

ISRAELI PRESS RAPS APPOINTED ENVOY ARAD, BUT COLLEAGUES ADMIRE HIM

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 10 (JTA) -- Moshe Arad, the career foreign service officer nominated to be Israel's next Ambassador to the United States, has been the subject of less-than-charitable commentary by the media which his colleagues say is unfair. A cartoonist in one major daily depicted him as the pilot of a tiny single-engine plane labelled "Mexico" about to take the controls of a jumbo jet labeled "U.S." Arad has just completed a tour of duty as Israel's Ambassador in Mexico City. The cartoon implied he is not ready to take over Israel's most important diplomatic post abroad.

A Jerusalem Post editorial said that with U.S.-Israel relations at an especially "delicate" juncture, "nothing less than the highest qualities... would seem to be required" of an Ambassador to Washington. The Post acknowledged that Arad "is certainly a capable diplomat" but that "the Washington post... calls for something more."

The media reactions appear to have been influenced by the fact that Arad's nomination was a compromise reached by Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres after months of public wrangling over a successor to Meir Rosenne. Rosenne's four-year tour of duty ended on May 31. He declined to stay on, and Shamir and Peres were forced to agree quickly on a replacement. Foreign service insiders and observers consider the media barbs unjustified. They say Arad's selection, however arrived at, was not a bad choice and could turn out to be a remarkably good one. Arad's friends and colleagues hold him in high regard for his intellectual attributes and poise.

Called A Professional

Shamir and Peres apparently were impressed by his professionalism. Although he is believed to be closer in his views to Labor than Likud, he is not politically active. Shamir agreed to nominate Arad after he vetoed a succession of other non-political candidates proposed by Peres.

Aides said Shamir, who has twice held the offices of Premier and Foreign Minister, values professionalism above all. As Ambassador to Mexico and in his earlier positions in the foreign service, Arad always reported back succinctly and exhaustively. His performance of his duties is said to have influenced Shamir most.

Arad's formal designation as Ambassador to the U.S. awaits official American concurrence. He has already been approved by the Cabinet. Perhaps the greatest asset he will take to his new job is that in the context of Israel's currently fragmented political spectrum he succeeded in obtaining the backing of both Shamir and Peres.

FORMER TREBLINKA GUARD IDENTIFIES DEMJANJUK AS 'IVAN THE TERRIBLE'

By David Kantor

BONN, June 10 (JTA) -- The trial of suspected war criminal John Demjanjuk has moved

temporarily from Jerusalem to West Berlin. There Otto Horn, a former SS guard at the Treblinka death camp, identified Demjanjuk from photographs Tuesday as his fellow guard known to the inmates as "Ivan the Terrible."

Horn, 87 and in poor health, was unable to travel to Israel to testify. He was questioned in a West Berlin courtroom by Israeli prosecuting attorney Michael Horowitz and Demjanjuk's American lawyer, Mark O'Connor, before the three-judge panel of the Jerusalem district court which is hearing the case, Dov Levin, Dalia Dorner and Tzvi Tal.

Horowitz concentrated on details necessary for a positive identification of Demjanjuk as the notorious "Ivan." O'Connor sought to discredit the witness by alluding to his possible involvement in war crimes. Horn was tried in Dusseldorf in 1964 and 1965 for alleged complicity in murder. He was acquitted for lack of evidence.

The judge in charge of the West Berlin court allowed the hearing to be conducted according to Israeli practice. He refrained from questioning the witness, leaving the interrogation entirely to the prosecuting and defense attorneys. Occasionally one of the Israeli judges put a question to Horn. He took the stand again on Wednesday and may also appear on Thursday.

GENERAL WHO CONDEMNED SETTLERS' ATTACK NOW OBJECT OF NEW BARRAGE

By Hugh Orel

TEL AVIV, June 10 (JTA) -- The arraignment of 13 Kiryat Arba residents for alleged participation in an armed raid by Jewish settlers on the Daheisha refugee camp near Bethlehem Saturday night has been overshadowed for now by another attack.

Settlers and rightwing elements are condemning Lt. Gen. Amram Mitzna, commander of the central sector, for his public expression of outrage over the incident. He called it the most despicable act ever perpetrated by Jews in the administered territories.

Mitzna, whom rightwingers accuse of political motivations, has the full backing of the Israel Defense Force and a large segment of public opinion. "All the IDF central command and General Staff officers back Mitzna's choice of words about the settlers' act in Daheisha," the military correspondent of the Mapam daily Al Hamishmar reported Wednesday, quoting senior IDF sources.

"The time has come to speak out about the situation in the territories the way it really is, even if phrased in harsh terms," the source said. "Mitzna favors neither the left nor the right, only the IDF."

Correspondent Yosef Walter, writing in Maariv Wednesday, said, "Mitzna's uncompromising stand and his cutting words aimed at the settlers who ran amok at Daheisha doubtlessly constitutes a sharp and clear change of the IDF's policy in the West Bank."

According to the writer, "The restrained and hesitant statements made by senior officers, the tradition of making anonymous statements to the media under the guise of 'military sources' in order not to become enmeshed with the settlers

and the political establishment are not part of Mitzna's rules of the game."

Mitzna has risen to high rank despite incurring the wrath of Ariel Sharon for his outspoken opposition to the Lebanon war in 1982. Sharon, who was Defense Minister at the time, has not forgotten that Mitzna, then head of the IDF Staff and Command College, told a meeting of top military leaders that if Sharon did not resign, he would leave the army.

He submitted his resignation to then Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan, but withdrew it at the urging of fellow officers. Eitan, though closely associated with Sharon, allowed Mitzna to advance in the military hierarchy.

According to his colleagues, Mitzna is not sensitive to "what people will say." He views his mission as preserving the IDF's image in the eyes of both Arabs and Jews as the sole factor responsible for order and security in the administered territories, they said.

OFFICIAL SAYS SIX MORE AFRICAN STATES EXPECTED TO RESUME TIES WITH ISRAEL
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 10 (JTA) -- Israel expects to regain diplomatic relations by year's end with two more Black African states that severed them at the time of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday.

Benad Avital, director of the Ministry's African Department, told Israel Radio that all told, six African nations have announced their intention to restore diplomatic relations with Israel. He did not identify the countries.

On Tuesday, Togo announced its decision to resume relations with Israel. The Togolese government said it based its decision on the precedence of Egypt which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979. "Such relations are now normal and natural," the government communique said, quoting President Gnassingbe Eyadema.

In all, 29 Black African countries broke with Israel 14 years ago and five have now restored relations. Togo followed Zaire, Liberia, Cameroon and the Ivory Coast.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir is scheduled to leave next week on visits to Liberia and Cameroon.

BRITAIN SEEN MULLING SYRIA POLICY

LONDON, June 10 (JTA) -- Reacting to pressure from British diplomats, the new national government is expected to review its policy toward Syria following general elections Thursday, the Financial Times reported. But a Foreign Office official cautioned Tuesday against expecting a rapid policy change.

Britain broke off ties with Syria last October after Nezar Hindawi, a Jordanian national with a Syrian passport was convicted of trying to blow up an Israeli airliner here apparently with Syrian encouragement.

Several reasons were advanced for reconsidering the issue. They included mounting pressure from other West European countries for a softening of Britain's line, which has led to a suspension of European Community aid to Syria.

Isolation of Syria was also questioned since Syria is a potential participant in a future Middle East peace conference and it was pointed out that Syria had reportedly shut down the Damascus headquarters of the Abu Nidal terrorist group.

FIRST ADL KLINGHOFFER AWARD TO BRITAIN FOR TERRORISM FIGHT
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 10 (JTA) -- The British Consul General in New York, James Mellon, called Wednesday on American Jews to support his government's fight against Irish Republican Army (IRA) terrorism.

The British official made his comment after he had accepted the first Leon and Marilyn Klinghoffer Award of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith on behalf of his government. The award was given in recognition of the British government's actions against international terrorism. The presentation came during ADL's National Commission meeting at the Hyatt Hotel here June 10-14.

Mellon vowed that his government will continue its fight against international terrorism wherever and whenever it takes place, as it did when a terrorist tried to use his pregnant Irish girlfriend to smuggle explosives last August on an El Al plane in London.

Abraham Foxman, ADL's associate national director, said that the award honors Britain for breaking diplomatic relations with Syria, because of its involvement in the terrorist plot to blow up in midair the Israeli airliner.

"Britain set a standard for other nations to follow," Foxman said. "The message to the terrorists and the governments that sponsor terrorism was plain as day."

The award, a sculpture, was presented to Mellon by Lisa and Issa Klinghoffer, daughters of the Klinghoffers. Leon Klinghoffer was murdered by Palestinian terrorists who hijacked the Achille Lauro cruise ship he was on with his wife.

Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, said that the "first rule" in the fight against international terrorism is "never to surrender to terrorist demands."

The Israeli envoy claimed that countries who support or sponsor international terrorism "should pay for their actions." This should be made through diplomatic and economic sanctions, and as a last resort, through military means, as demonstrated by the American attack on Libya in April 1986, Netanyahu said.

ISRAELI FARMERS IRKED BY LOW PRICES OF FALL-OVER WHEAT
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 10 (JTA) - This year's bumper wheat crop has become the center of a fierce controversy between wheat farmers and ultra-Orthodox Jews. The latter insist that it be exported because they cannot eat produce grown on Jewish-owned land during this "shmita" (every seventh) year in which the land is to lie fallow according to biblical injunction.

The government has already served notice it will pay the farmers less than usual this year because most of their crop will be going overseas. The farmers accused the government of knuckling under to religious extremists.

The ultra-Orthodox claim they have made arrangements through their cohorts in the U.S. to have the Americans sell Israel wheat grown by non-Jews to compensate for the exported Israeli wheat. The farmers said this will cost the Treasury scores of millions of dollars in needless expenses, plus transportation and port handling

charges. The Chief Rabbinate has taken what it considers to be a compromise on the issue. It re-adopted a 1919 ruling by the then-Chief Rabbi Avraham Hacoen Kook that crops could be grown during a fallow year if a bill of sale was arranged to pass the land nominally to non-Jewish ownership for the year.

That has been accepted by the moderate Orthodox but rejected by the Agudat Israel and the Neturei Karta, the Jerusalem sect which refuses to recognize the State of Israel.

Haaretz reported Tuesday that the staunchly secular kibbutzim were the first to comply with the ultra-Orthodox demands.

The three largest kibbutz bakeries in Kfar Hahorsh, Einat and Mishmar Hasharon produce 17 percent of the country's bread and fear an ultra-Orthodox boycott of their products, Haaretz said.

ISRAEL, PARENTS APPEAL TO SYRIA FOR DATA ON MISSING SOLDIERS
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 10 (JTA) -- Syria and various terrorist organizations operating in Lebanon have given no information on the fate of three Israel Defense Force soldiers missing for five years, and Israel holds Damascus responsible for their welfare. So said Maj. Gen. Natan Vilnay, head of the IDF's manpower branch, at a press conference Tuesday.

Vilnay was seated with the parents of two of the missing soldiers -- Zecharya Baumel and Zvi Feldman. Both tankmen, they were captured in the battle of Sultan Yaacub in Lebanon on June 11, 1982. They were believed to have been taken prisoner by Syrian troops or Syrian-backed terrorists. Three other IDF soldiers missing at the same time have been accounted for. Two, Arik Lieberman and Hezi Shai, were taken prisoner and returned to Israel in prisoner exchanges. The third, Zohar Lifschitz, was killed. His body was subsequently recovered.

Yona Baumel and his wife Miriam, immigrants from the U.S., are residents of Jerusalem. He said they have "travelled close to 100,000 miles on four continents" in their efforts to get information on the fate of their son.

He said eye-witness reports since Zecharya's capture indicate he is alive. "Today we are firmly convince these soldiers are under Syrian control," he said, even though Syrian President Hafez Assad denied any knowledge of the Israelis when he met with former President Jimmy Carter in Damascus several months ago.

Miriam Baumel said she met three weeks ago with Sen. Claiborne Pell (D. R.I.), who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. She said Pell expressed concern and sent a letter on the subject to Secretary of State George Shultz.

The Baumels, who hold dual U.S. and Israeli citizenship, said they applied twice for visas to the Syrian Embassy in Washington, but their applications were not even acknowledged.

Vilnay said there have been no negotiations with Syria over the missing Israeli soldiers because Israel does not hold any Syrian officers or soldiers prisoner for a possible exchange. He said he could not understand why the Syrians have imposed a blackout on information. "Their thinking and ours are not the same," he said. Miriam Baumel appealed to Assad. "Being a father yourself, please show more understanding for our situation," she said.

INTELLIGENCE HEAD SAYS SHIITES OF MORE CONCERN NOW THAN SYRIA
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 10 (JTA) -- Maj. Gen. Amnon Shahak, head of army intelligence, believes there is little chance of war with Syria in the near future because of that country's severe economic problems. Of more immediate concern are the attacks of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, the band of Shiite extremists waging guerrilla war in south Lebanon, he said.

Shahak offered his opinions in a series of television interviews Wednesday on the occasion of Intelligence Corps Day. "The Syrian army is still very large," he said. "Syria is a country experiencing difficulties, and the army is part of those difficulties but is also doing its part to help extricate it from them." Such a country is unlikely to be an initiator of military moves, Shahak said. "On the other hand, I would never make predictions about a country like Syria," he added. He said the Syrian army has been reduced in size but its capabilities in terms of a short-term effort are increasing.

Shahak described Hezbollah as "one of Iran's power centers" in Lebanon. "I don't think that the overall strength of Hezbollah has changed drastically in the past year but there is no doubt that Hzbollah enjoys very massive Iranian aid, both in money and combat means," he said. "With the money and means you can buy a lot of influence and a lot of sympathy and a lot of strength in Lebanon."

Shahak noted that "in recent months Hezbollah has launched more than a few attacks. Some were total failures but others were successful. . . I am certain that Hezbollah will continue its attack and when they are successful they gain the sympathy of the Shiite population. On the basis of that sympathy, it is not hard to recruit more young Shiites to Hezbollah," Shahak said.

"This also makes it difficult for the Syrians to act against this organization which is operating against Israel. In any event, the Syrians do not seem to be interfering today," he said.

U.S., ISRAEL MUST STAND TOGETHER, LAXALT DECLARES
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 10 (JTA) -- Former Nevada Sen. Paul Laxalt, who is expected soon to announce his candidacy for the Republican Party's Presidential nomination, declared Tuesday night that Israel is "an important strategic ally" of the United States and a "lynchpin" in protecting U.S. interests in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf.

"Events of the past weeks have once again dramatized the importance of maintaining a close and mutually beneficial relationship with Israel," Laxalt told more than 500 guests attending the annual academic convocation and dinner at the Pierre Hotel of Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel. "Indeed, since the fall of Iran, Israel's importance to the U.S. in terms of Middle Eastern affairs has increased markedly. The U.S. and Israel must stand together or we will fall together," maintained Laxalt, a close friend of President Reagan. Contending that there are differences between Washington and Jerusalem, Laxalt said, however, that America "must recognize that Israel is not a satellite but an ally; a fiercely dedicated, strategically invaluable, stable ally."

IN HIS PRISON CELL OR IN COURT, BARBIE SHOWS CONTINUED INDIFFERENCE

By Edwin Eytan

LYON, June 10 (JTA) -- In or out of court here, where he is on trial for crimes against humanity, Klaus Barbie continues to show indifference to his alleged victims' sufferings and to the trial itself.

In court, where "the Butcher of Lyon" last appeared on June 6, he listens to the horror stories of his interrogations and ensuing deportations with a half-amused smile. In his cell at St. Joseph Prison here, he sat throughout last week glued to his television set watching the French Open tennis tournament.

At one point, his prison wardens became so upset with his indifference that, contrary to prison regulations, they confiscated his TV. The practice in France is to allow non-sentenced prisoners, or those still awaiting sentences, to watch TV and read newspapers at will. Prison authorities refused to comment on this incident, but some wardens have privately told newsmen that "now that the tennis tournament is over" the set has been returned to Barbie's cell.

Victims Perturbed

Barbie's absence has frustrated most of the victims and the plaintiff's lawyers and it has somewhat taken the trial off course. Former victims, witnesses and lawyers address an empty dock and the defense lawyer, Jacques Verges, who occasionally barely manages to hide his glee at this paradox.

Prosecutor Andre Truche has not requested that Barbie be present for the entire trial, but has on several occasions tried to make him reveal some of his hidden personality and explain how he became a convinced Nazi in the 1930's. He also prodded Barbie to explain some of the tenets of National Socialism and his own attitude to its racist theories.

Last Friday, when Barbie made one of his brief appearances in court, Truche told him: "In years from now people will see a film of this trial (the proceedings will be released in 20 years).

"They will hear the testimonies and they will probably ask themselves, 'Didn't he have anything to say? No explanation to offer?' Maybe even your own grandchildren or great-grandchildren might research into the past of their families and try to understand what had happened. Don't you think that you should respond?"

'Nothing To Say'

Barbie, true to the stance he had adopted since May 13, when he claimed that he was "a hostage illegally brought to France," remained silent. He only repeated his by now standard retort, "Nichts zu sagen, Herr President" (I have nothing to say, Mr. President).

The trial has entered a second phase. For the first four weeks, the court, nine jurors and three judges heard testimony from former victims -- mainly Jews who often hobbled to the stand and poured out more than 40 years of pent-up frustrations. Now the court is hearing witnesses described as "of general interest," mainly historians, researchers and former leaders of France's wartime anti-German resistance forces. The trial began on May 11 and is expected to end July 3 or 4. Among the latter witnesses was the late French

President Charles De Gaulle's niece, Genevieve DeGaulle-Anthonioz, 66, herself a former deportee to Ravensbruck, a notorious women's concentration camp. Testifying Tuesday, she said that babies were often drowned in buckets of water shortly after birth at the camp and that conditions were so horrible that most women preferred to see their children dead rather than survive for another few weeks, or months at the most.

Verges privately says that his client still hopes that the Bolivian Supreme Court will decide that his extradition was illegal and ask France to return him.

Truche last week told Barbie, "One thing is certain, you will never see Bolivia again." Even then, Barbie did not flinch.

ALIYA UP IN 1987 DUE MAINLY TO INCREASE FROM SOUTH AFRICA

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 10 (JTA) -- Aliya increased by 40 percent in the first four months of 1987 compared to the same period last year, Immigration and Absorption Minister Yaacov Tzur reported to the Knesset Tuesday. The rise was due mainly to the arrival of 630 immigrants from South Africa since January. In the same period of 1986, their number was 286.

Tzur said he expected 1,000 immigrants from South Africa by the end of the year. The outlook for aliya from the Soviet Union is not so good although many more Jews are leaving the USSR this year than last year, he said.

Although 580 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel this year, the dropout rate is still about 75 percent. The total number of Jews who left the Soviet Union since January is 2,500.

Tzur told the Knesset that immigrants now have a greater choice of residence compared to the past. He said his Ministry was making a determined effort to simplify bureaucratic procedures.

The religious MKs, David Danino of the National Religious Party and Shimon Shlom of Shas, complained that too little attention was paid to the "spiritual absorption" of immigrants.

MKs Matityahu Peled of the Progressive List and Dedi Zucker of the Citizens Rights Movement (CRM) opposed proposals to fly immigrants directly from Moscow to Israel.

ISRAEL LOSES FIFTH STRAIGHT IN EUROPEAN HOOP TOURNEY

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, June 10 (JTA) -- Israel's national basketball team continued its losing streak Tuesday in the European basketball championship, falling to a mediocre French team 96-93 after leading at the start of the second half.

It was the fifth consecutive loss for the Israeli hoopsters in the 12-nation tournament. They fell apart completely Sunday, losing to weak Polish team 83-77. That followed a 99-79 drubbing by Italy on Saturday and a 112-107 overtime loss to West Germany last Friday. On Thursday the Israelis bowed to the Dutch team by a score of 61-60.

The game with France was a battle for ninth place. The Israelis emerged in tenth. A disgusted Israeli spectator remarked, "Worse than 12th place they can't get, so everything is okay."