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FOUR IDF SOLDIERS WOUNDED

TEL AVIV, May 20 (JTA) -- Four Israel Defense Force soldiers were wounded when an explosive detonated on a roadside in the south Lebanon security zone Wednesday as their patrol passed by. IDF and South Lebanon Army (SLA) troops searched the area for traces of the persons who planted the explosive.

Reports from Sidon in south Lebanon Wednesday said six Israel Air Force jets overflew the city and nearby refugee camps in the morning but dropped no bombs. Air raid sirens sounded and Palestinian anti-aircraft gunners opened fire but scored no hits, the reports said. Israel Navy vessels were visible offshore during the overflights.

RIOTING JEWISH SETTLERS WILL BE TREATED AS CRIMINALS, GENERAL SAYS

TEL AVIV, May 20 (JTA) -- Rioting West Bank Jewish settlers will be treated "like common criminals," Deputy Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Ehud Barak warned.

"There are Israelis who have overstepped any acceptable norm in their behavior towards soldiers on duty. These people should get a hold on themselves. If they don't, they will be treated like common criminals," he said to reporters as he took up his post at Israel Defense Force General Headquarters.

He said that complaints would be filed against Israelis caught in vigilante activities, damaging property or harassing the Arab population. Barak said the IDF would stop vigilante patrols by settlers, which he described as illegal and an interference with the Army's ongoing security activities.

In summing up his leadership of the Central Command, Barak said the IDF had blocked all efforts to infiltrate into Israel via the Jordan River in the past 16 months and had foiled all but two attempts to escape from the country by crossing the river.

He said there were 10 attempts to escape from Israel through the Jordan Valley, including two by terrorists who had been involved in attacks in Israel.

There were nine attempts to penetrate into Israel while he led the Central Command, most of which were foiled immediately. But in one case the infiltrator was caught only after 10 days, he said.

WEST BANK, GAZA ARAB POPULATION TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY BY YEAR 2002
By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 20 (JTA) -- The Arab population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will number between 1.9 and 2.4 million 15 years from now, an increase of 44 to 81 percent despite an anticipated decline in the fertility rate and the possibility that more Arabs will leave the territories than enter them, according to a study by the Central Bureau of Statistics published Sunday. The Arab population now is about 1.3 million. The study, titled "Population Forecast for Judaea,

Samaria and the Gaza District by 2002," projects an average annual growth rate of 2.2 to 3.5 percent for the Arab population.

A Bureau spokesman said it is based on the assumption that Arab births in the West Bank will decline from 6.5 per woman in the period 1983-87 to five per woman by the period 1998-2002.

In the Gaza Strip, the number of births per woman is expected to decline from 7.2 to 5.7. But life expectancy in both territories will rise from the current 63 years to 69 years in 1998-2002, the Bureau said.

The study posited three possible scenarios with respect to population movement: (A) "Zero emigration balance" by which the number of outgoing residents will equal the number of incoming residents in both territories; (B) Outgoing residents will outnumber incoming by 8,000 a year in the West Bank and by 6,500 a year in the Gaza District; (C) A negative emigration rate of 10 percent per 1,000 in both territories.

According to these assumptions, the West Bank Arab population will total between 1.1 and 1.4 million by 2002 compared to 813,000 at present and the Arab population in the Gaza District will reach 800,000 compared to 526,000 at present.

PORTUGAL AWARDS ONE OF ITS HIGHEST HONORS TO ARISTIDES DE SOUSA MENDES

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, May 20 (JTA) -- Aristides de Sousa Mendes, a Portuguese consul general who disobeyed his country by issuing thousands of visas to Jews fleeing Nazi-occupied France, was posthumously awarded one of Portugal's highest honors here Tuesday. The award caps a longtime effort by de Sousa Mendes' family and U.S. Congressmen to pay tribute to the man who died penniless after his efforts cost him his career.

"There's an old saying and tradition in Portugal that Portugal awards the best of its sons very poorly," said President Mario Soares as he bestowed the Order of Freedom upon de Sousa Mendes' family at the Portuguese Embassy. "We have here a tribute to a man who honored his country then and honors us now."

De Sousa Mendes held the post of Portuguese consul general in Bordeaux in 1940 when thousand of refugees were trying to flee France. He was instructed by his government, ruled by the dictator Antonio Salazar, a friend of Hitler, not to issue visas. He disobeyed the instructions and issued some 30,000 visas with about a third going to Jews, before being stripped of his power and sent back to Lisbon. He was ousted from the diplomatic corps and not allowed to practice his profession of law.

De Sousa Mendes' daughter, Joana, accepted the award by quoting her father: "The praise is due to the country and its population, whose altruistic and humanitarian feelings found their full expression and universal impact precisely due to the disobedience of the claimant."

Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne, who attended the ceremony in place of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, said the award comes at a time when "there is a tendency to distort the history of World War II, when there are some who claim

the Holocaust never existed. Steven Carol, a professor of history and international relations at Adelphi University in Long Island, N.Y., said he knew his parents had escaped from France via Portugal during World War II. But it was not until he read an article about de Sousa Mendes in The New York Times two years ago that he looked at his parent's visa papers and discovered de Sousa Mendes' signature. "This is history and my family history coming together," said Carol.

Sylvain Bromberger, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who was 15 when he and his parents were awarded visas to go to Portugal, made the connection with de Sousa Mendes by seeing the same newspaper article. "We never set eyes on him (de Sousa Mendes) or set foot in the Embassy. It's weird knowing you owe your life to someone," said Bromberger.

The first recognition of de Sousa Mendes came in 1967 when Yad Vashem awarded a commemorative medal. A tree was also planted in the Garden of the Righteous on the grounds of the Yad Vashem Museum. In 1986 Rep. Tony Coelho (D. Ca.), the only member of Congress from a Portuguese background, drafted a resolution to honor de Sousa Mendes. A letter to Soares which culminated in the bestowing of the award was written by Rep. Henry Waxman (D. Ca.) and was signed by 70 members.

But de Sousa Mendes' supporters, who have organized an international committee, believe even more recognition is due. They are urging that a street be named for de Sousa Mendes in Jerusalem. Waxman has written to Soares suggesting that de Sousa Mendes be restored to his rank in the diplomatic corps and that a stamp be issued or statue created for him in Portugal.

ANTI-SEMITIC BOOKS AND TRACTS DISPLAYED AT BOOK FAIR IN GENEVA

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, May 20 (JTA) -- The display of books by anti-Semitic authors and tracts questioning the truth of the Holocaust at the International Book Fair here disturbed the Jewish community and drew a letter of protest from the Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations, Pinchas Eliav, to the organizers of the event.

The fair, which closed on May 17, was the first book fair hosted by Geneva. It displayed books and periodicals from 400 publishers in 30 countries and was covered by 700 journalists from all over the world. The Iranian stand had on sale the notorious "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," an anti-Semitic forgery of the 19th century. The Palestine Liberation Organization also had a stand for its propaganda.

But eyebrows were raised by the French Library's display under the title "Traditional France Opposed to Cosmopolitan Subversion." "Cosmopolitan" has long been a code word in anti-Semitic European circles for international Jewry.

Under that headline were books by Ferdinand Celine, a world famous, highly acclaimed author who acknowledged during his lifetime that he was an anti-Semite. There were also works by obscure authors, including one titled "Should Henry Roques Be Shot Dead?" which claims the Nazi gas chambers never existed. The same claim was contained in a display of comic strips by a cartoonist named Knok, which appeared alongside a book titled "A Painter Named Hitler."

The book fair was criticized by Roland Sussman, editor of The Jewish Review published in Zurich. "Greed for financial success should not override morality," he said, adding that he hoped the planners of the next book fair will exercise better judgement in choosing its participants.

ORTHODOX RABBI SUGGESTS POLICY OF 'CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT' IN DEALING WITH REFORM, CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

SPRING GLEN, N.Y., May 20 (JTA) -- The president of the Rabbinical Council of America, the largest Orthodox rabbinic group in the U.S., said here Wednesday that Orthodoxy should follow a "policy of creative engagement" in its dealings with Reform and Conservative Judaism. But he accused those movements, at the same time, of forcing Orthodox Judaism into a "confrontation and conflict" it did not want.

"We are in a war, not one that we started but one from which we should not withdraw," Rabbi Milton Polin declared in his presidential address at the RCA's 51st annual convention at the Homowack Lodge here, attended by several hundred rabbis from all over the U.S.

He defined the policy of "creative engagement" as "sometimes cooperating with the Reform and Conservative movements, sometimes ignoring them and sometimes fighting with them."

He listed the areas of confrontation as the doctrine of patrilineal descent, the American military chaplaincy, funding for Israeli institutions by the Jewish Agency, and the establishment and recognition of Reform and Conservative Judaism in Israel.

Accuses Reform Judaism

Polin accused the Reform movement of "promulgating a new definition of Judaism, i.e., patrilineal descent, that a child of a Jewish father and a non-Jewish mother is Jewish"; endorsing a woman for the chaplaincy outside of the regular channels of the JWB; pressuring the UJA/Federation to fund their projects in Israel and claiming discrimination; and withholding funds from the UJA "because they thought they could get away with it."

He also accused the Reform movement of trying to destroy the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, the rabbinical court system and the "rule of halacha in matters of personal status."

But despite all of this, Polin said, Orthodoxy will work with the Conservative and Reform movements. He said in the case of the chaplaincy dispute, "several informal agreements" have been reached that may lead to the establishment of a new Jewish chaplaincy council.

In the case of funding, there is an "informal agreement" that the Reform movement "too will oppose the signing of a loyalty oath as a precondition" to funding by the Jewish Agency.

Polin said "the policy of creative engagement leaves us open to criticism from the Orthodox right and the non-Orthodox left. Therefore, the RCA must expand its efforts to explain to the community where it stands on each issue."

SOVIET JEWRY GROUP DEMANDS THAT THE ABA CANCEL ITS AGREEMENT WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF SOVIET LAWYERS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 20 (JTA) -- The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (USCJ) demanded

Wednesday that a committee of the American Bar Association publicly recommend that the ABA cancel its formal agreement of cooperation with the Association of Soviet Lawyers (ASL).

"The ASL is the most prominent official sponsor and publisher of anti-Semitic material in the Soviet Union," Pamela Cohen, the UCSJ's president, said. She noted that unlike the members of the ABA, the ASL lawyers "work only for the State, not for their clients."

"For the ABA to maintain this official recognition is to accord them (ASL) a professional dignity that is not only undeserved, but an obscene insult to all Jews, dissidents and Prisoners of Conscience who live under the yoke of Soviet oppression."

Cohen's demand was aimed at the Committee on Law and Security which, along with other ABA committees, is meeting here this week. The committee reportedly voted in private earlier this year to recommend that the ABA abrogate the agreement, but has never made this public, according to John Rosenberg, the UCSJ's spokesman.

The UCSJ and other Jewish groups have urged that the ABA end the arrangement since it was first agreed upon in 1985. At its annual meeting last year, the ABA rejected a resolution to terminate the agreement, but said it would be reviewed to see if the Soviet Union had approved its human rights practices. The ABA's board of governors is expected to review the agreement again in August.

Cohen said that "during the past year or so this arrangement has permitted the ASL to bask in the warm glow of collegiality with the American legal profession, taking credit for it on Moscow television to the dismay of accused Hebrew teachers, who needed representation; denying vicious human rights violations . . . and asserting unfounded human rights progress at the Helsinki meetings in Vienna."

In 1985, the ASL, in cooperation with the Soviet anti-Zionist Committee, published a "major anti-Semitic tract, 'The White Book,' a disinformation effort comparable to Nazi propaganda," Cohen said.

"Meanwhile, the Soviets boast of 1,800 American lawyers visiting in 1986, and the ABA will reciprocate by hosting an ASL delegation to the National Association of Attorney Generals in June," Cohen said.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE ZIONIST CONGRESS IS UNDER WAY

NEW YORK, May 20 (JTA) -- Close to a million ballots were mailed within the last week to members of American Zionist organizations to elect delegates to the 31st World Zionist Congress which will open in Jerusalem on December 7, it was announced here by the American Zionist Federation (AZF), the umbrella group for all the Zionist membership organizations in the United States. Eligible voters will choose from nine slates representing a broad spectrum of views on issues of concern to the Jewish people.

Benjamin Cohen, AZF president, and Raymond Patt, Area Election Committee chairperson, said recipients of the ballots have until June 30 to return them. While the AZF is the coordinating body for the election, voters have been instructed to mail their ballots directly to the American Arbitration Association (AAA) which is overseeing the election. Any member of the 16 AZF constitu-

ent organizations who has not received a ballot by May 30 should contact the AAA at (212) 484-3220, Cohen and Patt said.

According to the two officials, if a person is a member of more than one Zionist organization, that person may receive more than one ballot. But, Cohen and Patt emphasized, "You may vote only once. If you return more than one ballot, your vote will not be counted."

'A Remarkable Democratic Exercise'

Patt called the balloting "a remarkable democratic exercise which allows members in the U.S. Zionist organizations to select their representatives to the World Zionist Congress." He predicted that the response would exceed the more than 200,000 ballots cast in 1978, the last time elections took place for the Zionist Congress.

"This is certainly the 'Year of the Zionist'," Patt said. "We witnessed a dramatic increase in Zionist membership; we experienced a highly successful American Zionist Assembly in Philadelphia last January which was attended by some 1,600 people. And we are extremely encouraged by a renewed interest in Zionism, particularly by young Jews."

Cohen said that "a strong showing in this election will serve as a reaffirmation of basic Zionist principles and also reinforce the Jerusalem Program adopted at the 27th Zionist Congress in 1968."

The Jerusalem program affirms that the aims of Zionism are: "The unity of the Jewish people and the centrality of Israel in Jewish life; The ingathering of the Jewish people in its historic homeland Eretz Yisrael, through aliya from all countries; The strengthening of the State of Israel, which is based on the prophetic vision of justice and peace; The preservation of the identity of the Jewish people though the fostering of Jewish and Hebrew education and of Jewish spiritual and cultural values; The protection of Jewish rights everywhere."

The Nine Slates

There are nine slates, in the following order drawn by lot:

- * SLATE 1 Mercaz - Strengthening Israel's Conservative/Masorti Judaism
- * SLATE 2 Hadassah - Bnai Zion - American Jewish League - Young Judaea
- * SLATE 3 Zionist Organization of America - ZOA - Masada Youth Movement
- * SLATE 4 Students for Israel
- * SLATE 5 ARZA - Association of Reform Zionists of America
- * SLATE 6 Herut Zionists - Tchiya - Sephardic Movement - United Zionist Revisionists of America - Betar Zionist Youth Organization
- * SLATE 7 The Progressive Zionist List - Americans for Progressive Israel - Hashomer Hatzair
- * SLATE 8 Religious Zionist Movement - Amit-Emunah - RZA
- * SLATE 9 Friends of Labor: Na'amat, LZA, Habonim

Although all of the organizations are united on the basic Zionist agenda, such as the security of the State of Israel and aliya, they differ on such issues as pluralism in Israel, the future of territories captured by Israel in 1967, and the process for achieving many of Zionism's goals, Cohen and Patt said.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA GALACTIC MEZUZAH IS NOW EARTH-BOUND AT JEWISH MUSEUM By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, May 20 (JTA) -- A mezuzah that has orbited the earth 109 times came to rest Monday at the Jewish Museum here. Astronaut Dr. Jeffrey Hoffman, who took the mezuzah into space two years ago on the shuttle Discovery, made the presentation of the unearthly mezuzah to the Jewish Museum.

Hoffman, an identifying Jew and active member of a synagogue in Houston, Texas, said he "wanted to make this special," referring to the tradition of taking personal possessions into space to be brought back as unusual mementos.

Other astronauts have brought with them flags, school banners and rings, all manner of souvenirs that become touched with a sense of infinity as they pass through the earth's stratosphere and circle the heavens.

"I did something else," said Hoffman, as he presented the handsome mezuzah to the museum. "Being a Jew and making my first trip into space," Hoffman said he was aware of the Jewish history of traveling, of moving from place to place. He even joked about one day establishing a synagogue in space.

Carried Jewish Civilization Into Space

"As we go into space, we carry our civilization and culture with us. Being a Jew is part of that," Hoffman said as he handed over the mezuzah, mounted on a framed collage of his voyage, which includes a drawing of the Discovery circling the earth, the American flag trailing the craft, its red and white stripes coming around the globe nearly full circle. The names of the crew are embossed onto a NASA insignia with the name "Discovery" running vertically down the board, the flight number, 51-D, H-19 and date, April 1985, at the top.

The cobalt navy blue ceramic mezuzah, looking somewhat like a model car, is mounted on the left side of the tableau. Around the mezuzah runs a Hebrew phrase painted in 23-karat gold: "When I consider the heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou has ordained." The verse is from the Book of Prophets, 8:4.

"This is one of the most unusual objects we've ever received," said Joan Rosenbaum, museum director, as she accepted the gift.

Rosenbaum was flanked not only by museum staff members but by several members of the family of mezuzah craftswoman Marsha Penzer, who was asked to create several mezuzahs for Hoffman by the J. Levine Company, the well-known purveyor of Judaica located on New York's Lower East Side.

"It was wild," Penzer told JTA when asked how she felt two years ago when she stood at Cape Canaveral with her family and watched her handicraft launched into space. Penzer spoke about Hoffman's extreme thoughtfulness in inviting her, her children and parents to the lift-off. Since then, he sent her a tape of a radio interview he gave after the voyage which included a tape he made aboard the Discovery in which he described his personal feelings and experiences.

Hoffman was also kind enough, said Penzer, to personally call to invite her to the museum for the presentation of her mezuzah.

Penzer was contacted by J. Levine in June 1984, after Hoffman's rabbi in Houston, Arnold Stiebel, met people from the Judaica house while in New York. Stiebel said that Hoffman had insisted that the parchment containing the "shma" be kosher. He was also asked by Hoffman to write a prayer for him to say when he circled the earth, as no prayer yet existed to be recited by an astronaut.

Stiebel, a Reform rabbi at the Conservative congregation, Shaar Hashalom, fashioned a short prayer for Hoffman with the words "Blessed art thou . . ." preceding the last verses of the "Aleinu" prayer: "Praised art thou, Lord our God, ruler of the universe, who stretches forth the heaven and lays the foundation of the earth, whose glory is revealed in the heavens above and whose might is manifest in the loftiest part." The prayer was written in Hebrew and followed by the traditional "Shehecheyanu," said when experiencing something for the first time.

Hoffman told JTA he recited the prayer when awake at night after the other four astronauts and Sen. Jake Garn (R. Utah) who accompanied them had gone to sleep. Although it was his time to sleep, as well, he said he just wanted to silently watch the magnificent celestial display taking place all around him. He was inspired to say the prayer as he watched the beauty of the earth below him and thunderstorms swirling around the skies.

Active Member Of His Synagogue

The 42-year-old astrophysicist, originally from Scarsdale, in Westchester County just north of New York City, is an active member of his synagogue in Houston, serving on the education committee and the men's club. He has already presented another of the four mezuzahs he took with him to the synagogue, where it is displayed in a case in the sanctuary.

Hoffman is married to an Englishwoman, Barbara, whom he met while working in England. They are the parents of two sons, Samuel, 12, and Orin, 8. Barbara has been president of the synagogue sisterhood, and the boys attend religious school.

The softspoken astronaut said that as a result of "a certain amount of publicity" he received when he was selected for the flight, he was contacted by synagogues for interviews. It was then he realized that "it meant a lot to them. That got me thinking that it was more than me that was going. It meant something for other people as well."

INDIA WILL ALLOW ISRAELIS TO PLAY IN DAVIS CUP MATCHES IN NEW DELHI

TEL AVIV, May 20 (JTA) -- The Indian government, reversing a ranking policy of long-standing, announced Wednesday that the India-Israel Davis Cup tennis matches would be played in New Delhi in July. The announcement overturned a previous ruling that visas would not be granted the Israeli players.

The Israel Tennis Federation was informed Wednesday morning that the major shift in policy was announced by a spokesman for the Indian Foreign Ministry. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi gave his approval after having previously barred the Israeli tennis team from entering India for a world championship tournament last February.