

VOL. 66 - 71st YEAR

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1988

NO. 159

IDF PLANES ATTACK LEBANON BASE; FIVE TERRORISTS KILLED IN LEBANON By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- Israeli air force planes attacked terrorist targets near the Ein Hilweh and Mich Mich camps south of Sidon Thursday afternoon, 24 hours after five Hezbollah gunmen were killed in a clash just north of Israel's security zone in south Lebanon.

In Thursday's attack, reports from the area said three attack helicopters had raided targets in the area, causing damage to buildings housing Palestinian militia units. The number of casualties were not immediately known. It was the ninth air raid on targets in Lebanon in 1988.

In Wednesday's action, six Israel Defense Force soldiers were very lightly wounded in the confrontation. Five of them returned immediately to their unit after being bandaged by a field medic, while the sixth was taken to the Rambam Hospital in Haifa for further treatment.

The clash occurred when an IDF paratrooper patrol was sweeping difficult terrain a few kilometers from Kakabeh village, in what the IDF spokesman described as an "initiated action" similar to other actions taken in the past few months.

The purpose of the actions is to identify and destroy terrorist bases just north of the security zone, in a region known to be controlled by the radical Iranian-backed Hezbollah, and used as an operational center against IDF and South Lebanon Army targets inside the zone.

The IDF patrol spotted the terrorist gang, killing all five as the six Israelis were wounded. As the IDF troops withdrew, they came under heavy artillery and mortar fire, which was promptly returned by Israeli artillerymen supported by helicopter gunships.

Commanding officer of the northern region, Maj. Gen. Yossi Peled, met later with members of the paratroop unit and congratulated them on the exemplary manner in which they had conducted themselves and discharged their mission.

ISRAELI DEPORTATIONS WILL CONTINUE DESPITE CRITICISM FROM WASHINGTON By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in an interview on Israel Radio Thursday, said there is no tension between Washington and Jerusalem, but that the deportation of Palestinian and "intifada" leaders will continue despite the strong protest from the United States.

"We are responsible for security in the area, not the Americans," he said.

The premier, who noted that differences of opinion between friends are natural, denied that the deportation of Palestinians was a "policy," saying it was necessary to maintain Israel's security and order in the territories.

Shamir and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin both told U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering Wednesday that the deportations orders already issued against 25 Palestinian leaders will be carried out, after the men have had an opportunity to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Sources said that Pickering expressed sur-

prise that Israeli officials leaked to the press news of the protest, described as "a paper of talking points" that was delivered by Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead to Oded Eran, acting Israeli ambassador to the U.S.

Foreign Ministry officials met in Jerusalem Thursday to discuss further responses to the United States, both through private diplomatic channels and in public statements.

In a statement issued Wednesday, the Foreign Ministry said the deportations were carried out with full regard for Israeli law and also in accordance with international law.

Legal experts explained that the restrictions on deportations are enshrined in the Hague regulations of 1907 and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

BOMBING OF WORKERS' BUS IS FIRST OF ITS KIND By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- Firebombs were thrown Thursday at a bus carrying Arab and Jewish workers near the Arab village of Azarya on the eastern outskirts of Jerusalem. No serious injuries were reported but the bus was severely damaged.

The bus, operated by the Gershon Tours Company, makes the run daily, picking up Jewish workers from Ma'aleh Adumim and Arab workers from neighboring Azarya to their places of work in Jerusalem.

Just as the bus was about to stop in Azarya for Arab workers to get on, two boys appeared, their heads covered with the traditional keffiyeh headdress, and threw two Molotov cocktails at the bus.

The bus immediately burst into flames. Several workers seated at the front rushed out of the bus. One man was slightly injured as he stepped from the burning bus.

This is the first time since the uprising began last December that a bus carrying passengers was attacked with a petrol bomb. Up till now, buses had only been the object of rock-throwing attacks.

Meanwhile, the unrest continued in the territories as a curfew was imposed Thursday on Nablus following riots which erupted the night before.

At least 13 people were wounded by Israel Defense Force gunfire Wednesday, on the first day of a two-day strike called by the leadership of the uprising.

Riots were also reported in nearby refugee camps. Three houses, occupied by members of the outlawed popular committees, were demolished Wednesday by security forces.

Riots were also reported in the Gaza Strip, where four people were reportedly injured. A curfew was imposed on three refugee camps in the Gaza area and the Sheik Radwan neighborhood in Gaza.

Military police are investigating the death of a Gaza area resident, Hani a-Shami, who was detained three days ago when he tried to stop the arrest of his son, who was accused of security offenses.

The father was reportedly checked by a

doctor after having inhaled tear gas during his arrest. The doctor was said to approve his arrest, but the man died a few days later.

As the strike in the territories continued for its second day, a resident of Yatta, in the Hebron mountains, was brutally murdered early Thursday. Some 30 masked men broke into the home of Saadi Hassan al-Hahrush, dragged him outside, and killed him with axe blows. No motive for the attack was established.

A firebomb was thrown Thursday morning into the offices of the municipality of the Arab town of Shfaram, near Haifa, resulting in slight damage to the building.

The national flag as well as Shfaram's emblem were defaced. Slogans regarding Mayor Ibrahim Nimer Hussein were also smeared on nearby walls.

The mayor is chairman of the National Committee of Arab Mayors in Israel and is considered a popular figure with all political camps in the country.

SEVENTH TEEN SURRENDERS IN KIBBUTZ GANG-RAPE CASE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- A 15-year-old boy from Ra'anana, near Tel Aviv, has surrendered to the police in connection with the alleged gang rape of a 14-year-old member of Kibbutz Shomrat in Galilee.

He is the seventh youth to be detained in connection with the rape in a case that has sent a ripple of shock throughout the country.

Police are still searching for four other youths who are mentioned in the girl's diary. The girl kept a list of the boys with whom she had sex over a period of two weeks in the kibbutz fields.

The incident has caused consternation throughout the entire kibbutz movement and especially in Kibbutz Shomrat, where the girl and her family as well as several of the alleged rapists and their families live.

A group of psychologists has been called in by the kibbutz to help with emotional counselling for those involved.

JEWS BELIEVED RESPONSIBLE FOR OR YEHUDA BOMBINGS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- The police charged Wednesday that an attack of firebombs and a smoke grenade on a building in Or Yehuda early Sunday was not a reprisal by Arabs for the arson death of three Arab workers in the town, but rather an act of provocation by Jews.

One of the suspects is a member of the family whose house was attacked Sunday. The seven Arab laborers who were arrested shortly after the attack Sunday were released Wednesday evening.

The attack took place early Sunday, as three firebombs and a smoke grenade were thrown into the yard of Julia Maslawi in Or Yehuda. Only one bottle ignited, causing slight damage.

At first the local police assumed that the attack was an act of revenge by Arabs following the arson of a hut, in which three Arab laborers were burned to death in their sleep earlier this month.

They arrested seven inhabitants of Tulkarm who were asleep in a nearby hut.

But on Wednesday night police admitted they were investigating in the wrong direction. They said the attack was an act of provocation meant to worsen relations between Arabs and Jews.

Three Jewish suspects were brought Thursday to the Tel Aviv magistrates court: Baruch Maslawi, a member of the family whose yard was attacked; Binyamin Saade; and Yaacov Batash. All are residents of Or Yehuda.

The judge, who ordered their remand be extended for five days, noted that beyond the severity with which one should deal with the case, "there was special public sensitivity about harassment of Arabs working in Israel."

According to the police, Maslawi himself threw the bottles and the smoke grenade, after he was convinced by the two others to commit the crime. The other two supplied Maslawi with the firebombs and the grenade.

The three could be charged with conspiracy to commit murder, attempt of sabotage by use of explosives, and providing police with false information.

ARAFAT TO MEET WITH U.N. HEAD

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasir Arafat will meet here Sunday with United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

According to the Perez' spokesman, Francois Giuliani, the meeting is at Arafat's request.

The meeting, apparently in the form of a working lunch, will be the first between the U.N. chief and the PLO leader since the announcement by Jordan's King Hussein on July 31 that he was cutting his ties with the West Bank.

Meanwhile, the PLO office here said that Arafat will not participate in the meeting of the Non-Governmental Organizations scheduled to open here Sept. 1. Arafat participated and addressed the same meeting here last year.

RABIN THANKS UNDOF FOR PEACE IN GOLAN HEIGHTS

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin expressed satisfaction over the role of the United Nations Disengagement Observers Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights in the area that separates Syrian and Israeli forces.

In a meeting Thursday with Maj. Gen. Gustaf Welin, the outgoing UNDOF commander who is to complete his term of duty soon, Rabin said: "We greatly appreciate UNDOF's activity, acting on the basis of an agreement between Israel and Syria."

The defense minister recalled that at the time the agreement was signed in 1974, when Rabin served as Israel's premier, "many did not believe that the force would be able to maintain itself, yet it has since proven itself, with a new contingent arriving every six months."

Rabin thanked Welin for the way he directed the force, claiming that UNDOF is "a good example, both of the maintaining of an agreement and the performance of a U.N. force in guarding such an agreement."

Welin stressed the cooperation and understanding between Israel and Syria regarding UNDOF's mission and preserving the quiet on the common border.

ROBERTSON ANSWERS ADL'S CHARGE, CLAIMS HE DENOUNCED ANTI-SEMITISM

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- Television evangelist Pat Robertson, responding Wednesday to a Jewish leader's charge that he was reluctant to condemn anti-Semitism surrounding protests of "The Last Temptation of Christ," claimed he had spoken out on the matter on his television program, "The 700 Club."

Robertson's response came as the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith released copies of correspondence between ADL national director Abraham Foxman and Robertson.

In the letters, exchanged earlier this month, Robertson seemed to sidestep Foxman's request that he "condemn and counsel" fundamentalist leaders who were injecting anti-Semitism into protests of the controversial Universal Pictures film.

Other national Christian groups renounced protesters who targeted the Jewish principals in the MCA conglomerate, which owns Universal.

Instead, Robertson suggested that ADL condemn the MCA corporation, whose chairman is Jewish, and "do everything you can" to prevent the movie's release.

In his statement Wednesday, Robertson explained his stance by saying, "I was advising a dear personal friend of what I felt to be the most effective strategy in this particular situation to stop anti-Semitic rhetoric and sentiment about this film before it ever began."

"Had they done what I suggested," continued Robertson, "it would have been a great move to solidify the rapport between Christians and Jews in America and further promote unity between us. I believe it would have knocked this thing in the head right away."

Robertson concluded the statement by saying he "will always stand against anti-Semitism."

Shocked At Leak

Robertson also said he was "shocked and disappointed" that confidential correspondence had been leaked to the press, a reference to the story's appearance in The New York Times a day before ADL made the letters public.

Robertson said he was "grateful" to learn that Foxman did not leak the letters.

A spokeswoman for the Christian Broadcasting Network said the dates on which Robertson spoke out against the anti-Semitic protests were not included in the statement, and "we're looking into that."

She said the remarks came during the last month. The film was released Aug. 12.

Robertson, a former Republican presidential candidate, is chairman of the network.

In a telephone interview Thursday, Foxman said he appreciated Robertson's expressions of friendship and his suggestions, but added, "This was not a question of strategy. I don't think that's what I asked for or what's called for. After 2,000 years of experience with anti-Semitism, what is necessary to limit it, to eradicate it, is a clear denunciation."

Foxman said he would welcome any statements Robertson made on his television program, and appreciated Robertson saying he stands against anti-Semitism.

Foxman also denied leaking the letters, and said he would have notified Robertson had he planned to.

SOVIETS RELEASE HOLOCAUST FILES IN AGREEMENT WITH U.S. COUNCIL

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- As part of a July 29 agreement with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, the Soviet Union is allowing Westerners for the first time to duplicate its Holocaust archives.

The council estimates that the Soviet archives could contain more than a third of all existing Holocaust-related materials, including documents on Nazi actions taken against the 2.5 million Jews in what are now the Soviet republics of Ukraine, Moldavia, Byelorussia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, as well as the rest of the Soviet Union.

Neal Sher, who heads the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, which tracks down Nazi war criminals, called the accord a "very good development" because of the Soviets' "voluminous and extremely insightful documentary evidence" on war crimes.

"There's no way of knowing" whether the material will lead to additional prosecutions, Sher said, "but I think it will be very useful to our office."

The reciprocal agreement was signed in Moscow by Miles Lerman, chairman of the Holocaust council's international relations committee, and Evgeny Kozhevnikov, first deputy director of the Soviet Central Archive Administration of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Lerman said the council had been seeking the agreement for years but that it took just two days to negotiate it once his six-member delegation arrived.

He said that many of the documents are deteriorating, and are being photocopied on microfilm and microfiche to extend their shelf-life to more than 300 years.

Two Weeks in Archives

After the agreement was signed, "we immediately got to work," Lerman said. The delegation spent two weeks visiting archives in Moscow as well as in some of the western republics.

"We saw glimpses of information on everything, about Latvian attitudes toward Jews, about Lithuanian secret police, statistics on the movement of Jews (and) correspondence of Nazi officers," said Raul Hilberg, a preeminent Holocaust scholar at the University of Vermont.

The accord follows the council's Feb. 15 exchange agreement with Yad Vashem in Israel. Yad Vashem will have access to the Soviet Holocaust collection through the U.S. transmission effort. Last August, the council signed its first accord with a foreign entity, Poland's Main Commission for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes in Poland/Institute of National Remembrance.

The council is hoping to next reach agreement with the Holocaust archives of Hungary and Czechoslovakia, Lerman said.

The new access, which Lerman attributed to the new policy of glasnost under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, is in stark contrast to the previous Soviet practice of releasing its records only for specific war crimes trials.

The documents include details not known to the West until now, including statistics on the annihilation of Galician Jewry during deportation in 1942; Latvian attitudes toward Jews in 1943; and preparations for resistance in the Kovno ghetto in 1944.

ANTI-APARTHEID ISRAELIS QUIET, BUT LEADER VOWS TO FIGHT ON

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- Esther Levitan admits that the average Israeli's interest in South Africa's anti-apartheid movement is not what it once was or could be.

But as a member of Israelis Against Apartheid, the group she was instrumental in founding in 1985, she is generous in her criticism.

"You never find anybody in Israel who is not anti-apartheid," said Levitan, who left South Africa in 1984.

If a meeting of Israel's most dedicated anti-apartheid activists can take place comfortably in her Ramat Aviv apartment, she said, it is because Israel's leftist parties and peace groups, from whose ranks her organization draws its most loyal support, are currently immersed in Israel's own crises.

Levitan understands crises, and their ability to consume a person's time and energy. Now a silver-haired grandmother, she spent most of her life in Johannesburg, raising a family while managing to work against the strict system of legal segregation known as apartheid.

She was jailed for her activities in 1982, and languished in detention for three months -- an experience she refers to only fleetingly.

On her first night of freedom, a stone came crashing through the window of her home. She had neither a passport (authorities seized it upon her detention) nor the desire to leave South Africa permanently, but she allowed British diplomats to arrange for her passage to England.

"What would I do in Israel? It's a foreign country," she remembered thinking when Israeli officials offered to help her leave South Africa.

Levitan still spends half the year in Middlesex, and admits she chose to live the rest of the time in Israel to avoid the English winters.

Paradox of Two Countries

Earlier this month, on a visit to the United States that included visiting her son's family in Los Angeles, Levitan talked about the paradoxes of Jewish life in South Africa, and her new life in Israel.

Of South Africa's 30 million whites, 2.3 percent, or 115,000, are Jews. Like Levitan's own parents who migrated from Lithuania, their ancestors came as immigrants and refugees, fleeing economic hardship or intolerance. Asked why so many Jews continue to live in a state which imposes those same conditions on others, Levitan's voice rose.

"Do you have any idea how white South Africans live? I never made a bed in my life, hardly cooked a meal. When I was in the Mercas Klita (Israeli absorption center), they gave me a stick with a rubber strip on the end.

Someone finally told me it was for washing the floors. White South Africa must have the highest standard of living in the world," she said.

That comfort, combined with an atmosphere generally free of anti-Semitism, leads to "a kind of inertia." Nevertheless, most young South African Jews have left, said Levitan, who was active in the South African Zionist Federation.

Emigration increased after periods of South African unrest in 1960 and 1976 and after "emergency measures" were introduced in 1985. An estimated 14,000 South Africans now live in Israel, according to the Israeli government.

Levitan wanted to draw on that base when she began talking with Israeli leftists about starting an Israeli anti-apartheid movement. She especially wanted to focus attention on Israel's economic ties with the racist state.

Economic Dependence

"Even I had no idea of the extent to which Israel seems to be economically dependent on South Africa. In every industry there are economic ties between the country, not only the military.

"I have no doubt that most countries deal with Israel through the back door. Why does Israel go through the front door?"

Official Israeli statistics differ with Levitan's assessment. In 1985, before the Israeli Cabinet voted to curtail its dealings with South Africa and cooperate with international sanctions, Israel imported \$63,896,000 worth of South African goods, and exported \$174,654,000 in Israeli wares and expertise to South Africa.

Those figures amounted to only 1 percent of the total foreign trade of both countries, according to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics.

By comparison, the United Kingdom's trade with South Africa in 1984 included \$742 million in imports and \$1.6 billion in exports.

But according to Levitan, "Israel pays lip service to the sanctions and embargoes against South Africa. I don't mean to attack; I understand it on an emotional level, that Israel can't choose its friends. But I must object to it on a political level."

Still, Levitan bristles at attempts to equate Israel's internal problems with South Africa's.

"Yes, racism exists everywhere, in some form. But South Africa is not only racist, but unique.

"In South Africa the law compels statutory racism. That's the difference. The laws entrench racism.

"True, unskilled labor in Israel is done by Arabs, and Arabs may not be living side by side with Jews," she continued. "But the law doesn't prevent them from doing it. To me, that's a crucial difference."

March Through Tel Aviv

Israelis Against Apartheid was launched in November 1985 by a committee that included representatives of the Mapam, Ratz and other parties along with well-known activists like Abie Nathan. The first major event was a march through Tel Aviv to the South African Embassy.

Operating on a shoestring budget, the group has held similar events since then.

But with the onset of the Palestinian uprising in December 1987 and with elections looming on Nov. 1, Israelis Against Apartheid is on hold.

When Levitan returns to Israel in the winter, she will see if there is any interest left in reviving the movement. For now, Levitan's thoughts return to those friends she left behind in South Africa.

They include the activists, like members of the South African Union of Jewish Students, for whom progress is measured in microscopic increments.

Lately her concern is focused on David Bruce, the son of a Holocaust survivor who has begun serving a six-month sentence for resisting conscription in the South African military.

"Can you imagine what they're doing to him in prison?" Levitan asked, with a look of someone who knows too well.