

LIGHT SENTENCES RECEIVED BY TERRORISTS ON TRIAL IN GENOA AND PARIS EVOKE OUTRAGE

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, July 13 (JTA) — The daughters of slain Achille Lauro cruise ship passenger Leon Klinghoffer expressed outrage here at what they termed the lenient sentence handed down in an Italian court last week to the confessed murderer of their 69-year-old father.

At the same time, the American Jewish Congress and the Jewish Labor Committee assailed the court's lenient sentencing of Magied Al-Mulqi, a 23-year-old Palestinian, to 30 years in prison for the murder of Klinghoffer, a New York Jewish businessman, during the ship's hijacking in October.

The Public Prosecutor's Office in Genoa this weekend filed an appeal against the sentence, which fell short of the recommendations of the State Prosecutor at the trial. Ten of the Achille Lauro hijackers were given sentences ranging from life to six months. One defendant, a minor, will be tried separately by a juvenile court. Four others were acquitted.

In another development, the U.S. Embassy in Paris expressed "surprise" at what it termed the lightness of last Thursday's sentencing to four years in prison of Georges Ibrahim Abdullah, a Lebanese suspected of having masterminded the murders of an Israeli diplomat and an American military attache in Paris four years ago. The sentence was handed down by a Lyon criminal court.

Abdullah was tried for illegal possession of fire arms and possession of forged passports, relatively minor charges. He has been linked with the murders of Israeli diplomat Yaacov Bar Simantov, who was gunned down outside his Paris apartment house in April 1982, and of Lt. Col. Charles Ray, Deputy Military Attache of the U.S. Embassy, murdered on January 18, 1982.

France Angered by U.S. Statement

The Embassy statement, described as somewhat unusual in that it commented critically on French court proceedings, said, "Although Abdullah was not on trial for murder in Lyon, he is associated with a group that has killed or tried to kill several U.S. diplomats."

The statement added that the sentence was "lighter" than those of similar cases in other European countries. "Moreover, according to press reports the prosecutor referred to Abdullah as political. Terrorists should not be allowed to hide behind political labels," the statement said.

The French Foreign Minister, meanwhile, reportedly summoned the American Charge d'Affaires, William Barraclough, to reject the Embassy statement as "unacceptable." The Foreign Minister, Jean-Bernard Raimond, said, "This statement represents a grave misunderstanding of the principle of the independence of justice and constitutes a regrettable interference in French affairs."

The Klinghoffer daughters, Ilisa, 28, and Lisa, 35, held a news conference in New York last Thurs-

day to express their outrage at the court's sentence of their father's murderer. They also called on President Reagan to extradite the Palestinian terrorists convicted of the hijacking to the United States to stand trial here for murder.

"An opportunity has been lost to deliver a clear message to terrorists everywhere that barbaric, criminal acts in the guise of political activism will no longer be tolerated," Ilisa Klinghoffer said.

Lisa Klinghoffer added, "It is not over yet. We call on our President to deliver that message. His courageous initiative in attempting to capture these men and bring them to trial in the U.S. must now be pursued through extradition." The two sisters indicated they were considering appealing the Italian verdicts to seek maximum sentences for all 15 defendants in addition to seeking extradition.

The AJC, in a statement issued by Phil Baum, AJC associate executive director, assailed the court's failure to impose maximum sentences on all the defendants, and accused the court of reflecting an Italian government policy of appeasing Yasir Arafat and Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists.

"The court's explanation of its disgraceful decision only compounds the harm," said Baum. "In accepting defense arguments that the terrorists were 'soldiers fighting for their ideas' who had 'grown up in the tragic conditions that the Palestinian people live through' as an extenuating circumstance, the court in effect granted a moral license to any and all terrorists to kill innocent civilians."

The Jewish Labor Committee's president Herb Magidson, in a statement, said: "This confessed murderer (Al-Mulqi) should have been convicted of premeditated murder and should have been sentenced to life imprisonment — but wasn't. This unconscionable verdict follows on the heels of a trial in which the murderous actions of the accused were legitimized as 'political crimes.' The appeasement of terrorists by European democracies were epitomized by the trial and by (Thursday's) verdict."

BACKGROUND REPORT U.S.-ISRAELI STRATEGIC COOPERATION

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 13 (JTA) — The strategic cooperation relationship between the United States and Israel has been a notable success and is likely to remain solid despite current allegations — firmly denied that Israel tried, illegally, to obtain cluster bomb technology in the U.S.

That was the consensus of American and Israeli experts who met at a conference here last week sponsored by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. The subject was defense strategy in the Eastern Mediterranean. A group of Israeli military correspondents participated in the discussion.

Much hitherto undisclosed information emerged on the workings of strategic cooperation between the two countries. Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin spoke at length of the benefits that accrued to the U.S. from that relationship in recent years. Samuel Lewis, former U.S. Ambassador to Israel revealed for the first time publicly how strategic cooperation almost foundered.

He also offered what he stressed was "purely my hypothesis" of what lay behind suspected leakages to the media in the cluster bomb case and earlier instances of alleged Israeli practices with regard to military technology which appeared to overstep the boundaries of good faith between two allies.

Rabin Expresses Perplexity

The allegations that Israel conspired with three private American companies to obtain cluster bombs which the U.S. banned from export to Israel in 1982, appeared in the American media while the conference was under way. Rabin admitted he was perplexed by the allegations as he was by "the fairy tale" last April that Israel was smuggling U.S. weapons to Iran.

Both stories broke against the background of the Jonathan Pollard spy case. "It is beyond my understanding," Rabin said. "It looks as though some people, somewhere, try to find out of nowhere stories which will undermine the (U.S.-Israel) relationship and put pressure on American industries, threaten them not to cooperate with Israel."

Lewis, who last year ended an eight-year tour of duty as Ambassador to Israel, said he was also puzzled by the recent charges. "Let me give you a hypothesis -- it is purely my hypothesis -- from living in the States for the last year and here for the eight years before that," he said.

He said the strategic relationship had to be seen "in the context of a steady rise in defense assistance grants to Israel over the last several years, to a very large amount today, and a very large proportion of our total foreign aid ... and to the perception in some areas of the press and in some of those who have always been unsympathetic to Israel."

A 'Blank Check' Relationship

According to Lewis, Israel's relationship with the Reagan Administration has become so close "that it amounts to a blank check -- a blank check because it admires Israel and its leaders -- that American political leaders in this era have winked at or ignored a lot of Israeli practices in the U.S. related to technology and information which with any other country would have led to prosecutions."

Lewis added, "Now that perception, I would argue, is rather widespread in the foreign policy bureaucracies in Washington, the State Department, here and there in the Pentagon, the CIA, Congressional staffs, even some Congressmen. At the same time, you have a President and a Secretary of State and even a Secretary of Defense and other senior leaders determinedly anxious to maintain a very close relationship with Israel, for our interests as well as Israel's."

"And at the same time you have in the law enforcement agencies of the government -- Customs, Justice, FBI -- as in any security agencies -- a lot of open files, suspicions which have been aroused in years past about things that go back as far as the famous nuclear diversion issue in Pennsylvania and the Krytron case and others."

"And you know that law enforcement agencies follow their noses. They smell something, they get some evidence, whether it's good or bad, they want to pursue the case to the end ... Yet because of the political closeness and their sense that it is not politically wise to be seen as violating the general line of the Administration, my guess is that a number of files have just been left open for quite a while ..."

"What happened here, I suspect, is that the Pollard case suddenly made it kosher for the law

enforcement agencies to come out of the woodwork and begin pursuing some of the cases that they felt politically constrained not to pursue before," Lewis said.

Some Earlier Incidents

Pollard, a civilian analyst employed by the U.S. Navy, confessed to spying for Israel. Israel has contended that his was a rogue operation, an isolated case without official sanction or knowledge.

The "nuclear diversion" referred to by Lewis was a case that broke in 1968 when the CIA suspected that Israeli agents stole uranium for nuclear weapons from a Pennsylvania plant. Krytrons are switches that can be used to trigger nuclear bombs. An American exporter was indicted in 1985 for sending 810 of them to Israel. Israel said they were for non-nuclear purposes.

Last December, Customs agents raided several military contractors' plants suspected of illegally shipping advanced combat tank armor technology to Israel. An investigation subsequently found no misconduct on Israel's part, but the raids had been leaked to the press.

Angered By Leaks To The Media

Rabin and other Israeli officials have been angered by the leaks on the cluster bomb case which were carried by the media before Israel was able to issue its denials.

Lewis stated that in his opinion "there is clearly nobody at high levels in this Administration who wants to do in Israel or embarrass Israel because it is totally contrary to the mind set and policy set of President Reagan and his immediate advisers." He added, "I think there is some damage, inevitably. But I think it is pretty transitory and will be overtaken by the next Middle East crisis."

Rabin engaged in his own damage control by stating for the record what the U.S. has gained from its strategic cooperation relationship with Israel.

"These days there is so much talk about Israel's smuggling technical know-how," he said. "I can't but refer to the unique Israeli contribution to the American people, to the American armed forces ... We are the only ones who unfortunately have combat experience of the most advanced American weaponry against the most advanced Russian weaponry. Where else have you had contacts between F-15s and F-16s against MIG-23s, MIG-21s, Sukhoi-22s?"

"Where in the world have you ever experienced, since your raid on Libya, how to cope with ground-to-air missiles -- Sam-2s, Sam-3s, Sam-6s, Sam-8s, Sam-9s ... Where else could the U.S. collect the kind of information which is related not only to electronic beeps but to electronic beeps in operation? Where else could the U.S. collect encounters with the Russian weaponry in the way it could be collected through cooperation with Israel ... We have passed it on to the U.S. as part of our partnership ..."

First Strategic Cooperation Accord Failed

Lewis said the first agreement on strategic cooperation failed because then Premier Menachem Begin and his Defense Minister, Ariel Sharon, tried for too much. This was in 1981 when Begin and Sharon met at the White House with Reagan and his top aides. Begin made a general presentation with which Reagan agreed. Begin suggested that Sharon should describe in more detail what he had in mind.

"Up until this point everything had gone very nicely. This is where it went off the track," Lewis said. "The Defense Minister described the scope of strategic

cooperation which ought to be elaborated between our countries in very grandiose, far-reaching terms. He suggested roles Israel might play for the mutual benefit of the alliance which sent cold shivers down the backs of most of the people on the American side ... and maybe even some on the Israeli side."

Lewis said the result was that Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger saw to it that the agreement was a useless piece of paper. "Two years later, in 1983, there was a major change in the American approach. We have succeeded this time around so far because both sides have learned from our mistakes in round one," the former envoy said.

CABINET TO DECIDE HOW TO ISSUE TO HIGH COURT ON SHIN BET ISSUE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 13 (JTA) — The mounting dispute between Labor and Likud over whether to launch an official inquiry into the Shin Bet affair is expected to come to a head when the Cabinet meets in special session Monday to decide how to respond to the Supreme Court on the issue.

The court on July 1 gave the government two weeks to show cause why the police inquiry ordered by former Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir should not proceed. Zamir's successor, Yosef Harish informed the Cabinet Sunday that he would order the police to start an investigation unless the government decides to establish a judicial commission of inquiry.

The Labor bloc was said Sunday to unanimously favor a judicial inquiry. Likud ministers stand firmly behind Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir in opposition to any kind of inquiry. If the main coalition partners remain deadlocked, the issue may be decided by the swing votes of the two religious ministers, Yosef Burg of the National Religious Party and Yitzhak Peretz of the Shas Party.

An investigation would look into allegations that Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom and three of his senior aides were criminally implicated in the unexplained deaths of two Arab bus hijackers in custody of security agents in April 1984 and engaged in an elaborate cover-up of the incident. Shin Bet is Israel's internal security service.

Zamir ordered a police probe which was rescinded when Harish replaced him last month. President Chaim Herzog, meanwhile, granted blanket pardons to Shalom and his aides for any illegalities they may have committed. The four men, all of whom resigned from Shin Bet, were never formally charged with any offense and the pardons have been challenged before the Supreme Court.

Attorney General Favors Judicial Probe

Harish told the Cabinet Sunday that he preferred a judicial inquiry to a police investigation. He made it clear that he would have no option but to order a police probe if the Cabinet remained undecided because he fully expects the high court to demand an investigation. Harish said a judicial commission could be given carefully constructed terms of reference to avoid security sensitive issues. A police investigation would be less discreet, he said.

The Attorney General's frank appraisal is believed to have convinced Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin, who had doubts about an inquiry, to support a judicial commission.

IDB OFFICIAL TO BE REMOVED FROM POST

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 13 (JTA) — The Cabinet Sunday gave Bank of Israel Governor Michael Bruno a free hand to remove Raphael Recanatani from his office as managing director of the Israel Discount Bank in compliance with recommendations of a commission of inquiry into the 1983 bank shares scandal.

Recanatani is the only top executive of Israel's five largest banks who has refused to step down voluntarily. The Cabinet decided, reportedly by a 12-5 majority, that he must go. The vote followed five hours of acrimonious debate. Seven ministers abstained, including Premier Shimon Peres.

The decision was a victory for Bruno who staked his prestige on the Cabinet's support for Recanatani's removal. There was no immediate reaction from the bank. But a Board member, Yehoshua Rothenstreich, told reporters that the Cabinet's decision "radically changed the situation." He intimated that Recanatani would be asked to resign by the Board which hitherto has backed him.

The commission of inquiry, headed by Supreme Court Justice Chaim Beisky, found the Israel Discount Bank and the country's four other major banks guilty of misleading investors by grossly inflating the price of their shares, precipitating a financial panic when bank shares collapsed in the fall of 1983. The Israel Discount Bank has been owned by the Recanatani family for 50 years.

ARAB TERRORIST INADVERTENTLY FREED

TEL AVIV, July 13 (JTA) — An Arab terrorist between jail terms was inadvertently freed last week and Police Commissioner Rafi Suissa has ordered an inquiry to find out how it happened.

The prisoner, not identified by name, had completed a prison term for one offense and was awaiting trial on charges of entering the country illegally to commit a terrorist act. Instead of going to court he was included in a group of three other Arab prisoners being expelled to Egypt.

The four were turned loose at the border in dead of night since Egypt would not officially accept them. Prison sources said the mix-up occurred because the man awaiting trial had a name similar to a prisoner about to be released.

PERES OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PEACE

JERUSALEM, July 13 (JTA) — Premier Shimon Peres believes that King Hussein of Jordan is laying the groundwork for peace negotiations with Israel and that Israel and Egypt are nearing a settlement of their border dispute over Taba.

He expressed those views at a meeting with Sen. James Sasser (D. Tenn.) and a group of American businessmen visiting Israel. "We are nearing an end to the Taba border dispute and are thereby preventing a worsening of relations" between Israel and Egypt, he said.

He said Hussein's decision to sever ties with the Palestine Liberation Organization's leadership — PLO offices in Amman were shut down last week — and to improve his standing with the Palestinians in the West Bank are steps to prepare the ground for peace negotiations.

"We are advancing, albeit slowly, in the right direction," the Premier told his visitors. "The attainment of peace is more complex than declaration of war and we are determined in our efforts toward peace and the prevention of war," he said.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW GAINING A RENEWED SENSE OF JUDAISM By Marlene Goldman

NEW YORK, July 13 (JTA) -- What better time to explore the educational, cultural and spiritual aspects of Judaism than during the summer? That's the philosophy adopted by the National Havurah Committee which is sponsoring its 11th Havurah Summer Institute July 14-20 at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania.

More than 300 Jewish adults, teens and children will gather for a week of intensive Jewish study, experience, celebration and community to gain a renewed sense of Judaism, according to Mordechai Liebling, executive director of the Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot and co-chairman of the program.

"This is the time of the year when everybody's batteries run down," Liebling said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "It's important to recharge your batteries with respect to Judaism."

Each participant is required to enroll in two sessions of classes, each with four scheduled meetings. The 28 topics offered by the Institute range from "Pardes: Working with Torah Texts on Four Levels" to "Sensuality and Spirituality in the Poetry of Jewish Women." The main dilemma for most of the Jews involved was not finding a topic of interest, but deciding which of the courses to choose.

Classes are college and adult education level, according to Liebling, and the instructors are often experienced Hebrew school teachers. "The program was designed to provide an atmosphere for teacher-student interaction and a setting to be able to conduct intensive adult education in a matter of Jewish life at a fairly high level otherwise unavailable," Liebling explained.

A Host Of Workshops And Study Sessions

Afternoons will be spent in various workshops focusing on Jewish religious skills, such as reading Torah, choir, art and dance groups, research projects and discussion on the Havurah movement. There is very little free time for the participants and even the evening hours are cramped with activity.

The first two nights offer entertainment, both musical and dramatic. Another evening features a fund-raising auction for Institute scholarships.

The Institute has also planned daily "Beit Midrash" communal study sessions modeled after traditional Eastern European Jewish study houses, and an evening of community-wide discussion, designed to have people recognize the denominational differences within the community and begin increased tolerance.

Growth of a communal atmosphere culminates with the celebration of Shabbat. On Friday evening, the Institute conducts a Kabbalat Shabbat service which blends traditional prayer and new blessings. "It's a service we hope all liberal Jews feel comfortable with," said Liebling.

Since the Shabbat is geared toward the whole community, which comprises members of all denominations, various minyanim are available. While the Institute welcomes participants from all backgrounds, a fundamental commitment of the Havurah movement to egalitarianism and minyanim organized by the planning committee will include equal participation by men and women.

Havurot, the Hebrew word for "fellowship," is not a denomination and according to Liebling is

"post-denominational," meaning it transcends denominations. Those affiliated with Havurah may belong to synagogues of any denomination or may exist independently.

The nearly two-decade-old movement is based on the idea that Jewish lay people should "learn to do Jewish for themselves." Its principle tenets include the belief that all Jews have an opportunity to examine Jewish tradition and make it meaningful in contemporary contexts.

In the beginning, Havurah members were young, well-educated, secularly and often alienated from the Jewish community. They formed their own community for the warmth and interpersonal relationships they felt were lacking in the synagogues and temples. Now Havurah has grown into a more mainstream group that co-exists with all movements.

The National Havurah Committee in past years held several Summer Institutes in various locations. "This year we decided to have only one larger consolidated one," said Liebling.

One of the major differences in each year's program according to Liebling, is the focus of the classes and discussions. This year's theme is liturgical relationships and changes in liturgy. There is also a separate children's program relating to friends as a community and a community as friends.

The special guest for this year's Institute, which is chaired by Liebling, his wife, Devorah Bartnoff, rabbi for Congregation Am-Haskalah in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and Dr. Moshe Waldoks, a professor of Jewish Studies at Clark University in Boston, is Avraham Burg, advisor to Prime Minister Shimon Peres on diaspora affairs and a leading advocate for pluralism in Jewish life.

Liebling believes the teachers and students in the program will further the Havurah movement. "This will strengthen Havurah around the country," he said.

CATHOLIC LEADER URGES REAGAN TO NIX MOVE OF U.S. EMBASSY IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, July 13 (JTA) -- President Reagan has been urged by the head of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops to veto legislation that would force the United States Embassy in Israel to be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Bishop James Malone wrote in a letter last weekend to Reagan that "We believe such a unilateral move would fail to address the special significance Jerusalem holds for Moslems, Jews and Christians and it would present yet another obstacle (for) Middle East peace."

The letter was quoted in the Catholic New York, John Cardinal O'Connor's archdiocesan newspaper. Sen. Jesse Helms (R. N.C.) is proposing an amendment that would require the Embassy location transfer. Malone is president of the 350-member conference, which includes O'Connor of New York.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Three Israeli banking firms are among the 500 largest international companies listed in the annual Forbes Foreign 500 rankings. Tel Aviv is also listed among the cities headquartered some of the 500 largest firms. According to the prestigious Forbes listing, appearing in its July 28 issue, the three firms are Bank Hapoalim, ranked 51 in 1985 (17 in 1984); Bank Leumi, ranked 98 in 1985 (49 in 1984); and IDB Bankholding Corp., ranked 235 in 1985 (112 in 1984). Tel Aviv is listed as home to these three banks.