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2 ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILLED AND 9 WOUNDED IN FIERCE GUN BATTLE WITH TERRORISTS IN SOUTH LEBANON

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 10 (JTA) — Two Israeli soldiers were killed and nine were wounded in a fierce gun battle with terrorist infiltrators who landed by sea in the south Lebanon security zone early Thursday morning. Four terrorists were killed.

The dead Israeli soldiers were identified as Sgt. Major Mansour Rakhel of the El Hed Bedouin tribe in Galilee and Sgt. Guy Bendov of Ramat Efal. The Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, headed by George Habash, took responsibility for the sea-borne attack. Their announcement in Damascus said they were joined by the Syrian Nationalist Social Party, a Syrian-backed Lebanese militia which has carried out car bombings in Lebanon.

Planned to Attack Nahariya

The announcement said the terrorists planned to attack Nahariya, a coastal city north of Haifa to take hostages.

An Israeli military spokesman said a Dabour class Navy patrol boat spotted a motor dinghy at sea just north of the Israel-Lebanon border at 2 a.m. local time and opened fire on it. The terrorists managed to get ashore in the security zone, about a kilometer north of the Rosh Hanikra border checkpoint and took refuge behind rocks.

An Israel Defense Force infantry patrol engaged them in a three-hour grenade and fire-fight. One of the Israeli soldiers was killed instantly and the other died in a hospital. The wounded were hospitalized.

The bodies of the four slain terrorists yielded large quantities of weapons and equipment, the military spokesman said.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir used the incident to stress that Israel must direct all of its efforts against the enemy, "not in the quarrel directed against those who fight terrorism." Shamir, addressing the Yeshiva University convention in Jerusalem, was referring to the bitter controversy gripping Israel over the Shin Bet affair.

Avraham Shalom, former head of Shin Bet, Israel's internal security services, has been accused of ordering the deaths of two Arab bus hijackers in custody of security agents on April, 1984 and subsequently engaging in an elaborate cover-up of the case. The government is under orders by the Supreme Court to show cause why it should not launch an investigation into the charges.

Shamir, backed by his Likud party, opposes any inquiry on grounds of State security.

TERRORIST GETS 4-YEAR PRISON TERM

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, July 10 (JTA) — Georges Ibrahim Abdullah, a Lebanese Christian suspected of having masterminded the murders of an Israeli diplomat and an American military attaché here four years ago, was sentenced to four years imprisonment by a Lyon criminal court Thursday.

Abdullah was tried for illegal possession of fire arms and possession of forged passports, relatively minor charges, and there is a possibility that he may be released and expelled from France. He has been in custody since October, 1982, which is applicable to his sentence. French law requires a prisoner to serve two-thirds of a sentence before being eligible for early release.

Abdullah has been in jail less than half the time. But the Justice Ministry could decide to free him now. His attorney, Jacques Verges, who requested immediate release for time served, has hinted at a possible "arrangement" that would involve the release of two French hostages, Marcel Fontaines and Marcel Carton, who have been held by terrorists in Lebanon for over two years.

The French still can try Abdullah for complicity in the murders of Israeli diplomat Yaacov Bar Simantov who was gunned down outside his Paris apartment house in April, 1982 and of Lt. Col. Ray Charles Jr., Deputy Military Attaché at the U.S. Embassy, murdered on January 18, 1982.

10 ACHILLE LAURO HIJACKERS SENTENCED; NONE FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE DEATH OF KLINGHOFFER

GENOA, July 10 (JTA) — Ten Achille Lauro hijackers were given sentences ranging from life to six months imprisonment by a criminal court here Thursday for "kidnapping for terrorist ends which resulted in the death of a person." One defendant, a minor, will be tried separately by a juvenile court. Four others were acquitted.

But none of the accused was found guilty of murder in the death of Leon Klinghoffer, 60, the American Jewish passenger shot in his wheelchair and dumped overboard after the hijackers seized the Italian cruise ship in Egyptian waters last October 7-9. (See separate U.S. State Department reaction story.)

The life sentences were pronounced in absentia on Abu Abbas, 37, leader of the terrorist group known as the Palestine Liberation Front; his "chief of staff" Ouzudin Badratkan, 39; and Omar Al-Zaid, 25, described as the PLF treasurer. They and seven others are still at large and were tried in absentia. Abbas allegedly masterminded the hijack.

Magied Al-Mulqi, a 23-year-old Palestinian accused of killing Klinghoffer and ordering crewmembers to throw his body into the sea, was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment. According to Italian legal experts, the facts surrounding the murder were vague and the evidence too circumstantial to warrant a conviction for murder.

Mulqi, one of the five accused in custody, would in any case have received a life sentence, the maximum penalty allowed under Italian law.

The verdict was decided jointly by a panel of six jurors and two magistrates who began their deliberations Monday after a 17-day trial. It was read to a packed, heavily guarded court by presiding Judge Lino Monteverde.

Ibrahim Abdel Latif, 21, Mulqi's deputy, drew a prison sentence of 24 years and three months. Ahmed Maruf Al-Assadi, who turned states evidence at the trial, was sentenced to 15 years and two months. The

others found guilty drew sentences from six months to seven years and six months in prison. All of the defendants were cleared of charges of "belonging to an armed gang," the blanket charge usually made in cases of terrorist activities.

The three leaders given life terms and the three others given long sentences were ordered by the court to individually pay 30 million Lire (approximately \$20,000) to each of Klinghoffer's two daughters, Ilse and Lisa.

ISRAELI OFFICIALS SAY ISRAEL DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED ITS OWN CLUSTER BOMBS AS LONG AGO AS 1981
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 10 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other officials maintained Thursday that Israel designed and manufactured its own cluster bombs as long ago as 1981 and therefore allegations that it stole American technology for the purpose are patently false. Moreover, the Israelis say, their cluster bombs were offered for sale in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Rabin said on a television interview that Israel developed the weapon for its artillery. It was being test fired in 1982 and quantities were in stock by 1984. He said there was no resemblance between the Israeli and American cluster bombs.

Israeli leaders reacted angrily to reports in the American media this week that the State-owned Israel Military Industries conspired with three private American companies to obtain cluster bomb technology in violation of U.S. law. The U.S. banned the export of cluster bombs to Israel in 1982 after reports that Israel used the deadly anti-personnel weapon in its invasion of Lebanon.

Two Iowa-based companies and one in Pennsylvania are under investigation by the Justice Department and the U.S. Customs Service on suspicion that they acted in collusion with Israeli weapons procurement agents to evade the Arms Export Control Act. The law limits military items that can be exported from the U.S. without an export license.

Premier Shimon Peres was officially informed of the ongoing investigation by U.S. Ambassador to Israel Thomas Pickering on Tuesday night. The Israel Embassy in Washington was also informed by the State Department. Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne met with Michael Armacost, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, at the State Department Thursday. Rosenne would not comment to reporters after he left the meeting.

Rabin Affirms Defense Ministry Statement

The Defense Ministry issued an angry statement Wednesday denouncing the American media for reporting the investigation before it knew the facts.

Rabin affirmed the Defense Ministry's statement that all technology acquired from the U.S. was obtained legally. "All we asked for, and we did so in the most formal manner -- was industrial equipment which, by the way, we could also have obtained in Europe, but out of economic considerations, out of a desire to make beneficial use of the (American) aid money, we preferred the United States," Rabin said.

He added, "We approached them, we asked for export permits. The development and production of bomblets is Israeli ... Many countries have bom-

lets like this. It's not an exclusive American patent. So I am amazed at all the noise that's being made..." By "bomblets" Rabin was referring to the clusters of small bombs contained in a large bomb casing which give the weapon its name.

According to officials here, production of Israel-made cluster bombs was first disclosed in 1981 by Rafael, the Israel Weapons Development Authority, at a press conference. It was reported later by the then Israel Military Attache in Washington, Maj. Gen. Menahem Meron, on a Washington-based cable television interview.

Israel calls its weapon the Tal (Dew) cluster bomb and has described it in promotional literature and press kits as "an ingenious application of classic aerodynamic principles ... resulting in Rafael's development of an improved and highly effective submunition dispersion weapons."

According to the description, "It produces hundreds of explosion centers in a large ground pattern covering as much as 50,000 square meters. Its effective area is up to 40 times greater than that of a general purpose bomb."

TURNER CONFIRMS THAT ISRAEL WAS NOT INVITED TO COMPETE IN GOODWILL GAMES
By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, July 10 (JTA) -- Ted Turner, the free-wheeling entrepreneur whose broadcasting corporation is co-sponsoring with the Soviet government the so-called Goodwill Games now being held in Moscow, confirmed Wednesday night that Israel was not invited to compete in the international sports competition.

"That's right," Turner responded when queried about reports that Israel had not been invited to participate in the Games. Turner, head of the Atlanta-based Turner Broadcasting System, was interviewed by telephone from Moscow on the ABC News television program "Nightline."

Israel, along with South Africa and South Korea, was not invited to participate in the games at the request of the Soviet government, Turner said. This apparently contradicted a statement from an official at the Soviet Mission to the UN who told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on June 30 that "All countries are invited to participate -- there are no restrictions."

Turner also repeated on the "Nightline" broadcast an allegation that Israel was not participating in the sports event being staged in Moscow because Israel did not qualify for invitations. Only the top 10 athletes in any given sport received invitations from the Goodwill Games. Israel only falls into the top 10 in men's basketball, according to Turner.

The World Basketball Championship, now being played in Barcelona, Spain, includes a team from Israel. The basketball games have been incorporated into the Goodwill Games broadcast, TBS vice president, Jim Trahey, told the JTA last week. Although the basketball competition in Spain is the "official" basketball event of the Goodwill Games, South Korea and Israel were not invited to the opening ceremonies in Moscow. South Korea is also playing in the basketball games.

The 16 days of sports events in Moscow is the first major multi-sport competition between the top American and Soviet bloc athletes since the 1976 Montreal Olympics. Both the Soviet Union and the United States have each boycotted one Olympic Game since then for political reasons.

U.S. EXPRESSES SATISFACTION AND REGRET WITH OUTCOME OF THE TRIAL OF THE ACHILLE LAURO HIJACKERS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 10 (JTA) — The United States expressed Thursday both satisfaction with the outcome of the trial in Italy of the hijackers of the Achille Lauro and regret that the person who murdered an American hostage on the cruise ship received only a 30-year sentence. (See related story, P.1.)

"The United States is pleased that persons responsible for the death of an American citizen and injuries and damages to others have been convicted," State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said. "We hope that these convictions will deter terrorist acts in the future."

The Italian jury handed down a life sentence Monday in absentia to Abu Abbas, the head of the terrorist Palestine Liberation Front, who is believed to have masterminded the hijacking of the Achille Lauro. His whereabouts are unknown.

The court gave a 30-year sentence to Magied Al Mulqi, a 23-year-old Palestinian accused of shooting Klinghoffer and ordering crew members to dump his body into the sea. However, neither he nor the others on trial were convicted of murder.

"We note that Abu Abbas got a maximum sentence under Italian law," Kalb said. "We regret that the murder of Leon Klinghoffer was not treated more severely."

Kalb stressed that the U.S. government "has reserved its legal right to seek extradition of the hijackers" once the legal process in Italy is completed. He noted that in Italy both the defense and the prosecution have the right to appeal the sentences given by a jury. He added that successful prosecutions have frequently resulted in more severe sentences after an appeal.

NURSES END THEIR STRIKE

TEL AVIV, July 10 (JTA) — The strike of hospital nurses ended Thursday morning after 18 days of a work stoppage which caused great harm and distress to the public—especially those in need of hospital care.

Representatives of the 11,000 hospital nursing staff angrily rejected suggestions that they had failed in their efforts and had to end their walk-out without obtaining any of their demands, except one they were offered on the second day of their action—recognition of their right to a separate hospital nurses union independent of the General Nurses Union.

The nurses on Wednesday night had agreed to return to work Thursday morning after negotiations started with the Histadrut and representatives of the Health and Finance Ministries, on hospital conditions and ways to attract new nurses to the profession.

But the government and employers said they would only begin negotiations on improving hospital conditions, including the addition of more nurses, but not on the matter of increased wages, after work had begun and the hospital wards were fully staffed.

Nurses spokespersons said they had won their fight for separate recognition and had drawn attention to the plight of the hospitals. They said they would give the employers and the government six weeks to conclude the negotiations. If no progress is reached at that time, they said they would consider their next steps, the nurses spokespersons said.

THE USSR AND MIDEAST PEACE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 11 (JTA) — The Reagan Administration asserted again Thursday that if the Soviet Union wants to be part of the Middle East peace process it should begin by re-establishing diplomatic relations with Israel.

State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said that there is "a long list" of things the Soviet Union can do to "demonstrate a willingness to play a constructive role in the search for a Middle East peace" beginning with "the establishment of relations with the State of Israel." Kalb would not elaborate on the list, but in the past other items have included increased Jewish emigration and an end to harassment of Soviet Jews.

Kalb's remarks came after he rejected a Soviet proposal for a conference on the Middle East comprising the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — The U.S., Soviet Union, France, United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China.

French President Francois Mitterrand said Wednesday at a press conference in Moscow after his talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that Gorbachev had suggested the conference. Mitterrand indicated his support.

But Kalb noted that the "U.S. experience in the past" with meetings preparing for international conferences and the conferences themselves have been that they are used for "posturing and rhetorical excess instead of real hard negotiations."

This was the position taken by the U.S. when King Hussein proposed an international conference that would have included the five Security Council permanent members as a means of negotiating peace with Israel.

3 APPOINTED TO THE ORDER OF CANADA

MONTREAL, July 10 (JTA) — Among the 70 people appointed to the Order of Canada, the country's highest distinction, are Milton Harris, named Officer; Benjamin Kayfetz and Alan Rose, as Members.

Harris is chairman and president of the Harris Steel Group Inc. of Toronto and immediate past president of Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC). He has held numerous positions on local and international organizations and directorships on such boards as those of Air Canada, Livingstone Industries and Canadair Ltd.

Kayfetz recently retired as executive director of the Community Relations Committee of the CJC, having served with Congress since 1947. Kayfetz is currently president of the Toronto Jewish Historical Society. He has written and writes widely in local and international Jewish publications, including the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Rose, executive vice president of the CJC since 1977, is a member of the Governing Board of the World Jewish Congress, the World Jewish Congress Compliance Committee on the Helsinki Final Act, World Praesidium for Soviet Jewry, and Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany Inc. In 1981, Rose was awarded the United States Presidential Citation of Honor as a concentration camp liberator.

NEW YORK (JTA) — Morris Abram, the newly-elected chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and Malcolm Hoenlein, its new executive director, will fly to Israel this weekend to begin a round of meetings with top Israeli government leaders.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA HEBREW CLASSES AT BEIJING UNIVERSITY By Theodor Schuchat

BEIJING, China, July 10 (JTA) -- The Department of Oriental Languages of Beijing University, China's premier institution here at the national capital, offers Japanese, Korean, Burmese, Thai, Mongolian, Arabic -- and now, Modern Hebrew.

When the Ministry of Culture decided that Ivrit would be studied, some of the Chinese teachers of Arabic were expected to teach Hebrew also. They had compiled a Chinese-English-Hebrew dictionary by cutting apart the columns of Reuben Alcalay's Hebrew-English dictionary, adding a column of Chinese characters, and photo-duplicating a dozen copies which were then bound in black cloth.

For some reason, though, an American was employed to inaugurate Hebrew-language instruction in the People's Republic of China (PRC). Michael Mann, a recent graduate of Princeton University where he majored in chemistry, had signed up to teach English for a year at Beijing University. When university officials learned that he was a graduate of the SAR Hebrew day school in The Bronx, New York, and the Ramaz Hebrew high school in Manhattan, they decided he would teach their first class in Ivrit.

When they told him, only two weeks before he was due to leave for China, Mann stuffed some World Zionist Organization teaching materials in his flight bag. He had never taught Hebrew, or anything else, until he went to China.

Learning To Know It

At Beijing University, Kita Alef, the beginners' class, started with 10 students. Although most were assigned to Kita Alef, a few asked to study Ivrit. One young woman came to Kita Alef knowing some Biblical Hebrew. She told Mann she had been taught by an old Chinese gentleman who himself had learned Hebrew from a Christian missionary in Xi'an many years before.

One man in the Chinese Ministry of Culture is known to "have" some Hebrew, learned many years ago, no one knows how or where. Except for a few faculty members at Beijing and perhaps elsewhere, the Hebrew language is unknown among the Chinese, who number one billion, a fourth of the human race.

None of the students in Kita Alef comes from Kaifeng, traditional center of the long-vanished community of Chinese Jews. They knew little or nothing about Jews, Judaism or the State of Israel when they started studying Ivrit.

Whatever these students may have learned earlier -- in school or from the Chinese media, for example -- was presented from the Arab and Third World viewpoint, in accordance with current PRC foreign policy directives.

The Beijing students were assigned to major in Hebrew. Their class in Ivrit meets from eight to ten o'clock every morning, six days a week. In addition to 12 hours of Hebrew language instruction, they attend other classes for a total of 20 hours each week.

They are enrolled in a five-year university program. After they master Hebrew, they will study Jewish history, modern Hebrew literature, Judaism and related matters for 12 hours a week, plus eight hours of other subjects.

Kita Alef uses BeAl Pe, a standard Hebrew teaching text and workbook. Each student has taken a Hebrew name -- Chana, Dan, Dinah, Gershom, Moshe, Shula, Tsiporah, Uzi, Yitzhak and Yosef.

They recite -- reading aloud or practicing the dialogue of their textbook -- shyly, giggling at their mistakes. Mann translates new vocabulary into English, which some of his students studied for as many as eight years before entering the university. In class, however, he speaks mainly in Hebrew, using the Ivrit beivrit method widely employed in Israel and elsewhere. Mann knows only a little Chinese. Words he cannot explain are looked up in the makeshift Chinese-English-Hebrew dictionary.

The Hebrew class meets in a small, bare room lacking the maps of Israel, posters and alphabet charts that typically adorn Hebrew classrooms elsewhere.

Fitting Words To Objects

When I visited, Kita Alef was learning about Israeli pastimes -- kadoor regel, kadoor basis, hakolnoa, hateatron, football, baseball, the cinema, the theater. Musica was discussed intensively, each student telling in Hebrew what he or she prefers to hear -- "pop, classi, symphonit."

Then Kita Alef turned to the geography of Israel. They learned that Tel Aviv al yad hayam, Tel Aviv is beside the sea, haNegev darom shel Yisrael, the Negev is in Israel's South, and that haNegev hamidbar shel Yisrael, the Negev is Israel's desert.

Mann praised every utterance, frequently exclaiming nachon, correct, and tov meod, very good. Considerable "positive reinforcement" of this kind is a hallmark of Israeli ulpan teaching.

Four years from now, the graduates of Kita Alef will be assigned jobs by the Chinese government. The students have no idea where they will be sent or what work they will be told to do. If any of them dream of visiting Israel someday, they did not mention it to me or their teacher. Michael Mann is returning to the United States to enter medical school, but Hebrew classes will be continued at Beijing University. Why?

Hebrew Classes To Continue

The People's Republic of China has no diplomatic relations with the State of Israel. When telecommunications links between the two countries were established recently, the Chinese Foreign Ministry specifically announced that this did not presage any change in China's non-recognition of Israel.

At least 15 million Moslems are believed to live in China, twice as many as when the Communists came to power 40 years ago, but statistics are not firm. Some estimates run as high as 50 million Chinese Moslems, which would equal the population of France.

Whatever their share of the nation's gigantic population, Chinese Moslems predominantly live in sensitive border areas, and fundamentalism is on the rise among them as it is throughout the Islamic world. The government issued the first Chinese-language Koran in 1982, perhaps in response to these facts.

Future Sino-Israeli relations are therefore as uncertain as the job prospects of Kita Alef. Unpredictable as the outlook may be, when I left Beijing on a Chinese government airliner, its tape recorder was playing a familiar song from Fiddler on the Roof, "Sunrise, Sunset."