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No. 215

BOMB EXPLODES AT ANTWERP SYNAGOGUE

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A police spokesman said the explosive was placed outside the main entrance. No messages were found and as of late afternoon Tuesday no group claimed responsibility. Two caretakers who live behind the synagogue said they heard no suspicious noises during the night.

The bomb destroyed the synagogue gate and shattered its windows and those of neighboring buildings. Antwerp has a large Jewish community. Six years ago, terrorists attacked a group of Jewish children waiting to board a bus for a summer camp. One child was killed and a dozen were seriously injured.

SANCTIONS AGAINST SYRIA APPROVED BY 11 OF THE 12 EEC MEMBER-STATES By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Eleven of the 12 European Economic Community (EEC) memberstates agreed Monday to sanctions against Syria on the basis of Britain's charge that the Damascus government was involved with terrorist acts.

Only Greece refused to condemn Syria or vote for the four-point sanctions program at the EEC's Ministers Conference in London, hosted by British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe. The sanctions themselves are considerably less than Britain demanded at an earlier EEC Ministers conference in Luxembourg last month.

They call for a total ban on arms sales to Syria; suspension of high-level exchange visits between Syria and EEC countries; police surveillance of Syrian diplomatic missions; and security controls on the Syrian Arab Airlines.

Britain broke diplomatic relations with Syria on October 24, after charging that the Syrian Ambassador in London and his staff acted in collusion with Nezar Hindawi, the Jordanian national convicted of attempting to smuggle explosives aboard an El Al airliner at Heathrow Airport last April 17.

At the Luxembourg meeting, Howe had urged his EEC partners to follow Britain's lead, or at very least recall their Ambassadors from Damascus. In London Monday, he agreed to accept watered-down sanctions in order, reportedly, to overcome the objections of Spain, Italy, France and West Germany.

The EEC Council of Ministers will set up an ad hoc working committee to implement the sanctions. But they are not considered likely to do Svria much harm. The ban on Western arms sales, the strongest measure, will be more than offset by the Soviet Union, which has long been Syria's major supplier of weapons and military equipment.

France stopped arms shipments to Syria last March and Britain has sold only \$20 million worth of equipment to Syria over a three-year period, mainly communications equipment which Syria can easily obtain elsewhere.

Prime Minister Jacques Chirac of France and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany agreed Sunday to back Britain while preserving relations with Syria. France went along despite an announcement by a pro-Syrian group in Beirut that it would release three French hostages within 24 hours. Two of the hostages were released Tuesday. Extremist Shiite groups in Lebanon with close links to Syria and Iran still hold eight French nationals hostage.

Monday's decision to impose sanctions on Syria took the form of "the President's statement". because Greece's refusal breached the unanimity required of all EEC joint decisions. Howe is the current President of the Council of Ministers.

FORMER DIMONA NUCLEAR FACILITY TECHNICIAN TO BE CHARGED WITH EITHER TREASON OR ESPIONAGE By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Mordechai Vanunu, the former technician at the Dimona nuclear facility, will be charged with either treason or espionage for allegedly revealing secret information about Israel's nuclear weapons capabilities, it was learned here Monday.

If convicted of espionage, the 31-year-old Israeli who recently converted to the Christian faith would face life imprisonment. Capital punishment applies for treason.

The government announced Sunday that Vanunu is being held in Israel "under lawful detention" and is represented by counsel. The statement, released after the weekly Cabinet meeting, was the first official acknowledgement that Vanunu, who was reported missing in London October 1, is in Israel.

He was remanded in custody for 15 days by order of a senior police officer, an indication of the gravity of the charges which will be brought against him. In cases other than espionage or treason, a suspect cannot be detained unless brought before a judge within 48 hours of arrest.

Kidnapping Charges Denied

The government statement said that Vanunu was checked by a medical doctor shortly after hewas brought to Israel. It emphatically denied charges that he was kidnapped in London by Israeli agents and brought here against his will. But there was no indication of how or when he arrived in Israel.

Britain has formally asked Israel to clarify this. The British Ambassador, William Squires, contacted the Foreign Ministry's Political Director General, Yossi Beilin, Tuesday to request further information. Squires was acting on instructions from the Foreign Office in London.

Israeli officials are uncertain whether the British are genuinely seeking additional information or whether the inquiry is to help the government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher fend off demands for "clarification" from opposition members of Parliament and the media. The Thatcher government has already denied media reports that the Prime Minister was secretly advised by Shimon Peres last month that Israeli agents would abduct Vanunu on British soil and

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that she did not raise objections. This allegedly occurred while Peres was still Israeli Premier, before the rotation of power.

Initial reaction in Jerusalem to the British inquiry is that there is no need for explanations beyond Sunday's announcement that Vanunu was in custody.

After the government's admission that Vanunu is in custody, Amnon Zichroni, a lawyer well known in leftist circles, revealed that he had been appointed to represent the suspect, at his own request. Zichroni told reporters Monday that he asked Premier Yitzhak Shamir several days ago to announce publicly that Vanunu was being held in Israel.

Basis For Decision To Go Public

But according to media reports, the decision to go public was made in consultation between Shamir, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin. This followed a request by Attorney General Yosef Harish.

Zichroni reportedly hastened the decision by the transparent to make a statement about Vanunu. Had such an appeal been made, the government would have no choice but to make public that Vanunu is in Israel.

Zichroni told reporters that Vanunu complained he was the target of public lynching by the media in Israel. He is alleged to have been the source of a story in the Sunday Times of London in October that Israel has been manufacturing nuclear weapons for 20 years and has enough in stock now to rank as the world's sixth nuclear power.

UN ASSEMBLY CONDEMNS ISRAEL FOR ITS ALLEGED COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 11 (JTA)-- The General Assembly condemned by a large margin stracel's "increasing collaboration with the racist regime of South Africa," and demanded that Israel terminate "all forms of collaboration" with the Pretoria government.

The vote Monday night was 102-29 with 26 abstentions. The anti-Israeli vote, singling Israel out for alleged military and economic cooperation with the apartheid government of South Africa, was one of eight resolutions condemning all aspects of South Africa's apartheid policies. Israel is singled out for condemnation on this issue by the General Assembly every year as a result of Arab pressure despite the fact that Arab and other countries are engaged in trade and have other ties with South Africa.

According to information distributed by the Israel Mission here, South Africa imported \$10 billion worth of oil from the Arab countries, from 1980 to 1984, in violation of the 1979 UN oil embargo on South Africa.

The anti-Israeli resolution adopted Monday night by the Assembly charged that Israel's ties with South Africa constitute "a serious threat to the international action for the eradication of apartheid," and a "threat to international peace and security."

The resolution underscored the alleged "military and nuclear" cooperation between Israel and South Africa, and requested an immediate end of ties between the two countries.

The United States, Canada and Australia, as well as most of the West European countries,

joined Israel in voting against the resolution. Israeli diplomats noted that last year only 19 countries joined Israel against a similar resolution, while this year 28 countries supported Israel.

Resolution Condemned By Israeli Official

The anti-Israeli vote was sharply condemned by Ambassador Meir Joffe of the Israel Mission, who blamed the Arabs and their supporters for "hypocrisy." He said that while the Arabs themselves trade with South Africa, they push for the condemnation of Israel. "This is part of their political war against the Jewish State," he declared.

Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, charged, at the opening debate on apartheid last week, that the General Assembly is guilty of "omission and distortion of the facts" both of Israel's alleged cooperation with Pretoria and the extent of the Arab oil trade with South Africa.

Netanyahu disclosed that Israel recently sent an official letter to the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid, reliterating its opposition to apartheid and declaring its willingness to participate in international efforts to end the practice of apartheid in South Africa.

The anti-Israel vote Monday night coincided with the 11th anniversary of the General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism. One of the arguments the Arabs used, when they pushed for the adoption of the Zionism-equalsracism resolution, was that Israel was a major supporter of South Africa's aparthed government.

CATHOLIC BISHOP URGES UN TO REVERSE ITS 'DEPLORABLE' RESOLUTION EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Bishop James Malone, president of the U.S. Catholic Conference, has urged the United Nations General Assembly to reverse its "deplorable" resolution counting Zionism with racism.

This was the first time a U.S. Catholic Conference president had commented on the resolution since it was labelled as "unjust" by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin shortly after the General Assembly adopted the resolution on November 10, 1975.

Malone's statement was issued from the conference office here prior to the opening Monday of the annual meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, which he also heads. He said he agrees with Bernardin's statement in 1975 that the resolution "retards the necessary struggle against racism in the world and opens the door to harassment, discrimination and denial of basic human rights to members of the Jewish community throughout the world."

However, Malone added that he also reaffirms "the principles of peace in the Middle East as put forth by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1973 and again in 1978."

He outlined these as a "comprehensive peaceful solution" with recognition by all of Israel's right to exist, "recognition of the rights of Palestinian Arabs to participation" in negotiations for the future; "recognition of the 'unique religious significance of Jerusalem' through an internal guarantee of access to holy places and preservation of its "religiously diverse citizenry", and affirmation of UN Resolution 242 as a basis for a just settlement."



"The years since the deplorable UN vote on Zionism as racism and since the issuance of our own statements have served to increase the urgency of condemning the former and working toward realizing the principles enunciated in the latter," Malone soid.

A Project Is Created

Meanwhile, the American Section of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists has created the Project to Combat Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism (Project CASAJ) to actively oppose all manifestations of the "Zionism is racism" resolution. The project is aimed at educatine both Jews and non-Jews on the issue.

At a forum at George Washington University Sunday, organized by the American Section and the George Washington University Hillel Foundation, Jeane Kirkpatrick, former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, said that resolutions should be introduced annually in the Security Council and General Assembly to repeal the anti-Zionist resolution.

Also participating in the forum were: Alan Keyes, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizational Affairs; Allan Gerson, a Deputy Assistant Attorney General; Tova Herzl, a Congressional liaison officer for the Israel Embassy; and Yoram Dinstein, a law professor at Tel Aviv University, who is currently a visiting professor at the New York University School of Law. President Reagan sent a message to the forum in which he said he was proud that he and his two predecessors, Presidents Ford and Carter, had opposed the UN resolution.

He said it was a nonpartisan issue. Americans "have been united and will remain united in our commitment to Israel, in our conviction that Israel has a right to exist and a right to exist in peace," Reagan declared.

'A Kind Of War By Other Means'

Kirkpatrick said that since the failure of the Arabs to defeat Israel in 1967 and 1973, there has been an effort to "undermine Israel by political means inside the United Nations." She called this a "kind of war by other means."

Keyes said the effort to deligitimize Israel was not aimed just against Israel or Jews but all those who support the Jewish State, particularly the U.S. He said beyond this it was aimed at those like Israel who believe in democratic principles.

But Keyes warned that the "Zionism is racism" resolution also was aimed at causing domestic dissention within the U.S., particularly at creating a split between American Jews and American Blacks.

Clash Over Appearance By Toure

An example of this was at the University of Maryland, outside Washington, last Thursday night, when Jewish and Black students clashed over the appearance by Kwame Toure, formerly Stokely Carmichael.

The Jewish students objected to the Black Student Union inviting Toure since in a talk at the university last spring, he said the "only good Zionist is a dead Zionist." During his speech Thursday night, Toure was heckled by Jewish students, and he called them "Zionist pigs" and said "Zionism is Satan in disguise."

BURG SAYS UNITY GOVERNMENT WILL SURVIVE FINAL TWO YEARS OF ITS TENURE By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Nov. 11 (JTA) - Yosef Burg, the former Israeli Minister of Religious Affairs who retired last month after serving in virtually every government since the State was founded, believes the present Labor-Likud unity coalition will survive the final two years of its tenure, despite ideological differences between the part-

"I don't see any serious political problems which will break up the unity government," Burg said at a press conference here Monday, But the 77-year-old Burg, who can be described as leader emeritus of the National Religious Party, did not come to New York to make political prognostications.

He is here to rally support for the religious Zionist movement in the upcoming elections to the next World Zionist Congress. According to Burg, religious Zionists are under siege by the Reform movement, which is "trying to muscle in on the Zionist movement" through its constituent bodies such as the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Congress.

Concern About The Reform Movement

Burg expressed fear that the Reform movement, which is vigorously seeking equal status in Israel, may align itself with the Labor camp to try to oust the religious factions from Zionist organizations.

He warned of dangers, such as a recent resolution adopted by the Zionist Actions Committee, the supreme body of the movement between Congresses, which would bar funding for non-Zionist or anti-Zionist yeshivas in Israel.

Burg urged the religious Zionist movement to organize itself for the Congress elections to counter encroachments by Reform elements. He said the religious camp in Israel is under-represented in the Zionist movement and is apathetic about its role in the movement.

He called on Reform Jews to come to Israel on aliyah before trying to gain influence in Zionist bodies in proportion to their strength in the United States. The Zionist Congress is not for everyone, just for Zionists. Burg maintained.

Issue Of Religious Freedom In Israel

Burg was questioned about freedom of religion and worship in Israel. "There is freedom of worship in Israel, every human being can worship God in the way he sees fit," the Orthodox leader said

With respect to the recent confrontation in the Baka suburb of Jerusalem when ultra-Orthodox Jews attempted by force to interrupt Simchat Torah services at a Reform congregation, Burg said the incident was "unhappy." He called it a "clash between personalities" who have since made peace with each other.

The Reform congregation dropped criminal charges against the local Orthodox chief rabbi, Eliahu Abergil, who gave a written promise never again to interfere with Reform services.

According to Burg, "The bone of contention is not in the form of worshipping, but the absolute necessity of having the (religious) law of Israel as one and only one in order to preserve the character of Israel."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES POSSIBLE WEAPONS SCANDALS PUT ISRAELI LEADERS UNDER THE GUN By David Landau

IFRUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA) — Israel's unexpected announcement Sunday that it is indeed holding atom-suspect Mordechai Yanunu in custody and that he is to face trial may have come just in time to prevent a dangerous deterioration in relations between London and Jerusalem.

There can be little doubt that the timing of the Cabinet Secretary's statement — Israel's first official word on this six-week-old saga — was linked to the growing wave of media speculation in Britain that Vanunu, the former Dimona nuclear reactor technician, was kidnapped from British soil by Israeli agents.

Worse still, the British press last weekend was suggesting that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had actually been apprised ahead of time, by then-Premier Shimon Peres, of Israel's intention to abduct Vanunu.

Vanunu, an extreme left-winger who left Israel for Australia last year, sold what purported to be detailed plans of a nuclear-bomb-manufacturing facility at Dimona to the Sunday Times of London. He presumably will be charged with treason in what is likely to be a closed-door trial.

Abduction From Britain Denied

The Israeli statement Sunday took pains to insist that Vanunu had not been snatched from British soil — and therefore no conversation about such an abduction had taken place between Thatcher and Peres.

According to reports from London at the beginning of this week, the government there is making a determined effort to make do with this terse Israeli position -- and to have the British media make do with it, too.

Plainly, had Israel continued to stay silent, the credibility of one of its major friends on the world stage, Thatcher, would have been seriously jeopardized as the story continued to burgeon on Fleet Street. The British Premier could have been damagingly embarrassed.

In addition, Israel's top policymakers and their legal advisers may have been prompted to act now and release a public statement for fear of being forced to by the High Court of Justice.

But beyond these tactical and legal considerations, Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin may well have been moved by a more fundamental examination of Israel's condition at this most extremely delicate juncture in its various foreign relationships - and especially relationships connected with covert activities.

They may have decided to clean up, as best they could, the messy aftermath of the Vanunu affair before bracing themselves to face possibly heavy fallout from the arms-to-Iran affair.

Ominous Build Up Of Criticism

The Israeli policymakers are keenly aware this week of the still ominous build-up of questioning and criticism within the American political community over insistent reports that the U.S. and Iran are engaged in longtime negotiations and tradeoffs involving arms for hostages — and that Israel is playing the role of secret middleman, and supplier of the arms to the Khomeini regime.

At the moment, criticism and opposition from at home and abroad are focused at the Reagan

Administration. Critics charge that dealing with Iran over hostages' lives undermines the very essence of America's purported policies on terror-

But Israel, which according to some U.S. media reports initiated the negotiation, is bound to take a great deal of flak itself if this affair continues to gather momentum.

Politicians and pundits are bound to point out that Israel is always stridently advocating an arms boycott of any state abetting terror — and yet here is evidence that the same Israel is actively participating in an ongoing arms-supply relationship with the quintessential terrorist

Indeed, Israel has called forcefully on France to abandon plans to sell arms to Syria, because of Syria's close involvement in terrorism as unmasked in the Hindawi trial in London. European Community Foreign Ministers were due to discuss their relationships with Syria at a meeting in London Monday — and Israel's position is one they would naturally hear out, if not necessarily adopt.

But that position must inevitably be weakened by the steady stream of reports that Israel is itself, on behalf the U.S., selling weapons to

Other Damaging Episodes

Compounding Israel's discomfort is a string of other damaging intelligence-related episodes:

* The Pollard affair, involving U.S. Naval analyst Jonathan Jay Pollard, who allegedly passed on American secret assessments to the Israelis, hit the headlines just one year ago -- and the sears it left are still unhealed.

• The Shin Bet affair, involving the cover-up of an illegal killing of two Palestinian terrorists, is not yet concluded. Police investigators are wrestling with the conflicting accounts of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and then-Shin Bet head Avraham Shalom regarding who authorized the killings and the cover-up

The security aspects of the Vanunu affair must surely disturb the Israeli intelligence community and its political masters. According to foreign reports, one senior Shin Bet official already has been fired in the wake of what appears to have been a major security lanse.

* * *

IFRUSALEM (ITA) — The Foreign Ministry expressed surprise Tuesday at reports that Jews in Budapest were summoned by the local police for questioning about their contacts with Israelis and Jews from Western countries. The Ministry noted that Israel's relations with Hungary are "among the best in Eastern Europe" but declined to comment further because the reports were unconfirmed. They came from Israelis returning from visits to Hungary, who said police attention was focussed on home study groups organized by Jews in Budapest and on contacts the Jewish community had with Jews from abroad, especially Israel.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Israel's population at the end of last month totalled 4.31 million, of which 3.55 million were Jews, according to the annual report of the Central Bureau of Statistics.