

HERZOG MARKS WHITE HOUSE APPEARANCE WITH A BLESSING

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Chaim Herzog marked the first state visit by a president of Israel to the United States by reciting the traditional Jewish prayer of "shehecheyanu" at a White House ceremony preceding his hour-long meeting with President Reagan Tuesday.

"At this moment as I stand here as the president of a country born of the prayers of a nation over the centuries and a 2,000-year-old struggle against adversity, and view this event in true perspective against the background of our long history, I cannot but give expression to the age-old Jewish prayer," he said.

Herzog then recited in Hebrew and English, "thanks to the Almighty for having kept us alive and maintained us to reach this time."

The ceremony was held in the East Room of the White House because the heavy rain here precluded the traditional South Lawn welcome for foreign heads of state.

Reagan also noted the "historic" occasion, pointing out that Israel was observing its 40th anniversary and reminding the audience that the United States was the first country to extend it diplomatic recognition.

Both presidents pointed out that this occasion coincided with the anniversary of Kristallnacht, on Nov. 9 and 10, 1938, when Jewish synagogues, schools, homes and stores were attacked by the Nazis in Germany. Reagan also spoke of the "obscene" resolution equating Zionism with racism adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on Nov. 10, 1975.

Reagan observed that in 1938, there was no Israel to protect Jewish interests, but in 1975, Israel and the Jewish people were defended at the United Nations by Herzog, then its ambassador there, as well as by the United States ambassador, who at the time was Daniel Patrick Moynihan, now a Democratic U.S. senator representing New York.

Later, in an address to a joint session of both houses of Congress, Herzog thanked the American legislators for adopting a resolution urging the United States to support efforts to get the United Nations to rescind the "Zionism is racism" resolution. A similar resolution was adopted in Australia before his state visit there.

Tumultuous Applause In Congress

Both when Herzog entered the House of Representatives chamber and when he finished his address, he was greeted with tumultuous applause from an audience made up of senators and representatives or members of their staff, many foreign ambassadors and several members of the Cabinet, including Secretary of State George Shultz and Army Lt. Gen. Colin Powell, Reagan's newly named national security adviser.

House Speaker Jim Wright (D-Texas) and Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.), who presided over the joint session, both mispronounced Herzog's first name as "Shame" in their introductions.

At the White House, the two presidents stressed the common democratic values shared by

Israel and the United States and their commitment to achieving peace in the Middle East.

"We share the conviction that Israel can be secure and realize its full promise and genius only when security and lasting peace can be achieved," Reagan stressed.

Reagan added that the effort for peace must also "find a just solution for the Palestinian people."

Israel Seeks Peace

Herzog praised Reagan's efforts to help achieve peace in the Middle East which he stressed Israel has sought "since we held out our hand to our Arab neighbors in our Declaration of Independence."

He told Reagan that "Israel is prepared, as you are well aware Mr. President, to move forward, with your involvement, to a further phase of this process."

Reagan stressed that Israel and the United States are committed to human rights for all. "This is why America has championed the cause of Soviet Jews in their struggle for religious freedom, and right, if they wish, to emigrate," the president said.

Noting that Americans rejoiced at the "release" of Natan Sharansky, Ida Nudel and Vladimir Slepak, Reagan said "many others, less well-known" also have the right to emigrate.

The president added, "I pledge to you that we will persevere in our efforts to persuade the Soviet Union to meet its international obligations under the Helsinki accords, not just to Soviet Jews, but to all the citizens of the Soviet Union."

PASSENGERS SEIZED BY ABU NIDAL DO NOT APPEAR TO BE ISRAELI

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- There now appears to be little substance to claims made last weekend by the Abu Nidal terrorist group that it had seized an "Israeli yacht" off the coast of the Gaza Strip and captured eight "Israeli passengers holding dual nationality."

Belgian authorities have confirmed that five of the passengers are Belgian citizens residing in France who are Catholic, not Jewish. They were identified as Emmanuel Houtekins, 42; his wife, Godelieve Kets; their children, Laurent, 17, and Valerie, 16; and Emmanuel's brother, Fernand, 40.

The French government is reportedly trying to obtain information as to the fate of Fernand's girlfriend, Jacqueline Valente, 29, and her two children, Marie-Laure, 6, and Virginie, 4. Valentie's mother, Brigitte, has denied in France that her daughter is Jewish.

Meanwhile, Israeli naval sources say the yacht may have been seized many miles -- possibly 100 or more -- from the Israeli coast, perhaps as far away as Libya.

The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva has announced that it has heard nothing about the incident and has received no word from the terrorist group, despite a promise the group made Sunday at a news conference in Beirut.

ARAB SUMMIT KEEPS LOW PROFILE ON ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- The dangers posed by Iran and uneasiness over the growing Western naval presence in the Persian Gulf appear to have overshadowed the Arab-Israeli conflict at the three-day summit conference of Arab leaders in Amman, which ended Wednesday.

The Arab-Israeli issue was mentioned only at the end of the conference's final statement. It was a word-for-word repetition of previous statements and resolutions that emerged from past Arab summit meetings -- that the Palestinian question was at the heart of the Middle East conflict and peace was impossible without Israel's complete withdrawal from all territories it captured in the 1967 war, including East Jerusalem.

The statement was unaccompanied by the usual impassioned rhetoric. According to observers, in fact, the latest Arab summit seems to have shifted the balance of power in the Arab world from the die-hards to the pragmatists. Reconciliation within the Arab camp also seems to have carried the day.

Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat was quoted by Haaretz's Arab affairs correspondent as saying in Amman Tuesday that he had reached an agreement with King Hussein of Jordan to resume the Jordanian-PLO dialogue. It was broken off by Hussein in January 1986 after a year of fruitless search for a formula for joint Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations with Israel.

Hussein charged at the time that the PLO leadership had proven unreliable. According to the Haaretz report Wednesday, agreement to resume their efforts was reached at a reconciliation luncheon given by Hussein after Arafat boycotted an earlier dinner Hussein held for the summit participants.

There was no immediate confirmation from Hussein.

Haaretz also reported that Richard Murphy, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, informed Moshe Katzav, currently visiting Washington, that Hussein is ready for territorial compromise with Israel and would not insist on the return of the entire West Bank. Katzav, a member of the Herut wing of the Likud bloc, is minister of labor and social affairs.

The Haaretz Washington correspondent reported Wednesday that the Reagan administration will soon transfer \$42 million to Jordan for projects and social programs in the territories administered by Israel.

Katzav reportedly told the correspondent that he was assured by Murphy that aid to residents of the territories would not be decreased despite anticipated cuts in the U.S. federal budget.

THREE SHIN BET AGENTS SUSPENDED FOR COVERING UP ARAB SUSPECT'S DEATH

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- The head of the Shin Bet has suspended three of the security service's investigators for lying to a government panel about the death of a young Arab suspect during the suspect's interrogation last summer, Yediot Achronot reported Wednesday.

According to the report, the Shin Bet chief -- whose identity is never revealed publicly -- learned of the case 10 days ago and acted immediately. He reported the matter to Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Attorney General Yosef Harish and former Supreme Court President Moshe Landau, who headed a government-appointed commission that recently completed an investigation into the conduct of the Shin Bet.

In a report submitted to Shamir Oct. 28, the Landau Commission found that Shin Bet operatives systematically resorted to physical coercion to obtain confessions during the past 16 years and committed perjury before courts and military tribunals in order to conceal their methods and ensure convictions. The report, only parts of which were made public, recommended, however, that no one be prosecuted.

Ministerial Panel Named

On Sunday, Israel's Cabinet endorsed the commission report and, acceding to one of its key recommendations, appointed an ad-hoc committee of four ministers to oversee the operations of the internal security service. Its members are Shamir, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Justice Minister Avraham Sharir.

The commission's recommendations were also used as guidelines in the handling of the case involving the Arab suspect's death. After learning of the case, Attorney General Harish held consultations at his office Tuesday and announced during an Israel Defense Force radio interview Wednesday evening that he would personally head an investigation into the Arab's death.

The case in question began last July 19, when Awad Hamdan, 19, who had just returned to Ramon village in the West Bank after a long stay in Jordan, was arrested on suspicion of membership in a hostile organization. Two days after his arrest, he collapsed and died during interrogation. A forensic examination found he died of a heart attack.

His family claimed his body showed signs of violence that indicated he might have been tortured to death. The Shin Bet conducted an internal investigation at the time. It emerged only 10 days ago that the operatives who questioned the suspect gave a false version of his death at that investigation.

The same, false version was submitted to the Landau Commission in the course of its probe of the Shin Bet's behavior and therefore constituted false testimony. A new post mortem examination revealed that the suspect died of pneumonia that could have been brought on by the kind of treatment he received at the hands of his interrogators.

Meanwhile, Hamdan's family has petitioned Israel's Supreme Court to order a police investigation into the cause of death. The court is expected to respond next week.

In a related development, Haaretz reported Wednesday that an Israel Bar Association committee is considering lodging a complaint with the association's ethics committee and disciplinary court against Shin Bet attorneys involved in alleged doctoring of evidence.

The committee will meet with Harish to learn of the extent of the irregularities spelled out in the Landau Commission's report. Harish is expected to propose that no disciplinary action be taken, in compliance with the commission's recommendations.

AS HUNDREDS PROTEST IN SYRACUSE, FARRAKHAN DENIES HE'S ANTI-SEMITIC

By Judith Rubenstein

SYRACUSE, N.Y., Nov. 11 (JTA) -- With 500 protestors clamoring outside, Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan denied he was anti-Semitic and preached his message of black racial pride and economic self-determination here Nov. 9.

The protestors -- singing, chanting and waving signs -- congregated opposite the Syracuse University Schine Student Center, where Farrakhan spoke to more than 1,700 people. The protestors argued volubly with supporters of Farrakhan, but no violence broke out.

Police quickly quelled two minor skirmishes and declined to make arrests. When Jewish Defense Organization (JDO) leader Mordechai Levy gained access to the center's lobby, he was promptly escorted out by in-house security.

Earlier in the day, the Syracuse Area Inter-religious Council (SAIC) held a demonstration on the steps of the university chapel. SAIC members, university chaplains, local rabbis and professional and volunteer leaders of the Syracuse Jewish Federation gathered to affirm brotherhood. But area black religious leaders were noticeably absent.

The campus newspaper criticized the Student Afro-American Society, sponsor of the event, for "poor taste" in scheduling Farrakhan's speech on the 49th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the destruction of hundreds of synagogues and Jewish-owned businesses in Germany and Austria.

Local Jewish groups reacted to the appearance with restrained anger. University Hillel house director Rabbi Milton Elefant helped stage a demonstration outside the Schine Center.

However, Hillel's plans for a peaceful protest were undermined when it was learned that the JDO was sending armed representatives to join the rally. Elefant rejected the JDO involvement.

Armed Syracuse city police, on foot and on horseback, some leading guard dogs, joined an augmented campus force to patrol the area. Farrakhan's dapper and well-mannered bodyguards were posted at every entrance to the building.

Farrakhan, leader of the 10,000-member Chicago-based Nation of Islam, was originally scheduled to speak at a large theater, but the facility's owners cancelled following strong local opposition to his appearance.

Speaking before a predominantly black audience, he avoided reference to accusations that he has called Judaism a "gutter religion" and Hitler a "great man." But, he noted, "The press is upset because they didn't hear me say something that maybe they want to print tonight... I can easily defend every statement for the Jewish community members who are here."

He said the prophet Mohammed "did not want the Jews to say, 'I am better because you were chosen by God for a duty,' not to walk around like pompous peacocks saying 'I am God's chosen people.' You must do the work of the chosen in order to remain the chosen."

TENSION HIGH IN GAZA AFTER ARAB GIRL FATALLY SHOT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Tension is running high in the Gaza Strip following the fatal shooting of a 17-year-old Arab girl Tuesday and the wounding of two others Wednesday in clashes

between rock-throwing students and armed Jewish settlers.

Six settlers were detained for questioning Tuesday and four remained in custody Wednesday in connection with the shooting death of Intissar El Atar, a high school student in Deir El Balah, a normally quiet town in the southern end of the Gaza Strip. The four are expected to be arraigned in court Thursday.

The settlers insist they fired only warning shots into the air when their Tel Aviv-bound vehicle was stopped by a road block on the main street of Deir El Balah and they were "attacked" by about 50 girls from the nearby school. They said the girls continued to throw rocks at soldiers and police who rushed to the scene.

A similar clash occurred Wednesday just off the main road in Gaza. Settlers claimed they were forced to open fire when attacked with rocks at a roadblock, but only fired into the air. They could not explain how two girls sustained bullet wounds. One, hit in the stomach, was hospitalized in Ashkelon. Her condition was described as "serious."

Military authorities moved quickly to restore order in the territory. A curfew was imposed on the Deir El Balah area. Two local schools were ordered closed. The Islamic University in Gaza, often a source of unrest, was shut down voluntarily by its administration until the end of the week.

Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, commander of the southern region of the Israel Defense Force, met with leaders of the Arab community and representatives of Jewish settlers in an effort to contain the tension. He also met with Mayor Samir El Azaize of Deir El Balah and told the family of the slain girl that the security forces would do everything possible to find the killer.

While it remains unclear who fired the fatal and wounding shots, Reuven Rosenblat, chairman of the regional council of Jewish settlements, implied Tuesday that the use of deadly force was justified.

"If the rock-throwing youth know that nothing can be done against them, they will continue throwing stones until they kill us," he said on an army radio interview.

On Monday in the West Bank, Israel Defense Force troops wounded with gunshots an Arab youth from the Balat refugee camp near Nablus while dispersing a crowd that had pelted them with stones. According to IDF sources, dozens of youths from the camp attacked soldiers and police on a neighboring highway.

DEMJEANJUK WITNESS CHALLENGES ID CARD

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- An internationally recognized expert on documents told a Jerusalem court Tuesday that a key piece of prosecution evidence in the war crimes trial of John Demjanjuk of Cleveland, accused of operating the gas chamber at the Treblinka death camp, was probably not authentic.

Dr. Julius Grant, a British chemist who recently exposed the purported Hitler diaries as forgeries, raised what he thought were inconsistencies with the Trawniki identification card allegedly issued by the Nazi SS to Demjanjuk.

Grant testified Tuesday that the photo on it of Demjanjuk was not original, but had been attached later. On Monday he had said the signature on the document was "unlikely to be genuine."

VANDALS STRIKE JEWISH SITES IN CHICAGO, NEW YORK AREA By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Vandals struck Jewish sites in two major U.S. metropolitan areas on the 49th anniversary of Kristallnacht, when hundreds of synagogues and Jewish-owned businesses were destroyed in Austria and Germany.

Chicago police are investigating what appears to be an organized attack early Tuesday morning on Jewish-owned shops along the 2900 block of Devon Street and in the city's Albany Park neighborhood, and on three synagogues in the predominately Jewish West Rogers Park area.

The Chicago attack "seems to represent a deliberate attempt to mimic Kristallnacht," the night of Nov. 9-10, 1938, according to Michael Kotzin, executive director of the Greater Chicago region of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL).

According to Kotzin, storefront windows were smashed and swastikas were drawn on the walls of Congregation KINS and Temple Beth-El sometime between 1 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. Tuesday. Both synagogues also had windows and glass doors smashed, as did Congregation Poalie Zedeck.

The swastikas were drawn with what seemed like chalk, according to Rabbi Paul Greenman of Congregation KINS, who was able to wash off the swastikas on Tuesday.

The four vandalized stores in the Albany Park area included two kosher meat markets, a bagel bakery and a Judaica shop and bookstore. Along Devon Street, the targets included the ABC Fashion shop, Robert's Fish Market, the Kosher Karry delicatessen, and Rosenblum's Hebrew Book Store. A Korean-owned grocery next to Rosenblum's also had its windows smashed.

According to book store owner William Rosenblum, the alarm in his shop went off a little after 1 a.m. Tuesday. Police arrived to find his front windows shattered. Nothing was missing from the store, said Rosenblum, but police found in the debris a decal bearing a small swastika. Police said the windows were smashed with a hammer or other blunt instrument, according to Kotzin.

'Never Happened Before'

"Something like this never happened before in 45 years of business in Chicago," said Rosenblum, whose shop has been at its West Devon location for 10 years. "This is a blow. The whole community is up in arms."

Kotzin released a statement saying, in part: "Today's local acts cannot be dismissed as harmless pranks. They are serious," and remind us that the kind of hate which generated the Holocaust still exists." Kotzin said the police investigation was being conducted by the Neighborhood Relations Division, the Chicago Police Department's "bias-crimes" unit. Investigators were unable to be reached Wednesday due to the Veterans Day holiday.

The Chicago chapter of the ADL had not recorded an act of anti-Jewish vandalism since June 1, when a Holocaust monument in Skokie, Ill., a suburb of Chicago, was defaced the day after it was unveiled.

In Yonkers, a sedate suburb just north of New York City, the Midchester Jewish Community Center was defaced Tuesday morning. Swastikas in gray spray paint and the slogan "Heil Hitler" covered the front, sides and entrance of the

building, including a decorative menorah sculpture adorning the front wall.

Office staff at Midchester, a synagogue and community center, said they could remember no similar event there.

Rabbi Bernhard Rosenberg said he was leaving the graffiti intact "until they catch whomever did it. I want it up as a reminder."

About 200 persons, including local priests and pastors, attended an interfaith service at the synagogue Tuesday night to protest the anti-Semitic defacement and show neighborhood solidarity.

SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIAL SAYS JEWS MAY ACCOMPANY GORBACHEV By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev may bring along some Soviet Jews when he comes to Washington next month for his meeting with President Reagan, a Soviet Embassy official indicated Sunday.

The official, First Secretary Igor Khripunov, told this to Ina Lerman, education specialist for the Greater Washington Jewish Board of Education, and two students from a Maryland synagogue school.

Khripunov, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, confirmed that he anticipates that Gorbachev will bring along someone "authoritative" on Soviet Jewry. He suggested it might be Samuel Zivs, a member of the Soviet Anti-Zionist Committee, who has long maintained that Jews face no persecution in the Soviet Union.

Lerman said that Khripunov also told her he expects Soviet Jewish emigration will continue to increase in the coming months. More than 6,000 Soviet Jews have been allowed to emigrate so far in 1987.

Lerman and the two students, Allison Gluckman and David Altschuler, both 11, were admitted to the embassy after they rang its doorbell. The youths, both from Congregation B'nai Shalom in Olney, Md., were among 300 from Washington area congregational schools who participated Sunday in a vigil for Soviet Jewry across from the embassy.

The three met with Khripunov for about 10 minutes, Lerman said, and he accepted a petition from the students urging the Soviets to permit Jews to emigrate.

This is one of the few times the embassy has allowed Jewish demonstrators inside. The gesture comes at a time when Soviet Jewry activists and national Jewish leaders are organizing a massive demonstration in Washington, timed to coincide with Gorbachev's arrival on Dec. 6 for talks with Reagan the following day.

Thousands of Soviet Jewry supporters from cities across the country are expected to participate in the demonstration, which will feature appearances by such recently released well-known refuseniks as Ida Nudel, Vladimir and Maria Slepak, Yuli Edelshtein, Mikhail Kholmiansky and Natan Sharansky.

POLES CHEER ISRAELI ORCHESTRA

TEL AVIV, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and its conductor, Zubin Mehta, received a 15-minute standing ovation and Mehta was called back to the stage 11 times at its concert in Warsaw's Grand Theater on Monday night, according to reports reaching Israel from the Polish capital.