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## IDF TO INVESTIGATE ITS RAID ON TERRORIST BASE NEAR BEIRUT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force has begun an investigation into Friday's commando raid on a Palestinian terrorist base near Beirut, in which one IDF officer was killed and three soldiers wounded.

The target was the subterranean headquarters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, near Naameh, less than 20 miles south of Beirut.

The raid was the deepest Israeli penetration into Lebanon since the IDF invaded that country in June 1982.

It was promptly condemned by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who remarked that Israel should have learned from its earlier experience that such actions do not work.

The results were hailed here, however, as highly successful, with upwards of 20 terrorists claimed to have been killed and dozens wounded. Billets and underground munitions stores were destroyed.

But in certain aspects the operation went sour.

Israel Radio reported Sunday that far more aircraft and helicopters than planned had to be used in the operation itself and a subsequent rescue requiring more improvisation than is normally considered prudent.

Shultz was attending a NATO meeting in Brussels when news of the Israeli raid reached him. He said it "surprised" him.

The secretary of state told reporters, "I thought that by this time the Israelis would have learned their lesson about putting troops well inside Lebanon ... It didn't work before."

### White House Critical

In Washington, the White House also criticized the raid. "We deplore violence," spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said.

"The concern of the White House is the same as it is for all these kinds of incursions in the Middle East: that we deplore violence on all sides," he said. "We encourage countries not to engage in these types of activity."

The special investigatory committee named by the IDF high command will look into why four soldiers were left behind when the main body of the commando force was extricated by helicopter.

A second helicopter rescue operation had to be mounted.

Although it was successful, the IDF is disturbed by the violation of an ironclad rule governing commando operations: that no soldier be left behind in enemy territory.

The IDF chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Dan Shomron, promptly assumed personal responsibility for the decision to leave four men behind.

He told a news conference it was his decision alone to order the evacuation to proceed without the men, who were found missing at a roll call.

Contrary to normal practice, they were left to fend for themselves until they could be rescued later.

Another area of the probe may be the

casualties suffered, which have been rare on IDF commando operations' inside Lebanon since the Lebanon war.

### IDF Officer Killed

Lt. Col. Amir Meital, 29, of Hadera was killed in the initial assault on the terrorist base. He was buried in Hadera Sunday.

Meital was a battalion commander in the crack Golan brigade and a former commander of its elite reconnaissance force.

The three wounded soldiers were reported recovering in hospitals in Israel. Their injuries were described as light to medium.

Meanwhile, the IDF has refused to comment on reports from Lebanon, confirmed by news wire photographs from Beirut, that the commandos used booby-trapped dogs -- animals with radio-controlled explosives strapped to their bodies.

Such methods were initiated by the United States in Vietnam and have since been adopted by British and West German forces, and now apparently by Israel.

The PFLP-General Command is an extremist terrorist group headed by Ahmed Jabril and believed to be supported by Syria. Jabril, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive, is believed to have been at the Naameh base at the time of the Israeli attack.

Press commentators reviewing the operation over the weekend made the point that the action occurred near Syrian forces in Lebanon, but the Syrians made no attempt to intervene.

(JTA correspondent Howard Rosenberg in Washington contributed to this report.)

## THREE FEDERATIONS THREATEN CHANGES IF 'WHO IS A JEW' AMENDMENT PASSES

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Jewish federations in Atlanta, Boston and Pittsburgh have become the first to threaten "re-evaluations" of their gift-giving to Israel, unless the "Who Is a Jew" amendment to the Law of Return is killed.

The strongest statement was made by the Atlanta Jewish Federation. Its board of trustees recently approved a resolution saying that "no portion of (Federation) funds will be allocated overseas until the Law of Return is satisfactorily resolved to the consensus of the leadership of our community."

David Sarnat, executive director of the Atlanta federation, said last week that the statement's wording is stronger than its intent, and that no funds will be withheld.

Despite such qualifications, however, actions in Atlanta, Pittsburgh and Boston state a clear message: Federations are responding to the frustrations of lay leaders who are appalled by an imminent change in the Law of Return.

The change would require that converts to Judaism who wish to enter Israel as Jews be converted "according to halacha," or Jewish law.

The Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist movements say the amendment would be used by the Orthodox to denigrate their rabbis' authority.

In Boston, the community response took the form of a public statement last week that the

federation would "reconsider our allocations so as to increase our support for those agencies in Israel which promote religious pluralism."

At the same time, the federation would retain its "traditional support for vital human service needs in Boston, Israel and overseas," according to Rabbi David Mersky, director of campaign and development for the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston.

In Pittsburgh, the board of directors of the United Jewish Federation will meet this week to consider a number of proposals about "finding an appropriate way to connect with Israel for the future," said Howard Rieger, executive vice president of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

#### Hurts Social Service Recipients

The Pittsburgh federation was the only delegation at the Council of Jewish Federations General Assembly in New Orleans last month to approve a resolution calling on the Jewish Agency for Israel to cease funding institutions that support the "Who Is a Jew" amendment. The proposal was rejected by a majority of General Assembly delegates, who felt it was too punitive.

The Jewish Agency for Israel receives approximately 39 percent of the funds raised by the annual community federation campaigns.

In 1987-88, Boston's campaign raised a total of \$25 million; Atlanta and Pittsburgh each raised a total of \$9.6 million. Each allocated approximately half of those amounts to the United Jewish Appeal, which funds the Jewish Agency and other overseas concerns.

The Jewish Agency is a non-governmental agency in Israel that provides social welfare and educational services. Officials of the UJA and CJF argue that cutting off funds to the Jewish Agency would only hurt the direct recipients of those services, and not the Israeli government.

In addition, cutting off overseas funds would hurt the work of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, an international relief and social services organization that receives federation funding through UJA.

"The old woman in Romania who needs a scarf to keep out the cold needs the scarf no matter what the political climate is," said Raphael Rothstein, vice president of the UJA.

#### 'Wait-And-See Attitude'

The Atlanta, Boston and Pittsburgh federations are taking a "wait-and-see attitude," according to Frank Strauss, communications director of CJF, which represents 200 federations in the United States and Canada.

He said their warnings are based on a political outcome -- a change in the Law of Return -- that is in no way certain.

Sources familiar with the UJA allocations process said there are a number of ways a community could flex its fund-raising muscle if the law is amended.

"The decision on how to allocate is really made by the Jewish Agency," said Strauss. "Communities could pressure them in terms of how these funds are allocated. Or they might choose not to send money through UJA, but send it directly."

In San Francisco, federation leaders began a process three years ago of reserving \$100,000 from the annual campaign for their own office in Israel. There they provide direct grants for Israeli social welfare and humanitarian projects.

Atlanta, Boston and Pittsburgh are not yet ready to discuss specific plans if the amendment is adopted, and the annual allocations process does not begin until next spring.

But the pressure is on. In Atlanta, for example, Sarnat described the letters that arrive daily from contributors who write of their ambivalence about giving to Israel, now that they feel their Jewishness is being questioned.

And, according to Sarnat, the majority of those criticizing the federation's stand say the statement is not strong enough.

"The intent here is dealing with leadership that are severely frustrated," he said.

#### **LABOR SETS CONDITIONS FOR JOINING NATIONAL UNITY COALITION WITH LIKUD** By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Labor and Likud coalition talks are on again, aimed at establishing a broad-based government.

They resumed Sunday morning with a brief get-together between Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, and Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, who is foreign minister in the outgoing Cabinet.

Also present were Shamir's closest associate, Moshe Arens and Labor's No. 2 man, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Their discussion was described as general. More substantive talks were scheduled for later in the day. Two separate working teams of both parties were to convene.

One was to discuss policy guidelines of a new Labor-Likud coalition. The other was to examine the division of Cabinet portfolios between the two big parties and the smaller ones likely to be their coalition partners.

Though both parties are trying to form a unity government for the good of the country, there is no assurance of success at this point. Labor has laid down three conditions:

- It insists that the three far right-wing parties -- Tehiya, Tsomet and Moledet -- be excluded from the new government.

- It demands the right of its Knesset members to vote their conscience, free of coalition discipline, if the divisive "Who Is a Jew" amendment reaches the Knesset floor.

- Finally, Labor opposes elements in the agreements Likud has already signed with the ultra-Orthodox parties.

The problem on the far right stems from Tehiya, since the two smaller rightist parties are expected to bow out of the coalition voluntarily.

But Likud signed an agreement with Tehiya last Thursday pledging to establish 40 new Jewish settlements in the administered territories over the next four years.

Tehiya leader Yuval Ne'eman said if Labor balked, "that is Labor's problem." He seemed to imply that Tehiya would remain in a broad coalition and hold Likud to its promise.

Labor had hoped Tehiya would withdraw rather than sit in a government with Labor, which opposes commitments to massive settlement programs in the administered territories.

The religious parties, it is believed, understand that their agreements with Likud would have to be revised and scaled down, if there is a coalition with Labor.

The Agudat Yisrael party nevertheless insists that Likud honor its promise to push the "Who Is a Jew" amendment through the Knesset.

## LAWMAKERS URGE REFUGEE STATUS BE GIVEN TO ALL SOVIET JEWS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- A congressional effort is under way to persuade the Reagan administration to return to its former policy of classifying as refugees all Jews who leave the Soviet Union and want to come to the United States.

Since September, nearly 200 Soviet Jewish emigrants have been denied refugee status on the grounds that they could not prove a "well-founded fear of persecution" in the USSR.

"Modifications that affect such sensitive issues as status should be brought to the attention of Congress and not implemented through unilateral action," Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), who is leading the campaign, said in a letter sent Friday to Secretary of State George Shultz and Attorney General Richard Thornburgh.

The letter also was signed by four of Schumer's colleagues on the House Judiciary subcommittee on immigration, refugees and international law: Reps. Hamilton Fish Jr. (R-N.Y.), Howard Berman (D-Calif.), Bill McCollum (R-Fla.) and John Bryant (D-Texas).

Schumer now plans to circulate the letter for additional signatures to the entire House. A similar move is being made in the Senate by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.).

Schumer acted after Thornburgh announced Thursday that as an interim measure, 2,000 Soviet emigres a month would be allowed to enter the United States under his parole authority, including all the Soviet Jews now in Rome.

Until last September, all Jews who left the Soviet Union were granted refugee status when they reached Rome.

But because enough funds have not been appropriated to handle the increasing number of emigrants, the Immigration and Naturalization Service has denied refugee status to about 179 Soviet Jews. Another 345 are waiting for a ruling.

### Cannot Become Citizens

Officials of Soviet Jewry organizations are concerned over the use of the parole authority, since persons entering the United States this way do not receive the financial aid from the U.S. government for travel, resettlement and health insurance, as do those who immigrate as refugees.

The Jewish community, which now pays about half of the resettlement costs of Soviet Jews, would have to cover all the costs of those entering under the parole authority.

Perhaps even more worrisome to the Jewish officials is that those who come to the United States under the parole authority do not have the right to become citizens, unless they marry a U.S. citizen.

They also cannot bring in other relatives from abroad and can be deported at any time. They do have the right to work.

HIAS has urged the Jews denied refugee status in Rome not to accept the parole authority until their cases can be appealed to the INS.

However, Karl Zukerman, HIAS executive vice president, was optimistic Friday that an effort will now be made through the cooperation of the Jewish community, Congress and the administration "to come up with some money to relieve the problem" and restore the refugee status to all Soviet Jewish emigrants.

Myrna Shinbaum, acting director of the

National Conference on Soviet Jewry, said her organization was "taken by surprise" by Thornburgh's announcement last week.

When an NCSJ delegation met with Shultz on Dec. 6, the two sides agreed that the State Department would work with the Jewish community to resolve the problem. Then, two days later, the attorney general announced his own solution.

Micah Naftalin, national director of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, said that while Thornburgh's announcement was a "positive signal that our concerns are being addressed," the "response is inadequate."

## ISRAEL RUSHING AID AND EQUIPMENT TO QUAKE-RAVAGED SOVIET ARMENIA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Israel is rushing disaster relief to earthquake-ravaged Soviet Armenia.

It includes medical aid, Israel Defense Force field hospitals and special equipment for removing rubble. The IDF is sending dogs trained to sniff out buried bodies and giant air bags capable of lifting concrete blocks weighing many tons.

An air force Boeing 707 took off Sunday morning for Yerevan, the Armenian capital, with 40 doctors, medics, experienced rescue teams and tons of supplies.

The Magen David Adom, Israel's Red Cross equivalent, will fly trained personnel, blood and plasma to the region on Monday. The blood was collected in a countrywide emergency campaign the MDA conducted over the weekend.

Israel is one of many countries responding to the disaster, which is believed to have taken more than 100,000 lives and left hundreds of thousands of others injured or homeless.

The Turkish government cooperated with the Israeli effort by allowing the Israeli relief plane to make the four-hour flight over its territory.

The Soviet authorities responded quickly and thankfully to Israel's prompt offer of assistance. They asked only one condition -- that the IDF personnel travel in civilian clothes.

### Check Presented To Soviets

Meanwhile, American Jewish organizations are assisting in the relief effort.

In Washington, B'nai B'rith International presented a check for \$1,500 in disaster aid Friday to Oleg Derkofsky, a counselor at the Soviet Embassy.

In New York, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has announced the establishment of an "Open Mailbox for Armenian Earthquake Relief."

Donations for non-sectarian relief may be sent to Armenian Mailbox, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 711 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

In Boston, the American Jewish World Service is also reportedly accepting contributions. Its address is 729 Boylston St., Boston, Mass. 02116.

Other Jewish organizations have sent moral support.

In New York, the American Jewish Committee sent a message of "deep friendship and solidarity" with the Armenian people Friday to Archbishop Torkom Manogian, primate of the Armenian Church Diocese in New York.

Meanwhile, little is known about the fate of the 1,000 Jews said to live of Armenia. Most live in Yerevan, which suffered less severe damage.

## UPRISING ENTERS SECOND YEAR WITH STRIKES AND HEAVY VIOLENCE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- The Palestinian uprising, known as the intifada, entered its second year this weekend with violence as unrelenting as that which ignited it 12 months ago.

It flared in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, where it started on Dec. 9, 1987.

But some of the worst confrontations in recent months occurred Saturday and Sunday in East Jerusalem.

Two Palestinians, a teen-ager and a 40-year-old man, were killed Saturday by Israel Defense Force soldiers in the Gaza Strip. At least 12 were wounded in various incidents in both territories, according to the IDF.

There were general strikes, commercial strikes and new curfews enforced. Public transportation was at a standstill. Nevertheless, the civil administration went ahead with plans to reopen junior high schools in the territories on Sunday.

Some 70,000 pupils returned to classes after an enforced absence of five months, when the schools were shut down because of rioting.

Violence broke out in several parts of East Jerusalem Saturday. The most serious disturbance took place outside Red Cross headquarters in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood.

About 200 demonstrators hurled rocks and bottles at passing vehicles, overturned trash cans and blocked the road to Mount Scopus.

Police fired tear gas and rubber bullets. Twenty-five Arab youths were arrested.

Trouble also erupted in the usually quiet Bedouin village of Ibtin, near Haifa.

The new mosque was set on fire, apparently by Jewish extremists who believed rumors that several villagers had been arrested on suspicion of terrorist acts.

The Religious Affairs Ministry promised to make good the losses, estimated at tens of thousands of dollars.

## DUTCH NAZI WHO EVADED JUSTICE IS ARRESTED NEAR BUENOS AIRES

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- A convicted Dutch war criminal who found refuge in Argentina may be extradited to serve the 20-year sentence he evaded when he escaped from a prison in Holland nearly 40 years ago.

Jan Olij, 68, was arrested Wednesday at his home in the Buenos Aires suburb of Isidro Casanova. He has been a naturalized citizen of Argentina since 1952.

Olij was picked up on a request made by Dutch legal authorities through Interpol, the international police agency. The Netherlands is expected to request his extradition formally.

Although Argentina does not extradite its nationals, Olij could be stripped of his citizenship if it can be proven he concealed his war crimes conviction when he applied for it.

A Dutch special war crimes tribunal found him guilty in 1946 of collaborating with the Nazis. He was sentenced in absentia. By then he had already escaped from jail, made his way to Spain and eventually to Argentina.

Olij was accused, among other things, of informing on young Dutchmen who went into hiding to avoid forced labor.

## ZAIRE, LONG A FRIEND OF ISRAEL, MAY RECOGNIZE PALESTINIAN STATE

By Yossi Lempkowicz

BRUSSELS, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Zaire, the first African nation to break a 10-year diplomatic freeze with Israel, may soon recognize the independent Palestinian state proclaimed by Yasir Arafat in Algiers last month.

AZAP, the official news agency of Zaire, reported a meeting in the capital Kinshasa last Thursday between President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire and Salman el-Herfi, identified as a special emissary of Palestine Liberation Organization leader Arafat.

The dispatch quoted the Palestinian envoy as saying the Zaire government will soon make an announcement of formal recognition.

Arafat declared an independent Palestinian state on Nov. 15 at the meeting of the Palestine National Council, the PLO's legislative body, in Algiers.

Zaire, one of the largest and most important nations of Africa, was among the 20-odd African states that severed diplomatic ties with Israel during the Yom Kippur War in 1973, in a gesture of solidarity with Egypt.

In 1983, it took the lead in restoring ties with Israel. Several other black African countries soon followed Zaire's example.

Mobutu, who holds the rank of marshal, has personal ties with Israel. He received his military training from the Israel Defense Force. His special presidential guard is staffed by IDF officers.

There is a small but commercially important Jewish community in Zaire, mainly in Kinshasa. Zaire was formerly Belgian Congo.

## ITALY WILL ASK LIBYA TO EXTRADITE ARAB TERRORIST FREED BY GREECE

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Italy is turning to Col. Moammar Gadhafi of Libya for the extradition of a Palestinian terrorist who flew there last week, after he was freed by Greece.

The Italian authorities want to prosecute Abdel Osama al-Zomar, a member of the Abu Nidal terrorist group who was "deported" by Greece Dec. 7 to a country of his choice. Greece freed the terrorist, despite Italy's extradition request, which had been pending for more than six years.

Zomar is the prime suspect in the Oct. 9, 1982, machine-gun and grenade attack on the main synagogue in Rome, which left 2-year-old Stefano Tache dead and 40 people wounded.

Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, attending a NATO meeting in Brussels said, "Italy will ask Gadhafi to extradite Zomar, given liberty in Greece by means of a very surprising decision."

Also attending the Brussels meeting was the Greek foreign minister, Karolos Papoulias, who reportedly was told by Andreotti that Italy was astonished by Athens' move.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, also in Brussels for the NATO meeting, said he was "shocked" by the Greek decision. He called it "a blow to the fight against terrorism."

Libya is considered highly unlikely to extradite Zomar. Gadhafi is said to bankroll the training of terrorists.

(JTA correspondent Yossi Lempkowicz in Brussels contributed to this report.)