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BOMB BLAST AT EL AL COUNTER AT MADRID AIRPORT INJURES EIGHT

MADRID, June 26 (Special to the JTA) -- A bomb exploded Thursday afternoon at the El Al check-in counter at Madrid's Barajas International Airport, injuring eight people, one of them an Israeli security guard. There was extensive damage to the counter.

The bomb, apparently detonated by remote control, exploded less than an hour after Israel's first Ambassador to Spain, Shmuel Hadass, landed at the airport on an El Al flight.

According to police, it detonated at 3:30 p.m. local time inside a piece of luggage on the El Al conveyor belt. The check-in counter burst into flames as people fled in panic, eye-witnesses said. The eight wounded persons were rushed to a local hospital within minutes.

Police believe one of the injured might be a terrorist. They are holding a suspect who was caught trying to leave the air terminal after the blast.

Israel and Spain established diplomatic relations last January 17. Since then, the Spanish authorities have stepped up security precautions at the airport and near Israeli and Jewish institutions.

EL AL SECURITY GUARD HERO OF MADRID AIRPORT BOMBING, ISRAEL RADIO SAYS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 26 (JTA) -- An alert El Al security guard saved many lives and averted tragedy when a bomb exploded at the El Al counter at Barajas International Airport in Madrid Thursday afternoon, according to an Israel Radio report.

The report said the guard, who was slightly wounded, was examining a handbag carried by the last passenger in line waiting to board an El Al flight to Tel Aviv. He noticed smoke coming from the case and grabbed a fire extinguisher. He shouted to people nearby to take cover before a bomb in the handbag blew up, according to the Israel Radio version of the incident.

A Spanish security agent was among the injured but no other Israelis were hurt, apart from the El Al guard. The injuries were caused by the collapse of the ceiling, Israel Radio said. The Tel Aviv flight was delayed. El Al has refused to give out further details.

DEPOSITION BY DECEASED WIDOW OF LEON KLINGHOFFER READ AT ACHILLE LAURO TRIAL

By Edwin Eytan

GENOA, June 26 (JTA) -- Testimony by witnesses in the Achille Lauro hijack trial concluded on a painfully sad note Wednesday night when a hushed courtroom listened to Court President Lino Monterevede read, posthumously, a deposition made by Leon Klinghoffer's widow, Marilyn Klinghoffer.

She described being held hostage with 10 other Americans and five British passengers on an upper deck of the Italian cruise ship when she heard two

gunshots followed by a splash. The shots killed her husband and the splash was made by his body hitting the water.

Mrs. Klinghoffer, who died of cancer last February 8 at the age of 58, made the deposition to investigators on October 12, four days after her husband, confined to a wheelchair because of a stroke, was brutally murdered.

"I only knew of my husband's death after the terrorists had left the ship," Mrs. Klinghoffer testified in her deposition. "I asked the boat's Captain if he knew who had murdered my husband. He said he did but could not tell me. I did not insist. He was obviously exhausted."

Says Bar Tender Saw Killing

Mrs. Klinghoffer said an American doctor told her that he heard a ship's bar tender witnessed the killing. Two passengers, Viola and Seymour Meskin, reportedly told the doctor that the bar man told them he had seen Klinghoffer bite one of the murderers before he was killed. But the bar man, under questioning by Italian police and the prosecution, denied that he saw the murder or that he told anybody he did.

The four defendants present in court Wednesday night included Magie Al Mulqui, 23, who is accused of murdering Klinghoffer with two bursts from an AK-47 assault rifle on October 8 and then ordering two crew members to throw his body into the sea.

Fifteen persons are accused of the hijack and 10 are being tried in absentia. One of those in custody, a 17-year-old who is a minor under Italian law, will be tried separately by a juvenile court.

Attorneys claiming damages on behalf of some of the victims and plaintiffs were to address the court Thursday. The court will recess afterwards to study the evidence and a verdict is expected next month.

The 10 wanted terrorists still at large include Mohammed Abbas, a Palestinian believed to have masterminded the hijack.

DEMANDS PERSIST FOR PROBE OF SHIN BET CHIEF DESPITE HIS RESIGNATION AND PARDON

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA) -- Demands for a full scale investigation of charges against Avraham Shalom mounted within the Labor Party and other coalition factions Thursday despite Shalom's resignation Wednesday as chief of Shin Bet, Israel's internal security services and the pardon given him and three of his senior aides by President Chaim Herzog.

Shalom, accused of a cover-up in the unexplained deaths of two Arab bus hijackers in custody of security agents in April 1984, was never tried or convicted of any offense. The pardon, supported by Premier Shimon Peres and a majority of the Inner Cabinet, was seen by many as a deliberate play to avoid an investigation which Attorney General Yosef Harish said he had been prepared to launch.

Herzog said in an Army Radio interview Thursday that his decision to pardon the Shin Bet chief did not mean that any further inquiry was ruled out. "It was not my business ... It is for the government ... the

government did not ask anything of me. The Shin Bet asked, and I had to decide," he said. But unrest is growing among Cabinet members who had urged an inquiry. Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, a Laborite, and Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein of the Labor-allied Shinui Party, said Thursday they would introduce a proposal at this Sunday's Cabinet meeting to set up a judicial commission of inquiry.

Shahal said that now that the issue of Shalom and his aides has been resolved by the President, opposition to an inquiry should decrease. Another powerful Laborite, Deputy Premier Yitzhak Navon, Herzog's immediate predecessor as President of Israel, spoke out Wednesday night in favor of an inquiry. Immigration Minister Yaacov Tsur, a bitter critic of the pardon, and Ezer Weizman, Minister-Without-Portfolio, whose Yahad Party is aligned with Labor, added their voices to the growing chorus.

Shinui announced Thursday that it would "reconsider" its partnership in the unity coalition government in light of what the Cabinet decides on Sunday.

Most political commentators believe Peres will weather this storm without creating an inquiry commission which is fiercely opposed by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Yitzhak Shamir, leader of Likud.

Ford's Pardon Of Nixon Cited

Shamir reportedly made it clear during the Cabinet's deliberations Wednesday that he was prepared to force a coalition crisis if there was any investigation of the Shin Bet chief. It was at that point, according to leaked reports from the Cabinet session, that the idea of a Presidential pardon was raised. The formal application for pardon was made by Shalom and his private attorney, Ram Caspi.

Herzog defended his decision Thursday. He told the Army Radio that he was confident that "though controversial now, it would be recognized in the future as the right decision -- just as everyone in the United States now recognized the rightness of President Ford's decision to pardon President Nixon" after the Watergate scandal in 1974.

PROTESTS MOUNT AGAINST INTERIOR MINISTRY'S STAMP ON ID CARDS OF JEWISH CONVERTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA) -- The Interior Ministry's order to stamp the identity cards of Jewish converts in Israel with the word "converted" next to the designation "Jewish" was issued after consultation with Attorney General Yosef Harish, the Jerusalem Post and Haaretz reported Thursday.

According to the reports, the Attorney General saw this as the only possible course for the Interior Ministry which was ordered by the Supreme Court to show cause why it refused to register as Jewish a recent American immigrant, Shoshana Miller, who was converted to Judaism by a Reform rabbi in the U.S. The Attorney General is obliged to defend government agencies in litigation.

The Ministry's action has been fiercely denounced not only by leaders of Reform and Conservative Judaism in Israel and the U.S., but by a growing number of Orthodox rabbis. Former Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren declared flatly Wednesday

that the ID card stamp was a violation of halacha because it shamed converts. "Kfar Habad," the periodical of Habad Hasidim in Israel, called the practice a "disgrace."

Harish Advised Interior Ministry

The Interior Ministry, headed by Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz of the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party, had intended to argue in court that the only valid converts were those whose conversion passed muster by a Rabbinical Court. But that would have meant circumventing the Law of Return which identifies a Jew as anyone born of a Jewish mother or converted.

Harish, like his predecessor, former Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir, opposed the idea. It was suggested instead that the ID cards of converts would designate Jewish nationality with the word "converted" in parentheses.

But the practice, disclosed Monday at a Supreme Court hearing on the Miller case, drew an avalanche of protests. The Interior Ministry was accused of trying by subterfuge to implement the "Who is a Jew" amendment to the Law of Return which has been repeatedly voted down by the Knesset.

(In New York Thursday, Kenneth Bialkin, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, warned in a statement that "The internecine struggle in Israel -- now intensified by the mischievous and unacceptable order requiring the legending of Jews according to the quality of their Jewish origin -- does serious harm to the unity of the Jewish people and thus threatens the support that Israel enjoys from every quarter of the Jewish world.")

(At the same time, Franklin Kreutzer, international president of the United Synagogue of America, the association of 850 Conservative congregations in the U.S. and Canada with a membership of two million, declared Thursday that "Conservative Jewry will reject this second-class and worse type branded citizenship and this action will have dire negative consequences on our attempts to increase Conservative aliya.")

HEALTH MINISTRY ORDERS STRIKING NURSES BACK TO WORK ON PENALTY OF PRISON TERMS AND STIFF FINE; NURSES BALK

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 26 (JTA) -- The Health Ministry issued emergency regulations Thursday afternoon, ordering 11,000 striking hospital nurses back to work on penalty of two years' imprisonment or a 2,500 Shekel (\$1,600) fine or both.

But the order, issued on the third day of the strike which has crippled patient care, seemed to worsen the situation. A spokesman for the strikers said they would disregard the order. By Thursday evening, nurses who had remained on duty to man skeleton staffs, walked off the job. They said they were waiting for instructions from their strike committee.

Health Ministry Director General Dan Michaeli told hospital directors that if as many as one-third of the strikers returned to work, the emergency regulations would be rescinded.

The 11,000 women and male nurses went on strike Monday morning to demand a separate union or autonomy in the general nurses union. On Wednesday their union won recognition as a separate bargaining agent. But the strike continued. The strikers said Thursday that they were not satisfied that the government is ready to discuss hospital working conditions or the nurse shortage which they said imposes an impossible

burden. They also demanded, for the first time, that pay scales be discussed. The strikers had insisted at the outset that wages were not an issue. The nursing profession recently received a 12 percent pay hike.

ISRAEL ON ALERT FOR NEW 'YOM KIPPUR WAR'

BY SYRIA, RABIN SAYS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin declared Wednesday that Israel will take all necessary precautions against a potential attack by Syria next fall, possibly close to the 13th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War.

Rabin, addressing the annual meeting of the Jewish Agency Assembly here, was responding to a report in the highly authoritative British weekly, *Jane's Military*, that Syria is planning to attack Israel next October 14. It is the day after Yom Kippur and the date on which Yitzhak Shamir will take over as Prime Minister from Shimon Peres under the unity coalition government's rotation of power agreement.

Rabin said Israel would not contribute to any deterioration of the situation with Syria but would follow its defense policy which is based not solely on deterrence but on its ability to deliver a decisive blow to its enemies.

Senior military sources here say they had no idea where *Jane's* information originated. But they stressed that the potential for war with Syria exists and that every change of season is usually accompanied by developments which increase tension.

TAU STUDENTS BAR KAHANE AND FOLLOWERS FROM CAMPUS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 26 (JTA) -- An attempt by Rabbi Meir Kahane and several other members of his extremist Kach Party to enter the Tel Aviv University campus Thursday was blocked by students who also scuffled with Arab fellow students when some of the latter shouted pro-PLO slogans.

Student Union chairman David Berman, who led the anti-Kahane demonstration, told reporters afterwards that "We showed Kahane that Tel Aviv University is a bastion of democracy and that he can't come in."

But the only arrests made in the melee were of three Arab students. One of them, Mohammed Shakiff, deputy chairman of the Student Union, was detained for allegedly insulting a policeman. As police led them away, the Arabs were spat upon by members of the Kahane group who departed unmolested.

The Kach group arrived at the main entrance to the campus in a van and two cars. Several dozen students were assembled at a nearby dormitory with loudspeakers and placards denouncing Kach's racist policies. The students blocked the entrance, shouting "We won't let the fascists through." The Kach group shouted, "It's a Jewish homeland" and "PLO go home."

The small police force on hand did not intervene until the shouting turned into a shoving match and some PLO slogans were heard.

Kahane claimed he went to the campus as a Knesset member to check the nature of the relationship between Jewish and Arab students.

HARASSMENT OF AMERICAN VISITORS

CHARGED IN LAWSUIT AGAINST SOVIET TRAVEL AGENCY

NEW YORK, June 26 (JTA) -- The National Conference on Soviet Jewry, 38 of its member agencies and 14 individuals, filed a lawsuit Wednesday against the Soviet Union's travel agency, Intourist, for violating New York State's consumer protection law.

The suit, filed in State Supreme Court in Manhattan, charges Intourist with "illegal, fraudulent and misleading promotional activities" such as failing to disclose that American tourists who plan to visit with Soviet Jews -- particularly Soviet Jews who wish to leave the USSR -- run a high risk of being harassed by Soviet agents.

The harassment is alleged to be officially sanctioned and implemented by the Soviet government. Strip and body cavity searches, interrogation, confiscation of personal property, and expulsion from the USSR are some of the incidents which are alleged to be part of a pattern of harassment.

A court order is sought by the National Conference and other plaintiffs requiring Intourist to disclose fully in its literature that certain categories of tourists are likely to be subjected to detainment, searches, interrogation, and/or confiscation of personal property.

Details Of Complaint

Herbert Teitelbaum, attorney for the plaintiffs said, "Intourist's promotional activities -- including its literature and other promotional materials -- are designed to, and otherwise create, a false and misleading impression that so long as tourists to the USSR obey Soviet law, they will not be subjected to various forms of government harassment."

"The complaint charges that this is absolutely not true for those tourists who express an interest in the human rights of Soviet Jews and who wish to visit with Soviet Jewish families," Teitelbaum said. He added, while the Soviet Union may be permitted to ignore the "rule of law in other contexts, it is obligated to abide by the consumer protection law which requires fair dealing and full disclosure. In short, Intourist must tell a tourist what he can anticipate when he visits the Soviet Union."

According to the complaint each of the individual plaintiffs named are American citizens who have traveled to the Soviet Union on tours booked under the auspices of Intourist. Each of the plaintiffs was subjected either to a partial strip search, detention, harassment, confiscation of possessions, or fined, without justification while in the Soviet Union, Teitelbaum charged.

He said "Some of the plaintiffs were actually arrested by Soviet authorities and charged with espionage and robbery. In some cases, plaintiffs were forcibly interviewed and photographed for propaganda purposes, detained under house arrest, denied permission to contact the American Embassy, and forced to sign documents written in Russian which they could not understand and which were not translated for them," he said.

WAVE OF ANTI-SEMITIC VANDALISM

REPORTED IN MONTREAL

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, June 26 (JTA) -- An official of the League for Human Rights of B'nai B'rith reported Thursday that 110 Jewish tombstones were overturned during the night of June 17 at the Savannah Cemetery

in Montreal and that 22 tombstones were overturned the same night in the Jewish section of the Mount Royal cemetery in Montreal. The official, Arthur Hiess, director of the League, also reported that on Wednesday morning, buildings of seven Jewish firms were daubed with "Front for the Liberation of Quebec" signs. The Front, an extremist organization, has been involved in several anti-Semitic daubings.

Hiess reported that the Beth Zion Synagogue in the Cote St. Luc section of Montreal was sprayed with swastikas and "Kill the Jews" was lettered on its doors.

Hiess told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "since 1982, we have recorded and reported all acts across Canada of an anti-Semitic character but there are new signs of anti-Semitism which are worrying our League." He said "these acts of racism and attacks on our religion" must be stopped.

He said police are investigating the acts of vandalism and have reported they had "good leads" to the discovery of the culprits.

SENATE OKs BILL REQUIRING ANY NEW U.S. EMBASSY OR CONSULATE IN ISRAEL TO BE LOCATED IN JERUSALEM

By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, June 26 (JTA) -- A measure approved by the Senate on Wednesday would prohibit the construction of any new U.S. embassy or consulate in Israel unless it is within five miles of the Knesset.

Introduced by Sen. Jesse Helms (R. NC), the amendment was incorporated into a bill authorizing \$1.1 billion for security improvements at U.S. diplomatic facilities abroad before the package was approved by voice vote on the Senate floor.

If included in the final version worked out with the House of Representatives, it would effectively force the Administration either to change its policy for not having an embassy in Jerusalem or to refrain from leaving its current embassy, which is said to have some major security flaws.

The measure passed by the Senate earmarks a requested \$83 million for construction of a new embassy in Israel and \$41 million for a consulate only on the condition that they are located within five miles of the Knesset, inside the 1967 boundaries of Jerusalem.

The wording thus permits the construction of a new embassy or consulate in West Jerusalem, where the Knesset is located, but not in the eastern part of the city which was captured in the 1967 war. There are currently two diplomatic facilities in Jerusalem -- a consulate in the western part and a cultural center and visa office in the Old City.

According to Jim Lucier, a staff member at Helms' office, the amendment was introduced in response to a State Department outline of its land acquisition plans in the context of its proposed program for improving embassy security abroad. The report indicated that October had been targeted for acquisition of a new embassy site in Tel Aviv, Lucier told the JTA.

No confirmation of the status of the Department's embassy search could be obtained on Thursday. But State Department spokesman Charles Redman indirectly criticized the measure approved by the Senate.

"Relocating an embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem while the status of Jerusalem remains unresolved would undermine the role of the United States as the principal intermediary in the Arab-Israeli conflict," Redman said. He added that "the construction of new secure facilities in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv would not foreclose any option" to relocate once the status of the city is resolved.

Lucier maintained that Secretary of State George Shultz had not indicated any opposition to the amendment when the suggestion was raised at a recent Senate hearing. According to one State Department spokesman, however, "beauty might be in the eyes of the beholder there."

In any case, the State Department spokesman stressed, no one in the Administration is "up in arms" at this stage, as the provision might well be omitted from the final authorization measure adopted when the two houses of Congress reconcile the packages they have approved. The House version contains no such condition on constructing new facilities in Israel.

TRANS-CANADA CARAVAN FOR SOVIET JEWRY

By Ben Kayfetz

VANCOUVER, June 26 (JTA) -- A trans-Canada "Caravan for Soviet Jewry" consisting of 30 Jewish college students in a chartered bus, arrived here from Halifax, Nova Scotia to a warm welcome by the Jewish community and the Vancouver city fathers.

Bedraggled and sleepless after the coast to coast drive, their enthusiasm for the cause of Soviet Jews denied emigration rights was boundless. They were greeted at City Hall by Mayor Mike Harcourt and addressed by Conservative Member of Parliament John Fraser and Irwin Cotler, the McGill University law professor who served as attorney for Anatoly Shcharansky before he was allowed to leave the USSR last February.

The youths responded by dancing an energetic hora and singing the traditional Hebrew hymn, "Hinei Ma Tov" which Shcharansky has said sustained his morale during nine years in the Soviet Gulag.

Later, before a crowd of 400, the students staged a mock trial, indicting the Soviet Union for barring the free movement of its citizens.

As a climax to their coast-to-coast trek, the students visited the Soviet Pavilion at the Vancouver Expo. Once inside, they removed their outer clothing to display red T-shirts bearing a picture of the Kremlin and the words "It's a tough place to live. It's a tougher place to leave."

The youths left the pavilion peacefully when they were asked to do so. The Caravan was headed by Mimi Estrin, a 22-year-old student at York University, Toronto.

PARIS (JTA) -- Boris Gouliko, the former Soviet Grand Master, will represent Israel next month at the Mediterranean Chess festival in Marseille. It will be the first time Gouliko, a former Soviet champion, will be playing abroad since he left the Soviet Union last month for Israel. Gouliko, his wife Anna Aksharumova, also a chess champion, and their 7-year-old son David, left the Soviet Union on May 29 after a seven year wait for their exit visas.