

A WEEKEND OF VIOLENCE ALONG ISRAEL'S NORTHERN BORDER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 19 (JTA) -- Two Israel Defense Force soldiers were killed in an ambush by terrorist infiltrators in Upper Galilee early Sunday morning. The three terrorists were killed shortly afterwards by an IDF patrol.

The dead soldiers were identified as Lt. Yoav Sharon, whose funeral was held in Haifa later Sunday, and Sgt. Assaf Alon. The incident capped a weekend of violence along Israel's northern border. On Saturday morning, a contingent of about 60 heavily armed guerrillas of the Iran-backed Shiite extremist Hezbollah attacked a position manned by the IDF and the allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) near Kantara village in the south Lebanon security zone 10 kilometers from the Israel border.

At least 18 of the attackers were killed in a pitched battle and four IDF soldiers were slightly wounded. The attack was apparently well planned, employing mortars, machineguns, rocket-propelled grenades, rifles, hand grenades and bazookas. IDF infantrymen counter-attacked, supported by tanks and helicopter gunships.

Helicopters later strafed the area north of the Litani River where the Hezbollah terrorists fled.

On Mission To Take Israeli Hostages

The ambush 24 hours later was by terrorists of Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat's mainstream El Fatah who apparently were on a mission to take Israelis hostage in exchange for the release of Palestinian prisoners. They managed to cut through the border security fence between Manera and Yiftach villages in the Galilee panhandle during the night.

When the cut was discovered at daybreak, IDF infantry and helicopters began a search of the region where many Israeli civilians were spending the Passover holiday. The IDF suffered its fatalities when a squad came under fire at short range from a concealed position. Another patrol stormed the position, wiping out the terrorist gang.

Weapons found on their bodies included pistols, hand grenades, shoulder-launched missiles and battle gear, along with food and water. Also found were leaflets with the Fatah emblem demanding the release of security prisoners. The gang is believed to have come from Sidon in south Lebanon and probably sheltered in Lebanese villages before they entered Israel.

Maj. Gen. Yossi Peled, commander of the northern front, said the presence of Syrian troops in Sidon, in support of Lebanon army units, put pressure on the south Lebanon security zone. Hezbollah guerrillas, denied freedom of movement in the north, were focusing on the security zone which is manned largely by the SLA, he said.

Reports from Lebanon Sunday said Israeli artillery bombarded 14 villages north of the security zone Saturday night, causing a number of casualties and heavy damage to property.

ISRAEL REJECTS REQUEST THAT IT CLARIFY FOR THE IAEA THE USE IT MADE OF URANIUM-RELATED MATERIAL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 19 (JTA) -- Israel has rejected a request by Norway to clarify for the International Atomic Energy Agency the use it made of two consignments of heavy water it received from Norway in 1959 and 1970. Heavy water contains more than the usual proportion of heavy isotopes, such as deuterium, and is an important ingredient in the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

Israel's response to the Norwegian request was conveyed by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway when they met at the conference of the Socialist International in Rome last week.

Israel maintains that the heavy water shipments from Norway were only two among several such deliveries to Israel over the years and therefore it is technically "impossible" to trace the use of individual consignments. Israel also alleged that the International Atomic Energy Agency is traditionally "unobjective."

Norway made the request last month in connection with the case of Mordechai Vanunu, a former technician at the Dimona nuclear facility in Israel who is awaiting trial here for treason for selling information about Israel's alleged nuclear weapons capabilities to a British newspaper, the Sunday Times of London.

PLO INCREASING ITS TIES WITH PERU AND GAINING INCREASING STATURE IN OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

NEW YORK, April 19 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization's increasing ties with Peru have become a source of controversy within President Alan Garcia's administration, according to "Latin American Report," published by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The ADL also reported that the PLO and its supporters are continuing efforts toward establishing an office in Argentina and gaining increased stature in other Latin American countries.

In making the report public, Abraham Foxman, ADL's associate national director and head of its International Affairs Division, noted that Bolivia had just upgraded the status of the PLO mission in La Paz. Foxman said he had sent a telex to President Victor Paz Estenssoro expressing "profound concern."

The telex said that "permitting the PLO to expand greatly the number of its agents and granting them privileges ordinarily reserved for diplomats . . . poses a grave threat to personal safety, public order, stability and ultimately to democratic institutions."

"Latin American Report," published by ADL's Jarkow Institute for Latin America, is written by Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, director of the ADL's Latin American Affairs Department, and Martin Schwartz, assistant director. It provides information on issues and events in Latin America

affecting Jewish communities in the region and the State of Israel. The ADL report gave the following examples of differences emerging within the Peruvian government's ruling APRA Party over relations with the PLO:

* While President Garcia has made statements supporting the PLO, the president of the Chamber of Deputies, Fernando Leon de Viviero, is quoted as saying, during an APRA delegation's visit to Israel, that the statements "do not speak for all sectors of the APRA Party."

* Senator Javier Valle Riestra, the leader of the Peruvian delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva, delivered a strongly anti-Israel speech urging PLO participation in an international Middle East peace conference and Israeli withdrawal to its 1948 borders.

Subsequently, APRA Party Secretary General Luis Negreros assured the Israeli Ambassador to Peru that the Senator's remarks did not reflect the sentiments of the party or of the government. And in January, leading Peruvian officials visited Israel and met with Israeli leaders.

The report said that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega expressed Sandinista "solidarity and firm support for the noble struggle of the Palestinian people" in a letter to PLO chief Yasir Arafat, which was broadcast over Nicaraguan radio.

Situation In Argentina

In Argentina, according to the ADL, Zehdi Terzi, the PLO representative to the UN, told reporters that the PLO is trying "to establish . . . bilateral and diplomatic relations with Argentina." In an article in La Prensa, Terzi, reported that PLO representatives have had "official contacts" with the military, government officials, and "heads of subversive groups."

The ADL's report also cited indications of continuing Libyan ties with extremists in the region. The Libyan-backed Movement of International Revolutionary Committees paid homage to Colombian terrorist Jairo de Jesus Calvo Ocampo, alias "Ernesto Rojas," who was killed February 22 by the secret police in Bogota.

Among other developments noted in the report were a Costa Rican court's authorization of the extradition to the Soviet Union of accused Nazi war criminal Bohdan Koziy to stand trial, and a Brazilian magazine article claiming that the body exhumed from a Sao Paulo cemetery last year was not, contrary to police and forensic experts' claims, that of notorious Auschwitz doctor Josef Mengele.

Among positive developments in the region cited was the unanimous decision by the Uruguayan Senate urging the government to denounce the 1975 UN resolution equating Zionism with racism and "to begin the necessary measures for a new resolution which would abrogate . . . this unjust, anti-historic, United Nations resolution."

HIGH COURT SETS MAY 24 AS HEARING DATE ON APPEAL OF IDF OFFICER SERVING JAIL TERM FOR ALLEGED TREASON
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 19 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court has set May 24 as the date to begin hearing an appeal by former Israel Defense Force Lt. Azzat Nafsu who is serving an 18-year prison

sentence imposed by a military court in 1980 for alleged treason. Supreme Court President Meir Shamgar is expected shortly to name the panel of justices to hear the appeal. Shamgar agreed to the hearing after the Knesset amended the law to allow soldiers to carry their appeals beyond the military justice system.

Nafsu, who comes from the Circassian village of Kfar Kamma, was stripped of his rank. He claims he was convicted on false evidence. But a military court of appeals upheld his conviction. His appeal to the Supreme Court for reversal will be opposed by the chief military prosecutor, the first time in Israel's history that a military prosecutor will be allowed to plead before the high court.

Case Attracts National Attention

The case has attracted national attention because of indications that evidence used against Nafsu may have been fabricated by Shin Bet, the internal security service. The Shin Bet leadership has urged a Presidential pardon and release for the convicted soldier, apparently to close the case before it reaches the Supreme Court.

Attorney General Yosef Harish originally supported the Shin Bet proposal but has since changed his mind. The political leadership is said to believe that the case must be heard by the civilian legal system, regardless of possible repercussions against the Shin Bet.

The top secret agency was involved in a scandal last year over the murder of two captured Arab bus hijackers by security agents in 1984. Three senior Shin Bet officials were given Presidential pardons before any charges were filed against them. One of them admitted the agency routinely fabricated evidence to protect itself.

LYON JEWISH COMMUNITY MOUNTING HOLOCAUST EXHIBITION TO COINCIDE WITH TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINAL BARBIE

PARIS, April 19 (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Lyon is mounting an extensive exhibition on the Holocaust to coincide with the trial of Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie, the "butcher of Lyon," which is scheduled to open there on May 11.

According to the organizers, the exhibition is intended to remind the public, the media and the jurors of the Nazi era and to refute denials of the Holocaust which Barbie's lawyer, Jacques Verges, may resort to in his arguments for the defense.

Mayor Francisque Colomb of Lyon announced Saturday that he would cooperate fully with the organizers. They will be allowed to erect a temporary shelter close to the court. Conferences and seminars will be organized in connection with the exhibition. There will also be recorded testimonies to the Holocaust, including that of Simone Veil, former President of the Parliament of Europe, who is an Auschwitz survivor.

Barbie, who was taken into French custody after his expulsion from Bolivia in February 1983, has been charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity. As Gestapo chief in Lyon during the Nazi occupation, he was responsible for the deportation of French Jews, including children, to death camps and the murder of a French resistance leader.

FORMER SOVIET REFUSENIK BLITSSTEIN CELEBRATES HIS FIRST 'OPEN' SEDER

NEW YORK, April 19 (JTA) -- Former refusenik Lev Blitshtein celebrated his first "open" Passover, as the special guest at Bnai Zion's annual Third Seder Sunday, dedicated to Jews who live in oppressive societies.

"Thank you all for your support," Blitshtein told more than 200 Bnai Zion members and their families, and 30 invited guests from the National Association for the Jewish Poor.

"What helped us all in the Soviet Union was your support. Sometimes we would get telephone calls two times a week from our friends in America. Today is my first 'open' seder with so many friends. In the Soviet Union you couldn't have such a seder. It was too dangerous. If you tried to do it, you were making a second revolution."

Blitshtein, first refused in 1975 because he possessed "secrets" in connection with his work in the Soviet meat industry, divorced his wife Buma so that she and their two children might emigrate. On his arrival in the United States recently, the Blitshtsins were remarried.

In welcoming the Blitshtsins, Arlync Parness, Bnai Zion's Third Seder chairperson said, "We are very honored that the Blitshtein family, now reunited here, are able to celebrate the festival of Passover for the first time without fear of persecution. We hope that those Jews remaining in the Soviet Union will one day also celebrate in freedom."

The Third Seder was led by Sidney Wiener, chairperson of the Bnai Zion Foundation, who noted the presence on each table of a special matzoh, representing "a prayer for the deliverance of our brethren from political and religious oppression."

JACKSON SAYS BLACKS AND JEWS SHARE 'EXPERIENCE OF OPPRESSION' AND SHOULD PURSUE COMMON AGENDA OF CHANGE

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, April 19 (JTA) -- Blacks and Jews share the "experience of oppression" and should pursue a common agenda of change, including support for affirmative action, the Rev. Jesse Jackson told delegates of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism on the final day of their conference here a week ago.

"We know that, on the floor of Congress and in the voting booth, Jews and Blacks vote very much alike. In Congress, Black members and Jewish members work closely together, fighting for economic opportunity, for urban aid -- and for an end to apartheid in South Africa. In polling places and in public opinion booths, Blacks and Jews demonstrate similar commitment to the values of social justice, civil rights and human dignity."

Jackson, who is expected to run for President in 1988, named affirmative action as one of the issues on the common agenda. He said that although affirmative action had been ruled constitutional by the Supreme Court, the Reagan Administration "continues to wage war against it."

Views On Israel, Mideast

Jackson's address was on domestic issues, but he was questioned on his views about Israel. On the issue of Israel breaking American sanctions against selling arms to South Africa, Jackson said "the blood of South Africans is on the

hands of those who sell arms. Israel must choose whether it will relate to the United States or to South Africa."

Jackson also said he supported an international conference for peace in the Middle East that would include "all the players," adding: "If we search for reasons not to relate, we will find them. If we search for reasons to relate, we will find them."

He sidestepped a question about his link to Black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan whose sermons are filled with anti-Semitic rhetoric. "We're making a mistake to make one person the center of the agenda. There are weighty issues of jobs, peace and justice. I hope we'll put them in their proper perspective," he said.

Jackson himself was under heavy fire from the American Jewish community during the 1984 Presidential campaign when, while running for the Democratic Party nomination, he referred to Jews as "Hymies" and to New York City as "Hymietown." He subsequently apologized for both slurs.

SUPREME IDF COMMAND CHANGES HANDS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 19 (JTA) -- Supreme command of the Israel Defense Force changed hands Sunday when retiring Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Moshe Levy turned over his pennant and insignia of rank to his successor, Maj. Gen. Dan Shomron, who was promptly promoted to Lt. Gen. by Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Both senior officers received personal congratulations from President Chaim Herzog, Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Rabin. Shomron was received by an honor guard at IDF general headquarters and went to his office to chair his first meeting of the IDF high command.

Levy drove to his home in Kibbutz Beth Alfa where he donned civilian clothes after 33 years in uniform. His immediate plans are not known. He expects to go the U.S. for advanced university studies.

Shomron, 50, now Israel's 13th Chief of Staff, was born in Kibbutz Ashdod Yaacov in the Jordan Valley and began his military career in 1956 as a paratrooper. He commanded an armored division in Sinai during the Six-Day War, later served as commander of the southern front and in numerous staff jobs, rising to Deputy Chief of Staff before his appointment early this year to supreme commander.

He is best known to the Israeli public as the planner of "Operation Jonathan," the long-range rescue of hostages from Entebbe airport in Uganda on July 4, 1976.

ISRAEL'S TRADE DEFICIT UP 73 PERCENT

TEL AVIV, April 19 (JTA) -- Israel's trade deficit increased by 73 percent in the first quarter -- January-March -- of 1987 compared with the corresponding period in 1986, according to figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics Sunday.

Imports increased by 24.5 percent against an 11.5 percent increase of exports in the three month period. As a result, the average monthly trade deficit increased 14 percent compared to the last quarter -- October-December 1986 -- and 50 percent compared to the third quarter -- July-September 1986.

The figures do not include the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES JEWISH VOTERS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE CHICAGO ELECTION

By James Rice

CHICAGO, April 19 (JTA) -- When Mayor Harold Washington made his triumphant reelection victory speech April 7, more than a score of Jewish Chicagoans were among the VIPs invited to join him on the stage of Navy Pier Auditorium. For the first time since the days of the late legendary Col. Jack Arvey, who delivered crucial Jewish votes from the West Side area, Chicago Jews were publicly organized to aid a mayoral candidate.

Now, approximately half of metropolitan Chicago's Jewish population of 250,000 live within the city on the lakefront, North Side, and in Hyde Park, Chicago's only truly integrated area, where Mayor Washington resides.

The Jewish Voters for a United Chicago were first organized to aid Washington in the hotly contested Democratic Party primary, against popular former Mayor Jane Byrne. A New York Times post-election analysis of the primary results showed that 47 percent of the Jewish voters supported Washington in his narrow victory, contrasting to 10 percent of white Catholics, 25 percent of white Protestants, and 90 percent of Blacks who voted for him.

The pattern of significant Jewish backing of a Black mayor is of course not unique. Mayors Tom Bradley of Los Angeles and Andrew Young of Atlanta have benefitted from Jewish support. What is unique here is that many concerned Jewish business, professional, political, philanthropic, and religious leaders organized publicly to help ensure the reelection of this city's first Black mayor.

In the April 7 election, the mayor had to face three more opponents -- all originally Democratic Party members, including County Assessor Thomas Hynes, who also enjoyed significant Jewish support, running as the "Chicago First" candidate; Cook County Democratic Chairman Edward Vrdolyak as "Solidarity Party" candidate; and Donald Haider, expert on budgeting and governmental administration, as Republican nominee.

Because of Hynes' poor showing in a four-way debate, he dropped out two days before the election. Most of his support, including many Jewish voters, ended up with Vrdolyak, an effective campaigner, who gained 42 percent of the vote against Washington's 53 percent.

Washington's Contributions Emphasized

The Jewish Voters' literature, distributed to 50,000 Jewish homes, emphasized Washington's achievements in improving Chicago's fiscal status; his leadership in establishing the city's first Ethics Ordinance; and opening his administration to minorities and women.

Especially stressed was the mayor's appointment of "qualified Jewish Chicagoans to key positions" -- by far the largest number appointed by any Chicago mayor.

The Jewish Voters reminded constituents that as a member of Congress and as mayor, Washington "consistently supported the security, economic interests, and independence of Israel, which he visited in 1985 with leaders of Chicago's Jewish community. He has given strong support to the Soviet Jewish emigration movement . . . cooperated with the organized Jewish community in helping the Jewish poor and persons in need

across Chicago . . . and has been sensitive to the need for separation of church and state."

The Jewish Voters arranged for the mayor to campaign repeatedly in Jewish areas where he was warmly received. He enjoyed the traditional corned beef sandwich while happily signing children's autographs in the company of Illinois Senator (and current Presidential candidate) Paul Simon, followed by their partaking of hamantaschen at a kosher bakery.

The day before the election, the mayor welcomed the visit of Ohio Senator Howard Metzenbaum, as they lunched at a kosher Golden Diners Center in a synagogue; visited day schools, and senior center programs. Mayor Teddy Kolek of Jerusalem, a close friend of Washington, sent him a warm congratulatory message the day after the election.

Interfaith Committee Organized

Consistent with their efforts "for a United Chicago," the Jewish Voters co-chairmen helped organize an "Interfaith Committee to reelect Mayor Harold Washington" including Rabbis Seymour Cohen and Michael Siegel of Anshe Emet Synagogue, Rabbi Arnold Kaiman of Kol Ami, and lay leaders.

Jewish support for the mayor was certainly not monolithic, as demonstrated in certain aldermanic elections. In Chicago's 43rd Ward, a "yuppie" stronghold, Harvard graduate Edwin Eisen-drath III, member of a well-known Jewish family, sharply defeated Robert Perkins, another Ivy Leaguer who was supported by the mayor and the retiring Jewish Alderman Martin Oberman.

In the 50th Ward, where many synagogues, Jewish community programs and day schools are located, an outspoken foe of the mayor, Alderman Bernard Stone, easily won re-election.

On the other hand, in the lakefront's 46th Ward, Alderman Jerome Ohrbach, a Vrdolyak supporter, was narrowly defeated by Helen Shiller, daughter of Holocaust survivors, strongly endorsed by Washington.

Leaders of the Jewish Voters are convinced that their vigorous public support for Mayor Washington was not only a significant factor in his reelection, but it will serve to ensure a continued Jewish role in his Administration, and will help improve Black-Jewish relations at a critical period in this city's turbulent history.

MAYOR TO BE HONORED FOR PROMOTING ARAB-JEWISH AMITY

JERUSALEM, April 19 (JTA) -- Mayor Ibrahim Nimr Hussein of the Israeli Arab town of Shfaram will be honored for his efforts to promote understanding and goodwill between Arabs and Jews.

He will receive a medal awarded annually by the Movement for a Better Israel, a non-political group of about 1,200 of Jews and Arabs seeking amity between the two communities.

Hussein was recommended for the award by the mayors of Kiryat Bialik, Kiryat Ata and Tivon who said their towns had excellent relations with Shfaram due largely to the Arab mayor's efforts. Problems that arose between them over the years were solved amicably through negotiations "conducted in an atmosphere of goodwill," they said.

Hussein was also cited for his tolerance in dealing with the minority Christian and Druze communities in Shfaram.