

VOL. 66 - 71st YEAR
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1988
NO. 93

ISRAEL MONITORING SYRIAN ARMY INTERVENTION AGAINST HEZBOLLAH

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA) -- Israel is keeping a close watch on the deployment of Syrian troops in the southern suburbs of Beirut. But it is far from upset by the prospect that the Syrians may clash with and possibly crush Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian movement of Shiite fundamentalists.

"Anything that is bad for that extremist organization we view with favor," Premier Yitzhak Shamir said Monday.

He and other officials acknowledged that the recent flare-up of fighting between Hezbollah and the mainstream Shiite Amal militia could spread to southern Lebanon near the Israeli border. But they view possible Syrian intervention in Beirut with equanimity.

The Cabinet was briefed on the situation Sunday by the Israel Defense Force chief of staff, Gen. Dan Shomron. No details were released, but the fact that the news media were informed of the subject of Shomron's report indicated the importance Israel attaches to developments in the Lebanese capital.

Reports from Damascus Monday night said that Iranian and Syrian officials were still negotiating terms for a possible peaceful entry of Syrian forces into the southern Beirut suburbs, where Hezbollah guerrillas have bloodied Amal in recent weeks.

Israeli sources noted that Syrian troop movements have posed no threat to Israel. In fact, Syrian troops have been shifted from the Bekaa valley, in eastern Lebanon, northwestward toward Beirut.

This greatly diminishes chances of an IDF clash with the Syrians, which seemed highly likely during Israel's brief incursion into southern Lebanon two weeks ago.

The only resistance encountered by the IDF came from Hezbollah. Its base, the fortified town of Maidoun, was captured and destroyed by the Israelis, who suffered three dead and 17 wounded. At least 50 Hezbollah guerrillas were killed.

Hezbollah, whose name means "Party of God," has aided Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists and has been the most dangerous force operating in southern Lebanon, according to the Israelis.

Some observers are cautioning that the Syrians and their Amal clients may strike a deal with Hezbollah and its patron, Iran, which would give Hezbollah freedom of movement in southern Lebanon.

ISRAELI AIR FORCE STRIKES BASE USED BY TERRORISTS IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 16 (JTA) -- The Israeli air force attacked terrorist targets in the vicinity of the southern Lebanon port city of Sidon on Sunday night. All aircraft returned safely to their bases, a military spokesman said.

The attack was the eighth Israeli air raid on Lebanon this year and the second foray in four days.

Reports from Beirut on Monday said the attack was carried out by two assault helicopters protected by jet fighter planes. At least eight rockets were fired at targets in the Ein Hilwe refugee camp south of Sidon, the Beirut sources said.

They said a two-story building destroyed in the 15-minute pounding was used as headquarters of Al Fatah, the mainstream terrorist group of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and other terrorist units. Casualties were reported, but no numbers were given.

Ten people were killed or injured in the Israeli air raid last Thursday night on targets north of Sidon, according to Lebanese sources.

The Israel Defense Force issued only a brief communique on that operation, saying that terrorist targets were hit and all aircraft returned safely.

Reports from Beirut said six Israeli F-16 bombers drew anti-aircraft fire during the rocket attack, which was aimed at a base of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command near the town of Barja, 17 miles south of Beirut.

That terrorist group, headed by former Syrian army captain Ahmed Jibril, claimed credit for the motorized hang-glider attack on an IDF base in Upper Galilee last November, in which a single terrorist killed six Israeli soldiers and wounded seven before he was killed.

PERES ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON FOR SESSIONS WITH REAGAN, SHULTZ

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 16 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is scheduled to meet President Reagan at the White House Tuesday with the moribund Middle East peace process expected to be high on the agenda.

But most of Peres' meetings during his two days in Washington will be with Secretary of State George Shultz, with whom he met for 90 minutes after his arrival here early Monday. "They discussed a range of bilateral issues, including the peace process," State Department spokesman Charles Redman reported later.

Peres and Shultz will meet again before the White House meeting Tuesday, which will be followed by a working lunch at the State Department between the two statesmen. Shultz was also expected to attend a reception for Peres on Monday at the home of Israeli Ambassador Moshe Arad.

The talks come as Shultz plans for his return trip to the Middle East on June 3, after the Moscow summit, when he will try again to win support for his peace initiative.

Peres and his Labor Party supports the initiative, which is opposed by Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Likud. With the government of national unity therefore divided and unable to give the United States either a flat "no" or "yes" to the Shultz proposals, the issue is expected to be a major point of contention in the upcoming Knesset elections.

The peace process also was expected to be high on the agenda during Peres' meetings with the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign

Affairs committees, which were scheduled for Monday afternoon. Peres also was to address the banquet of the 29th annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee on Monday night.

Stops In Los Angeles, Other Cities

The Israeli foreign minister made stops in Chicago, Detroit and Los Angeles over the weekend and is scheduled to return Wednesday to New York.

There he is to address the State of Israel Bonds Organization and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. He is also scheduled to speak Thursday at the Jewish Theological Seminary's commencement ceremonies.

In Los Angeles, Peres toured the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Holocaust Museum and addressed a crowd of Jewish community leaders there. Speaking about the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Peres said "Israel has never been stronger" despite the difficulties there.

"We don't seek peace because somebody throws stones. We don't seek peace because we are afraid. We don't seek peace because the Arabs want land," he said. "We seek peace because we want peace and because we feel we can achieve it. And we shall achieve it."

Speaking earlier at a breakfast meeting for Jewish community leaders, Peres criticized China's recent sale of missiles to Saudi Arabia. The Jewish state, he said, is opposed to any nation "which provides weapons in a state of belligerency against Israel."

IDF SERGEANT SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR ROLE IN BULLDOZER INCIDENT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA) -- A military court gave an Israel Defense Force staff sergeant a four-month prison term and a six-month suspended sentence Sunday in connection with the attempted live burial of four Arab youths by Israeli soldiers.

Sgt. Charley Danino also was reduced in rank to private. He had pleaded innocent, claiming he was not at the scene when the incident occurred on Feb. 5, in Kafr Salim village, near Nablus.

The court accepted evidence to the contrary given by a reserve soldier. It found that even though Danino's role had been "passive," he was guilty of assault and conduct unbecoming a soldier.

The four Palestinians allegedly had participated in rioting and stone-throwing. The soldiers who seized them ordered a civilian bulldozer driver to pile earth over their bound bodies. They were rescued by villagers after the soldiers left.

The incident, reported widely by the foreign news media, had international repercussions and seriously harmed Israel's image abroad.

"Whoever was responsible for this will be punished accordingly," Maj. Gen. Ehud Barak, the IDF deputy chief of staff promised reporters at a news briefing on Feb. 17. Two soldiers were tried and convicted in a plea-bargaining deal in March and sentenced to short prison terms.

Danino was the last to be tried. The court found his conduct reprehensible because he was the senior soldier on the scene and did nothing to stop the burial. The judges ruled that even though Danino is married, as a professional soldier he should be punished at least as severely as the other two, who were young conscripts.

2 PALESTINIANS KILLED, 7 WOUNDED AS VIOLENCE FLARES IN TERRITORIES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA) -- Two Palestinians were killed and seven were wounded in clashes with security forces in the administered territories Monday.

The violence flared anew as Moslems marked the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

A 17-year-old youth was fatally shot when Israel Defense Force soldiers opened fire to quell a riot in the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza. Two other Palestinians were wounded there.

Two more were wounded in clashes in the West Bank town of Kalkilya, and three Arabs were wounded after hurling rocks and gasoline bombs at a border patrol in Idna village, in the Hebron hills.

The body of a Palestinian resident of the West Bank village of Azmout was brought to the government hospital in Nablus on Monday. The IDF is investigating the cause of death.

Curfews were imposed Monday on the Kalan-diya and Tulkarm refugee camps.

HEAT WAVE DAMAGE COSTING MILLIONS, BUT RELIEF EXPECTED BY TUESDAY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 16 (JTA) -- Israelis were promised relief Monday night from one of the worst heat waves in the country's history, which has caused crop damage estimated in the millions of dollars and at least one heat-related death.

According to the meteorological service, temperatures that soared over 100 degrees Fahrenheit for the past two days will drop by 10 to 15 degrees by Tuesday, which is "near normal" for this time of year.

The intense heat was accompanied by a hot, dry, desert wind that Israelis call the Sharav. It was once known by its Arabic name, Khamsin, and is indigenous to the region.

By any name it can be a killer because of the widespread fires started and fanned by the wind. Fire brigades all over Israel were kept busy Sunday and Monday battling blazes in forests, fields and brush. Hundreds of acres of crops have burned in Galilee. Chickens, which cannot perspire, died by the scores.

Yarra, a village in northern Galilee, had to be evacuated when a grass fire spread to houses adjoining the fields.

The Tel Aviv fire brigade reported a dozen or so brush fires in the metropolitan area, but no serious damage was caused. But elsewhere in the country, light aircraft were called on to help fight fires.

The director of the emergency ward at Ichelov hospital in Tel Aviv reported that 250 people were treated for heat exhaustion Sunday, two or three times the normal daily average. Most of the patients were elderly.

The only death directly attributed to the heat wave was that of the assistant manager of a Ramat Hasharon supermarket Sunday. It occurred because of an electric power failure -- caused by heavy use of air conditioners -- which shut down the store's deep freeze and refrigeration units.

The assistant manager, accompanied by an Arab employee, went to the basement to switch on an emergency generator. He lit a candle and ignited fuel oil stored nearby and was burned to death. The Arab worker was injured.

JEWISH VOTE, ISRAEL'S USE OF POWER DISCUSSED AT AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, May 16 (JTA) -- A leading American political analyst predicted Monday that the Jewish vote will play an important role in just three states this November: California, New Jersey and New York.

Bob Beckel, who managed the Mondale-Ferraro presidential campaign in 1984, explained that Jews do not constitute the swing vote since they are predisposed to vote Democratic.

Beckel spoke during a breakfast session of the 29th annual policy conference of AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. He was joined at the session by Republican strategist Edward Rollins, who was national director of the Reagan-Bush 1984 re-election campaign.

Beckel said the key to the 1988 presidential race is the voting pattern of white-collar workers, aged 30 to 45, who vote on the basis of a candidate's personal strength.

He also predicted that the Rev. Jesse Jackson will not be "on a ticket" on Election Day. But he said there will be a black candidate in subsequent presidential campaigns.

Rollins said that Vice President George Bush's position among Jewish voters should "pretty much stay in tune with whatever the George Shultz policy is today."

He suggested that Bush align himself with the secretary of state and thereby benefit from Shultz's popularity among Jewish voters.

Rollins also charged that Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, the likely Democratic nominee, "does not have strong policy positions" on foreign policy.

Ethical Use Of Power

At another session Monday, Rabbi Irving "Yitz" Greenberg received a standing ovation after declaring that Israel has used its power ethically, despite world criticism of its handling of the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Noting that Jews were "powerless" for the 1,800 years that ended with the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel, Greenberg said Israel's newly found power "should be welcomed."

He warned that while power corrupts, so does "absolute powerlessness," which meant that for centuries, "we had no say in how we died." He said the compromise today is that "to be a Jew is to exercise power ethically."

Jews traditionally held the attitude that "Christians beat up on Jews; Jews don't beat up on Christians," Greenberg said.

In addition, Jews were not supposed to hunt, drink or "wifebeat." He said, however, that Jews lost that "purity" when they gained political power.

He said that through politics, Jews should "award friends" and "punish enemies."

In discussing how Israel should behave, Greenberg said its army uses its power morally by killing "as few civilians as possible." In addition, it has a "corrective mechanism" for punishing unethical behavior by soldiers.

He also said the Israeli electorate exercised moral self-restraint by providing Kach party leader Meir Kahane with 1 percent of the vote in the last election, considering 10 percent of the population has family members who died at the hands of Arab soldiers.

AMERICAN RABBI RENEWS CHARGES OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN EAST GERMANY

By David Kantor

BONN, May 16 (JTA) -- Rabbi Isaac Neuman has renewed his charges that anti-Semitism is rampant in East Germany and has taken another swipe at the leadership of the tiny Jewish community there, implying it is passive in face of mounting danger.

Neuman is the retired American rabbi who took over as religious leader in East Berlin eight months ago. He quit earlier this month in the midst of a dispute with Hans Rotstein and Peter Kirchner, the chairmen respectively of the East German and East Berlin Jewish communities.

Interviewed Monday on the state-owned West German television channel, Neuman charged that the official news media and the schools in East Germany were promoting anti-Semitism. "I have reports on what they say in schools," he said. "It's becoming an anti-Israel, anti-Jewish, anti-Semitic cocktail."

Neuman made similar charges when he went on the air in West Berlin on May 5. He repeated them Monday, attributing rising anti-Semitism to what he called "false, biased reports about the situation in Israel" by the state-controlled East German news media, which "must have a negative influence on the youth in East Germany."

He said East German school children repeatedly overturned tombstones in Jewish cemeteries and daubed them with swastikas. He linked such occurrences to one-sided reporting about Israel, which was lacking in background and perspective.

Praise For Authorities

Neuman said that during his brief tenure as religious leader of East Germany's Jewish community, he intervened privately with the authorities and went public with his criticism only after the situation did not improve.

Nevertheless, he praised the East German authorities, who, he said, made no difficulties "during the first five months of my work."

But he indicated he got no support in his efforts from Jewish community leaders.

Neuman's feud with the community leaders is no secret. He was accused of neglecting his rabbinic duties and seeking publicity. He charged his mail was opened and his sermons censored.

Neuman charged that the East Berlin community had come to accept neglect of its spiritual and cultural needs and dealt only with administrative matters. The local leadership was accustomed to making its own decisions and therefore could not tolerate a rabbi, he said.

East German officials have been upset by Neuman's accusations of anti-Semitism. East Germany, in fact, has embarked on a major effort to gain the good will of Jewish communities abroad, including Israel, as a means to improve its relations with the United States.

ISRAELI HELPS TEAM WIN EUROPEAN CUP

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, May 16 (JTA) -- Eli Ohana, Israel's top soccer player, helped his Belgian team win the European championship in the European Cup finals played against Holland in Strasbourg, France, last week. Ohana, 21, made the decisive pass that enabled teammate Piet Den Boer score the only goal for a 1-0 victory over the Ajax Club of Amsterdam on May 11.

JEWISH STUDENTS ON CAMPUS: FIGHTING PALESTINIAN PROPAGANDA

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, May 16 (JTA) -- College Hillel counselors have expressed varying degrees of concern over diminished support of Israel by students, as a result of pro-Palestinian activity on their campuses during the spring semester.

Most said the anti-Israel activity -- stemming from the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that began in December -- was confined to small demonstrations, op-ed pieces in college newspapers and pro-Palestinian information tables.

But some Hillel directors worried that Jewish students seemed slow to defend Israel, and expressed fear that these future leaders of tomorrow may be turning away from the pro-Israel position.

There were a couple of strongly anti-Israel incidents that occurred on the campuses this spring, with two of the more violent ones taking place at the University of Arizona at Tucson and at the University of Kansas at Lawrence.

At Arizona, a shot was fired into the window of the Hillel lounge just after the last student had left early on the morning of April 26, following the conclusion of one of the ABC-TV "Nightline" marathon broadcasts from Israel.

Brenda Morrison, director of student activities for Hillel at the university, said somebody "shot out our window and shot out our door." She said police are still investigating the incident, including a garbled message left on the Hillel telephone answering machine.

She added that her campus has a large Arab population, with five Palestinian student groups.

At the University of Kansas at Lawrence, David Katzman, a history professor, said he found "Go to Hell Dirty Jew" written on the name-card of his office door a few weeks ago, even though he didn't teach during the spring. He said that four days of mail were stolen the following week, while no one else in the history department had anything touched.

Not The First Time

However, Katzman said that he was the victim of anti-Semitism before the Palestinian uprising, when he had received death threats while serving as the president of the local Jewish Community Center.

In combatting the usual Palestinian forms of protest, some of the Hillel counselors complained that they had limited resources.

Rabbi Carol Glass, Hillel director at American University in Washington, said Jewish groups there have not been effective in countering pro-Palestinian "slick posters" placed on walls of campus buildings and advertisements bought in the campus newspaper.

She said that her campus has an unusually large number of Arab students -- 400 out of 11,000 students, 40 to 50 of whom are Palestinians -- who had been able to gain funding from Arab sources.

Heidi Goldsmith, Israel programs director at the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, said many Hillel directors complained that they lack "concise materials" and "simple, clear history" on the Arab-Israeli conflict. "We don't have enough," she said.

An example she gave of needed material is a pro-Israel rebuttal of the Palestine Liberation

Organization's covenant, which calls for the overthrow of Israel.

Two other Hillel directors, on the other hand, said they do have effective materials to counter pro-Palestinian groups in the information war.

Helise Lieberman, program director at Columbia University's Hillel, said while students are struggling with "how to be supportive of Israel" without "condoning or condemning" current policies toward Palestinians, they have been exposed to many pro-Israel speakers and effective information from the Israeli Consulate in New York and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Joseph Kohane, acting Hillel director at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, said his campus has been relatively quiet. He said that the student newspaper at one point carried a lot of anti-Israel opinion pieces, but that Jewish students organized a "concentrated letter writing campaign" to counter it.

'Hard Time To Be Jewish'

Glass said that it is a "hard time to be Jewish on a campus. The Arab community is seen by most of the world as the underdog, as the victimized," and "a lot of finger pointing goes in the way of Israel."

Overall, Glass said organized Jewry does not see Jewish students at college as a major constituency. She argued they were more vulnerable than other Jews who do not have to encounter Arabs on a day-to-day basis, as do Jewish students.

She complained that Jewish groups provide "nothing in the way of resources and material to really help us" analyze recent events. Glass called for more professional literature to be developed on the uprising, and specifically said "not enough is presented from a moderate to a sort of Peace Now perspective."

College campuses must be seen "as a critical Jewish community," Glass said, "because this is where future public opinion is being formed."

Goldsmith said Palestinian demonstrations and information tables have become bolder since the violence began Dec. 9, benefiting from the perception that "Israel no longer has the David image."

In addition, she said, student newspapers regularly print op-ed pieces on the Arab-Israeli conflict, including some by professors critical of Israel's handling of the situation. She added that she has heard of few violent incidents on college campuses.

'Battle Of Words And Ideas'

Jeffrey Ross, director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith's campus affairs and higher education department, said the incidents were "less than we expected," calling it a "battle of words and ideas."

He said that demonstrations of 20 people, which often occur, do not "affect too many people," and that many campus Arab groups are in disarray both organizationally and ideologically.

Ross said his "greatest concern is what's going on in the classrooms" and not demonstrations, campus literature and op-ed pieces and advertisements in student newspapers.

He expressed concern that these students who are tomorrow's leaders may be developing a "permissive consensus which will allow future administrations to try to put pressure on Israel to make unilateral concessions."