row down the center of the table.

Chairs around the table were left empty in a symbolic gesture for the Jews in the Soviet Union who cannot celebrate Passover. "We are doing it for them," said Richard Barron and Ruben Haller, co-chairpersons of the demonstration and members of the Board of the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews.

Only 1,139 Soviet Jews were permitted to emigrate in 1985, down substantially from the peak year in Soviet Jewish emigration of 1979, when more than 51,000 Jews were allowed to leave. Last month, 47 Soviet Jews were allowed to emigrate.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Israel and West Germany have agreed to exchange delegations of businessmen, industrialists, bankers and trade specialists to upgrade trade relations between the two countries.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES  
THE HOPE AND THE REALITY**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 17 (JTA) -- Conor Cruise O'Brien--the former deputy chief of the Irish delegation to the United Nations, a former Member of the Irish Parliament and one-time editor-in-chief of The Observer in London--has written a wonderfully readable and informative history of Zionism and Israel in "The Siege: The Saga of Israel and Zionism" (New York, Simon and Schuster, 798 pages, \$24.95).

But for this reader, who like most American Jews -- and a majority of Israelis for that matter -- hope that a solution can be found for the Arab-Israel conflict, reading the book, as well as talking to O'Brien about the book, was slightly depressing. This is because he believes the hope for a settlement is nothing more than hope and not grounded in reality.

As the title of his book suggests, O'Brien believes that Israel from its very beginnings has been under siege because of the refusal of the Arab world to accept its existence. This threat to Israel's existence continues despite what he calls the "constrained acceptance" by Egypt, and O'Brien predicts it will go on through the end of this century and beyond.

O'Brien rejects the idea that Israel can obtain peace through giving up territory, the basis of the United States-backed peace process centered on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. It is not just the question over how much land Israel gives up, O'Brien pointed out, but of Jerusalem, which Israel will never relinquish and the Arabs will never accept as remaining under Jewish control.

**Freedom And Necessity**

"Israel is not free to be other than the Jewish State in Palestine, and the Jewish State, once in possession of Jerusalem, is not capable of relinquishing that city," he writes in his book. "The Muslim world is also not free to be other than what it is, and is certainly incapable of acquiescing openly, fully and voluntarily in a Jewish State in Palestine, with Arab subjects, and its capital in Jerusalem."

That is why neither President Reagan's peace initiative, or the recent unsuccessful attempts to have King Hussein of Jordan and Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat work out an agreement for negotiations with Israel had a chance for success, O'Brien said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

No Israeli party is willing to give up all of the occupied territory, O'Brien stressed. He said the most Israelis would be willing to give up is part of the territory minus areas needed for defense and minus East Jerusalem.

Hussein would "be in trouble and in danger if he were negotiating with Israel at all," O'Brien said. "But if he reached an agreement in which he recognized that Jerusalem was part of Israel, the capital of Israel, and also leaving Israel in possession of that defense strip along the Jordan, he'd be extremely unlikely to survive the conclusion of such a development. I think he knows that very well."

As for Arafat, in the unlikely event he was to agree to negotiate with Israel, O'Brien believes he would not survive long from assassination by dissidents from within his own group, the Abu

Nidal group or the Syrian-backed PLO factions, among others.

**Too Much Wishful Thinking**

"What astonishes me is that there is so much wishful thinking on this subject which refuses to recognize those realities," O'Brien said. He conceded that his assessment may be due to his being Irish and his belief that there is no solution ahead for the centuries-old quarrel between Catholics and Protestants in his own country.

But O'Brien does not see the situation on the West Bank as necessarily a bad thing. He would like to see a policy that has existed since 1967, except for the period during the second government of Premier Menachem Begin.

"I would hope in the future there would be a return to the policy of leaving the West Bank Arabs, as far as possible, alone and treating the area as necessary to Israel's security, but to be treated for other purposes as effectively part of Jordan," O'Brien told the JTA. "That doesn't require the signature of a treaty. It doesn't require Hussein to relinquish formally any of his claims."

While O'Brien knew something about the Arab-Israel conflict from his years at the UN, it was not until he left his editor's post at The Observer that he decided to study the situation closely, visiting the Middle East and doing research in the field.

**Parallels With Irish History**

O'Brien makes many parallels with the history of Ireland, although he knows this can be overdrawn. "The Irish people have also a history of being a stigmatized people," he told the JTA. "With the exception of the Jews, we are the European people that have the most experience of discrimination, persecution and oppression."

The book offers different insights into the history of Israel, both before and after it became a State, and O'Brien shows sympathy and understanding for both Jews and Arabs.

There are many interesting disclosures. One is that he believes if the U.S. had not closed its doors to immigration in 1924, aliya to Palestine would have been much less, and even the Yishuv may have disappeared and there may never have been a State of Israel.

He also notes that the British, who broke every one of their World War I promises on the Mideast, kept the commitment to a Jewish national home in Palestine, even though George Curzon, who succeeded Lord Balfour in the Foreign Office, disliked the whole idea.

"Deep down, I suspect that there was at work a feeling that it would not be lucky to break a promise to the Jews to help them return to the Promised Land," he wrote in his book. This argument is not so far-fetched if one has ever heard American evangelicals use the same argument in talking about the need for the U.S. to support Israel.

There is much in this book that is of value not only to those who know little about Israel but also for Jewish readers. O'Brien understands the meaning of the Holocaust for Israelis and their determination that they will not allow Israel to be destroyed in a second Holocaust.

"Israel is obliged, by the nature of its predicament, to remain on its guard, and to be the judge of its own security," O'Brien writes. "And those who condemn Israel should reflect that Israel's predicament is not the creation of

Israel only, but is also the creation of all the rest of us -- those who attacked and destroyed Jews in Europe, and those in Europe and America who just quietly closed doors.

"Against that background, the statesmen of Europe might have the grace to be more sparing in their admonitions addressed to Israel, bearing in mind that so many of the people those statesmen represent did so much, over so many years, and in so many ways, to impress upon Jews the necessity of creating the Jewish State."

#### **SOLOMON WARNS THAT REAGAN WOULD VETO RESOLUTION TO DISAPPROVE SALE OF ARMS TO SAUDI ARABIA**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 17 (JTA) -- Although a majority of the Senate has signed a resolution to disapprove President Reagan's proposed sale of \$354 million in missiles to Saudi Arabia, a leading Senator warned Thursday that the President would veto such action.

Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz are "absolutely firm" that the sale "is fundamental to our foreign policy," said Sen. Richard Lugar (R. Ind.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Lugar spoke in support of the testimony before the committee by Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, after all other committee members present questioned the proposed sale. Sens. Alfonse D'Amato (R. NY) and Frank Lautenberg (D. NJ), who are not committee members, testified against selling the missiles to Saudi Arabia.

Sen. Alan Cranston (D. Cal.), who initiated the resolution to reject the sale, said it has been signed by 63 Senators. The sale goes forward unless both the Senate and House pass resolutions of disapproval by May 8.

#### **Real Battle Expected In The Senate**

With the Democratic-controlled House expected certainly to reject the sale, the real battle will be in the Senate as it was over the 1981 sale of AWACS to the Saudis. But Lugar stressed that the President has said he would veto a resolution of disapproval, adding that opponents will need a "two-vote strategy." It would take 67 Senators to override a veto.

"All Senators better begin thinking about our interests," Lugar said. One such interest he pointed to was Murphy's assertion that when the Saudis recently purchased British Tornado fighters because they could not get U.S. F-15s it "cost the American economy from \$12 to \$20 billion."

The Senators opposed to the sale stressed Saudi Arabia's opposition to the Middle East peace process, its support for anti-American regimes such as Syria and Libya and its bankrolling of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Noting that the sale is being labelled a "test" of U.S. friendship for the Saudis, Cranston, said, "The Saudis keep wanting us to prove our friendship. When do they prove their friendship?" D'Amato noted while the U.S. has proved its friendship for the Saudis "over and over" the Saudis "have neither the will nor the determination" to support the U.S.

But Murphy rejected "a direct linkage between our routine arms supply to Saudi Arabia and peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli dis-

pute. This is a narrow approach." He said rejecting the sale would help Middle East radicals who "argue that the U.S. cannot be friendly with Israel and friendly Arab states alike." Murphy argued that the Saudis have been helpful to the peace process although most of their efforts are not done publicly.

When asked for specific examples by Sen. Claiborne Pell (D. RI), he said that in 1982 the then Prince Fahd's Fez Declaration turned around the 1967 Arab declaration never to negotiate with Israel and sought ways to bring those negotiations about. He said the Saudis also supported the efforts by King Hussein of Jordan and the PLO to reach an agreement on negotiations with Israel which Hussein dropped earlier this year.

#### **Sale Needed To Send A 'Signal'**

But Murphy stressed that the sale is needed to send a "signal" to Iran that the U.S. supports Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf states against any threatened attack from the Iranians. "Saudi self-defense reduces the probability of direct U.S. military involvement" in the Gulf, Murphy stressed. He said the sale is not a reward to the Saudis since the Saudis will be protecting U.S. interests in the Gulf.

However, Sen. Joseph Biden (D. Del.) argued that Tehran knows that if Iran attacks Saudi Arabia it would bring in both the U.S. and Israel. When it was suggested that the Iranian air force is not a major threat with most of its planes outdated, Murphy replied that it would be a "serious mistake to underestimate the sting that remains in the Iranian air force or the Iranian military establishment."

Both Murphy and Richard Armitage, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, said that the missiles the U.S. wants to sell the Saudis would replace its existing weapons which would be depleted by 1991 when delivery is expected to be completed.

Several Senators also expressed concern about providing the Saudis with Stinger shoulder-fired missiles since they fear they could fall into the hands of terrorists. Armitage said the Saudis have taken "stringent" security measures on all missiles. He noted the Stinger system is six-foot long and weighs about 50 pounds. "The real terrorist weapon in the Middle East is the (Soviet) SA7," Armitage said. He said it can be carried like a suitcase.

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TORONTO (JTA) -- Two Jewish members of the Manitoba legislature won re-election last month. Marty Dolin of the majority New Democratic Party was returned by the voters in Kildonan, a heavily Jewish-populated suburb of Winnipeg. Abe Kovnats of the opposition Progressive Conservative Party was the choice of voters in Niakwa which has very few Jews. A third Jewish member, Brian Cornin, did not run for re-election.

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VIENNA (JTA) -- Isai and Grigory Goldstein of Tbilisi and their families left the Soviet Union Thursday and arrived here en route to Israel. Their departure from the USSR ended a more than 14-year struggle for the right to emigrate.