

RABIN APPEARS TO CONFIRM THAT ISRAEL DID HELP U.S. SUPPLY ARMS TO IRAN By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 13 (JTA) — Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin seemed to confirm Thursday that Israel supplied arms to Iran to help the U.S. obtain the release of American hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Rabin told a luncheon meeting of insurance agents here that "If a country very friendly to Israel appeals to us with certain requests in order to help it free hostages, we will help it, in one way or another." He added, "I don't think it is my duty to go into further details as long as another country — the country concerned — has not done so."

Rabin most probably was alluding to U.S. President Reagan, who will go on national television Thursday night apparently to explain his reasons for supplying arms to Iran, which has been at war with Iraq for six years. (The New York Times and Washington Post reported Thursday that Reagan personally acknowledged selling weapons to Iran at a meeting with Congressional leaders Wednesday, after two weeks of denials by the Administration.)

According to media reports in the U.S. and other countries, Israel played the role of "middleman" in the clandestine operation by the White House's National Security Council. When questioned by reporters Tuesday, Premier Yitzhak Shamir stated flatly that "Israel does not deal with supplying weapons to Iran."

Rabin stressed at the luncheon that "Israel has never sold American arms, or arms which include American-made components, without previously obtaining U.S. approval." He said international media reports to the contrary "are completely false."

He said Israel's policy was to do everything possible to effect the release of hostages by any means, including deals if military intervention was impossible. He cited as an example the freeing as part of an East-West exchange of Soviet Jewry activist Natan (Anatoly) Shcharansky last February after nine year's imprisonment in the Soviet Union.

U.S. ARMS-TO-IRAN DISCLOSURES TO CHANGE CASE AGAINST 4 ISRAELIS By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Nov. 13 (JTA) — The Justice Department will review the case of four Israelis charged here with conspiracy to sell American weapons to Iran to determine if their action was part of a covert operation by the U.S. government, a spokesman said.

The Department, which is prosecuting the case, will prepare arguments that will incorporate the recent revelations about the U.S. government's role in arms sales to Iran, according to John Russell, a Justice Department spokesman.

Meanwhile, a federal judge in Manhattan is scheduled to hear motions Monday to dismiss the charges against the Israelis and their 13 co-defendants on grounds of entrapment, prejudicial pretrial publicity and lack of jurisdiction for the case in New York.

The 17 were indicted in April on charges of conspiracy to resell to Iran some \$2.5 billion worth of surplus American military hardware, part of which was already in Israel.

Defense attorneys in the case have made numerous counterclaims in which they contend top U.S. officials including Vice President George Bush, Marine Corps Commandant General P.X. Kelley and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger approved the arms deal under dispute in this case.

All the government parties have denied their involvement, and the U.S. attorney's office has filed papers claiming the U.S. government has not sold arms to Iran in recent years. But Wednesday, President Reagan acknowledged that such sales took place within the past year.

New Light Shed

The recently disclosed evidence that the American government cooperated with Israel and international arms dealers such as the defendants in the case shed new light on the attorneys' counterclaims.

In yet another related development, Elliot Richardson, former U.S. Attorney General, told the press Wednesday that he arranged a contact between American officials and an "influential Iranian expatriate" named Cyrus Hashemi last year in efforts to free American hostages in Lebanon.

Hashemi, who died in July, was the government's key witness in the case against the Israeli arms dealers. Hashemi posed as an arms procurement agent for the Iranian government but actually was recording phone conversations and meetings with the defendants to help the U.S. Customs Service and the U.S. Attorney's office gather evidence for their April indictment.

A defense attorney said that Richardson, who served as Attorney General during the Nixon Administration, represented Hashemi during 1983-84 after he was indicted in the U.S. for selling American weapons to Iran.

In an earlier series (Oct. 21, 22 and 23), JTA reported that Hashemi was brought from London to meet then-President Jimmy Carter and his aides in 1980 after claiming he could help free the hostages held in Tehran following the seizure of the American embassy there.

But an FBI surveillance of his room uncovered that he was expediting the sale of millions of dollars of American arms to Iran, thus the indictment.

Israelis Said to Have Sought Exchange

Arms in exchange for hostages also played a role in this case. According to defense papers, the Israeli defendants presented Hashemi with names of three Israeli prisoners of war being held in Lebanon and tried to negotiate an arms-for hostages trade.

"This just shows that the Israeli authorities were thinking along the same lines as the Americans," one defense attorney said.

Among the Israelis arrested in Bermuda, where they thought they were going to sign a contract for the arms deal, was Brig. Gen. Avraham Bar-Am, a retired senior IDF officer who carried a letter authorizing him to negotiate arms sales. The other three defendants, Israel and son Guri Eisenberg and William Northrop reportedly worked with Bar-Am.

Prosecuting U.S. Attorney in the case, Loma Schafeld had no comment on how the recent developments would affect her case.

PERES SPEAKS UP FOR PEACE

NEW YORK, Nov. 13 (JTA) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres declared Wednesday night

that Israel is strong enough to defend itself against her enemies. Moreover, he said, "I am convinced that we are strong enough to negotiate (for peace) with our neighbors."

Peres spoke at the 60th Anniversary Convocation of the Jewish Academy of Arts and Sciences at the New York Historical Society here, where 48 living Jewish American Nobel Prize winners received the Academy's Albert Einstein Commemorative Medal.

"Over the last two years, in preparing the ground for direct negotiations, we have renewed our peace initiative -- and with positive results," the former Israeli Premier said. He noted five major achievements during that period: the ending of the Lebanon war; the resolution of the Taba border dispute with Egypt; a change in Israel's settlement policy on the West Bank; the introduction of "new opportunities for self government for the Palestinian people"; and the opening of a dialogue with Morocco.

"In all, we have been reinforced in our conviction that peace is attainable even though not overnight," Peres said. "We won wars. We are determined to win peace."

Calls Economy A Priority

Turning to the challenges facing Israel from within, Peres said that achieving economic independence is still one of Israel's top priorities. He underscored Israel's need to develop the Negev desert, the country's "last frontier." He said that the Negev, about half of Israel's land, should be turned into an "agricultural garden and an industrial park; into a scientific enterprise and a bridge of peace with Jordan and Egypt."

The Foreign Minister also said that efforts must be made to preserve the unity "and sense of direction of our people." He said "the issue is not who bends whose will, or whose views are imposed on all -- for this can only tear us apart. Rather, the various intellectual and religious streams within Judaism must interact through education and reason, thus enriching the community as a whole, as well as each other."

Earlier, in a meeting with Israeli newsmen at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Peres expressed optimism about the Mideast peace process. He said that the previous day he and Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, discussed ways to continue the peace process. Peres did not elaborate.

He was asked about reports that Israel was involved with the United States in sending arms to Iran in an effort to free the American hostages in Lebanon.

"I have no comment on the Iranian issue," he said. He added, however, that "Israel does not have the ability or willingness to intervene in the Iran-Iraq war. It is important to remember Israel's real dimensions. The impression that could be created is as if Israel is in-charge of the whole world."

Peres, who met in New York in the last two days with American officials, Jewish leaders and business groups, left for Chicago Thursday, where he will address the Council of Jewish Federations General Assembly. He is scheduled to leave for Israel from New York Saturday night.

During the convocation ceremonies Wednesday night, 12 Jewish American Nobel Laureates were present to receive the Einstein Medal, including Elie Wiesel, the recipient of the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize, and Isaac Bashevis Singer, winner of the 1978 Nobel Prize for Literature. Both addressed the

Academy, with Bashevis Singer predicting that Yiddish, the language he writes in, will continue to be "a dying language for the next 5,000 years," and Wiesel stressing the role of learning and education in the history of the Jewish people.

Presiding at the ceremonies Wednesday night was Arthur Goldberg, former Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, who is chairman of the board of the Academy. The Academy was founded in 1927. It encourages the advancement of knowledge and scholarship with particular reference to Jewish life and thoughts and publications. (By Yitzhak Rabi)

ISRAELI POLICE QUESTION 44 LEFTISTS ON THEIR BUCHAREST MEETING WITH PLO

JERUSALEM, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- Four Israeli leftists who headed a delegation that met in Bucharest last week with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization were detained by police for questioning Thursday to determine if they violated a law barring Israelis from contact with members of terrorist organizations.

The three-hour interrogation was conducted at the central district police headquarters in Ramla. The four were released on bail and were not summoned for further questioning.

Each of the suspects was questioned separately. One of them, Yael Lotan, told reporters afterwards that "We had replies for all the questions asked." She said, "We went to Rumania, accompanied by a lawyer, not to violate the law, but in order to convey a message of peace."

Lotan noted that the dialogue was held under the auspices of the Rumanian government in a public hall where 29 Israelis sat on one side and the Palestinians on the other.

Israeli newspapers quoted police sources as saying that no offense was committed and the prosecution would find it difficult to prove otherwise. But the police said the investigation would continue.

ISRAEL'S 2ND LIVER RECIPIENT DIES: HOSPITAL SAYS PROCEDURE WILL CONTINUE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- Eliahu Schreier, Israel's second liver transplant patient, died Thursday at Rambam Hospital in Haifa, 18 days after surgery. His death followed by five days that of the first transplant patient, Mira Schichmanter. Despite the setbacks, Rambam Hospital director Albert Sattinger said the liver transplant operations would continue and the Health Ministry confirmed that Thursday.

Doctors at the hospital said that Schreier, like Schichmanter, succumbed to complications arising from the advanced stages of their liver ailments, not the surgery. Both underwent second operations to correct internal hemorrhaging. According to Sattinger, neither patient would have lived more than a few days if they hadn't received transplants.

He stressed that it was impossible to evaluate liver transplants on the basis of only two cases. He noted that the first four liver transplants carried out at Children's Hospital, in Pittsburgh, Pa., where the technique was developed, also failed to save the patients' lives, but now there is a 70-80 percent chance of success. Dr. Yigal Kam, who operated on Schreier and Schichmanter, was trained in the procedure at the Pittsburgh hospital.

Sattinger noted further that the Israeli patients applied for transplants only at a late stage of their illness. The family of Schreier, who was 59 and lived in Moshav Shoresht, near Jerusalem, said they were all aware of the risks, but decided they were worthwhile.

LEUKEMIA VICTIM SHIRMAN GIVEN SMALL CHANCE OF SURVIVAL, EVEN WITH SURGERY

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 13 (JTA) — Doctors treating leukemia victim Michael Shirman said Thursday that he has only a 10-15 percent chance of survival, even with a bone marrow transplant from his sister, Inessa Flerova, because his condition has deteriorated seriously in the past 11 months.

They said that if Flerova had been given permission to leave the USSR last February, when she first requested it, his chances would have been as high as 50 percent. Flerova arrived in Israel with her family last week.

With Shirman's disease in an advanced stage, the doctors are uncertain whether to go ahead with the transplant because of the patient's weakened condition and the poor outlook for success.

The prognosis was all the more painful because tests showed that Flerova's tissues are entirely compatible with her brother's. The test results were announced Wednesday by Dr. Haim Brautbar of Hadassah Medical Center here, where the tests were made. Shirman was hospitalized several days ago at Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot.

Flerova's initial request for exit visas was denied by the Soviet authorities. Later she was told she could leave, but without her husband and children. As an international campaign on behalf of Shirman was mounted in the West, the authorities relented to the extent that she could take her young children to Israel, however, her husband, Viktor Flerov, would have to remain behind on a legal technicality.

Shirman urged his sister not to divide her family. As the months dragged on, the campaign intensified. Shirman, attended by a physician, flew to Reykjavik, Iceland, to appeal personally to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who was there for the October 11-12 summit meeting with President Reagan.

Later he flew to Washington, where he told a press conference on Capitol Hill that doctors gave him only three months to live unless he had a bone marrow transplant. His sister was the only possible donor. The Soviet authorities agreed two weeks ago to allow Flerov to accompany his wife.

SHCHARANSKY SAYS HE DIDN'T KNOW PALESTINIANS HE MET WITH WERE PLO

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 13 (JTA) — Natan Shcharansky issued a public apology Thursday for meeting with pro-PLO Palestinians in East Jerusalem early this week. "I learned that the delegation that met with me was identified with the PLO only after our meeting. Had I known this fact in advance, the meeting never would have taken place," Shcharansky said.

Shcharansky's statement, a fierce attack on the PLO and avowal of confidence in the government's methods of fighting it, was issued after the Soviet Jewry activist came under fire from Orthodox and rightwing circles for meeting the Palestinians. The group he met with is seeking to block a deportation order against East Jerusalem editor Akhram Haniye, whom the authorities accuse of PLO activity in the administered territories, though not of direct involvement in terrorist acts.

The most prominent among them is Feisal Hussein, a leading East Jerusalem intellectual sympathetic to the PLO. Hussein said Thursday that Shcharansky made his statement under heavy pressure from rightwing Israelis.

Shcharansky said: "The people of Israel are waging a war of self-defense against the PLO, a criminal terror organization whose goal is the denial of the legitimate rights of the Jewish people to their homeland, and ultimately the destruction of the State of Israel. Both the aims and the barbarous methods of this organization of cut-throats violate every human standard."

"The PLO and those who support it place themselves beyond the pale of civilized society. I learned that the delegation that met with me was identified with the PLO only after our meeting. Had I known this fact in advance, the meeting would never have taken place."

"... The blood of my brothers is on their hands ... I have full confidence that the government and security forces of Israel are waging an unrelenting battle for our protection ... The pursuit of this goal in accordance with the laws of the State of Israel and subject to the judicial scrutiny of the Israeli Supreme Court is in no way a violation of human rights ..."

Haniye has appealed to the Supreme Court against his deportation. The order will not be implemented until the high court rules on the appeal.

ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILL ARAB DRIVER IN GAZA; THIRD ISRAELI JEW STABBED

JERUSALEM, Nov. 13 (JTA) — Israeli soldiers killed an Arab driver at a Gaza roadblock Wednesday afternoon, shortly after an Israeli civilian was stabbed in the Gaza marketplace. The victim, Shabtai Shvilli of Ashkelon, sustained a knife wound in the back of his neck but was not badly hurt. He was taken to a hospital in Ashkelon.

He was the third Israeli in two months to be stabbed while shopping in Gaza. The two earlier victims, Yisrael Kitaro and Haim Azran, also from Ashkelon, were fatally wounded. The authorities believe the same assailant was responsible for the three attacks.

It was not immediately known if there is a connection between the stabbing and the incident at the roadblock, where the driver was shot dead when he failed to respond to signals to stop. Military sources said the soldiers were following standing orders. They fired into the air, then at the tires of the vehicle before they fired at the driver, the sources said.

A passenger in the car, not injured, was held for questioning.

ISRAELI ENGINE PLANT IN RECEIVERSHIP

JERUSALEM, Nov. 13 (JTA) — The Ministerial Economic Committee voted Tuesday to place the debt-ridden Beit Shemesh engine plant in receivership. The factory employs 340 residents of the development town of Beit Shemesh, and unless Israel Aviation Industries (IAI) agrees to take it over, the government will have to find them jobs.

The plant manufactures engine components of the Lavi, Israel's second generation jet fighter plane which IAI will build. According to IAI sources, the components can be manufactured more cheaply at the Pratt & Whitney plants in the U.S.

The Beit Shemesh engine works is \$100 million in debt, mainly to the government and commercial banks. It is reported to be losing \$2 million a month. If IAI does not come to the rescue, the plant will be closed. In that case, the government will provide incentives to investors to open other manufacturing enterprises in the region to provide jobs for the displaced workers.

FEDERATIONS LEADER APPEALS FOR PLURALISM IN JEWISH LIFE

By Murray Zuckoff

CHICAGO, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- A call for pluralism in Jewish life in North America, abroad and in Israel was issued here Wednesday night by Shoshana Cardin, President of the Council of Jewish Federations. She was making her keynote address to more than 3,000 Jewish leaders from the United States, Canada and overseas attending the 55th General Assembly of the CJF.

The commitment to pluralism "nurtures mutual respect among specific ideological groupings and seeks the pursuit of unity even in the midst of serious differences," Cardin declared in her address entitled "Klal Yisrael -- Federation's Role in Building Community." This also is the theme of the entire convention, which ends Sunday.

"We believe that honest differences can be a source of creativity. We believe that the agenda which unites us is far more powerful and significantly more compelling than the agenda which divides us," she said. Furthermore, Cardin stated, "We are committed to a civil, even if passionate discourse. We are opposed to shrill and strident discourse."

The CJF leader emphasized that "the Federation environment must not be used to leverage specific religious or ideological support at the expense of other religious persuasions and ideologies ... Respect for different ideological, religious or political persuasions -- we accept. Demanding that one ideology or persuasion prevail to the exclusion of others -- we decry."

Reaffirmation On New Approach

Cardin's address was a dramatic reaffirmation that the CJF is a collectivity of diversity in unity and the unity of diverse elements and views, all working to "enhance the opportunities for effective community building" and making it "a shared responsibility," as she put it. All Jews, Cardin declared, "should be participatory Jews." She noted that "Judaism is not a spectator ideology."

Her address was in many ways markedly different in scope and substance than those CJF presidents have delivered in previous General Assemblies. It was less concrete in terms of organizational guidelines, but more powerful in terms of a philosophical guideline for "a vision of Klal Yisrael at home, abroad and in Israel."

Without specifying, her urgent appeal for pluralism in Jewish life alluded to some of the discordant and vexing religious, social and economic issues extant in Jewish life.

These ideas include: the ongoing conflict over who is a Jew; the role of the Orthodox establishment in Israel; the nuclear weapons build-up by the United States and Soviet Union; the Reagan Administration's economic and social policies affecting the lower and middle income segments of American society; the Jewish community as a single or multi-issues-oriented community; and attitudes toward abortion, the sanctuary movement, and the kind of leadership the Jewish community requires to assure its vitality and viability.

Criticizes Misuse Of Wealth

Cardin also obliquely criticized financially affluent movers and shakers in the community who seek to use their influence to try to sway the Federation movement toward their views, as well as the Reform movement, which has indicated that it would have to rethink its financial contributions to Israel unless it was allowed a greater role in religious affairs.

"CJF and Federations must maintain an open forum where all can participate, where all can express themselves without feeling threatened and without threatening others. We must be extremely wary of tactics which may be coercive or tactics which may seek to threaten our ability to respond to the needs of Klal Yisrael by withholding money," she said.

"Money should not and cannot be used as an instrument for the pursuit of specific ideological or religious primacy in the pursuit of power or to redress grievances ... I call upon our co-workers in all the ideological and political movements of Jewish life to remain fervent and passionately committed to their ideologies -- to seek to persuade -- to seek to engage one another through creative, civil and effective discourse."

Fears Jews' Alienation

"I must, however, be candid. I fear that a significant segment of our people can be alienated as a result of the animosity and hostility that is being generated in our communal framework. Some may even choose a spectator role because of this negativism."

Cardin urged the assembled leaders to "be prepared to take risks and design new approaches -- test new ideas and experiment with new modes in the art and science of what the French call 'engage' in order to build a more just, more open and more equitable larger society."

Cardin said the task of Federations is to maintain an effective and all-inclusive Jewish community by demonstrating "that our doors are open to all who can belong ... to all who may wish to participate but don't know how."

"Jews in our continental community, affiliated or unaffiliated, detached or even alienated, must begin to feel viscerally that the communal enterprise -- the Jewish Federation -- wants them, is ready to embrace them and make room for them ...

"We should not set preconditions, on the contrary, we must convey the message that our communal enterprise -- the Jewish Federation -- extends itself and invites every individual and every discrete group into an interdependent relationship with community, representing our belief that 'all Jews are responsible to and for one another'."

ISRAELI HITS NEW YORK LOTTERY JACKPOT

NEW YORK, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- An Israeli woman who immigrated 20 years ago to the United States won \$12 million in the latest New York State lottery Saturday.

On Monday morning, Osnat Burdman arrived at the lottery office with her husband and her winning ticket, with the number combination of 18, 31, 24, 36, 45 and 47, to claim her share of the \$24 million Lotto jackpot. As of Thursday the holder of the second winning ticket has not come forward.

Mrs. Burdman, 55, who is married to Dr. Mortimer Burdman, 69, said that she had purchased 60 tickets last Friday in a stationery store in Manhasset, N.Y. She said that she has always played the combination of numbers that won her the great prize, adding the numbers were a mixture of Hebrew letters, her husband's birthday and a few numbers I threw in at random."

Mrs. Burdman, who has been working as a sales clerk at her daughter's boutique in Manhasset, lives with her surgeon husband in Albertson, N.Y. She has two daughters from a previous marriage, while her Brooklyn-born husband has one son. They have been married for 13 years. The couple said they plan to retire soon, "Probably tomorrow," Dr. Rudman said with a smile.