

## ISRAEL ATTACKS BASES IN LEBANON USED BY THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- Israeli air force jets carried out their third raid this year over Lebanon on Tuesday.

A military spokesman said the targets were the headquarters and bases of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Syrian-backed terrorist group led by Nayef Hawatmeh.

The spokesman said the targets "were destroyed" and all planes returned safely.

Reports from Lebanon said six fighter-bombers struck just before noon at targets eight to nine miles from Beirut. They made three bombing runs within 30 minutes, the reports said.

A spokesman for the Democratic Front confirmed the raid. He said casualties were still being counted.

The Democratic Front claimed responsibility for an infiltration attempt last week that was thwarted by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army.

In Washington, the State Department deplored the Israeli air strike and recent attempts to infiltrate Israel from Lebanon.

"We deplore the loss of life and needless suffering of innocent people on both sides, Lebanese and Israeli alike," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said at his regular briefing Tuesday.

"This latest sequence of actions and reaction in south Lebanon underscores once again the need for agreed-on security arrangements to ensure stability in the region and security for the peoples of south Lebanon and northern Israel."

Last year, at least 128 people were killed and 356 injured in 25 air raids by the Israeli air force over Lebanon.

The most frequent targets were bases used by Shiite fundamentalist groups and splinter groups of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Democratic Front is a constituent of the PLO. But Hawatmeh is reported to be critical of PLO chief Yasir Arafat's more moderate line.

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

## U.S. DISCUSSES INFILTRATION ATTEMPTS WITH PLO OFFICIAL

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- As promised, the United States complained to a Palestine Liberation Organization official Tuesday about an attempt last week by three members of a PLO splinter group to infiltrate Israel.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman confirmed Tuesday that Robert Pelletreau Jr., the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia and the sole U.S. official allowed to talk to the PLO, met with Hakam Balaoui, the PLO representative in Tunis.

"This meeting was originally requested by Mr. Balaoui," Redman said. "But in view of last week's action in south Lebanon, we felt it important to get our views across on that particular incident to the PLO."

Pelletreau inquired about the intentions of the three would-be infiltrators, all members of

the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who were shot dead by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army.

Redman would not discuss Balaoui's response. The spokesman also could not say if any other issues were discussed at the meeting. A State Department source said late Tuesday he had no additional information on the meeting.

Redman was not prepared to say that the infiltration attempt, as well as a similar incident Feb. 5, violated one of the conditions of the U.S.-PLO dialogue: that the PLO refrain from acts of terrorism.

"We do not condone those types of operations," Redman went as far as saying, "and we have views on what is proper and not proper, and those have been expressed" by Secretary of State James Baker.

## Position On Peace Conference

"We said from the very start that there were going to be things that would have to be addressed on a case-by-case basis, and that's what we are doing," Redman said.

"As we see the various cases that arise, we are making our views known directly to the PLO, and that's what happened in this case."

Redman was asked if the U.S.-PLO dialogue bars the PLO from retaliating against Israeli attacks. He responded by quoting Baker as saying, "Attacks against Israeli civilian and military targets inside or outside of Israel are contrary to the peaceful objectives of the dialogue."

Redman, who has been nominated to be the next U.S. ambassador to Sweden, also reiterated the U.S. position on a Middle East peace conference. "We continue to believe that direct negotiations are the objective in the Middle East."

He added, "We have said for quite some time now that if there is a constructive role for an international conference on the road to direct negotiations, that we are willing to take a look at that."

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze strongly advocated a peace conference last week, during his meetings in Cairo with Israeli and Arab officials. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir firmly opposes such a conference, favoring direct negotiations instead.

## SHAMIR NOT SERIOUS ABOUT PEACE, U.S. LABOR ZIONIST LEADER CHARGES

NEW YORK, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- An American Zionist leader believes that there will be no Israeli peace initiative in the Middle East "as long as Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his Likud party control Israeli foreign policy."

That charge was made by Menachem Rosensaft, president of the Labor Zionist Alliance, in an article published Tuesday on the op-ed page of The New York Times.

Rosensaft was one of five American Jews who met with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat in Stockholm last December.

After that meeting, "right-wing Israelis and their acolytes in the American Jewish establishment immediately denounced us as 'willing dupes,'" the writer recalled.

In his case, he claimed, he was almost

drummed out of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, of which he is a member.

Rosensaft's view that the Shamir regime and peace are antithetical is based on his contention that Likud and its adherents have no intention of bargaining for peace with the Arabs.

"Israelis like Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens believe that the Jewish people have a God-given right to all of the biblical 'Land of Israel,' which they define as including the West Bank and Gaza Strip," he wrote.

"The principles and platform of their Likud party preclude even the slightest compromise with respect to any part of the land between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River."

Rosensaft maintained that Likud's "hard-line views have little to do with security concerns."

#### Doesn't Reflect Public Opinion

He said its leaders "understand that the very act of talking to the PLO implies an acknowledgement of precisely those Palestinian nationalist aspirations that are incompatible with their absolutist vision of a 'Greater Israel.'"

According to Rosensaft, it is "naïve to think that Mr. Shamir will present a credible peace proposal when he visits Washington this spring."

"More likely, he will put forward yet another public relations scheme designed to deflect attention from his intransigence," Rosensaft wrote.

The writer credited Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of the Labor Party with supporting the principle of trading land for peace.

But he did not mention the fact that both of these leaders have criticized the U.S. move to open a dialogue with representatives of the PLO.

Rosensaft cited recent polls that show a slim majority of Israelis support talks between their government and the PLO.

"Neither the Palestinians nor the Bush administration should be misled into believing that Mr. Shamir's views accurately reflect Israeli public opinion," Rosensaft wrote.

He observed that Shamir heads a government elected "before Yasir Arafat's dramatic recognition of Israel at Stockholm and Geneva in December 1988."

In his view, "there is still hope for a genuine peace process, but it depends on the ability of pragmatic moderates on both sides to displace the ideologues."

#### **DUTCH EARMARK AID FOR SURVIVORS TRAUMATIZED BY RELEASE OF NAZIS**

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- Organizations providing psychological help to war victims are demanding that the government pay for treating the thousands whose conditions were aggravated by the release from Breda prison a month ago of the last Nazi war criminals imprisoned in Holland.

Welfare Minister Elco Brinkman has promised an additional \$500,000. But five organizations that deal with war victims say the amount is far from sufficient.

They said large numbers of war victims are traumatized by the knowledge that Ferdinand aus der Fuenten, 79, and Franz Fisher, 88, are now free men.

The two Germans, responsible for the de-

portation of more than 100,000 Dutch Jews, were released from Breda Jan. 28 by order of the lower house of Parliament.

They were declared undesirable aliens and deported to West Germany.

Both were convicted in 1949 and became known as the "Breda Two" because all other Nazis and collaborators convicted with them either died or had their sentences reduced.

The money offered by the welfare minister will not affect individual payments to some 30,000 war victims. About 20,000 of them were prisoners of the Japanese in the former Dutch East Indies. The rest are victims of Nazism.

#### **GREEKS TO INVESTIGATE NAZI EXTERMINATION OF SALONIKA JEWS**

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- The Greek government is about to launch the first official investigation into the extermination of the 50,000 Jews of Salonika under Nazi occupation during World War II.

The investigation, formally requested by West Germany, could lead Bonn to seek the extradition of Alois Brunner, one of the last major Nazi war criminals still at large, who is known to be living in Syria.

The request, by the West German Justice Ministry, was signed by Mein Vetsell, the attorney general in Frankfurt.

It refers to specific criminal acts by Brunner, a close aide of Adolf Eichmann who was an SS captain stationed in Salonika.

President Kurt Waldheim of Austria also may be implicated. He served as an intelligence officer with the German army in Greece and Yugoslavia during the war.

Bonn asked the Greek authorities to try to obtain testimony from four Greek Jewish deportees who may still be alive. They are Alfonso Levis, Elena Cunio, Eduard Cunio and Emilia Soul.

The four were allegedly deported to Yugoslavia by Brunner. But they survived the war and returned to Greece.

#### **THREE JEWISH SCIENTISTS BEHIND DEVELOPMENT OF DRUG AGAINST AIDS**

By Jenni Frazer

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- Three Jewish scientists are leading the development of a new drug that may provide hope for people with AIDS.

Professor Raymond Dwek, 47, of Oxford University's Exeter College heads the Oxford Glycobiology Unit, which developed the drug, dubbed Oxaid.

Dr. Gary Jacob, 41, of New York, is director of the Searle support group, which works with the unit. The research is supported by Searle Pharmaceuticals, a subsidiary of the Monsanto Co.

The third scientist is Dr. Abraham Karpas, 51, who holds dual Israeli-British nationality and is assistant director of research at Cambridge University's clinical school.

Karpas, a virologist, was the first person to identify the AIDS virus in Britain. He is testing the new compound.

Dwek explained that Oxaid works by altering the coating of the virus that causes AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, an invariably fatal disease. "In a test tube, it's a cure," he told the Jewish Chronicle.

## FEDERATIONS, RELIEF AGENCIES VIE FOR SHARE OF RESETTLEMENT FUNDS

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- Local federations, overseas relief agencies and the Jewish Agency for Israel are all competing for a share of the funds to be raised in a special United Jewish Appeal campaign to aid the resettlement of Soviet Jewish emigrants in the United States and Israel.

It is a competition without rancor, based as it is on one of the most welcome developments in Jewish life in years.

Last year some 19,000 Jews were allowed to leave the Soviet Union, the highest figure in a decade. This year, that figure may double.

But the good news also comes with a price tag. The special campaign may need to raise \$100 million to supplement the more than \$700 million a year already raised by Jewish communities in the United States for local and overseas needs.

An interagency committee that is meeting this week to plan the campaign will have to find an equitable way both to collect and to distribute funds. Its membership is drawn from the following key organizations:

- \* **The United Jewish Appeal.** The UJA is the main fund-raising agent in the United States for Jewish needs abroad. The money it collects in partnership with the local Jewish federations is channeled to the Jewish Agency for Israel and, in smaller but still substantial proportions, to relief and resettlement organizations such as the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the New York Association for New Americans.

Before agreeing to a special campaign, UJA officials wanted assurances that a campaign would not bite into the share of the total campaign normally slotted for Israel.

They also would like to see all of the more than 200 local federations take part in a national pooling of contributions -- "from each according to his ability, to each according to his need."

- \* **Local federations.** Of the total amount raised by the Jewish federations in most cities, about half is apportioned to local needs and half overseas via the UJA. The federations are represented as a body by the Council of Jewish Federations.

The Soviet Jewish influx is creating an enormous strain on local budgets. In Los Angeles, costs for housing, vocational and medical services to immigrants have increased from \$1.1 million in 1987-88 to a projected \$5 million in 1989-90.

Los Angeles is one of seven cities hardest hit by the influx. The others are Boston, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco and the North Shore communities of Massachusetts.

Three of those communities have already begun special Soviet Jewry campaigns of one form or another.

In San Francisco, the federation hopes to raise over \$2 million in a campaign begun earlier this month.

New York's UJA-Federation this week launched a \$25 million, four-month campaign known as "Passage to Freedom."

The Los Angeles Federation has asked its biggest donors to increase their gifts significantly to cover costs of the Soviet immigration.

One question yet to be answered is how these separate campaigns will be integrated into a larger national campaign.

- \* **The Jewish Agency for Israel.** More than 80 percent of the funds received by the UJA are transmitted to the Jewish Agency for its programs in Israel, including immigrant absorption and rural settlement. The United Israel Appeal serves as the conduit for those funds and as the representative of the agency's interests in the United States.

Jewish Agency officials, already stung that 90 percent of the Soviet emigrants are choosing to live elsewhere than Israel, were concerned that the federations' problems meeting local needs would further deplete the agency's already shrinking slice of the fund-raising pie.

UJA's share of the relatively flat yearly campaign has dropped from \$373 million in 1987-88 to a projected \$364.5 million in 1989-90.

At the same time, the Jewish Agency budget is in crisis, faced with inflation, a weak U.S. dollar and the normal increase in operating costs.

According to UJA officials, the agency lacks more than \$6.4 million for absorption services to Soviet immigrants.

It also estimates it will need an addition \$20 to \$40 million for permanent housing for the immigrants.

In response to those needs, there is general agreement that the national resettlement campaign will allocate half of the money raised to U.S. needs and half to overseas needs.

- \* **Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.** HIAS assists Soviet emigrants at transmigration centers in Vienna and Rome, where they are processed before proceeding to the United States and other countries. HIAS estimates it will need \$21 million from local federations in 1989 to handle the processing. That is more than eight times its original request to the federations of \$2.6 million.

HIAS is expected to run out of operating cash sometime in May. If no national effort is in place before then, it will ask federations to "front-load" dollars that are slated to be allocated for later in the year.

HIAS still hopes to shake loose more federal government money for refugee absorption.

- \* **The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.** Largely funded by the UJA, the JDC is in charge of the housing, medical and social needs of Soviet Jews awaiting entry to the United States in Ladispoli, a seaside village 20 miles outside of Rome. Some 8,000 Jews are in Ladispoli, and the direct cost for transmigrants is estimated at \$3 million to \$4 million per month.

JDC has announced it will no longer be able to take on new clients there after March 31. That would leave Soviet Jews the options of staying in the Soviet Union, petitioning relatives for aid or moving to Israel.

All of these organizations leaven their talk of financial crisis with statements welcoming the Soviet exodus.

Lay and professional leaders of the organizations are excited about the fruits of 20 years of activism on behalf of Soviet Jews, and the opportunity to participate in the American Jewish drama of resettling refugees.

But there is concern how the "rank and file" will respond. Donations were generous in 1984 for a special campaign on behalf of Ethiopian Jews, a technologically unsophisticated community once thought lost to the Jewish people.

Whether the absorption of middle-class Russians into suburbs of Boston or Los Angeles will be as "sexy" a cause is still unknown.

# **LOCAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN TRIGGERS STRIFE WITHIN HAREDI COMMUNITY**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28 (JTA) — The local elections held Tuesday in Israel unleashed a renewed wave of bitter and sometimes violent animosity between the rival camps within the haredi (ultra-Orthodox) community.

Relationships between the predominantly Hasidic Agudat Yisrael party and the largely non-Hasidic Degel HaTorah party were tense and confrontational during the Knesset election campaign last year.

But after the Nov. 1 vote, some ultra-Orthodox leaders hoped the split would slowly heal. And indeed the Chabad (Lubavitch) Hasidim, who actively supported the Agudah in the Knesset campaign, stayed away from active politics during the days leading up to local elections.

This past week, however, all efforts at compromise and accommodation were swept aside in the renewed sectarian strife.

The climax came Sunday night when Rabbi Eliezer Schach, the 90-year-old spiritual leader of Degel, told a rally in Bnei Brak that Chabad Hasidim were "not Jews."

Some of the venerable rabbi's aides sought later to soften the effect of his words.

They claimed he was misheard or mistranslated, and that, in fact, he had merely criticized the Chabad-leaning rabbi of Bnei Brak, Moshe Landau, for "un-Jewish behavior" in connection with mikvah-building regulations.

But the damage was done. The echo of Schach's remarks, only 48 hours before the close of the campaign, resonated throughout Orthodox centers.

Chabad Hasidim by the hundreds poured into Agudah offices to offer their services on behalf of Agudah against Schach's Degel HaTorah.

## **Immortal Rewards For Vote**

Thousands of yeshiva students from the two sides took to the streets, spreading the word of their respective movements and sages, promising immortal reward for a vote for the correct party.

Outside observers believe the hostilities could transcend the election campaign and party politics altogether to remain a deeply rooted phenomenon in ultra-Orthodox life.

Professor Menachem Friedman of Bar-Ilan University, a leading academic authority, said he doubted if the Agudah-Degel rotation agreement on the mayoralty of Bnei Brak could be observed, given the level of animosity between the two movements.

Agudah and Degel have each deposited \$1 million to guarantee their mutual pledge to share the five-year term between their respective candidates for mayor of the country's only haredi-run city.

To some of these observers, the strife conjured up historic memories of the original hostilities between Hasidim and the Mitnagged rabbinic establishment of Eastern Europe in the late 18th century.

This week, Agudah's Council of Sages issued a rare "protest declaration" defending the present-day Chabad rebbe from repeated attacks on him by Rabbi Schach.

Schach reiterated this week his view that the rebbe is a false messiah.

Last Sunday night a crowd of Hasidic youth of various denominations demonstrated loudly

outside The Jerusalem Post building against the printing of a Degel HaTorah election magazine that lampooned the local Agudah candidate.

It took the telephone intervention of the brother of the Hasidic rebbe of Gur, Rabbi Pinhas Menachem Alter, to prevent the demonstration from turning violent.

In a reported jostling incident in Bnei Brak the same evening, four Chabad teen-age girls engaged in election propaganda work were physically attacked by a group of Mitnagged yeshiva students. They had to be rescued by several Hasidim who happened to pass by.

It may all seem quaint and remote to outsiders. But the protagonists themselves, who number in the tens of thousands and are a fast-growing segment of Jewish life here, take the rift very seriously indeed.

Rabbi Schach, in his speech on Sunday, implied that Bnei Brak mikvaot (ritual baths) built by the town's Chabad-leaning rabbi were non-kosher. The ruling provides fertile ground for further strife within the haredi community.

## **HASIDIC GROUP IN BROOKLYN VYING TO ACQUIRE NAVY YARD**

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Feb. 28 (JTA) — The Hasidic community of New York's Williamsburg section is hoping to acquire the Brooklyn Navy Yard and use it to provide housing for the growing number of Hasidic families here.

The famed naval station, where ships were built during World War II, is among the 86 U.S. armed forces bases that the defense secretary's Commission on Base Realignments recommended be closed in 1990 for budgetary reasons.

Rabbi Chaim Stauber made the request as president of the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg, an umbrella group for the Williamsburg Hasidim.

Stauber has an appointment with Pentagon officials in late March to discuss the property. "We are telling the federal government to allow affordable public housing for us," he said.

The rabbi explained that since the base had been built on "tax dollars from American citizens," they should be able to reap the rewards of their dollars without further payment.

"Give us the property," said Stauber. "Our community is bursting at the seams."

The Williamsburg Jewish community includes Satmar, Pupa and Tzalmi Hasidim, all of whose groups originated in Hungary, as well as non-Hasidim, said Stauber. He said his agency represents 126 Jewish organizations.

But the base's closing is not yet definite, and there is already conflict over who, if anyone, would get the property.

Even though other local groups and companies have expressed interest in the yard, Congress still has 45 legislative days from March 1 to vote down the commission's recommendations.

In addition, President Bush could veto the closings, said Glenn Flood, a spokesman for the Defense Department.

The first right to request or refuse any base goes to the other branches of the armed services, and then to other federal governmental agencies.

If rejected, the Brooklyn base would then go to local government agencies to decide its destiny. But in any case, the base would have to be bought from the Navy "for some type of negotiated fee," Flood said.