

## ISRAEL JETS HIT TERRORIST TARGETS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 12 (JTA) -- Israel Air Force jets targeted terrorist targets near Sidon in south Lebanon at dawn Thursday and returned safely to their bases, a military spokesman announced. Light anti-aircraft fire was encountered. The raid was the fifth this year on terrorist strongholds in Lebanon.

According to military sources, the targets were a group of buildings on the outskirts of Mich-Mich, south of Sidon, used as terrorist headquarters and for planning attacks on Israel. Direct hits were scored.

Beirut radio reported Thursday that two persons were killed and five were wounded, three of them Palestinians, in the 10-minute attack. Rescue workers were reported to be checking the rubble for other casualties.

## POLICE BREAK UP RALLY IN MOSCOW FOR THE RELEASE OF IOSIF BEGUN

NEW YORK, Feb. 12 (JTA) -- About 50 Soviet secret police forcefully broke up a demonstration in Moscow Thursday for the release of Dr. Iosif Begun and detained seven of the demonstrators, including Begun's wife Inna, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported here.

Members of the foreign press were shoved and kicked according to eyewitness reports, SSSJ said.

Thursday's demonstration was the fourth this week for Begun, who is reported to be the only remaining political prisoner in Chistopol prison. Although Soviet officials have said 140 political prisoners were released in the past week, only releases of some 40 have been confirmed, SSSJ said.

Soviet officials have apparently made Begun's release contingent on his signing an agreement not to continue teaching Hebrew, which Begun has refused to do.

Begun has sought to emigrate to Israel since 1971. He was sentenced in 1983 to seven years in labor camps and five years in internal exile for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" for teaching Hebrew.

## RELATIVES OF ISRAELIS KILLED BY TERRORISTS DEMAND THAT GOVERNMENT NOT RELEASE JAILED TERRORISTS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 12 (JTA) -- Relatives of Israelis killed by terrorists created serious disturbances in the Supreme Court Wednesday and Thursday in connection with their demand for an order restraining the government from freeing jailed terrorists in exchange for Israeli and other hostages held by extremist groups in Lebanon.

The government insists it has no intention of negotiating such a deal. A three-judge panel of the high court postponed a hearing that was due Thursday until police ascertained whether the persons who lodged the appeal were among the demonstrators.

The bereaved relatives were infuriated because the panel refused to issue a restraining

order without a prior hearing. The court held that the demonstrations were a form of public pressure which could not be countenanced. The panel consists of Justices Avraham Halima, Avraham Barak and Eliezer Goldberg. They called in police to disperse the demonstrators.

The Attorney General's office, responding to the appeal, said there was no truth to reports of an impending prisoner-hostage swap. It stated that any consideration of efforts to secure the release of Israeli prisoners held by a "cruel enemy" would take into account the feelings of the families of victims of terrorism. But the government also has a duty to ensure the safety and freedom of its soldiers and the pros and cons will be carefully weighed before any decisions are taken, the statement said.

## NEW VIOLENCE IN WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 12 (JTA) -- Violence erupted anew in the West Bank and Gaza Strip Wednesday and Thursday as Israeli security forces dispersed rock-throwing gangs with tear gas and arrested 30 Palestinian youths in a sweep of the Balata refugee camp near Nablus.

A Palestinian boy was wounded by gunfire after Israeli vehicles were stoned in the vicinity of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip. He was taken to a Gaza hospital. An investigation was ordered to find out who fired the shot. Israeli forces used tear gas after the windshield of one vehicle was shattered.

Jewish settlers from Katiff in the Gaza Strip tried to block the main highway to Arab traffic. Israeli troops and border police forced them to leave.

Rioting in the West Bank was centered in Nablus, Ramallah and Hebron Thursday to protest the arrests at Balata. Israeli sources said nine of the 30 youths taken into custody have been placed in administrative detention for three to six months. They are aged 19-25 and are suspected of incitement, stone-throwing, raising Palestinian flags and harassing residents of the refugee camp who allegedly cooperate with the Israeli authorities.

Administrative detention means incarceration without formal charges or trial. More than 50 Palestinians are presently in administrative detention.

## Incidents In Three Cities

In Nablus, youthful rioters stoned Joseph's Tomb where Gush Emunim followers have established a yeshiva. Later they stoned Israeli soldiers who came to restore order. Al-Rwdah College in Nablus was ordered closed for the day.

At Hebron University, tear gas was used to drive students back to the campus after they raised a Palestinian flag and stoned passing vehicles.

Stones were thrown at Israeli vehicles in Ramallah. The drivers fired shots into the air but the roads were not cleared until security forces arrived with tear gas.

According to Israeli sources, the disturbances Thursday were motivated in part by anger over

reports that Palestinians are starving in refugee camps near Beirut maintained by the Shiite Amal militia.

#### Gang Of Arms Smugglers Uncovered

Security forces announced, meanwhile, that they uncovered a gang in the Hebron area smuggling arms and explosives from Jordan by truck. They were reportedly recruited by El Fatah and for the past six months have been concealing the weapons in trucks carrying goods across the Jordan River bridges into the West Bank.

The authorities have ordered a two-day halt in truck traffic over the bridges, starting Friday, in order to improve checking and security arrangements.

#### **AT THE JNF ASSEMBLY: U.S. ENVOY LAUDS U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS** By Susan Birnbaum

(Editor's note: Susan Birnbaum is presently in Israel to cover the Jewish National Fund of America's Third National Assembly. Her article on P. 3 datelined New York was written just before she left for Israel.)

TEL AVIV, Feb. 12 (JTA) -- Thomas Pickering, United States Ambassador to Israel, told the opening convocation of the Jewish National Fund of America that U.S. - Israel relations "couldn't be better, and our capabilities to withstand what always arises in the relationship between two countries as close as ours" surmount the obstacles of "the Pollard case and what has come up in the past year."

Pickering arrived at the opening ceremonies of the JNF Third National Assembly in Israel, in the community center of Neve Eliczer in Tel Aviv's Hatikva quarter, directly from the Ramat Aviv airport, where he witnessed the arrival of the first three F-16C fighter jets, which he called "an indication of the renewed cooperation between our countries" and the "further strengthening of the very significant strategic relationship between Israel and the United States." He spoke of U.S. "commitment to provide Israel with a qualitative edge."

Pickering referred favorably to the recent visit to Israel and the Middle East by a senior U.S. government official -- presumably Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Richard Murphy -- as an indication of strong cooperation for the Middle East peace process, which Pickering called "second to nothing" among American priorities.

Although "we have a way to go," he said, it is possible to find some acceptable Palestinian participation "to come forward with King Hussein." Pickering added that he felt "cautiously optimistic."

In the spheres of military and defense cooperation between the two countries and U.S. aid to Israel, Pickering said that following U.S. aid to Israel's military security and her economic stability, Israel has now taken "a number of very difficult decisions to bring its economy first into a period of stability and restructuring."

Israel, he said, is "now facing a series of hard economic decisions, taken after close consultations with the U.S., to try to mold the economy from what I call a plateau of stability into an era of economic growth."

This would not be easy, he said, but he looked forward to the opening of the capital

market in Israel to the private sector, the privatization of public companies, and the process of tax reform.

#### **B'NAI B'RITH LEADER APPEALS DIRECTLY TO THE POPE TO INTERVENE TO HAVE A CONVENT AT AUSCHWITZ RELOCATED**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12 (JTA) -- Seymour Reich, international president of B'nai B'rith, appealed directly to Pope John Paul II Wednesday "to intervene" to have a Carmelite convent being established on the site of the Auschwitz death camp relocated to another site not marked by Jewish suffering.

Reich, in a letter to the Vatican Ambassador to the U.S., Archbishop Pio Laghi, referred to the group of Carmelite nuns who have occupied a building on the site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp since 1984 and with permission of the Polish government intend to establish a convent there.

Reich noted that "World Jewry -- along with much of the rest of the world -- recognizes Auschwitz, in fact and in symbol, as the ghastly emblem of Hitler's genocide against European Jewry." He added that the presence of another religious group there "distorts" the unique experience of the Holocaust.

"Recently, one of our European representatives -- Samuel Hoffenberg of Paris, a French citizen of Polish birth -- met with Church leaders in Poland in hope of resolving this problem. He was not encouraged by what he heard," Reich wrote.

"I am therefore appealing directly to the Vatican -- and to His Holiness John Paul II -- to intervene directly so that the Carmelite convent can be relocated outside the Auschwitz grounds."

A 1972 UNESCO Convention -- signed by Poland and 13 other countries -- requires "the Auschwitz site to remain unchanged as an historic reminder of what took place there during World War II," Reich noted. He added: "To permit the convent to remain in its present location is to do a monumental injustice to the memory of six million Jewish martyrs. We sincerely hope the Holy See will recognize how deeply world Jewry feels about this and take steps to correct the situation."

#### **KIMCHE READY TO COOPERATE WITH SENATE PANEL PROBING U.S.-IRAN ARMS SALES**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 12 (JTA) -- David Kimche, former Director General of the Foreign Ministry who was one of the top Israeli officials most closely linked to the U.S.-Iran arms sale, said that he is ready to cooperate with the U.S. authorities investigating the affair.

Asked by an Israel Radio interviewer if he was ready to give evidence to U.S. investigators, Kimche said, "I am doing whatever the government of Israel asks me to do. I shall certainly be very happy to cooperate. It is a positive thing to cooperate."

He added, "But I shall be doing what I can, within the framework of what the government of Israel decides, together with the government of the U.S." Israel has already stated that it would not permit its officials to testify before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence conducting the probe but would reply to its questions in writing.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE CAUSE THAT BINDS

By Susan Birabaum

NEW YORK, Feb. 12 (JTA) -- A rabbi from Johannesburg and a Black minister from Soweto are working together in a common cause to end injustice and oppression of the Black population of South Africa. Both are outspoken opponents of the system of apartheid and both share the view that only swift action can defuse a ticking time bomb.

For Rabbi Ben Isaacson and Rev. Zacharia Mokgeobo action does not mean pious phrases and shibboleths. Merely speaking out against apartheid is not enough, they asserted during an interview here with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

"Speeches are speeches. Sermons are sermons. Statements are statements. It's very nice to hear someone say he's in favor of justice," said Isaacson. "Who's against justice and righteousness? It is only action, it is only commitment, and the credibility of the Jewish community in the Black community depends on the action they take, not on statements they make."

Mokgeobo (pronounced Mo-khwebo) agreed with his colleague and pointed out the imperative need to take action, and soon. "There's no doubt that we have only a grim, bleak future in South Africa. There is no sign that the government is willing to negotiate or to stop the system that generates violence. The government itself is violent. So the future is very bleak, actually."

### An Imperative Mission

The two men, softspoken and thoughtful, are in the United States for a six-week speaking tour to win support for non-racial Centers for Justice and Peace in South Africa. The two religious leaders said that the underpinning of their mission is a common belief in God and the principle that all men are created equal. Isaacson and Mokgeobo have been working together for a year on the South African chapter of the World Conference on Religion and Peace.

Their campaign for justice and peace centers, just beginning, got off to a good start in Europe where they visited before coming to the U.S. They said that in Amsterdam, support was pledged by Liberal Rabbi Avraham Soetendorp who formed an ad hoc committee to solicit support for their centers, which will need considerable funding. They also garnered church support in The Netherlands. Support was also forthcoming in Springfield, Mass., their first stop in the U.S., where the Springfield Council of Churches is studying their project.

### Calls For Immediate Changes

Isaacson, a rabbi for 27 years, has spoken out against apartheid during his entire career, befriending and working with the best-known activists in his country, including Nelson and Winnie Mandela, Rev. Allan Boesak, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The 50-year-old Liberal rabbi, who was ordained as an Orthodox rabbi and studied in Brooklyn at Yeshiva Chaim Berlin, is clear in his message: he brooks no tolerance of "liberalism" in the struggle to bring justice for all humans in his home, calling instead for immediate changes to bring the vote, and total equality, to all.

For his constant participation in anti-apartheid activities, the rabbi has paid dearly in his congregation. Three years ago, he said, there

were 300 people in attendance at Shabbat services. The number dwindled to about 35 by last fall, when he was on a solo speaking tour of the U.S. However, since then, the number of congregants at the Houghton Independent Congregation of Har-El has increased a bit, offering a ray of optimism in a situation that both he and his colleague described as "bleak and grim."

Mokgeobo, a 35-year-old minister of the Dutch Reformed Church (Black Church), went through the entire segregated school system of South Africa. He received a Masters in Theology in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and studied for a doctorate in theology at the Free University in Amsterdam, an undertaking cut short by the death of his parents in South Africa.

Since 1975, Mokgeobo has been national organizer of the Belydendekring, a group of non-white dissident ministers of the Dutch Reformed Church founded by Boesak. He has also been a leader in the compilation of the Kairos Document, which espouses liberation theology. He is a member of the Civic Association of Soweto, continuously in a state of confrontation with the Pretoria regime. Mokgeobo's participation in the Dutch Reformed Church links him with Black ministers in America, specifically in the Black caucus of the Reformed Church of America.

Asked what he tells his congregants about God, and how he explains their suffering under apartheid in the context of their belief in God, Mokgeobo said that he tells them that "every human being is created in the image of God, and that God is not a God who justifies and sanctions slavery of whatever kind -- oppression of whatever kind. Instead, the tradition of the Bible is that God liberates people from slavery -- is liberating us, and calling us to be liberated today in a situation from apartheid, slavery and oppression."

### Role Of Jews In South Africa

One of the founders of an organization in South Africa, Jews for Justice, Isaacson spoke strongly about the role of Jews in South Africa, who, both men noted, are perceived as members of the white community, and, therefore, identified as oppressors. "Now I run into the difficulties," said Isaacson, "because I have been accused of being an anti-Semite and all sort of things."

The Jews in South Africa, said Isaacson, "have a unique Jewish historical situation. It's unique because our parents and grandparents came to escape persecution and made us part of a persecutor system by coming to live in South Africa because Jews were accepted as whites. So for the first time in Jewish history, virtually, we could find such a situation: We have to research it. Jews are part of the oppressive society."

"From being the oppressed, we became part of the oppressors. And this obviously is at the crux of what an opponent of apartheid has to say within the Jewish framework in South Africa. My whole ministry has been devoted to this, 27 years of it. This has been my struggle."

Isaacson said that Jews have lived as part of the white community, regarded totally as such. He spoke of 1985 as a "watershed year," when at a conference of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies a statement was made attacking apartheid. He said that "For 25 years I called upon them to denounce apartheid." For those 25 years, Isaacson said, "The answer was, and it was worded as follows: 'There is no Jewish viewpoint on political issues. Jews vote according to their

conscience as citizens of the country." But, he added, Jews in South Africa have always been involved in the struggle against apartheid on an individual level.

He noted that the Board's statement might be a case of too little and too late. Isaacson said that by jumping on the "bandwagon" that even white leaders of the Pretoria government were allegedly espousing, statements "didn't change their actions. A statement attacking apartheid is not worth the paper it's written on unless you follow it up by saying what it means."

#### 'A National Alliance'

But what does it mean to be against apartheid, he asked. "To the Black majority," said Isaacson, being against apartheid means "you must release Nelson Mandela; you must un-ban political organizations that are banned; you must lift the state of emergency; you must remove soldiers who are occupying the Black townships, and the schools in the Black townships, from those areas; and above all, you must say that you will work toward a one-person, one-vote state, which means majority Black. This inevitably will happen -- as I'm sitting here, I'm telling you it will happen -- but unfortunately, they (the government) won't do it now. They'll do it only after bloodshed."

Blacks and Jews, said Isaacson, "are a natural alliance. But I must point out that in South Africa our alliance goes further. It's an alliance with Islam, as well, because basically the people are Moslems in our country. And it's an alliance with Hinduism. It's persecuted people who are Hindus in our country. And that's why our inter-faith group called the World Conference for Religions and Peace, South African Chapter, is involved in this project. All oppressed people . . . it's a natural."

#### Israel-South African Relations

When asked about the issue of Israel-South African relations, and arms sales, Isaacson insisted that he refuses to scapegoat Israel.

Isaacson recalled that "there was a time when Israel took a different stand. After the Sharpeville massacre (1961), Israel was one of the first countries to vote for sanctions against South Africa in the Security Council of the United Nations, when Golda Meir was Foreign Minister. And the South African government got very angry and took its anger out on the Jews, those Jews who say how well they've been treated in South Africa."

"They (the Pretoria regime) immediately stopped all money going to Israel, for at least eight years, till after the Six-Day War. Israel's relations with Africa got screwed up." But Israel changed and Africa changed "and Israel became involved in military arrangements with South Africa."

Isaacson has spoken out against this, and, he said, "Every time we brought this to the attention of Israel -- people like myself and Desmond Tutu -- he's been called an anti-Semite for attacking Israel." That's not true, Isaacson insisted.

Tutu and Isaacson will travel together to Israel next year at the invitation of Peace Now in Israel. "The fact is that when in Israel, we will tell them exactly what we think because Desmond doesn't ask for people's permission to say what he thinks. But at the same time, having said all this, we have no right to make Israel the scape

goat and to join the international lynch party against Israel, because Israel's involvement in South Africa is part of western involvement in South Africa. It cannot be seen in a vacuum."

#### The Danger Facing South Africa's Jews

Isaacson insisted that the danger to Jews in South Africa comes not from the critics of Israel's involvement with his country, but from the rightwing in South Africa, the party of Eugene Terre Blanche, who, says Isaacson, "is not a neo-Nazi, he's a Nazi. He's had rallies of 10,000-15,000 people, where they use an insignia that is similar to the swastika. They sing German folk-songs. They have said openly that Jews should be excluded from public life. They speak about the Jewish-Communist conspiracy. They're Nazis. So if he comes into power, we'll have some gas chambers in South Africa."

"But the Jewish community, the establishment, looks for anti-Semitism in Desmond Tutu. And there under its nose, is Nazism, which is not banned by the Pretoria regime. Only Black liberation struggle is banned."

Together, Isaacson and Mokgoebo plan to set up many centers for justice in which people of all races, Black, colored, Indian, white, will learn together. They have plans to establish training programs for Black youth to learn business skills. There will be encounter groups. "It will not be a meditation center," Isaacson observed wryly. They mean business.

#### KRIEGER RESIGNS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb.12 (JTA) -- Richard Krieger has resigned as executive director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, a post he has held since May 1986.

Krieger told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Wednesday that he had accepted his post to work with Elie Wiesel, then the Council's chairman, and when Wiesel resigned as chairman in December he said, "I decided to leave."

He said he held up his resignation until February 6 when President Reagan appointed a new chairman, Harvey Meyerhoff, a Baltimore developer and philanthropist.

A former executive director of the Jewish Federation of North Jersey, Krieger came to Washington in 1980 as the Jewish liaison with the Republican National Committee. He then served in the State Department as associate U.S. coordinator for refugee affairs.

In his letter of resignation to Reagan, Krieger noted that "Your dedication to remembering the lessons of the Holocaust is a cornerstone of this Administration."

"You have demonstrated an overwhelming compassion and a willingness to take political risks on behalf of the United States to bring human beings to safety and freedom when you wholeheartedly supported and permitted my initiatives to rescue Ethiopian Jewry." He added for "that alone" Reagan will be "recorded in the annals of history."

Krieger, who now plans to do international consulting, also expressed satisfaction with the progress of the Council which is planning and raising funds for a Holocaust Museum to be built here. Reagan is expected to name a successor to Krieger soon.