

MYSTERY AND BEWILDERMENT CONTINUE TO SURROUND A SCANDAL INVOLVING A 'SENIOR OFFICIAL'

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 27 (JTA) -- A veil of mystery -- and public bewilderment -- continued Tuesday to surround a burgeoning scandal involving a "senior official" whom Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir seems determined to prosecute for deliberate obstruction of justice -- a move said to be fiercely opposed by powerful elements within the government.

Although the man in question has not been officially identified, authoritative sources confirmed overseas media reports that he is Avraham Shalom, head of Shabak, Israel's internal security service, commonly known as Shin Bet. It is the Israeli equivalent of the FBI or the British M-5, responsible mainly for internal security and counter-espionage. The identity of its chief has always been a State secret.

Several Ramifications To The Case

There are several ramifications to the case. One is the running feud between Zamir and rightwingers in and out of the government who want the Attorney General ousted on grounds that he has shown too much independence of government needs and that he has been too lenient to Arab and leftist petitioners. They demand that if he is not fired, his powers be severely curtailed.

Zamir, who announced three months ago his intention to resign, has set no date. But he has maintained that the case at hand, if not prosecuted, threatens the very foundation of Israel's democracy and the rule of law.

Premier Shimon Peres convened his 10-man Inner Cabinet (five Labor and five Likud Ministers) Monday night for a top-secret session on the affair. That inner body appears to be the only group in full possession of the facts of the case. Other Cabinet members and many members of the Knesset admit they are as much in the dark as the public.

Circumstances Surrounding The Case

Although not confirmed by any official source, it is generally acknowledged that the case stems from circumstances surrounding the killing of two of four terrorists who two years ago hijacked an Egged bus near Ashkelon and sped with its passengers as hostages, toward the Gaza Strip.

Two of the terrorists were killed in a gun battle when the bus was intercepted by an elite Israel Defense Force unit commanded by Brig. Gen. (now Maj. Gen.) Yitzhak Mordechai. The two surviving terrorists were killed under mysterious circumstances before they could be transferred to jail. It is widely believed they were beaten to death by Israeli security agents.

Mordechai was cleared of responsibility for the deaths of the terrorists, who were last seen alive being led away from the bus for interrogation. Mordechai admitted striking the prisoners with his pistol to get immediate confirmation of reports that the bus was booby-trapped. The information was needed because the hostages, many of them wounded, were in the process of being evacuated from the vehicle.

But he told an army court of inquiry that the prisoners were alive when handed over by the IDF to the border police and by the latter to Shabak agents for questioning. Shabak claimed dead bodies were handed over to them.

In the aftermath, one Shin Bet man resigned and two others, subordinates of Shalom, were forced by him to resign. They complained later to the Supreme Court that their superior had given false testimony and they presumably were being made scapegoats in the affair.

Supisings About the Security Chief

According to Israel Radio, the security chief -- Shalom -- is suspected by the Attorney General of having suborned witnesses to perjury during the subsequent investigation of the terrorists' deaths by a commission of inquiry. He is alleged to have forged documents and fabricated evidence, Israel Radio said.

The bus hijack and subsequent events occurred during the administration of the Likud-led government when Yitzhak Shamir was Premier and his Herut colleague, Moshe Arens, was Minister of Defense. But both the former leaders and the present incumbents, Premier Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, are said to believe the Shabak head should be supported because of possible adverse effects on State security and national morale if he and Shin Bet in general are subjected to police investigation and possible criminal charges.

A Direct Confrontation

Legal circles say the affair amounts to a direct confrontation between those who insist that the rule of law is paramount and others who believe the law must be bent or adjusted in the interests of security. By and large, the legal profession and professors of law at the universities have rallied in support of Zamir.

But the affair has only sharpened the attacks on Zamir by Likud politicians and other rightwingers who will not forgive the Attorney General for his zealous prosecution of a Jewish terrorist underground consisting mainly of Orthodox Jews from the West Bank who were convicted of violent crimes against Arab civilians. Their anger at Zamir was compounded when he refused to recommend pardons for the convicted men.

THATCHER'S VISIT TO ISRAEL MARKED BY A COMMONALITY OF INTERESTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND BRITAIN IN MANY AREAS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 27 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's three-day visit to Israel was marked by genuine friendship and an acknowledged commonality of interests between Britain and Israel in many areas. But it also underlined sharp differences of opinion with respect to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and ways to resolve the Palestinian issue. (Related story, P. 3.)

The visit, the first to Israel by an incumbent British Prime Minister, ended Tuesday with all the pomp and circumstance befitting such an occasion. It reflected not only the demands of protocol but a feeling on both sides that, all-in-all, the visit was successful and that Thatcher and Premier Shimon Peres had achieved a personal rapport.

Paradoxically, Thatcher, known as the "Iron Lady" for her uncompromising conservative positions in international affairs, elicited a more positive response from Israeli doves than from its hawks in her comments on regional political matters.

When she said that most of her Israeli interlocutors had agreed with her that the continued military occupation of Arab populated territories was not in Israel's own interests, she mentioned Peres, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Abba Eban, the former Foreign Minister who chairs the Knesset's powerful Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

She pointedly omitted Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the leader of Likud, who will replace Peres as Premier when the rotation of power agreement goes into effect next October.

Thatcher conceded there was no "clear or agreed route" toward a peace settlement in the Middle East but there were "some ideas," and Britain, she said, is anxious to help. She saw eye-to-eye with the Israelis in her unqualified opposition to the Palestine Liberation Organization and made clear that her government would have nothing to do with the PLO until it renounced terrorism.

Views On Palestinians Rejected

The Israeli leaders were fulsome in their praise of Thatcher's forceful stand against international terrorism. But when the British leader urged Peres and Rabin to move toward free elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a way to evolve a responsible, authentic, elected Palestinian leadership, she found her hosts sharply skeptical.

Rabin reportedly rejected the idea on the spot, noting that in the entire Arab world there was not a single elected Arab mayor. The Defense Minister went on to fault the European countries for "talking so much" but "doing so little" to help improve living standards in the administered territories.

Thatcher insisted, at a press conference Tuesday, that material improvements for the Palestinians in the territories could only be "a supplement, not a substitute" for a political settlement. She stressed repeatedly that the diplomatic stalemate in the region was dangerous and that Israel, as the occupier, was duty bound to come up with "imaginative means" to move the peace process forward.

Her message was, "We must keep trying." Britain in fact may become more actively engaged in the Middle East when it assumes the rotating chairmanship of the European Economic Community's (EEC) Council of Ministers on July 1. Thatcher indicated she would extend her personal efforts to bring about an Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue when she hosts King Hussein of Jordan in London next month. Israeli sources said she would convey to the King the ideas and thoughts of Premier Peres.

Dines With Palestinian Leaders

Thatcher dined Monday night with nine Palestinian leaders, including Elias Friej, Mayor of Bethlehem, former Mayor Rashad Shawa of Gaza, Mayor Mustafa Natsh of Hebron and Hana Senora, an influential East Jerusalem Arab journalist.

She told reporters later that they had "made it clear that they reject terrorism" and "want negotiations." She sidestepped a questioner who pointed out that a manifesto handed her by eight of the nine was critical of Britain's support for the American punitive bombing of Libya on April 14.

Thatcher visited Ashkelon as guest of Mayor Eli Dayan and the Joint Israel Appeal of Great Britain which is closely involved in Project Renewal, the rehabilitation of slum neighborhoods in Israeli cities. Flanked by Peres and the mayor, she visited some of the Project Renewal sites in Ashkelon as thousands of enthusiastic townsfolk cheered and waved Union Jacks. She laid the cornerstone for a new school funded by the Ronson Foundation of the United Kingdom.

Thatcher remarked on that occasion, "By harnessing the talents and energies of people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds," Project Renewal in Ashkelon "embodies the best of Israel."

Peres and other dignitaries bid farewell to the British Prime Minister Tuesday under brilliant sunshine in the Knesset's gardens. As a 19-gun salute boomed across the capital, the thoughts of Peres and his fellow ministers may have turned to another sort of explosion—the public scandal that erupted during Thatcher's visit over the impending prosecution of a "senior official" for alleged obstruction of justice. (See separate story.)

REPORT THE U.S. WILL OPPOSE TOP UN POST TO AN ALLEGED FORMER NAZI

GENEVA, May 27 (JTA) — The dean of the California-based Simon Wiesenthal Center reported Monday that the United States has said it will actively oppose the appointment of Hermann Klenner of East Germany to a top UN post because of allegations that he was a member of the Nazi Party.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, attending a conference on security and cooperation dealing with human rights issues in Bern, said the Center was informed of the U.S. policy decision in a letter dated May 16 it received from Alan Keyes, the U.S. Under Secretary of State for International Organizational Affairs.

The letter was in response to an earlier letter the Center sent to Keyes urging that he intervene in the Klenner case. Klenner was appointed one of three vice presidents of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, which meets here once a year for six weeks. Under a system of diplomatic rotation, Klenner will automatically gain the right to become commission chairman next year.

Klenner has been accused by the Israeli delegation to the UN Human Rights Conference, Ephraim Dubek, of having been an active Nazi and the number of his card as Party member was produced. The card number allegedly held by Klenner is 97-56-141. He is reported to have joined the party on April 20, 1944.

Klenner has never denied his Nazi membership and has refused to discuss it. Last month, Israel's United Nations Ambassador, Binyamin Netanyahu, received access to two files in the UN War Crimes Commission archives, including one marked "Klenner." The other file was on Alois Brunner, said to now be living in Syria.

Keyes, in the letter to Hier, said, "I share your anger at the recent appointment of an East German diplomat, Hermann Klenner, as vice president of the UN Commission on Human Rights. We must do whatever we can to ensure that such situations do not occur again."

"The State Department is now actively engaged in diplomatic efforts to prevent Mr. Klenner's nomination as the East European candidate for chairmanship of the Commission in 1987. Please be assured of the great moral repugnance I feel toward the Klenner appointment and the commitment of our government

to opposing such travesties. " Meanwhile, Wiesenthal Center officials made public Monday a 99-page study, "Portrait of Infamy," which deals with alleged Soviet anti-Semitic caricatures which the Center said have their roots in the Nazi ideology. Copies of the report were presented to the Ambassadors and delegates from numerous countries. The Soviet Union requested the report and received it via the U.S. delegation.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Center in Los Angeles, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the study clearly refutes the assertion by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev who continues to deny the existence of an official Soviet policy of anti-Semitism.

DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS ARAFAT

AMSTERDAM, May 27 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek returned from a one-day visit to Tunisia Tuesday openly pessimistic about peace prospects in the Middle East, especially after an hour-long meeting in Tunis with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat.

He met with Arafat in his capacity as chairman of the European Economic Community's (EEC) Council of Ministers. He told reporters on his return here that his talk with the PLO leader convinced him that the Middle East problem remains at an impasse.

No early solution is likely and a standstill is no improvement, the Dutch diplomat said. He spoke with Arafat and the PLO's foreign affairs spokesman, Farouk Khaddoumi after recent meetings with Israeli Premier Shimon Peres, King Hussein of Jordan, President Hafez Assad of Syria and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

In Tunisia he also met with Chedli Klibi, Secretary General of the Arab League. They discussed fighting international terrorism. Klibi observed, Van Den Broek said, that the underlying cause of Palestinian terrorism was the hopelessness and despair of the Palestinians which must be alleviated.

Van Den Broek said that his overall impression from his talks with Arab leaders is that they see Israel's existence as an irreversible reality but don't want to admit this officially. He said he told Arafat that no permanent peace is possible without Arab recognition of Israel.

On the other hand, the Foreign Minister said, Israel must recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. He said he agreed with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that the present position of the Palestinians in the Israel-occupied territories can be only temporary.

LANDMARK IN CATHOLIC-JEWISH RELATIONS

NEW YORK, May 27 (JTA) -- A Spanish-language version of an interreligious prayer service commemorating the victims of the Nazi Holocaust has been published by the Latin American Catholic Bishops Conference (CELAM) and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and distributed throughout Latin America.

Titled "De La Muerte a La Esperanza: Reflexiones Liturgicas Sobre el Holocausto" ("From Death to Hope: Liturgical Reflections on the Holocaust"), the service includes a prayer delivered by Pope John Paul II at Auschwitz in 1979 and an in-

vocation by German Pastor Martin Niemoller, as well as other prayers, Biblical texts and Holocaust reflections. The liturgy was compiled by Dr. Eugene Fisher, executive secretary of the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Rabbi Leon Klenicki, associate director of ADL's Department of Interfaith Affairs.

First Liturgy That Is Non-Catholic

"This is a landmark in the advancement of Catholic-Jewish understanding in South America," according to Klenicki. "It is the first time that the Latin American Bishops Conference -- or for that matter any Bishops Conference in the world -- has published a liturgy that is non-Catholic."

The liturgy has been distributed to Latin American bishops, ecumenical officials and directors of Episcopal liturgy committees. According to Klenicki, CELAM has recommended that these bishops and officials contact local Jewish community leaders to arrange joint commemorations.

The new liturgy was designed to meet the needs of an increasing number of interreligious Holocaust remembrance services and addresses the question of the "silence of so many" in the face of the Nazi persecutions, Klenicki noted. He added, however, that some Europeans "spoke with their deeds" in coming to the aid of Jewish victims. The prayer service text provides separate accounts of how Christians from seven European nations helped save Jews from Nazi murderers.

THATCHER ENDORSES PALESTINIAN DEMANDS FOR SELF-DETERMINATION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 27 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher made clear her views on the Middle East conflict at a press conference here Tuesday morning shortly before ending her three-day visit to Israel.

She endorsed Palestinian demands for "self-determination" but not an independent Palestinian state. She maintained that the best approach, "most likely to achieve success," was a federation of the Palestinians with Jordan.

Thatcher was unequivocal in her opposition to terrorists. She indicated that the Palestinians must find an alternative to the Palestine Liberation Organization if the PLO persists in its refusal to accept United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and to recognize Israel.

She recalled her own unsuccessful efforts last October to persuade the PLO to accept those two conditions. She had gone so far as to invite to London two prominent PLO leaders, Bishop Elias Khoury and Mohamed Milhem, former Mayor of the West Bank Arab town of Halhoul, for talks with her Foreign Secretary.

The talks failed because the two Palestinians refused to accept the conditions, she said, adding that there would be no more high level meetings between British diplomats and PLO representatives unless the conditions were fulfilled. She stressed that this position stands despite the meeting in Tunisia this week between Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek and PLO chief Yasir Arafat. Van Den Broek is currently chairman of the European Economic Community's (EEC) Council of Ministers. Britain takes over the chairmanship on July 1.

Thatcher affirmed that terrorist threats would never bring her to alter British policies of fighting international terrorism. She referred briefly to "cooperation" between Britain and Israel in the fight against terrorism.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES GROWING DRUG ABUSE IN ISRAEL

By Marlene Goldman

NEW YORK, May 27 (JTA) — Twenty years after America first realized the extent of its drug problem, Israel is fighting a similar war against an escalating number of drug abusers. There are an estimated 15,000 drug addicts in Israel today, an accumulation of about 10 years of drug use there.

That statistic is based only on accounts of hospital treatment reported by the Israeli Magen David Adom, and according to Andre Marcus, of the International Anti-Drug Abuse Foundation, "that figure can be doubled without exaggerating."

About 40 percent of the drug abusers in Israel are between the ages of 13 and 18, according to Diane Marcus, also of the Foundation. Another 40 percent are 22 and over, while the figure drops to 20 percent for those 18 to 22.

"The drop comes when people go into the Army," Diane Marcus said. "Those found to be on drugs in the Army are kicked out and go to jail. That creates a problem because if you don't finish three years in the Army you can't do anything afterwards," she told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Country-Wide Problem

Drugs exist all over Israel, Andre Marcus said, especially along the borders where the drugs are coming in. "Historically, Americans brought the first drugs to kibbutzim," he said, "but now the main source is southern Lebanon, the Bekaa Valley."

Consequently, drugs such as marijuana, used most often in the younger circles, and heroin, prominent in the over-22 group, are available and cheap. "Since the drugs are not travelling too far, it's much cheaper than in America," noted Diane Marcus.

Israel is just beginning to realize the extent of its drug problem, which first became evident after the Yom Kippur War in 1973. Diane Marcus explained that since Israelis have not witnessed the potentially harmful effects of drug use, as Americans have, it is more difficult to prevent it there. Israelis are also not yet equipped to deal with drug abusers.

"The problem is that there is no center to cure these people on a long-term basis," said Diane Marcus. "The only thing that exists are day clinics." There are two types of walk-in/out clinics: one uses methadone to treat addicts and the other does not use any drug replacement. The latter involves social workers, doctors and psychologists who counsel and treat young drug abusers anonymously.

"The kids on drugs are in such a circle that they cannot relate anymore to their parents and they cannot talk to friends who are not on drugs because their behavior will not be accepted," Diane Marcus explained.

"Those who realize they are on a bad track and want to get out would rather go to somebody outside their circle," she added. "Usually what happens is you end up knowing more about them and find out what led them way back to the process of taking drugs."

11 Youth Clinics Opened In Israel

The first youth clinic was inaugurated by Elizabeth Moynihan in April, 1978 on behalf of the Foundation and under the auspices of Al-Sam, an Israeli government-sponsored agency to fight drugs. Since then, funds raised by the Foundation, which was

created in 1976 by Aviva Najor, wife of Israeli ambassador Amiel Najor, at the request of the Israeli Ministry of Health, have helped to open 11 youth clinics throughout Israel.

The Israeli government subsidizes some of the costs, depending on the state of the economy, but much of the money comes from private fund-raising. Every two years the Foundation stages a fund-raising gala ball with proceeds going to the clinics. Each clinic costs about \$30,000 annually to operate, and also to train Israeli personnel in America.

This year's ball, held two weeks ago at the Vista International Hotel of New York City, was attended by some 280 supporters who were entertained by Sammy Davis Jr., and raised about \$150,000.

One problem with the Israeli clinics is that they are limited to treating drug abusers 18 years and younger. According to Diane Marcus, this age group is targeted in order to detoxify them while they're still young. Many drug users and drug pushers go to jail, Andre Marcus said, for between one to three years, since there is no place else for them to be treated.

"They are treated like common criminals," explained Diane Marcus, "and there is no attempt to rehabilitate them."

Effort To Curb The Problem

The Foundation plans to capitalize on the knowledge other nations more experienced with handling drug abuse have acquired and share that with Israel to prevent the problem from spreading. Teachers are now being educated about the effects of drug abuse and pass the message to their students. Another goal of the Foundation is to open a therapeutic center for in-patient treatment in Israel to complement the existing youth clinics.

"So far, Israel has been spared the worst of the drug problem, but it's coming," warned former Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis in a speech at the ball.

"The problem is growing in the wake of the Lebanon war," Lewis said. But he expressed hope that since the drug problem came 10 years later than in America, "Israelis have a better chance to profit from lessons we have learned."

Lewis related to the audience a newscast he had been watching earlier that night about users of "crack," a potent form of cocaine that is climbing to epidemic proportions in New York City. "There is one crack-related murder every 24 hours," Lewis said. "It's a cause that had we Americans been able to attack as early as Israelis can attack it, we wouldn't be watching scenes we saw on our television sets tonight."

HIGHER COURT ENTERS DEMJANJUK CASE

TEL AVIV, May 27 (JTA) — The Supreme Court entered the Demjanjuk case for the first time last Friday, ordering Ukrainian-born John Demjanjuk, alleged Treblinka concentration camp guard, remanded in custody for an additional 30 days while the state prosecutor and police continue gathering evidence for his trial.

Demjanjuk, a former U.S. citizen who is the first suspected war criminal extradited to Israel, has been in detention at Ayalon prison for 90 days, the limit under the law which provides that remands in custody must be renewed every 15 days. This had been done up to last Friday by Jerusalem Chief Magistrate Aharon Simcha.

Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir accordingly appealed to the Supreme Court for an order to hold the prisoner an additional 90 days.