

RABIN DEFENDS ISRAELI ARMY'S OPERATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, May 5 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin characterized the Israel Defense Force's two-day incursion into southern Lebanon this week as a defensive measure made necessary by the lack of a central government in Lebanon capable of controlling the region.

"As long as there is no government in Lebanon capable of entering into anti-terrorist arrangements . . . as exist de-facto with Syria and Jordan, and of course with Egypt . . . there is no alternative but to continue with this policy," Rabin said.

Rabin described the operation in interviews with Voice of Israel Radio and the Army Radio Thursday. He affirmed that the most serious action was against the pro-Iranian Shiite Hezbollah guerrillas, who, "more than any other grouping in Lebanon, cooperates with (Yasir) Arafat's wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization" and Syrian-backed PLO dissidents.

The battle to capture Maidoun village Wednesday, the main Hezbollah stronghold, cost the IDF three dead and 17 wounded. Between 40 and 50 guerrillas were killed, according to military sources.

Two of the IDF fatalities were officers. Capt. Zion Mizrahi, 23, of Moshav Megadim south of Haifa, and Capt. Boaz Ravid, 26, of Bet Oved, were buried Thursday. Funeral services will be held Friday for Sgt. Marco Bernstein, 21, of Nahariya.

Rabin explained to the radio interviewers that Israel's policy of protecting its northern settlements required that the area north of the border be kept free of terrorists.

He said the policy was established by the government in January 1985 and implemented five months later, when the IDF pulled out of southern Lebanon and set up the border security zone patrolled jointly with the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army.

Security Zone 'Not Sufficient'

"The maintenance of the security zone is not sufficient, without preventive actions against terrorist targets, whether deep in Lebanon, or in the zone and its immediate environs," Rabin said.

He said that without such initiatives, "we will be unable to ensure that the elements aiding anti-Israel terrorism and the various terrorist elements themselves, are kept out of the security zone."

Rabin rejected suggestions that the IDF operation would only escalate violent confrontations with Hezbollah, Islamic zealots whose name means "Party of God" and who are strongly influenced by the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini of Iran.

While he acknowledged that Hezbollah itself has not in the past tried to infiltrate into Israel, there have been instances of Hezbollah rocket attacks across the Israeli border.

The Israeli dead and wounded, all paratroopers, were hit by shell fire from a Shiite artillery unit of the Lebanese army. Most of the wounded were struck by shrapnel. One of the

wounded who was seriously hurt was reported out of danger in the intensive care unit at Rambam Hospital in Haifa Thursday.

Two other soldiers were treated for moderate wounds. The rest were only slightly hurt.

The casualties occurred during the second phase of the operation, when the IDF paratroopers, supported by artillery and a small tank force, stormed Maidoun and engaged in house-to-house fighting. Attack helicopters destroyed three Lebanese army artillery pieces north of Maidoun and another was destroyed by IDF artillery.

The IDF had overwhelming fire-power but it was confronted by a tenacious foe who had turned Maidoun into a veritable fortress after ousting the civilian population two years ago.

The guerrillas, equipped with anti-aircraft and anti-tank guns, were holed up in a labyrinth of trenches and bunkers.

U.N. BODY TO DISCUSS LEBANON SWEEP

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, May 5 (JTA) -- Members of the Security Council will meet here Friday morning for consultations on Lebanon's request Thursday for a Security Council meeting to condemn Israel's incursion into Lebanon this week.

According to diplomats, the council will meet for a formal debate following the consultation. They said Lebanon may seek, in addition to condemnation, the imposition of "punitive measures" against Israel for its latest anti-terrorist operation inside Lebanese territory.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar sharply deplored the Israeli operation on Tuesday, terming it a violation of Lebanese sovereignty.

OSI HAPPY WITH SUPREME COURT'S RULING ON EX-NAZI'S CITIZENSHIP

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 5 (JTA) -- Neal Sher, director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, expressed satisfaction Thursday on a Supreme Court decision ordering a new hearing on whether an alleged Nazi war criminal should have his U.S. citizenship revoked.

He said the ruling would be helpful to the government's efforts in prosecuting Nazi war criminals in the United States.

The Supreme Court, in a 6-to-2 decision Monday, set aside a 1986 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals that revoked the citizenship of Juozas Kungys, who was accused of helping the Nazis kill more than 2,000 Jews in Lithuania during World War II. They ordered the appeals court to hold a new hearing.

The OSI, which is charged with finding and prosecuting Nazi war criminals living in the United States, is still studying the decision, but Sher said the OSI is "pleased with the ruling" because the court set down clear standards for revoking citizenship.

"The decision by and large supports the positions" taken by the OSI in seeking the revocation of citizenship, that "someone who gives false testimony lacks the necessary good moral character to become a U.S. citizen," Sher said.

The standards for revoking citizenship,

outlined in the court's opinion by Justice Antonin Scalia, approved denaturalization of someone whose misstatements or concealment of facts "had a natural tendency" to influence decisions by immigration officials.

Kungys, a 71-year-old Clifton, N.J. retired dental technician, entered the United States in 1948 and became a citizen in 1954.

The government charged that after Nazi troops invaded Lithuania in 1941, Kungys led an armed group of men which forced the 3,000 Jews in the town of Kedainiai from their homes and confiscated their property.

Later that year, Kungys organized, led and participated in the killing of more than 2,000 Jewish men, women and children, who were forced to undress and walk into ditches near Kedainiai, and then were shot.

In a dissenting opinion, Justices Byron White and Sandra Day O'Connor said they would uphold the appellate court ruling that Kungys made "material misrepresentations" when applying for entry into the United States and then later in his application for citizenship.

Kungys's lawyers argued that his alleged misrepresentation of his age and place of birth should not be grounds for losing his citizenship.

PLO NOT OUT TO DESTROY ISRAEL, PLO OFFICIAL SAYS

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, May 5 (JTA) -- A ranking Palestine Liberation Organization official claims that the PLO no longer calls for Israel's destruction, and in fact dropped that demand from its Covenant 14 years ago.

Shalah Kallar, also known as Abu Iyad, said the PLO is prepared to have a common border with Israel in a Palestinian state, according to an interview in Baghdad, published in the Greek daily Eleftherotipia Tuesday.

Abu Iyad dismissed the famous Covenant article which calls for the destruction of Israel by armed struggle.

"The articles you are referring to, and which the Israelis promote so much -- we do not include them since the 1974 PNC meeting that reshaped our program," he said.

The PNC is the Palestine National Council, the PLO's quasi-legislative body sometimes referred to as the Palestinian parliament-in-exile.

Abu Iyad insisted that the Arabs have become more moderate. "Unfortunately, the Israelis of today speak the same language the Arabs used to speak 30 years ago," he said. "We say yes to peace, yes to a political solution, de-facto recognition of the Palestinian land."

But according to the PLO official, Israel's Labor Party, which declares itself moderate, has not shown any willingness to share mutual borders with a Palestinian state.

Abu Iyad said one of the causes of friction between PLO chief Yasir Arafat and President Hafez Assad of Syria is the PLO's relations with progressive and peace-loving Israelis.

Assad believes relations with those Israelis and with Egypt will only benefit the conservative Arab countries and Morocco, which Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres visited two years ago at the invitation of its ruler, King Hassan II.

Abu Iyad also said Arafat instructed the PLO in Athens to lodge an official protest with the Greek government for releasing an Israeli citizen, Itzhak Ferrera, whom the PLO accused of being an

agent of Mossad, the Israeli secret service.

Ferrera was arrested last Thursday on the complaint of the PLO counselor in Athens, Ismat Sabri, that he was on a mission to kill him. Ferrera was released Friday without charges being filed against him.

KITTY DUKAKIS BAD ROLE MODEL, SAYS INTERMOUNTAIN JEWISH NEWS By William Sapphire

NEW YORK, May 5 (JTA) -- Will the glamour of the White House accelerate intermarriage among American Jews?

The Intermountain Jewish News thinks so, and explains why in an editorial appearing in its May 6 edition entitled "The Hushed-Up Quandary which Kitty Dukakis Could Create for the American Jewish Community."

Kitty Dukakis is the wife of Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, who is expected to become the 1988 Democratic presidential nominee. She is Jewish, and if her husband is elected, would be the first Jewish first lady.

"What kind of role model would Kitty Dukakis be for our Jewish children?" asks the Intermountain Jewish News, a weekly published in Denver.

The editorial makes clear it is not questioning anyone's right to marry whomever they chose or to run for any political office.

"We're talking about a woman who married out, who reportedly does not even raise her children exclusively in the Jewish tradition, and who might well be projecting all this from the most visible arena in the world," the editorial explains.

"What kind of role model is this for Jewish children? Only the naive can believe that Kitty Dukakis will not be an object of attention and admiration by Jewish children, especially if seditors and the like become visible in the White House," the editorial suggests.

It concludes, "As if all this were not worrisome enough, we foresee a possibility of demagoguery over this -- a Jewish organizational competition to extend to Mrs. Dukakis every Jewish courtesy without any accompanying, firm statement on the unsuitability of intermarriage as a Jewish ideal."

Intermarriage High In Denver

Are Jews, worried about the high rate of intermarriage, being advised not to vote for Gov. Dukakis? Is there a subtle political message here?

Not so, says Rabbi Hillel Goldberg, senior editor of the Intermountain Jewish News: The 42-year-old Orthodox rabbi and Ph.D. insists the message is neither frivolous nor partisan. He also stressed that the Intermountain Jewish News does not endorse political candidates.

Goldberg is deeply concerned by intermarriage. According to the latest available figures, published in 1981, the rate for Denver is 72 percent, probably the highest in the country, Goldberg told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in a telephone interview Thursday.

He is fearful that the glamor and high visibility of the occupants of the White House, if they are a mixed couple, would inevitably advance the acceptability of mixed marriage, especially among the Jewish young.

"Jewish children do not grow up with the sense of any consequence of intermarriage," Goldberg said.

EAST GERMAN OFFICIALS UPSET OVER RABBI'S CHARGE OF ANTI-SEMITISM

By David Kantor

BONN, May 5 (JTA) -- The East German Communist authorities admitted Thursday that they were taken aback by Rabbi Isaac Neuman's accusation that the country's controlled news media were displaying anti-Semitic tendencies and using "Nazi vocabulary" to denounce Israel's behavior toward the Palestinians.

Neuman is the retired American rabbi who came to East Berlin eight months ago to serve as spiritual leader of East Germany's tiny Jewish community. He has just quit, expressing frustration and anger.

East German officials, who asked not to be identified, said the timing of Neuman's accusation was particularly embarrassing since it coincided with the meeting in Washington between Secretary of State George Shultz and Hermann Axen, the highest-ranking East German official ever invited to the United States.

The East Germans regard that meeting as an important step in their recent efforts to improve relations with the United States.

The Communist authorities have made no secret of their belief that reconciliation with the Jews, or at least the public perception of such reconciliation, can help pave the way for a possible visit by Communist Party chief Erich Honecker to Washington next year.

Within hours after Neuman went on the air in West Berlin to denounce anti-Semitism in East Germany, Jewish community officials in East Germany issued counter statements of their own. They were apparently coordinated with Communist Party officials and employed some of the standard phrases used by the East German state.

Hans Rotstein, newly elected chairman of the East German Jewish community, referred to his country as the first and only German state from which "fascism has been uprooted" and whose policies reflected "anti-fascist traditions" from the very outset.

Rabbi's Charges A Defamation

Rotstein went on East German television Wednesday to rebut Neuman's charges. He described them as "defamations."

But Rotstein's statements contradicted remarks made by Peter Kirchner, chairman of the East Berlin Jewish Community, who in recent months publicly expressed concern over anti-Semitic tendencies. Like Neuman, Kirchner also criticized the media coverage of Israel.

According to West German observers, this episode prompted the East Berlin authorities to get the local Jewish community to "close ranks" behind official policy.

That task has been facilitated because of the friction the local Jewish leaders have had with Neuman, almost from the day he arrived. Neuman complained that his mail was opened, and he also accused Kirchner of editing and shortening some of his sermons.

Kirchner called these charges "nonsense." He said he had only asked Neuman to delete "superficial attacks" on the East German regime from his sermons.

Other community leaders have accused Neuman of seeking publicity and neglecting his rabbinic duties.

The East Germans' concern over possible negative repercussions in Jewish communities in

the West, particularly the United States, may have been eased by the announcement by East Berlin Jews that another American, Rabbi Ernst Lorge of Chicago, may be Neuman's successor.

Lorge, 66, said in a telephone interview from Chicago Thursday that he has not yet received an invitation from the East German Jews, but expected that he might very soon.

Lorge, who spoke with a correspondent of the West German state-owned Deutschlandfunk radio, said he would take the job if he thought he could help the Jewish community in East Berlin, which he is familiar with having visited their several times.

VISITING EAST GERMAN OFFICIAL TOUTS COMMUNIST PARTY LINE

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, May 5 (JTA) -- Hermann Axen, a Jew who is the highest-ranking East German official ever to visit the United States, said Wednesday that everyone enjoys religious freedom in his country.

There are 600 Jews and thousands more of "Jewish origin" in East Germany, Axen said at a National Press Club luncheon. Axen, 72, who chairs the Foreign Policy Committee of the country's parliament and is a member of the political bureau of the ruling Socialist Unity Party, is in the United States on an unofficial visit.

It is believed that Axen's visit could pave the way for an official visit by East German leader Erich Honecker. While in Washington, Axen met with Secretary of State George Shultz and Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead.

Apparently Axen is trying to increase contacts with U.S. Jews. Warren Eisenberg, director of the international council of B'nai B'rith International, said he was invited to a dinner in honor of Axen at the East German Embassy, but could not attend. An East German Embassy official said some U.S. Jewish leaders were invited to a reception at the embassy Thursday afternoon.

A Holocaust Survivor

Axen, who stands about 5-feet tall, is the only member of his immediate family to survive the Holocaust. He was interned in Auschwitz and Buchenwald and was liberated from the latter in April 1945. He expressed his thanks Thursday to the United States for saving him.

His talk did not touch on Israel or the recent announcement that Rabbi Isaac Neuman, a retired U.S. rabbi who had been serving at an East Berlin congregation for eight months, would leave because of differences with the local Jewish community.

Axen stressed that anti-Semitism is "prohibited and strictly prosecuted."

He said East Germany observes the separation between church and state, and said "full liberty" is provided to the "religious community."

"What belongs to the church, that is the church; what belongs to the state is the state," Axen said.

He would not discuss worker unrest in neighboring Poland, saying that he would not interfere in the internal affairs of a "third country," which he said would violate the 1975 Helsinki Final Act.

Axen said his country has "no unemployment, homelessness or poverty." Soviet officials often invoke those lines when the United States criticizes the Kremlin's human rights policies.

JNF RESPONDS TO WORLDWIDE ARAB PROPAGANDA OFFENSIVE
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 5 (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund says it has become the target of a worldwide propaganda war against Israel.

Moshe Rivlin, JNF chairman, himself encountered a raucous pro-Palestinian demonstration in Basel, Switzerland, he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Tuesday.

He said Arab propagandists in the United States and Europe increasingly are focusing on JNF's long history of land reclamation, acquisition and development, pillorying them as anti-Arab activities.

Rivlin said JNF has opened its archives to a group of Hebrew University academicians who are compiling a rejoinder to a recent, purportedly scholarly, study of JNF by Walter Lehn and Uri Davis.

This book, entitled "The Jewish National Fund," appeared this year under the prestigious Keagan Paul label in London and New York.

In other ad-hoc defensive actions, JNF has vigorously and successfully shown:

- * That the Switzerland Forest, on the hills above Tiberias, is planted on land designated for afforestation by the British Mandate and not, as claimed in a Swiss newspaper, on the land of six Arab villages.

- * That the Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands Forest also was planted on land reserved for trees. Dutch television had questioned the queen's visit to Israel two years ago on the grounds that the area of the forest belonged to a local Arab village. The headman of that village, in fact, attended the forest dedication ceremony and personally presented a gift to the queen.

In a wide-ranging interview with JTA, Rivlin noted a shrinkage in the size of JNF missions to Israel, but no decrease in the number of those missions as a result of concern over the security situation here.

He stressed that JNF income for the 1987-1988 fiscal year, just ended, was statistically up, and indicators for 1988-1989 are favorable.

No Effect On Financial Support

Rivlin said the same situation was reflected in United Jewish Appeal and Keren Hayesod forecasts. "Jews are asking lots of questions," Rivlin said, "but they are not stopping their financial support."

Rivlin's own recent experience in the propaganda war took place on what was to have been a festive planting in Basel of 40 trees, brought specially from Israel by the canton to mark Israel's 40th anniversary and to hark back to the city's role in the cradle of the Zionist undertaking. The first Zionist Congress was held in Basel in 1897.

The JNF chairman and his cousin, David Rivlin, the Israeli ambassador to Switzerland, were invited to attend the ceremony, which the canton parliament was determined to hold, despite public pressure to cancel the event.

About 400 hundred people took part in a demonstration protesting the planting. The Swiss police allowed 50 of them to attend the ceremony itself for just five minutes.

Rivlin recalls the Palestine Liberation Organization flags and kaffiyeh scarves, the whistling and jeering as the Israeli ambassador began his address.

The hostility of that anti-Israel demonstration contrasted sharply, Rivlin said, with the atmosphere of "true friendship" at an official dinner later that day, attended by most of the canton ministers and the speaker of the canton parliament.

Moving on to the subject of JNF financing, Rivlin stressed that although there had been no fall in income, JNF could achieve more if it had more funds.

The total budget for the present fiscal year is \$75 million, of which more than two-thirds is allocated for actual land development. This pays for heavy earth-moving equipment, wages for tractors, drivers and foresters, as well as sapling nursery costs. The balance covers rents, debt payments, educational projects, public relations and administration.

Two recent JNF projects which have already proven themselves, Rivlin said, are the Reshafim Dam in the Bet Shean Valley and the Eshet-Hadassah Dam in the northern Negev. These dams saved precious water that would otherwise have been lost during this year's heavy rains. "Now," Rivlin added, "the JNF has to cope with pressure from everyone to build more dams."

Another area of JNF activity is road-building for small new settlements. "The future of these outposts depends on the availability of education for the local children," Rivlin stressed. Each small settlement cannot support its own school, so there is an urgent need for roads to link them together.

A Stadium For Galilee

One current project in Galilee, which JNF is working around-the-clock to complete by July, will provide badly needed employment in the North and will also draw tourists to the area.

The project is an unusual one for JNF. Workers are preparing the earthworks for a large stadium in Carmiel, to be completed in time for a dance festival organized as part of Israel's 40th anniversary celebrations.

"We are working with the aid of the Jews of Montreal," Rivlin said, "to bring 20,000 people to the center of the Galilee."

All over the country JNF also continues in its traditional afforestation role. Nearly a third of all the plantings this year will be in the Negev, Rivlin said, as part of the ongoing effort to push back the desert.

More trees will be allocated for the hills around the Sea of Galilee to create shady areas for vacationers who at present compete for space at the lakeshore.

As the green belt being planted by JNF around Jerusalem matures, more picnic areas and sports facilities can be developed. The forests to the west of the city are already planted and developed, Rivlin said.

The areas to the north are now ready for development, and JNF plans to double the number of trees in the Shalom Forest, on the eastern side of the capital, overlooking the Judean desert.

HOLLAND REMEMBERS ANNE FRANK
By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, May 5 (JTA) -- A 70-minute documentary entitled "The Last Seven Months of Anne Frank" was televised in Holland Tuesday night on the occasion of National Remembrance Day for victims of the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands.