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IDENTITIES OF THOSE CAPTURED BY ABU NIDAL REMAIN A MYSTERY JTA Staff Report

TEL AVIV, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- Mystery compounded by confusion surrounds the 40-foot yacht Silco and its passengers, hijacked at sea Sunday off the Gaza coast, apparently by terrorists of the dissident Abu Nidal faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The 17-ton vessel and its eight passengers - six adults and two children -- were brought to Moslem West Beirut. At a news conference there, a spokesman for the Abu Nidal gang, Walid Khaled, claimed that some of the passengers carried Israeli passports and described the children as Hebrew-speaking.

The names of the adults were released. A thorough check of the Israel Interior Ministry's computer index of identity cards failed to match any of the names with Israeli citizens. Israelis must have ID cards to obtain passports.

A preliminary check of visitors and tourists failed to come up with the names. The Ports Authority and the various marinas in Israel confirmed that the Silco had not called at an Israeli port, though it might have been en route to Israel when seized.

Khaled said at his news conference that the episode was "a slap for the Zionized king of Amman," a reference to King Hussein of Jordan, and for the "Zionized leaders" participating in the Arab summit conference now taking place in Amman.

Timed To Coincide With Summit

Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday that the seizure of the yacht was clearly timed to coincide with the Arab summit and planned to draw attention to the Abu Nidal faction. He said that if it was hijacked, as claimed, it was not in Israeli territorial waters, which the terrorists dare not approach for fear of Israel's navy.

Nevertheless, the time has come for the world to realize there are terrorists organizations trying to sabotage even the slightest positive movement in the Middle East, Rabin said.

He said Israel is in contact with the governments of France and Belgium, whose nationals were said to be among the hijacked passengers.

The names released by the Abu Nidal spokesman Sunday night are Fernand Houtekins, 40; Emmanuel Houtekins, 42; Valerie Emmanuel Houtekins, 16; Laurent Emmanuel Houtekins, 17; Godlieve Kets; and Jacqueline Valente, 30, described as a French national.

In Paris, French authorities said they had no information about any of the passengers. But the Belgian Interior Ministry confirmed Monday that Emmanuel Houtekins; his wife, Godlieve, 48, born Kets -- possibly Katz -- and their children, Valerie and Laurent, are Belgian citizens, but are believed to live in Lyon, France.

French officials said the four Belgians are not registered in Lyon or anywhere else in France. They have not been able to trace a French woman named Valente.

French naval authorities said the Silco is not registered in France, but is on record as having put into Cannes in the summer of 1985. Port officials in Cannes said a vessel named Silco was registered there three years ago, but not under the registration number and ownership quoted by the Abu Nidal group.

Red Cross Has Received No Requests

In Geneva Monday, Michelle Mercier, a spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that neither Israel nor any other government has asked the ICRC to intervene on behalf of the hijacked passengers. The ICRC acts only on the requests of the parties involved, she explained.

The JTA approached the ICRC because Abu Nidal's spokesman said Sunday that ICRC delegates would be given permission to visit the passengers, apparently being held hostage.

So far the hijackers have made no demands for their release and return of the yacht.

The Abu Nidal gang has a heinous record of perpetrating assassinations, kidnappings and terrorist attacks, mainly outside the Middle East. It was responsible for the attempted murder of the Israeli ambassador to Britain, Shlomo Argov, on a London street in 1982, the massacre at the Istanbul synagogue last year, the assassination of PLO moderate Issam Sartawi in Lisbon and the simultaneous machine-gun and grenade attacks on passengers at the Rome and Vienna airports two years ago.

The fact that it dare hold a news conference in Beirut was seen in Israel as an indication that the organization has become stronger. Hitherto, it has acted clandestinely.

HERZOG ARRIVES IN U.S. ON FIRST STATE VISIT BY ISRAELI PRESIDENT

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- Israel's blue-and-white flag flew along Pennsylvania Avenue outside the White House Monday as President Chaim Herzog arrived for the first state visit to Washington by a president of Israel.

Herzog and his wife, Ora, arrived at Andrews Air Force Base early Monday morning aboard a U.S. presidential aircraft and were met by Secretary of State George Shultz. The two had a half-hour meeting later at Herzog's hotel.

The official visit begins Tuesday, when Herzog meets with President Reagan at the White House in the morning and addresses a joint session of Congress in the afternoon.

Shultz will host a luncheon for Herzog at the State Department and Reagan will host a dinner Tuesday night at the White House.

Herzog is also scheduled to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery on Thursday and address a luncheon of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations on Wednesday, after visiting a Jewish day school in the Maryland suburbs of Washington.

He also has meetings scheduled on Wednesday and Thursday with Vice President George

Bush, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland.

Herzog leaves Thursday for New York, where he and his wife will attend a Metropolitan Opera Guild benefit performance at Lincoln Center that evening.

On Friday, he meets with United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and New York City Mayor Edward Koch. He will meet with Cardinal John O'Connor, archbishop of New York, at his hotel on Saturday.

That night, he will receive the 1987 Covenant of Peace Award of the Synagogue Council of America at a private dinner reception in his honor.

Before leaving for Israel Sunday night, Herzog will fly up to Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass., in the afternoon where he will receive a honorary doctorate degree.

HUSSEIN TELLS ISRAEL TO IGNORE HIS REMARKS AT ARAB SUMMIT By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- King Hussein of Jordan has reportedly signaled Israel not to take seriously hard-line remarks he is making at the Arab summit in Amman this week, the Israeli news media reported Monday.

Hussein, in his speech at the opening of the summit Sunday, is reported to have exhorted the Arab states for unity against Iran and Israel, both of which he claimed had designs on Arab territory.

But according to Hadashot, Hussein sent a message to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres through a middleman recently, pledging to honor the arrangements they agreed to at a meeting in London last April. He stressed that he intends to continue to work to advance negotiations between Jordan and Israel under the auspices of an international conference, Hadashot reported.

The newspaper said circles close to Peres believe Hussein's signals are in earnest and that the results of the Arab summit will not affect the agreements they reached. The assessment of the Foreign Ministry here is that even if the king makes statements critical of Israeli policy on the peace process and in the administered territories, he does not intend to disavow agreements reached so far on the peace process.

Haaretz reported that Hussein told British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe at a meeting in Amman last week that the Arab summit would not change his stand on the issue of an international conference and would not cause him to renege on his agreements with Peres.

Hussein Forced To 'Tow The Line'

Sources in Jerusalem quoted by Haaretz believe that during the summit, Hussein will be forced to "tow the line" of the Arab consensus and to express support for the Soviet-Syrian idea that the Arab-Israeli dispute should be settled not through direct talks but rather at an international conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

Haaretz said it is believed Hussein will pay this price in exchange for passage of a meaningful resolution on the war in the Persian Gulf.

Meanwhile, a senior official at the British Foreign Office reportedly told the Israeli ambassador in London, Yehuda Avner, that Hussein has criticized the Reagan administration for failing to

work aggressively enough to prevent a stalemate in the peace process.

Peres stated here Friday that "there is definitely a chance for an international (conference) opening, perhaps more than there was before." He said that "from Jordan's point of view, there is no chance of direct negotiations without an opening."

A violent demonstration in the West Bank Sunday that greeted the summit opening in Amman, points to sharp divisions between pro-Jordanian Palestinians and die-hard supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Two Palestinian Positions

Both camps have circulated petitions to be conveyed to the Arab leaders at the summit. According to some sources, the pro-Jordanian petition has already reached Amman. It is said to emphasize the common destiny of both banks of the Jordan River, Jordan's decisive role in a solution of the Palestinian problem and the need for a political federative solution between Jordan and a Palestinian entity.

It declares, however, that the PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The other petition, signed by scores of PLO supporters and figures identified with the Left in the administered territories, was published Sunday in East Jerusalem Arabic newspapers identified with the PLO.

It calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under PLO leadership and condemns any attempt to deny the PLO's status as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

The published document furthermore censures the "division of authority" between Israel and Jordan for administration of the territories. It denounces the Jordanian five-year plan to improve living conditions in the territories as a plot to create an alternative leadership to the PLO. It also sharply condemns the United States.

EGYPTIAN CANCELS VISIT TO ISRAEL AS CAIRO PAPER ATTACKS JEWISH STATE By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- An unexpected, sharp attack on Israel in Egypt's official daily Al-Ahram has caused Israelis to wonder whether the equally sudden cancellation of a visit by a senior Egyptian diplomat may be political rather than health-related.

Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Mohammed Bassiouni, announced Monday that a planned visit to Israel by the former Egyptian prime minister, Dr. Mustafa Khalil, has been called off because Khalil suffered a heart attack. He was due here Nov. 16 to attend a symposium sponsored by Israeli universities to mark the 10th anniversary of the late President Anwar Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem on Nov. 19, 1977.

Khalil was prime minister of Egypt at the time.

Just as Bassiouni was conveying Khalil's regrets to his Israeli hosts, the chief editor of Al-Ahram, Ibrahim Nafa, published an editorial urging the Arab summit that opened in Amman, Jordan on Sunday to renew Arab solidarity in face of "the Iranian and the Israeli dangers."

Nafa accused Israel of being guided by religious and racist ideas that "Zionist propagandists have used to take over Palestine and occupy additional Arab lands."

CONDUCTOR'S COMMENT GETS BAD REVIEWS IN POLAND

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- A reported remark by the conductor of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (IPO), now touring Poland, appears to have struck a sour note in the delicate task of restoring diplomatic relations between the two countries, which Poland broke 20 years ago.

Ambassador Mordechai Paltzur, who heads the interest section Israel opened in Warsaw only last summer, was forced to apologize for the remark, which had incensed Polish leaders and Americans of Polish origin, Davar reported Monday.

According to an American news report, the IPO conductor and musical director, Zubin Mehta, and one of the musicians, told a reporter that the IPO was visiting Poland with "mixed feelings" because of the treatment of Jews by Poles during World War II and the collaboration by many Poles with the Nazis at that time.

When the story appeared, Paltzur was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Warsaw and told that the Polish Consulate in Chicago had received dozens of telephone calls from irate Polish Americans who urged that the IPO tour be cancelled.

The Israeli envoy reportedly offered his apologies and asked the Israeli Foreign Ministry to stress to the IPO the sensitivity of their hosts. The orchestra arrived in Warsaw Sunday for a one-week tour. The two concerts in Warsaw are reportedly sold out.

DELEGATES URGE LABOR PARTY TO DROP CANDIDACY OF LEWINSKY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- The possibility of the Labor Party dropping Akiva Lewinsky as its candidate for the chairmanship of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executive appears to be gaining momentum.

Although Lewinsky's election had been considered virtually assured, he ran into opposition last month from a powerful group of 12 diaspora Jewish fund-raisers.

According to power-sharing rules between the Jewish Agency and the WZO, the outcome of the World Zionist Congress elections is subject to the "advice and consent" of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors. The board could veto Lewinsky if he were elected at the congress here in December. Diaspora leaders and Zionists each comprise half of the 74-member board.

Party Urged To Rethink Support

Although the Labor Party Executive reiterated its commitment to Lewinsky last week, re-endorsing the earlier unanimous nomination by the party's central committee, a group of Labor Zionist delegates to the congress is now urging the party to re-think its support.

This is the first public articulation within the party that Lewinsky, who served as Jewish Agency-WZO treasurer for the past nine years, will have to be dropped.

Informal political sources say Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, Israel's foreign minister, privately expects Lewinsky to bow out. Should he do so, Labor would be expected to nominate either Simcha Dinitz, a former ambassador to the United States, or Mordechai Gur, a former Israel

Defense Force chief of staff and former cabinet minister.

Dissident Labor delegates said they felt a "golden opportunity" may be wasted if the party continues to support Lewinsky's candidacy.

This was a reference to an arrangement the Labor Party made with several diaspora Zionist factions. In return for support for Labor's candidate, the office of WZO treasurer would go to Avraham Aviha, a Canadian-born Israeli who is the choice of the Confederation of United Zionists, a coalition of Zionist organizations of which Hadassah is the largest component.

Other top portfolios were to go to the Association of Reform Zionists of America and to Mercaz, the Conservative Zionist organization. Labor's rival, Likud-Herut, would thereby be excluded from the most important WZO posts.

Whoever goes to the congress as the Labor candidate for chairman may face a Likud challenge. Although that party has not yet nominated anyone, Likud-Liberal Gideon Patt, the minister of science and technology, is expected to enter the race. He flew to the United States this week, apparently to lobby for support among American delegates.

NEAR FISTICUFFS, JERUSALEM COUNCIL VOTES COMPROMISE ON SABBATH EVENTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- A dispute that has produced violence in the streets here may have been resolved Sunday night by the City Council, but not without threats of violence in council chambers.

A compromise was adopted in the fierce dispute between ultra-Orthodox residents of the city, who demand strictest observance of the Sabbath by all of its citizens, and the secular population, which would like to pursue entertainment and other activities on Friday nights and Saturdays.

The council, under the chairmanship of Mayor Teddy Kollek, adopted the recommendations of the Harman public committee to restrict -- but not ban -- cultural activities for the non-religious in limited areas of the city. That committee's chairman is Avraham Harman, chancellor of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a former ambassador.

But the proceedings of the council meeting produced near-violent confrontations, and the representatives of two ultra-Orthodox factions, Shas and Agudat Israel, walked out in a fury before it ended.

Tempers flared when Kollek pounded his gavel to try to cut short a lengthy speech by Agudat Israel Councilman Avraham Leisersohn. Another Aguda councilman, Meir Porush, produced a gavel of his own, pounded the table and shouted, "Mr. Mayor, you are not the only person to have a hammer, and you had better let people talk."

Labor Councilman Emmanuel Suesman approached Porush, apparently to wrest the gavel from him, but was confronted by other Orthodox members. At that point, Kollek warned Porush, "I can break your head with my hammer."

There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated Wednesday, Nov. 11, due to the Veteran's Day postal holiday.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES: REPEAL OF U.N. DECREE ON ZIONISM MAY BE A 'MATTER OF TIME' AWAY By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- Israeli and American diplomats as well as American Jewish leaders say that many of the countries that supported the 1975 United Nations General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism would not support it today.

But most also agree that there is not yet a majority to repeal Resolution 3379.

In an acrimonious session on Nov. 10, 1975, exactly 12 years ago, the General-Assembly reached what is considered by many U.N.-watchers an unprecedented peak in the ongoing assault against the Jewish state. It adopted the Arab-sponsored resolution declaring that "Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination."

The vote was 72 in favor, 35 against with 32 abstentions and three absent. The Arabs and their allies in the Communist bloc and developing world rejoiced.

The results would no doubt be different today. Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that a number of countries that voted for the resolution have pledged to vote in favor of any new resolution that would repeal the Zionism-is-racism declaration. He declined to name any of them.

The Israeli envoy said that in recent years Israeli diplomats have carried the campaign against the resolution to the capitals of many countries in an effort to convince their governments of the urgency Israel attaches to combating the anti-Zionism resolution.

U.S. Has Played Major Role

A major ally in that effort is the United States. Only a few days ago, President Reagan sent a letter to Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, pledging the United States would continue the fight against the resolution "until it is repealed."

"I know that the day will come when the United Nations rights the wrong that it committed," the president assured Abram.

Vernon Walters, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, disclosed recently that he is "considering the idea of introducing a resolution that will repeal the Zionism-is-racism resolution."

Walters told the JTA that he has sent a letter to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar at the beginning of each session of the General Assembly in September protesting the resolution.

Diplomats, scholars and Jewish leaders point out that the resolution is extremely harmful to Israel and the Jewish people as a whole. According to Philip Lax, chairman of the International Council of B'nai B'rith, the resolution became "the centerpiece of a campaign to delegitimize the policies of the state of Israel and, beyond those policies, the very right of the Jewish people to have a state at all."

Harris Schoenberg, director of B'nai B'rith's U.N. department, contends that "by equating the political aspirations and achievements of the Jewish people (Zionism) with the qualities deemed most repugnant in U.N. circles (racism), Zionism's detractors managed to bring the Jewish ideology of redemption into disrepute with states and

peoples far removed from the Arab conflict with Israel.

"This was particularly true in black Africa, but 3379 also had an effect on other shores. In Europe, it served as a counterthrust to Holocaust memories. As played out in the United States, the Zionism-is-racism resolution was calculated to drive a wedge between Jews and blacks."

Willingness To Change Position

Schoenberg told JTA that several countries that abstained in 1975 have indicated their willingness to change their position in favor of Zionism if a resolution to repeal 3379 were introduced in the General Assembly.

In Schoenberg's view, diplomatic efforts should continue in order to convince the governments of the countries which abstained in 1975 to join the U.S.-Israeli camp. He mentioned Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Greece, Japan, Peru, Singapore, Togo, Trinidad and Zaire, among others, as countries likely to reverse their position on the resolution and vote for its repeal.

Diplomats note that the Arab countries, although still powerful at the United Nations, have lost much of their clout in the last decade. In 1975, shortly after the 1973 Yom Kippur War and the oil crisis, the Arabs exerted their power over African countries and others, demanding that they break off their diplomatic relations with Israel.

They did, but many have resumed those ties with Israel in recent years and others have maintained commercial ties.

Egypt Would Not Now Support 3379

In addition, a major Arab country, Egypt, signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979. Egypt has indicated it would not now support 3379. In fact, Egypt was a major force at the U.N. conference on women in Nairobi in July 1985 in killing attempts to criticize Zionism in the conference's final document.

On the 12th anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 3379, the Jewish community has been mobilizing its forces the world over with the final goal of repealing the resolution.

Abram of the Presidents Conference believes that by next fall, when the 43rd session of the General Assembly convenes here, it will be time to introduce a resolution to repeal Resolution 3379.

Diplomats are more cautious. They agree with what one says: that "we must be absolutely positive that such a resolution will not be defeated. It probably will take just more than a year or two to come up with a resolution rescinding 3379."

But most diplomats, Jewish leaders and U.N. officials are optimistic: It is only a question of time until the Zionism-is-racism resolution is repealed.

SHAMIR WELCOMES WEINBERGER SUCCESSOR

JERUSALEM, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir sent a message of congratulations Monday to the new American defense secretary-designate, Frank Carlucci. He expressed hope for continued close ties between the United States and Israel.

Carlucci, who has been President Reagan's national security adviser for the past year, was appointed to succeed Caspar Weinberger, who announced his resignation last week.