

**BOMB AIMED AT ISRAELI EMBASSY
EXPLODES IN CYPRUS, KILLING THREE
By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, May 11 (JTA) -- Three people were killed and 20 were injured when a car bomb exploded Wednesday less than 100 yards from the Israeli Embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Cypriot authorities stated officially that the embassy was the intended target of the explosive-laden vehicle. No Israelis were hurt by the blast.

Two of the dead were passers-by and the third was the driver of the vehicle. An Arab of undisclosed nationality has been detained for questioning, the Interior Ministry announced in Nicosia. The announcement said the detainee entered Cyprus six weeks ago.

The Abu Nidal dissident faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization reportedly told NBC News in New York it was responsible for the attack to avenge the assassination of the PLO's second in command, Khalil al-Wazir, in Tunis on April 16.

Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, was allegedly the victim of an Israeli hit squad, though Israel has neither confirmed nor denied this.

Officials in Nicosia said the driver of the death car had twice attempted to park in front of the Israeli Embassy, but was ordered away by a police guard. The car exploded while crossing a bridge close by.

**PERES MEETS WITH EGYPTIAN, SOVIET;
TABA, PEACE PROCESS ARE DISCUSSED
By David Kantor**

MADRID, May 11 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel met with a senior Egyptian official here Wednesday on the Taba border dispute and held his second meeting in two days with a Soviet official to exchange ideas on an international conference for Middle East peace.

Peres, who departed for New York later in the day, was attending a meeting of the Council of the Socialist International, which runs through Thursday. The gathering, hosted by the Spanish Socialist Party, was considering a draft resolution, expected to pass, blaming Israel for the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and endorsing an international conference to bring peace to the region.

Peres met with Moustafa Khalil, vice president of Egypt's governing political party, who presented a proposal on behalf of President Hosni Mubarak for a compromise agreement on Taba.

The dispute over ownership of the half-acre beach resort on the Red Sea is presently in the hands of an international arbitration panel, which is expected to announce its binding decision before the end of this month.

Israel made it known officially on May 4 that it would be amenable to a compromise on the dispute. Such a settlement eluded the disputants during the year-long arbitration procedure in Geneva that ended last month.

Khalil is reported to have offered a deal along the lines proposed by Abraham Sofaer, legal adviser to the U.S. State Department, who has been trying to work out a compromise between the two countries.

According to Israeli officials here, the plan calls for Egyptian sovereignty over Taba, but with Israeli access to the tourist facilities it has built there: the Sonesta Hotel and the Rafi Nelson resort village.

Peres also met for a second time with Alexander Zotov, a Soviet official attending the Socialist International meeting as an observer. Facing reporters after their meeting, the two said contacts between their respective governments would continue.

Soviet Pressed On Visas

But Zotov, replying to persistent questions, insisted he had no authority to say when Moscow would issue visas to an Israeli consular delegation that is supposed to visit the Soviet Union soon. Israel recently extended the visas of a Soviet consular delegation that has been in Israel since last June.

Zotov said in his view this was a technical matter. An Israeli official predicted the visas would be issued within the next two weeks. He confirmed that Peres had raised the matter with Zotov.

But the two apparently could not reach a meeting of minds on the issue of an international peace conference. Peres, in a speech to the Socialist International Council, said the Russians were showing some flexibility "but not enough." Zotov was seen shaking his head over that remark.

Peres said it was urgent to promote the Middle East peace process and hoped the United States and the Soviet Union would reach an agreement on the matter when President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev hold their summit meeting in Moscow at the end of this month.

The draft resolution expected to be adopted by the Socialist International states that the Palestinian uprising was caused by frustration and is the result of unbearable conditions in the Israeli-occupied territories.

It calls for an international peace conference based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and supports a joint effort by Soviet and American leaders to "find a common understanding . . . and produce rapid progress." Resolution 242 calls for the return of Arab lands and guarantees Israel's right to exist within secure borders.

The draft resolution also suggests that the Palestine Liberation Organization "could make an essential contribution to the peace process."

**PALESTINIAN PROBLEM MUST BE SOLVED
BY ARABS, CUOMO TELLS JEWISH LEADERS
By Andrew Silow Carroll**

NEW YORK, May 11 (JTA) -- The United States should not try to "dictate terms to Israel's people or to her Knesset," nor "demand that Israel become a co-conspirator in her own suicide," New York Gov. Mario Cuomo said Tuesday afternoon in a major speech on the occasion of Israel's 40th anniversary.

Cuomo did not specifically refer to the Reagan administration in his address to 300 of New York's Jewish leaders, but offered veiled criticism of its Mideast peace initiative by de-

claring that "Israel must never be forced onto the Scylla of nervous allies or the Charybdis of political expediency."

Cuomo spoke in Manhattan at the invitation of the Jewish Community Relations Council and the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York.

Although he has announced that he will not accept a move to draft him as the Democratic candidate for president, Cuomo seemed to be outlining his vision of the next administration's foreign policy.

That course would be built on the unwavering support of a close relationship between the United States and Israel, a relationship he called a "moral and philosophic imperative for both nations."

'Only Reliable Friend'

"Israel remains the only reliable friend and ally of the United States and the democratic nations of the West, in a region of vital, inescapable concern to us, a region where medieval monarchies or religio-political dictatorships are the rule."

Cuomo clearly placed the responsibility for resolving the Palestinian question with the Arab states, linking the current unrest to previous aggression on the part of the Arabs.

"What Israel's enemies have never been able to accomplish directly, they hope now to achieve by indirection," he said, "by convincing Israel's friends and allies to accept, perhaps even seek to impose, a solution that would give Israel untenable, indefensible borders, and that would signal for her the beginning of the end."

But while Cuomo indicated his distrust of an international peace conference or unilaterally applied pressure on Israel by the United States, he did not offer any solutions of his own for the region.

"There must be no rush to judgment or to action," he said, adding that Israel's fate is ultimately the decision of its own democratic government.

"It would be a desecration of our friendship and of our historical memories now to demand that Israel become a co-conspirator in her own suicide, that she acquiesce in the establishment of a state within the occupied territories under a leadership not only hostile to Israel but officially dedicated to her annihilation."

Black-Jewish Tensions

The governor also addressed racial and ethnic tensions in New York City, recently inflamed during the Democratic primary election over the candidacy of the Rev. Jesse Jackson. Cuomo urged Jews and blacks not to allow differences "to rob us of the memory of what we are at our best."

Cuomo reminded the Jewish leaders that Jackson, despite his "limitations," represents a "great cry of empowerment by a people fighting for the right to be judged on their merits."

He also said he has been reminding black audiences about Jewish participation in the civil rights struggles of the 1960s, and of the current activities of Jewish politicians on behalf of black constituents.

Cuomo said the Jewish community's problems with Jackson were not based on race, but "differences in communication."

"If Mario Cuomo had stood up and had been photographed embracing Arafat, the reaction would have been exactly the same," he said.

Nevertheless, Cuomo said, the primary "did what campaigns are supposed to do: gave the voters in a democracy an opportunity to judge the merits of each candidate." New Yorkers, he said, "acted with extraordinary evenhandedness in sending Mike Dukakis and Jesse Jackson out of New York on the high road."

ARAB VILLAGERS CHARGED WITH LYNCHING By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 11 (JTA) -- Nearly 100 residents of Kabatiya village in the West Bank have been accused in Nablus military court of constituting a lynch mob responsible for the death of a fellow villager, who allegedly cooperated with the Israeli authorities.

Formal charges were brought against 47 of the suspects Wednesday and 48 more are to be charged Thursday. They were brought into the courtroom in groups of five. All pleaded not guilty.

The victim, Mohammad Ayed Zakarani, 29, died Feb. 24. According to the charge sheet, a crowd of about 1,000 villagers set fire to his house, driving him outside, where he was beaten to death with an axe and hanged from a utility pole.

Some of the defense lawyers claim their clients were not present at the lynching. Others say the charge sheet is unclear, and several argued that Zakarani died of a heart attack.

BOMB SAFELY DEFUSED IN BUS STATION By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 11 (JTA) -- An Arab street sweeper from the West Bank averted a possible disaster at Tel Aviv's central bus station Tuesday night, when he called the police bomb squad to examine a suspicious looking package he spotted on the sidewalk outside the terminal.

The object, described by sappers as a "medium-size" bomb, was safely defused. It had been wrapped in newspapers and set to detonate during the evening rush hour.

HUGE RISE IN SOUTH AMERICAN OLIM

JERUSALEM, May 11 (JTA) -- The World Zionist Organization predicts a substantial increase in Jewish immigration from South America this year, which they attribute to poor economic conditions in that region.

The WZO expects at least 3,000 South American immigrants to arrive in 1988, with 2,000 to 2,500 coming from Argentina. The projection is based on recent trends -- during the first four months of this year, 890 South American olim arrived, 652 from Argentina.

Latin American immigrants in 1987 totaled 1,869, with Argentina accounting for 1,129 of them. The number in 1986 was 1,440, including 831 from Argentina.

The statistics were contained in a memorandum published Tuesday. Yehoshua Wallenberg, head of the WZO's South American desk, said its emissaries in South America report high inflation, high unemployment and low wages as the strongest motives influencing Jews to leave.

The memorandum said other factors were a 60 percent intermarriage rate and violent anti-Semitism, but between 10 and 20 percent of olim from South America come here for "pure" Zionist reasons, the WZO said.

ISRAELI CONSUL GENERAL SCORNS PUBLIC CRITICISM OF ISRAEL

LAKE GENEVA, Wis., May 11 (JTA)--Israel's consul general in New York sharply attacked Jewish leaders and organizations that have publicly criticized Israeli policies, calling them "self-proclaimed interpreters of Jewish morality."

Consul General Moshe Yegar made the remarks here on Tuesday during the 52nd annual national convention of the Rabbinical Council of America. He praised the group of Orthodox rabbis as being among "the first to defend the name of Israel."

"I did not find any of your people among the letter writers, and this is the greatest credit I could give you," he said, referring to letters in the general press criticizing Israeli policies.

Yegar said that when he reads letters or articles in the press that have the effect of weakening Israel, he feels a "heavy unpleasantness. What motivates people? What drives them to weaken their state of Israel?" he asked.

The consul general did not name the individuals or groups to whom he was referring. But he made the comments two days after an article by Rabbi Albert Vorspan, senior vice president of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations, appeared in The New York Times Magazine.

Vorspan's article, published in the form of a diary, recounts his growing dissatisfaction with both current Israeli policy and the response of American Jewish umbrella groups, such as the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Vorspan also expanded on the latter theme in an essay in the latest issue of the bimonthly magazine Tikkun, which was sent out to subscribers this week.

The Reform leader came under fire for his stance earlier this week during the second annual Critical Issues Conference of CLAL, the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership.

'Too Much Public Posturing'

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents, criticized the Vorspan article in the Times as being an example of "too much public posturing and too little private discourse."

That exchange and the one at the Rabbinical Council convention here Tuesday appear to be the latest round in a philosophical battle the American Jewish community has been wrestling with since the unrest in the Israeli-administered territories broke out last December.

While the major issue of this battle appears to be over the propriety of Jewish leaders and organizations criticizing Israel publicly, a secondary theme emerging is the effectiveness of Jewish umbrella organizations representing a Jewish community that may have a range of views on such issues as Israeli policies in the territories.

Yegar, for his part, expressed strong support for one umbrella group, the Conference of Presidents, and praised its chairman, Morris Abram. He also affirmed that the "vast majority of American Jews support Israel."

In turn, the new Rabbinical Council president, Rabbi Max Schreiber, told the consul general that "the overwhelming majority of Orthodox Jews are completely supportive of Israel."

CLAL MAKING HEADWAY IN DRIVE TO NURTURE JEWISH UNITY

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, May 11 (JTA) -- Leaders of CLAL, the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, were buoyed by the attendance and cooperation of more than 350 rabbinical and lay leaders from every Jewish denomination at their second Critical Issues Conference.

Nevertheless, their executive director cautioned that the organization was still taking "baby steps" toward reaching its ultimate goal.

"This issue is not going to be solved by any one conference," said Paul Jeser in an interview Tuesday. "But it's not like waiting for the Messiah, and it's an issue everyone has to get to be involved in. This has to remain a top issue."

The issue is Jewish unity -- specifically, an easing of the conflicts among Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist denominations and a movement towards what CLAL calls in its literature "pluralism and a respect for the many forms which Jewish practice may take."

Founded in 1974 by Rabbi Irving Greenberg, Elie Wiesel and Rabbi Steven Shaw, CLAL seemed to crystallize, in 1986, around the first Critical Issues Conference, based on Greenberg's dire thesis, "Will There Be One Jewish People By the Year 2000?"

According to Greenberg, denominational disputes among the movements regarding conversion, patrilineal descent and religious divorce threatened to create two Jewish people -- "mutually divided, hostile groups who are unable or unwilling to marry each other."

Jeser said he was pleased both by the numbers and the attitudes of the rabbis at this year's conference. Of the 130 rabbis attending, 35 percent were Conservative, 25 percent Reform, 20 percent Orthodox, 5 percent Reconstructionist and another 5 percent "just Jews," he said.

Building Trust And Respect

"They encounter one another on a much different level than when we started" two years ago, said Jeser. "Now they may still differ emotionally, but deal on a one-to-one basis in terms of trust and respect."

"Still," said Jeser, "there is not the community support in terms of developing long-term, in-depth Jewish-Jewish dialogue. The real goal is get the Jewish community to consider that this has to become a long-term priority."

Jeser, a former federation director in Florida and Maine, wants to see major Jewish organizations, including the Council of Jewish Federations and the United Jewish Appeal, "becoming part and parcel of the process of communication."

A highlight of CLAL programming has been the inter-denominational dialogues among rabbis. Monday night's colloquium included Rabbis Saul Berman (Orthodox), Neil Gilman (Conservative), Arthur Green (Reconstructionist) and Lawrence Hoffman (Reform).

Their dialogue was devoted to presentations of the philosophical histories of the their respective movements, and disappointed listeners who had expected a debate on specific critical issues.

But Jeser said the program represented another facet of CLAL. "Before dialogue, there must be an understanding of the educational underpinnings. Most of us tend to respond on an emotional basis, not based on any real understanding or study."

ITALIAN COURT UPHOLDS SENTENCES OF FOUR ACHILLE LAURO HIJACKERS

By Ruth Gruber

ROME, May 11 (JTA) -- Italy's highest court has upheld the life prison sentences imposed on Palestinian terrorist leader Abul Abbas and three of his cohorts responsible for the 1985 hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro.

Abbas, whose real name is Mohammad Zaidan, heads the Palestine Liberation Front. A Genoa court passed sentence on him and two of his lieutenants, Ozzudin Badratkan and Ziad el-Omar, and on another liberation front militant, Abdulrahin Kales. All are fugitives.

The high court also upheld the Genoa court's 30-year prison sentence for one of the hijackers, Magied al-Molqi, who murdered cruise passenger Leon Klinghoffer, an American Jew who was confined to a wheelchair.

The court, which announced its decision Tuesday, rejected defense pleas for clemency based on arguments that the hijacking was politically motivated.

The Achille Lauro was hijacked in Egyptian waters on Oct. 7, 1985, while on a cruise that originated in Genoa. About 700 people aboard were held hostage for 41 hours.

During the hijacking, Abbas pretended to act as a mediator with the terrorists. But communications monitored by American intelligence showed him to have masterminded the crime.

Abbas is currently believed to be directing terrorist attempts to infiltrate Israel from southern Lebanon. Avi Benayahu, writing in *Al Hamishmar* on April 28, reported that Abbas aspires to succeed the late Abu Jihad as second in command of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

TORONTO TRIAL OF NEO-NAZI NOW IN HANDS OF JURY

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, May 11 (JTA) -- District Court Judge Ron Thomas instructed a jury late Tuesday to find neo-Nazi propagandist Ernst Zundel in violation of the law only if he knew his denial of the Holocaust to be false when he published the booklet, "Did Six Million Really Die?"

Under Canadian law, Zundel must be acquitted if the jury decides that he believed his ideas about the Holocaust were true and was expressing opinion, which is protected by freedom of speech.

Zundel, a vocal admirer of Hitler, was tried under a 90-year-old Canadian statute known as the "spreading false news" law. It makes illegal the dissemination of information known to be false and which is likely to "produce mischief and injure the public interest" or foment social and racial intolerance.

It was Zundel's second trial on the charge. His first, which ended with a conviction and 15-month prison sentence in 1985, was overturned on technicalities by an appeals court, which ordered a new trial.

Zundel's lawyer, Douglas Christie, argued that this recognition by the judge did not include the possibility that fewer than 6 million perished in the Holocaust; that there was no official policy in the Third Reich or a specific order by Hitler to kill Jews; and that homicidal equipment did not exist.

He said in his summation last week that his client believed those possibilities to be true when he published the pamphlet, written by a British

fascist about 20 years ago.

Crown attorney John Pearson dismissed that argument as nonsense. He maintained that Zundel has been shown to be a fanatical Nazi who would lie to advance the Nazi ideology.

Zundel, writing under the pseudonym Kristoff Friedrich, was co-author with Toronto neo-Nazi Eric Thomson of the book "The Hitler We Loved and Why," which was published by Liberty Bell Press in Reedy, W.V.

The judge's charge to the jury lasted three and a half hours. A verdict is not expected before the end of the week.

VANDALS TORCH CONNECTICUT SHUL

WEST HAVEN, Conn., May 11 (JTA) -- Police report no progress in their investigation of a fire of a suspicious origin that destroyed half of Congregation Sinai, a Conservative synagogue on Washington Street here on May 5.

Anti-Jewish slogans and swastikas scrawled on the rear of the building indicated an anti-Semitic motive.

The blaze gutted the rabbi's study, the synagogue office, the chapel, a foyer and other rooms. But the main sanctuary was spared, including the Torahs and other religious articles.

According to the fire marshal, Deputy Chief William Muldey, the blaze was definitely arson. Detective David Ricci, who is heading the police investigation, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency no conclusions could be drawn until the investigation is completed.

The fire broke out at about 4:50 p.m. on May 5. Members of the congregation said the anti-Semitic graffiti found immediately afterward had not been there before the building burned.

Property damage is estimated at \$750,000. Rabbi Larry Heimer, religious leader of the congregation, could not be reached for comment.

RARE HEBREW BOOK RECOVERED

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, May 11 (JTA) -- A precious 15th-century Hebrew book, stolen last Oct. 2 from the national library in Florence and worth over \$1 million, has been recovered in the United States.

According to Interpol, the thief was identified as 61-year-old Israeli Yitzhak Schwarz, who posed as a rabbi. Israeli police helped in pinpointing his identity and in tracing the book, which apparently went through the hands of a London antiquarian.

Florence officials have issued an arrest warrant for Schwarz on charges of aggravated theft and illegal export of a work of art.

According to published reports, Schwarz visited the Florence library twice, each time asking to see the book -- "The Salterium Davidid," printed in Brescia in 1493 -- and using his passport as an identity document.

On Oct. 2, he managed to leave the library with the book in his possession.

Police said that a similar theft of a valuable Hebrew book had occurred just a week before the Florence theft at the University Library in the northwest city of Turin.

Police are also investigating the theft of a similar Hebrew book from a library in Parma 10 years ago, as well as the reported presence of Schwarz at a library in Milan in March, where he is believed to have examined another book of the same type.