

ISRAEL TO SUBMIT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO COMBAT TERRORISM TO ICAO By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 6 (JTA) -- In the face of one of the worst years of aerial and airport terrorism, Israel announced Monday that it will submit a comprehensive plan to combat terrorism against airline passengers and crew-to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) when it holds its general assembly in Montreal next September.

Transportation Minister Haim Corfu said Israel would call on all ICAO member states to adopt operational procedures aimed at deterring terrorist acts, punish perpetrators and take appropriate retaliatory measures. Corfu said he has had a positive response from Transport Ministers throughout the world to an earlier appeal for action against aerial terrorists.

He said Israel would appeal again to those countries which demonstrate a readiness to assist in the struggle and will suggest that they cooperate in the preparation of the Israeli plan, present it jointly to the ICAO and press for its adoption.

According to Transport Ministry figures released here Monday, international terrorism worsened appreciably in 1985 and took a severe toll of lives. The report noted that more than 500 people were killed:

The explosion of an Air India jet over the Atlantic last year took 320 lives. The hijacking of an Air Egypt plane resulted in the deaths of 60 passengers. The terrorist attacks on the Rome and Vienna airports killed 15. So far in 1986, 30 passengers were killed in bomb explosions aboard a TWA airliner and a Sri Lanka Airlines plane.

PERES: SYRIAN MILITARY THREAT TO ISRAEL IS LESS SERIOUS Than Some Analysts Contend By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 6 (JTA) -- The military threat Syria poses to Israel is not as serious as some analysts contend, Premier Shimon Peres told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee Monday. He said he did not share the view of those who are impressed by Syria's armed might.

Moreover, he said, Syria is in the throes of a severe economic crisis. Its foreign currency reserves are down to \$50 million. The country is plagued by internal terrorism and its involvement in Lebanon "is far from enviable," Peres said.

He addressed the Knesset committee in connection with Syrian President Hafez Assad's State visit to Jordan, his first since 1977. According to Peres, the recent rapprochement between Syria and Jordan was intended, among other things, to pressure the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Syria backs the PLO dissidents who ousted Yasir Arafat from Lebanon in 1984. King Hussein of Jordan tried unsuccessfully to work out a formula with Arafat for Palestinian participation with Jordan in peace negotiations with Israel.

Peres described as "speculation" reports that Jordan might allow Syria to deploy missiles in its territory. He admitted that he would prefer not to contemplate such a development.

Peres also expressed the view that the Soviet Union did not encourage Syria to be more aggressive. He noted in that connection Moscow's restrained reaction to the April 14 American air strike against Libya, which is supplied with Soviet arms and is believed by some to be a Soviet client-state.

SHAMIR: ISRAEL WILLING TO SELL ARMS TO HONDURAS, BUT WILL NOT AID CONTRAS By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said in Honduras Monday that Israel will be forthcoming to a request by Honduras for Israeli arms. But Shamir, according to an Israeli spokesperson in New York, stressed that Israel's willingness to sell arms to Honduras has nothing to do with the situation in Nicaragua.

"Israel will not extend any assistance to the Contras," the anti-Nicaraguan government rebels within Honduras, Shamir was quoted as saying by the Israeli spokesperson here.

Shamir spoke at a press conference at the Presidential Palace in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, capital, where he opened the Israeli Embassy earlier in the day. Shamir was received at the palace by President Jose Ascona Hoyo. Shamir invited Ascona Hoyo to visit Israel and the President accepted, the Israeli spokesperson said.

AVITAL SCHCHARANSKY, TWO MONTHS PREGNANT, WON'T ACCOMPANY ANATOLY ON HIS 10-DAY VISIT TO THE U.S.

TEL AVIV, May 6 (JTA) -- Avital Shcharansky will not accompany her husband Anatoly Shcharansky on his first visit to the United States next week because she is in her second month of pregnancy and her doctors have told her to rest. According to friends, Avital, 35, expects to give birth next fall.

Anatoly Shcharansky, 38, a leading aliya activist, arrived in Israel on February 11 from the Soviet Union where he had served nine years of a 13-year prison sentence for alleged treason and anti-Soviet propaganda. He was released in an East-West prisoner exchange.

His 10-day visit to the U.S. will begin May 11 when he will participate in Solidarity Sunday for Soviet Jewry. He will tour the country to thank the many Americans and U.S. officials who helped gain his release from prison.

Anatoly, a computer scientist, was asked by reporters recently if he intended to become an Orthodox Jew like his wife. He shrugged his shoulders. "Not yet. Maybe in three or four or five years. Who knows?" he said. During the tumultuous welcome he received on his arrival here, Avital was seen placing a kippa on his bare head and he was seen removing it.

RABIN AND WEINBERGER SIGN MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING ON ISRAEL'S PARTICIPATION IN 'STAR WARS' PROGRAM

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA) -- Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger signed Tuesday a memorandum of understanding on Israeli participation in the Reagan Administration's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) or "Star Wars."

The agreement allows Israeli laboratories, research establishments and companies to bid on contracts for SDI research, according to Frank Gaffney, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy.

But Gaffney said the agreement was "classified" as were accompanying letters. He would not reveal what kind of research Israel would do except to say the Israelis would focus on "wherever they have the capability."

The brief signing ceremony was held at the Pentagon, with Weinberger stressing that the agreement "advances further" the SDI program. He noted that Britain and West Germany had earlier signed agreements to participate.

The Nature Of The Cooperation

Rabin said that Israel wanted to cooperate in the program "in the way which helps our own problems along." While Rabin did not explain what he meant, Gaffney indicated that in the short term Israel is concerned about a defense system against anti-ballistic missiles.

Although SDI is controversial in the United States, it is not in Israel, where Israel's participation is seen as a means of helping the economy as well as keeping Israeli scientists and technological personnel from emigrating.

However, Gaffney noted that it was possible that some of the funding for the projects would come from Israel. After the ceremony, Rabin and Weinberger met over lunch to discuss other issues. Earlier in the day, Rabin met with Vice President George Bush at the White House for 30 minutes after which they stressed to reporters the need for continued cooperation against international terrorism.

Both agreed that Syria, as well as Libya, is behind many of the terrorist acts. "We are convinced that their fingerprints have been on international terrorist acts," Bush said of Syria.

Rabin said that Israel has "reason to believe that Syria was deeply involved" in the recent attempt to blow up an El Al plane leaving London. He said the plot was thwarted through the cooperation of Israeli and British security.

Rabin stressed that Israel's major problem with terrorism is not with individual terrorist groups, but when "terror is supported, hosted, financed, encouraged by sovereign states who are committed to the use of terror as one of the means for the achievement of their political goals."

CUOMO SAYS WALDHEIM SHOULD BE BARRED FROM ENTERING THE U.S.

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA) - Governor Mario Cuomo of New York told a cheering Jewish audience Monday night that the Justice Department should bar Kurt Waldheim from entering the United States -- even if he is elected President

of Austria -- if an investigation confirms charges that he was involved in Nazi war crimes.

In a dialogue with Rabbi David Kahane in the Sutton Place Synagogue's Jewish Town Hall series, Cuomo said he regretted that the Waldheim issue had not "become an international issue. I am not sure," he told some 3,000 persons watching the discussion in the synagogue and on closed-circuit TV, "that there is sensitivity outside Jewish strongholds" on the question of Waldheim's role during World War II.

The United States, he said, "should speak out as clearly as possible" and should state that if the allegations against him are confirmed, "he is not welcome here."

Asked by Kahane for his views on the Reagan Administration's proposed sale of Stingers and other advanced American weapons to Saudi Arabia, Cuomo said: "I'm against it. This is the country that feeds and pays for the PLO. What do we need them for? What if there's a coup and the Stingers fall into the wrong hands? I was against the AWACS sale and I'm against the Stingers sale. Let the Arabs recognize Israel before we sell them any American arms."

On the recent bombing of Libyan military headquarters in Tripoli and Benghazi, Cuomo said he supported the principle of retaliation. "The President did the right thing," he said. "I only hope that he has thought through his next moves against terrorism." He said Israel's policy of prompt and vigorous response to PLO terrorist attacks was something the United States should and could follow.

TERRORIST GANG LEADER IDENTIFIED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 6 (JTA) -- A blind terrorist who lost his sight several years ago when a bomb he was making exploded was alleged Tuesday to be the leader of the terrorist gang held responsible for at least two murders in the Old City last month and a series of attempted murders of tourists.

The arrest of 20 suspects was announced last week. The leader was identified as Ala A-Din Babian, who was released from prison 12 months ago in the controversial exchange of 1,150 convicted terrorists for three Israeli soldiers held hostage in Lebanon by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, a pro-Syrian group headed by Ahmed Jibril.

After he was blinded, Babian was arrested for illegal possession of explosives but subsequently released. He was arrested again for possession of arms and membership in a terrorist organization and released last May in the prisoner exchange.

Two other terrorists apprehended last week were also freed in the prisoner exchange. One of them, Ali Miselmani, is believed to have been involved in the murder last month of Paul Appelby, a British tourist who was gunned down in the Old City. He may also have been the killer of a Jewish businesswoman, Zehavia Ben-Ovadia, who was found shot to death in her office in the Old City on April 13, the authorities said.

Miselmani and another suspect, Mohammad Al-Hatib, are said to be members of the dissident group of the Palestine Liberation Organization headed by Abu Moussa. All of the terrorists live in East Jerusalem and vicinity.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES A UNIQUE HOLOCAUST MUSEUM By Aviva Cantor

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA) -- Twenty-two years ago, when Rabbi Charles Rosenzweig first proposed the establishment of a Holocaust Memorial Center to his group of survivors in Detroit, the Holocaust was not being talked about, not even by survivors, and the community leadership was opposed to the idea. But Rosenzweig and his group, the Shaarit Haplaytah (Saved Remnant), persevered.

Today, the Holocaust Memorial Center, located in West Bloomfield, Mich., is the nation's first -- and only -- such exclusively designed museum, research and educational institution. It had 100,000 visitors -- 80 percent of them non-Jews -- in the first year after it opened its doors in October, 1984, and a recent sociological study has revealed its effectiveness.

Rosenzweig, interviewed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on a recent visit to New York, is a Talmudic scholar in his 60's, a native of Ostrowiec in Poland. Having survived the war by "running from place to place" and hiding, he came to the U.S. in 1947. Two years later, he was ordained at Yeshiva University in New York, and served for 30 years as the rabbi of Congregation Mount Sinai in Port Huron, Mich.

Intended As A Thought-Provoking Experience

He conceived the Center as a "comprehensive, dignified institution that would portray the life and murder of the European Jewish community," he said. It was designed to be "contemplative, educational and thought-provoking, an educational experience, not a shock treatment."

A visit to the museum, which takes about one-and-a-half hours, is intended to have the history of the Holocaust "gradually sink in, not to overwhelm" the visitor, he continued. The \$3 million museum, light years away from the classic type with glass display cases, utilizes state-of-the-art high technology to portray the Holocaust. It employs films, videos, recordings and a video game for this purpose. Visitors can plug into 13 VCRs dealing with different aspects of the Holocaust, said Center director Rosenzweig.

Visitors enter through a tunnel showing a continuing film of Jews being deported, then to an exhibit on Jewish achievements. One side of a hall is devoted to Jewish community life before the war, the opposite one to the Nazis' plans to destroy it. Films show the deportation of Jews and their incarceration in concentration camps, and videos screen filmed testimonies by survivors in a small theater.

The exhibit ends with a video game called "Life Chance." The player imagines he or she is a young Jew in Berlin in 1935, and has to make various choices to try to survive, in order to win the game. Most lose, Rosenzweig said.

Projected Plans

The Center is developing software on 600 Jewish communities, and plans nation-by-nation exhibits on them. Also projected is a section on the lack of U.S. action to rescue Jews, more material on resistance -- hard to come by given the absence of film footage -- and a new wing, an "Institute of the Righteous."

The wing will document the work of people throughout history who "risked their lives to fight

tyranny" and those who helped Jews during the Holocaust. It will, Rosenzweig said, pose the question of "How does a human behave when all restraints have been removed and crime is legitimized?"

"Civilization did not pass the test," Rosenzweig said. "But there are a few righteous. They showed how high humans can reach. It is their behavior which should become the standard of the future," and this is the hope and aim in creating the new wing.

The Center has a specialized library of 6,500 books, some -- like the 600 contributed by Detroit Jewish News Editor Emeritus Phil Slomovitz -- donated, as are many artifacts. It has microfilm of every Holocaust document, all the films on the Holocaust, and 16,000 pictures.

The Center, which holds conferences on various aspects of the Holocaust, also plans to publish an encyclopedic dictionary on the subject with contributions from over 100 scholars, edited by Prof. David Wyman, author of "The Abandonment of the Jews."

Response Of Visitors

A recent sociological study of the responses of visitors to the Center in a three-month period in 1984 revealed that 80 percent reported a moderate or greater increase in their understanding of the Holocaust (90 percent among non-Jews); and two-thirds a similar rise in their knowledge of Jewish history (80 percent among Catholics and 75 percent among Protestants). The study was conducted by Dr. Jacob Hurwitz, Professor Emeritus in social work at Wayne State University.

Rosenzweig told JTA that at the time he planned to propose the idea of the Center at a Shaarit Haplaytah meeting, the Holocaust was "too painful" for survivors to talk about. But when he suggested it, he said, they immediately raised \$15,000 to buy land to launch the project.

The organized Jewish community in Detroit opposed the idea, arguing that such a Center should be established in New York, Washington or Los Angeles, Rosenzweig said. "My answer was, 'They are not doing it there. If there is no one who cares and we do, we should do it.'"

This was a time, he said, when American Jews "did not want to be reminded of the Holocaust," and most specifically, of their lack of action to rescue European Jews. "If I'd lived in the U.S. during that period, I wouldn't be able to sleep nights," Rosenzweig told JTA.

As the campaign gathered momentum, the Federation offered assistance, but the group took "not one cent," not wanting to become a Federation agency or project. It did accept a free loan for building the Center. "Now it's considered the jewel of the community," Rosenzweig said.

A Totally Independent Institution

He stressed that the nature of the Holocaust as "unique Jewish tragedy" and the sensitivity of the issue compelled the Center's planners to insist it be a totally independent institution, not under the legal or any other control of a government body.

He took a dim view of American Jewish support for the projected U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington which, being under Congressional and Executive auspices and control, is bound to be subjected sooner or later to pressures from various interest groups concerning the definition

and history of the Holocaust, he said. Asked why such a Holocaust memorial could not be established even now under Jewish auspices and why no other community has yet built such a center, Rosenzweig expressed the view that the American Jewish community has always been characterized by the "pathetic" concern of how Jews will appear to non-Jews, and of wanting non-Jewish approval for their efforts.

For this reason, he said, American Jewry has been "paralyzed from doing anything independently" along these lines. "It still is." The Detroit Jewish community, which has one of the highest per capita percentages of contributions to Israel, "is an exception," he said. "They did what they thought was right."

O'CONNOR SAYS THE SUFFERING OF THE VICTIMS OF NAZISM MUST BE REMEMBERED

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA) -- John Cardinal O'Connor joined with Jewish community leaders here Tuesday in a ceremony at the Holocaust Memorial Wall across from the United Nations commemorating Yom Hashoah, the Day of Holocaust Remembrance.

O'Connor, the spiritual leader of nearly 2 million Catholics in the New York Archdiocese, spoke of the need to remember the suffering of the victims of Nazism, and recalled his visit to the Dachau death camp.

Reading an excerpt from "Liturgical Reflections on the Holocaust," prepared by Dr. Eugene Fisher, executive secretary for Catholic-Jewish Relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Rabbi Leon Klenicki, interfaith director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, O'Connor said:

"Six million Jewish men and women, one million children among them, were taken by other human beings to die in gas and fire. Not only did Jews die ... millions of Poles, Gypsies, Russians and other Europeans also ended their lives as victims of Nazism," O'Connor said. "But to be victims in Nazi Europe of itself meant annihilation and death."

Strong Attack On Waldheim

However, O'Connor's remarks appeared overshadowed by ADL director Nathan Perlmutter's strong attack on Kurt Waldheim, the former United Nations Secretary General, who is seeking to become Austria's next President.

Referring to Waldheim's activities as a Wehrmacht officer, Perlmutter said, "Waldheim's lies about his past are not nearly so significant as Austria's polling booth approbation for his lies."

Waldheim missed victory in the election Sunday and will face a run-off election June 8. Waldheim, the candidate of the conservative People's Party, received 49.66 of the vote against 43.66 percent for his Socialist rival, Kurt Steyrer. A vote of 50 percent or more is required to avoid a run-off.

Asked by reporters after the ceremony to comment on the events surrounding Waldheim in the past months, O'Connor declined, saying that he felt it would be "in appropriate to comment at this time" on events in Austria.

Perlmutter, meanwhile, wondered whether the vote supporting Waldheim for President of Austria is symptomatic of a change in the public's atti-

tude toward the Holocaust. "Has the word 'Holocaust', originally selected because it burned and it blistered with its scorching imagery, today lost its heat?" Perlmutter asked.

Perlmutter later suggested in his remarks that Jews "not depreciate the currency of the Holocaust by invoking it too often, by speaking too readily, too indiscriminantly, of Holocaust, of genocide."

The Yom Hashoah commemoration Tuesday, sponsored by the ADL, was held at the Holocaust Wall at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza. The Wall is a series of seven bronze bas-reliefs by sculptor Arbit Blatas depicting the Nazi degradation and slaughter of six million Jews. It was erected as a permanent outdoor memorial by the ADL.

ISRAEL MARKS MEMORIAL DAY FOR MARTYRS OF THE HOLOCAUST

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 6 (JTA) -- "Israel must be the absolute denial of the theories of discrimination and racism" and "the loss of human dignity which was the handiwork of our enemy," President Chaim Herzog declared in a speech officially opening the annual Memorial Day for the heroes and martyrs of the Holocaust at the Yad Vashem Monday night.

It is Israel's obligation, he said, to stand firm against "even the smallest taint of darkness, evil, racism and wickedness." Many other speakers referred pointedly to the Presidential elections in Austria Sunday. Yitzhak Arad, chairman of the Yad Vashem, noted that half the Austrian voters said "yes" to Kurt Waldheim, a man "alleged to have been an accomplice in the atrocities carried out by the Nazi army." Waldheim, who won 49.66 percent of the vote, faces a run-off election June 8.

Sirens sounded all over Israel at noon Tuesday, bringing all activity to a halt for two minutes of silence in memory of the Holocaust victims. Schools devoted part of the day to discussions on the Holocaust. Rallies were to be held Tuesday night at Kibbutz Lohamei Hagetaot, where Premier Shimon Peres will speak, and at Kibbutz Yad Mordechai.

At the Binyanei Haooama, the Jerusalem convention center, the final round of the international quiz on Jewish heroism during the Holocaust was held. The quiz, the first of its kind, was organized jointly by the Education Ministry, the World Zionist Organization and Histadrut.

Miriam Nocher, 17, of Argentina won with 133 points, followed by Ada Weininger of Israel with 132. Reuven Zigler of New York was third and Asher Kravitz of Israel was fourth. The four winners received scholarships, a special medal and a trip to Poland. A scholarship for one year of study in Israel was awarded to Dorotea Tennenblat of Warsaw, the only contestant from a Soviet bloc country.

BONN (JTA) -- Vandals overturned 60 grave-stones in the Jewish cemetery in Karlsruhe and painted anti-Semitic slogans and swastikas on the cemetery wall on April 30. The damage is estimated at over 50,000 Marks. Werner Nachmann, chairman of the West German Jewish community who lives in Karlsruhe, has urged all political parties to consider measures to prevent this type of vandalism.