

ISRAELI AIR FORCE JETS ATTACK TERRORIST TARGETS NEAR BEIRUT By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Israel Air Force jets attacked terrorist targets in Lebanon south of Beirut Tuesday and returned safely to their bases, a military spokesman said. He said all the bases hit were on mountain tops, away from populated areas. They reportedly included headquarters and staging areas of the Popular Front organization and buildings that housed a unit of the Abu Musa faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Beirut Radio reported Tuesday that the targets were near Baissour, Aidat, Khaifun, Shmilan and Aramon and that the attacks left them ablaze.

There was apparently no direct connection between the air raids and recent attacks in south Lebanon on the French contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA). (See separate story from the United Nations.)

Security sources in Sidon said Tuesday that many villagers north of the south Lebanon security zone were fleeing the area following heavy artillery bombardments by the SLA Monday night. The shelling continued Tuesday morning, aimed at several villages northeast of Nabatiya.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin visited SLA positions in south Lebanon Tuesday. He said the responsibility for the recent attacks on the SLA by the extremist Shiite Moslem Hezbollah rested more with Iran than with Syria.

SHAMIR SAYS PERES' MEETING WITH SHEVARDNADE BEGAN A PROCESS THAT CAN LEAD TO NORMAL ISRAEL-USSR RELATIONS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 23 (JTA)-- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir appears to agree with Premier Shimon Peres that Peres' meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in New York Monday began a process that could lead to normal relations between Israel and the Soviet Union.

Shamir called the meeting an encouraging step toward renewed contacts between Israeli and Soviet representatives and said it was in Israel's interests to have normal relations with the Soviet Union. He spoke to reporters at Ben Gurion Airport before his departure at midnight for the U.S., a few hours before Peres arrived at the airport from an eight-day visit to the U.S. and Canada.

Shamir, who switches jobs with Peres next month under the Labor-Likud rotation of power agreement, will attend the 41st session of the United Nations General Assembly. He said he would be meeting with the Foreign Ministers of 25-30 countries, including some from the Soviet bloc, Africa and Asia with which Israel has no diplomatic relations. Shamir began a hectic round of meetings in New York Tuesday. (See related story.) Peres told reporters on landing early Tuesday morning that his trip to the U.S. had been fruitful and made possible the continuation

of his government's policies in both economic and political fields. He said the American Administration responded positively to Israel's economic proposals which focussed on investment rather than additional financial aid.

Politically, Peres said, the foundations were laid for continuing the peace process in the Middle East which, in itself, is a contribution to peace. He said an international peace conference remains on the agenda.

Peres added little by way of detail to his remarks in New York Monday about his meeting with Shevardnadze. He said there was agreement between himself and the Soviet Foreign Minister to continue taking steps to normalize relations between their countries.

"Many things were opened in the talk, but I cannot say that they were also finalized," Peres said. "I cannot say we have reached a solution on the subject (of Jewish emigration from the USSR), but it has opened an operational opportunity-- an operational window--namely, that we can go and continue our talks and see if we can reach a common ground."

ISRAELI ENVOY DEFENDS SOUTH LEBANON SECURITY AS INDISPENSABLE TO THE PEACE ALONG LEBANON-ISRAEL BORDER By Margie Olster

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, strongly defended the south Lebanon security zone at a meeting of the Security Council Monday night. He said if it did not exist, "south Lebanon and northern Israel would again face an intolerable situation. A terrible violence would once again be unleashed."

The Security Council convened at the request of France to debate the future of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) of which the French contingent is the largest-- 1,391 men of a total of 5,827. Four French UNIFIL soldiers have been killed in recent attacks and 33 wounded. Netanyahu, in his speech, rejected vigorously the contention that UNIFIL was made vulnerable because Israel refuses to allow it to deploy southwards to the international border -- meaning in essence, abandonment of the security zone.

The allegation was contained in a report to the Security Council on UNIFIL's problems, issued last Friday. Netanyahu said the report was misguided in blaming Israel for those problems. He maintained in his speech that the attacks on UNIFIL originate "overwhelmingly" from "the Shiite terror organization known as Hezbollah ... (the) so-called 'Party of God'."

He charged that Hezbollah is equipped, financed, inspired and motivated by the Iranian regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and by Syria. "All of us remember its barbaric attacks against the multinational peacekeepers, as the spearhead of the Syrian effort to expel this force from Lebanon. Iran, of course was an enthusiastic partner to this perfidy," the Israeli envoy declared.

He said "Hezbollah focusses on UNIFIL as part of Khomeini's policy to expel all Western

forces from Lebanon to facilitate its becoming an Islamic republic." He quoted from religious edicts of Shiite extremists which called for the "killing of Frenchmen at every opportunity."

If the French decide to withdraw their troops, the UNIFIL force would fall apart, Netanyahu said. He said France was seriously considering this option. The French contingent has in fact been redeployed to a safer area in south Lebanon and its positions taken over by Nepalese troops.

Only Israel Can Prevent Shiite Attacks

Netanyahu told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency after the debate that UNIFIL cannot realistically deploy to the Israel-Lebanon border because Israel is the only power that can prevent attacks by Shiite extremists and Palestinian terrorists on Israel's population.

Nevertheless, he said, Israel does not want to see UNIFIL evacuate the area or change positions. He said the U.S. understands Israel's policy in south Lebanon and also wants the status quo to remain.

According to Netanyahu, the underlying issue in the Security Council debate lies in the inherent contradiction of having a peace-keeping force in a region where there is no peace to keep. "UNIFIL is caught in the contradiction" and Israel is not leaving south Lebanon in the immediate future, he told the JTA.

Outlines Israel's Goal

In his Security Council speech, Netanyahu declared that Israel "will continue to do what is necessary to protect the lives and safety of our citizens. That is our goal, our only goal, vis-a-vis Lebanon. And we shall continue to work with any party in Lebanon genuinely interested in securing peace in this area."

He added: "UNIFIL has tried to assist in this objective. It has suffered painful casualties in the process. Although we did not request UNIFIL's establishment, everyone in Israel shares the grief of the bereaved families and their governments. We cannot and must not, however, expect UNIFIL to defend Israel. This was never and cannot be UNIFIL's purpose."

Meanwhile, France has asked the Security Council to adopt a resolution calling on Israel to withdraw from the security zone within 15 days after the resolution is passed.

SOUTH LEBANON REMAINS TENSE BUT RELATIVELY QUIET By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 23 (JTA)-- Military sources said Tuesday that south Lebanon remained tense but relatively quiet. The sources said there was no large-scale movement by the Israel Defense Force in the border security zone. Reports in the overseas media earlier said Israel was massing troops and equipment there.

The sources said that whatever movement there was, was of a tactical nature and involved small quantities of equipment. Nevertheless, Israel is bolstering the South Lebanon Army (SLA) which operates in the security zone. Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin vowed Monday night that Israel would protect the SLA and thwart any attacks on it in the security zone.

"We will increase our backing of the SLA whenever terrorist activities increase and we will reduce our activities when the activities of the

terrorist groups are reduced," Rabin told a convention of disabled war veterans in Kibbutz Geva. "I believe that the essence of our policy at present is to create conditions that will give support to the SLA," he said.

"If its (SLA) positions are attacked again, we shall do the utmost to bring about the total and painful failure of those who attack them or to anyone who tries to carry out any attack on the security zone or targets in Israel," the Defense Minister added.

The SLA is a largely Christian Lebanese force commanded by Gen. Antoine Lahad which Israel has supported since the withdrawal of IDF troops from south Lebanon a year ago. It has been the target of attack at different times by the Shiite Moslem mainstream militia, Amal, by Shiite extremist groups and Palestinian terrorists.

Strong SLA Force Favored

Rabin said on a television interview Sunday night that Israel would like to see a strong, viable SLA capable of fulfilling its assigned role in the security zone as part of Israel's comprehensive security strategy. He said it must be made clear that any attacks on the SLA would result in severe punishment for the attackers.

Meanwhile, it is the French contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) which has borne the brunt of attacks in south Lebanon. It has suffered four killed and 33 wounded over the past six weeks. On Tuesday morning, four Katyusha rockets hit French headquarters at Ma'areke, 10 kilometers east of Tyre. There were no casualties.

Asked on Sunday to comment on charges that Israel's refusal to allow UNIFIL to extend its area of operations southward to the international border was responsible for the attacks on the French, Rabin replied that there is neither proof nor any basis for that claim.

EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO HERZOG By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Mohammed Bassiouny, Egypt's new Ambassador to Israel, presented his credentials to President Chaim Herzog Tuesday. The ceremonies at the Presidential residence marked the restoration of top-level Egyptian diplomatic representation in Israel for the first time since Cairo recalled its former Ambassador, Saad Mortada, during Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Bassiouny remained in Tel Aviv at that time and for the next four years as Charge d' Affaires. His appointment as Ambassador was announced at the summit meeting between Premier Shimon Peres and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in Alexandria two weeks ago.

The new envoy arrived at the Presidential residence in a car provided by Herzog. As he alighted, the Egyptian flag was raised and the Egyptian national anthem was played. Bassiouny reviewed a military police guard of honor. He was accompanied by members of the Egyptian Embassy staff in Tel Aviv.

They were greeted by Herzog, Deputy Foreign Minister Ronni Milo and David Kimche, Director General of the Foreign Ministry. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir is in New York. Bassiouny brought a message from President Mubarak. In his brief remarks, he expressed hope that the improvement in relations between Egypt and Israel

would continue and that a just peace settlement would be found in the Middle East.

Herzog said in reply that he hoped he would soon be able to receive the credentials of Ambassadors from all of the Arab states.

SOVIET JEWISH WOMAN CAUGHT IN A CAT-AND-MOUSE GAME

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- A Soviet Jewish woman, whose brother is gravely ill in Tel Aviv, has been caught up in a bureaucratic cat-and-mouse game in which she faces a tragic dilemma of having to choose between her brother and her husband.

Inessa Flerova, 37, of Moscow, is the only person who might be capable of donating bone marrow to her brother, Michael Shirman, 31, who is stricken with myeloid leukemia, a bone marrow malignancy that is fatal in young adults. His sole chance for survival of the disease rests in the successful transplant of bone marrow from a close relative.

Flerova, after staging a hunger strike last month that attracted international publicity and prompted the intervention of American Congressmen, was granted a visa to immigrate to Israel with her two daughters. But, in a nightmare of Kafkaesque proportions, Soviet authorities refused to allow her husband, Victor Flerov, to accompany his family.

Flerov's visa is being held back on grounds that his father has allegedly withheld the necessary written statement absolving his 38-year-old son of financial obligations. Flerov has not seen his father since he was very young, according to family accounts.

Word came from Tel Aviv Monday that Flerov has begun a hunger strike to protest the Soviet authorities' refusal to allow him to join his family in going to Israel.

Visa Request Beseet By Obstacles

Initially, Flerova did not request permission to emigrate, only a temporary visa that would allow her to go to Israel for testing for compatibility and, possible bone marrow transplant.

Her application for that permission was beseet by a series of obstacles, according to Shirman himself, in letters he has written to an American doctor, Kenneth Prager, and to Prager's New Jersey Congressman, Robert Torricelli, both of whom have intervened through written petitions to Soviet officials, to American government officials in the highest echelons, and to the doctors who attended to the victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Shirman says his sister's request to OVIR, the Soviet emigration office, for a temporary visa to go to Israel unaccompanied was rejected on two separate occasions; that her personal request to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev went unanswered; that the authorities pressed her for her entire family to apply for visas; and that the family was pressed to apply to emigrate, ostensibly a longer process and a complicated one, taking up precious time that was so necessary for Shirman's life.

Shirman says that the Flerovs' application for a visa has rendered the family "enemies of the people" and has affected their lives terribly. Flerova's request for a "character reference" from work (she is an economist) was rejected and has caused her to be "brutally persecuted" at her job

by "senior functionaries ... waging a shameful campaign of humiliation and slander against her," Shirman said. Shirman, in letters to Prager and Torricelli, wrote that "I am not at peace with myself" because he feels that he is "the cause of sorrows being visited upon her (Flerova) and her family." Shirman had telephoned his sister in Moscow and asked that the family not be separated for his sake.

Prager, a cardio-pulmonary specialist at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York, became familiar with the Flerova-Shirman case while in Moscow in March and April.

Prager stressed the desperate nature of Shirman's case. At this point, time is absolutely of the essence, he said. With each passing day, Shirman's chances of survival grow slimmer and slimmer. What was diagnosed in February as a 70 percent chance of survival if the transplant was done then has dwindled to about 30 percent, according to medical evaluations.

SHAMIR HAS HECTIC SCHEDULE IN NEW YORK By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir arrived here Tuesday for a hectic round of talks with 30 Foreign Ministers and Secretary of State George Shultz in addition to an address before the UN General Assembly scheduled for September 30.

Shamir said the agenda for his week-long visit includes meetings with representatives of four Soviet-bloc countries, among them the Polish Foreign Minister, to discuss renewed diplomatic ties between Poland and Israel. Poland, and Israel are set to establish interest sections and exchange representatives in mid-October, Shamir said.

In a meeting scheduled with the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Shamir said he expects to further discuss the subjects decided on at the summit meeting in Alexandria between Israeli Premier Shimon Peres and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and the Taba question.

The Israeli Foreign Minister, who will resume the Premiership next month under the rotation agreement of Israel's unity government, said he will confer with some African and Asian countries which do not have diplomatic relations with Israel. Shamir intimated that some of these countries, however, are showing quiet interest in resuming such ties.

Shamir's address to the UN September 30 as well as his meetings with representatives of various countries will cover the gamut of official policies of the unity government, he said.

Shamir said time constraints would prevent him from meeting with any Jewish organizations.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) issued a reminder to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution who worked as forced laborers in factories of Dynamit-Nobel or Verwertchemie that the deadline for the registration of claims is December 31, 1986. Claims are to be filed with Compensation Treuhand, Grunenburgweg 119, 6000 Frankfurt, West Germany. They should contain factual information concerning the time, place, and circumstances surrounding forced labor for Dynamit-Nobel or Verwertchemie.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA AN UNHOLY GATHERING AT A HOLY SITE By Hershel Shanks

(Editor's note: Hershel Shanks is editor of Biblical Archaeology Review, located in Washington, D.C.)

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Although it is already old news in the Arab papers, it has not received coverage in the Jewish press.

This year the four-day Moslem observance of Eid-al-Adha fell on August 16-19, marking the end of Ramadan, the 30-day period when the Moslem faithful fast from sunrise to sunset.

The festival of Eid-al-Adha is the time of the haj, the pilgrimage to Mecca which every Moslem is enjoined to make at least once in his lifetime, circumstances permitting.

According to the Saudi Gazette, 856,718 Moslem pilgrims from 119 countries converged for the haj on Mecca, the holiest of holy sites, and the proceedings went without a hitch.

The most important ritual of the haj is the supplication of the faithful on the Plain of Arafat, where the Prophet himself delivered his last sermon. Temperatures reached 113 degrees Fahrenheit; ambulances roamed the area to care for sunstroke victims.

The pilgrims' descent to the Plain of Arafat from the height of Mina was supervised by King Fahd himself. In the words of the Saudi Gazette, this was to "ensure that everything is running the perfect way."

Sermon Denounces Jews

The principal sermon of the festival was delivered by Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bin Abdallah Al-Sheikh from the Al-Nimrah Mosque in the Plain of Arafat. The proceedings were broadcast live in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman and elsewhere. They were also translated into English, French, Urdu, Persian, Indonesian, Somali, Turkish and other languages.

The Sheikh urged the devout, who, according to the Saudi Gazette listened with "rapt attention," to adhere to the Koran and to fear God. "The fear of God by man will have positive effects during his lifetime and hereafter."

"Enemies rose up against the Prophet's (Mohammed's) call, but God made him triumph," the Sheikh's sermon continued.

The Jews are the "enemies" of Moslem unity, the faithful were told. The Jews "always attempt to divide the Muslim people and their united world, so that they can dominate them."

"The animosity of the Jews against this religion and its followers will continue till the Doomsday," according to the Sheikh. But, he added, there is a purpose to the struggle: "The Almighty created the conflict between the right and wrong to purify the faith of the believer."

NON-ALIGNED DECLARATION CONDEMNS ISRAEL

HARARE, Zimbabwe, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- The final declaration of the eighth summit of the non-aligned countries, which was held here earlier this month, included repeated condemnations of Israeli policies and continued support for the "struggle against Zionism," the World Jewish Congress reported.

According to the WJC spokesman here, the Harare declaration included a four-part final document in which the non-aligned expressed itself on the Middle East in explicit anti-Israel terms. Included in this political declaration were the following points.

- * Demand for "the total and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all Palestinian and other Arab territories it has occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem."

- * Support for the PLO as the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people" and their right "to establish a sovereign independent state in Palestine."

- * Condemnation of "Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the continued Israeli occupation of parts of the country" as well as sharp condemnation of "the inhuman practices of the occupation forces in Lebanon."

- * Deterioration of the Middle East situation is "caused by Israel's continued practice of aggressive and expansionist policies in the region, which pose a grave threat to international peace and security."

- * Israel's 1981 strike against Iraq's nuclear reactor was sharply denounced and the United Nations Security Council was asked "to take effective measures to ensure Israel refrains from strikes or threats to nuclear installations in Iraq or elsewhere."

The WJC said there was "little new" in this declaration. "It is the same sorry anti-Israel pronouncements we have seen in the declarations of previous years," the WJC spokesman added.

PLO PRESENCE AT ICAO CONFERENCE DRAWS PROTEST FROM CANADIAN JEWISH GROUP

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Congress has protested to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney against the presence of the Palestine Liberation Organization at the executive meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) which opened in Montreal Tuesday.

CJC president, Dorothy Reitman said in a telegram to Mulroney Monday that "their (PLO) presence is unacceptable at all times, more particularly now in the wake of recent terrorist acts in Pakistan, Turkey and France." She urged the Prime Minister to bar the PLO from Canada "because their presence here endangers the Jews of Canada."

The PLO is represented at the ICAO meeting by O.H. Murad, who has the status of observer without voting rights. Canada and Israel are expected to present a detailed report at the meeting on measures to combat terrorism.

The Israeli delegation is headed by Chalom Schirman, Israel's Consul General in Montreal. It also consists of Vice Consul Moshe Kimche and two representatives of the Ministry of Transport in Jerusalem, Shafia Shohami and Itzhak Elster.

The ICAO is an agency of the United Nations. The meeting will last three weeks.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Work was normal in hospitals throughout Israel Tuesday as nurses, who had walked off their shifts Monday, returned to the wards to allow negotiations to continue with the Histadrut and the employers.