



THREE OF FOUR CARDINAL SIGNATORIES SAY CONVENT SHOULD BE MOVED

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Three Roman Catholic cardinals who signed the agreement two years ago to remove a Carmelite nunnery from the grounds of Auschwitz have sharply taken to task the fourth signatory, who now refuses to honor their commitment.

Cardinal Albert Decourtray of Lyon declared here Friday that the agreement made with representatives of world Jewry in Geneva on Feb. 22, 1987, "is mandatory and binding on those who signed it. Its decisions cannot be re-examined."

Decourtray was supported by two other signatories, Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, the archbishop of Paris, and Cardinal Godfried Danneels, head of the Catholic Church in Belgium.

Decourtray's statement, issued in the form of an official communique by the Lyon See, which he heads, responded to the announcement Thursday by Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, the archbishop of Krakow, that he was scrapping plans to construct a prayer and information center off the Auschwitz grounds to house the nuns.

Under the Geneva agreement, which Macharski signed along with the French and Belgian cardinals, the convent was to have been relocated no later than Feb. 22, 1989.

The Polish prelate attributed his change of plans to a "violent campaign of accusations and slanders and outrageous aggression" against the convent.

Macharski was referring to the July 14 demonstration by seven American Jews, led by Rabbi Avraham Weiss of New York, as well as other demonstrations by European Jews.

Decourtray's statement noted that "the recent demonstrations, as regrettable as they might be, do not count when compared to the cause which the (Geneva) agreement of Feb. 22, 1987, aimed at defending."

He was referring apparently to the cause of Catholic-Jewish amity and dialogue.

The statement added that "We shall do whatever we can to continue the dialogue started under the Geneva agreement and we need mutual respect so as not to hurt the memory of Auschwitz."

Geneva Pact Must Be Respected

In Brussels, Cardinal Danneels was quoted as saying he concurs fully with his French colleagues, Decourtray and Lustiger, that the Geneva pact must be fully respected.

Theo Klein, the French Jewish leader who headed the Jewish delegation to Geneva in 1987, said he hoped Macharski's decision would prove to be "only a temporary impediment" and would be overcome in the near future.

Stanislav Musial, secretary of the Polish Church Committee for Dialogue with the Jews, said Macharski's decision not to honor the 1987 agreement "is a strictly personal decision which has not been approved or even discussed either by the Vatican or by the other (signatory) cardinals."

Meanwhile, the Brussels-based European Union of Jewish Students expressed outrage and

concern" over Macharski's announcement and accused the Catholic hierarchy of anti-Semitism.

"It appears that the Catholic Church is very good at making high sounding proclamations about Catholic-Jewish relations, but when it comes to the reality of the situation, the many years of official Catholic anti-Semitism still control the actions of the Catholic hierarchy," the EUJS's statement said.

The Jewish Central Consistory, which represents the Jewish religious community in Belgium, declared that Macharski's "unilateral decision not to respect the given word and the signed accord discredits the Church authority which scoffs at the signatures of its prelates and hurts the Jewish community."

In New York, Rabbi Joel Zaiman, president of the Synagogue Council of America, said Macharski's announcement "only exacerbates already heightened tensions between the Jewish community and the Catholic Church, both of whom have been trying to make progress toward the resolution of this difficult problem."

Zaiman said, however, that he was "encouraged by the latest statement by Cardinal Decourtray."

(JTA Brussels correspondent Yossi Lempkovicz contributed to this report.)

ISRAEL STOPS ANOTHER INVADER FROM PLANNED KIBBUTZ ATTACK

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- An armed Palestinian terrorist, apparently intending to infiltrate into Israel near Kibbutz Misgav Am in the Galilee panhandle, was wounded and captured by an Israel Defense Force patrol in the southern Lebanon security zone early Saturday morning.

It was the second infiltration attempt foiled in 10 days, when the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army killed three would-be infiltrators near the scene of the latest encounter.

According to IDF officers, three or four terrorists were spotted by a patrol Friday night moving through brush land north of Markabe village, less than three miles from the Israeli border.

The patrol opened fire, wounding one intruder. The others escaped. The group was armed with Kalachnikov assault rifles and dozens of grenades.

The terrorist squad planned to carry out a "murderous attack" on an Israeli settlement in the Galilee panhandle, the IDF officers said.

Meanwhile, the IDF continued to investigate the car-bomb attack which wounded five Israeli soldiers and one SLA militiaman in the security zone north of Metulla last week.

About 550 pounds of explosives were concealed in the truck, which was driven by a lone suicide commando who managed to enter the security zone and drive through it undetected.

The IDF said it has determined there was only one person in the car, as announced by Hezbollah, the Shiite extremist organization which claimed responsibility for the attack.

Security measures have been tightened in the area to forestall a recurrence.

**FIVE DEAD IN WEEKEND SKIRMISHES;
THREE WERE BELIEVED COLLABORATORS**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Five Palestinians were killed over the weekend in violence related to the intifada.

Two were young children, shot during skirmishes with Israel Defense Force soldiers in Gaza Strip refugee camps.

Three others were murdered by fellow Arabs who may have suspected them of collaborating with Israeli authorities.

The army said it was investigating the death of Bothina Hejo, aged 3, who died of gunshot wounds in her chest after the IDF opened fire to quell disturbances in the Khan Yunis refugee camp.

Another Gaza youngster, 13-year-old Faez Jabber Abu Abeid, died Sunday of wounds suffered in a clash with troops Saturday.

The three murder victims this weekend were either suspected collaborators or the victims of personal vendettas.

A falafel vendor, 52-year-old Murshid Kanira, was stabbed to death in broad daylight at his stand in the center of Nablus on Saturday, in view of hundreds of witnesses and an army lookout post nearby.

Eyewitnesses said they saw two youngsters approach the stand, knife the vendor several times and calmly walk away. The incident caused no stir.

"We treat collaborators like a dead dog or a slaughtered chicken," one Nablus merchant said.

The strangled body of Jamal Taha, 30, was found Saturday at the entrance to Bidya village in the Samaria district of the West Bank, where he taught school. He lived in the nearby village of Sarta.

Witnesses said Taha was accosted by local youths who questioned him and roughed him up before he was murdered.

Beaten And Stabbed

Samer Kamal, 23, lived in the Nablus shuk. He was beaten and stabbed to death Friday.

According to unofficial statistics, 95 of the estimated 600 Palestinians killed since the intifada began were murdered as collaborators, with nearly half of them killed in the last three months.

But the Israeli authorities claim that at least 45 were not collaborators.

According to the authorities, some of the murders were the result of criminal disputes in the Palestinian underworld. Others were the settling of personal scores.

All were made to appear as if Palestinian patriots had removed traitors and collaborationists.

The escalating violence within the Palestinian community has alarmed leaders of the intifada.

A recent leaflet published by the uprising's Unified Command urged activists "to exercise reason in reaching verdicts; not to execute people except in clear cases of collaboration, when treason is proven conclusively and only with the approval by the authorized bodies."

The Israeli authorities have armed certain Palestinians who assist in security related matters.

Some have recently used their weapons to settle private scores.

Residents of Samaria talk of a local militia which terrorizes the families of persons they suspect are intifada activists.

**ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION EXTENDED
FROM SIX TO TWELVE MONTHS**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- The Defense Ministry extended administrative detention for Palestinians from six to 12 months, an action which prompted criticism from Washington and condemnation by the Israeli left.

By order of Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the military may now keep a person in custody for a full year without pressing charges or holding a trial.

It must be approved by a military judge, however, and brought before the judge after six months for re-evaluation.

The defense establishment said the extension was necessary because of the deteriorating situation in the administered territories, where the Palestinian uprising is now in its 21st month.

If the situation improves, the order could be reversed, defense sources said.

The United States reportedly criticized the new order, saying it was "not conducive to peace."

Yossi Sarid, a Knesset member of the leftist Citizens Rights Movement, called it "another nail in the coffin of Israeli democracy."

Knesset member Amnon Rubinstein of the Center-Shinui party said the order was contrary to the rule of law.

Administrative detention, a holdover from the emergency regulations of the British Mandate period, is used when the military authorities lack sufficient evidence to try a suspect or do not want to expose their witnesses at a trial.

An estimated 5,000 Palestinians have been placed in administrative detention since the intifada began in December 1987. Currently, more than 2,000 are being held, with most of them imprisoned at the Ketziot detention camp in the Negev.

Meanwhile, security forces are bracing for a possible showdown after orders take effect this weekend limiting access to Israel for Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Computerized identity cards have been issued to about 60,000 residents of the territories who proved they had neither criminal nor security records.

The cards are essential for Arabs to work in Israel.

Despite exhortations by the intifada leadership to boycott their jobs, about 5,000 card applicants showed up at the Erez checkpoint on the border of the Gaza Strip on Sunday.

The huge crowd created disorder, forcing soldiers to fire into the air.

Intifada activists confiscated many of the magnetized cards, apparently with the intention of reissuing them to persons they select.

The authorities have already issued new cards to replace them.

ISRAELIS AND SOVIETS TEAM UP

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- The Soviet Academy of Sciences and the Israeli Agridav company have agreed to establish a jointly-owned company called Agromir.

Agromir, which means "agriculture and peace," will establish agricultural projects in the USSR's framework of Soviet state farms, using Israel's agricultural and scientific expertise.

JEWISH COMMUNITY MOURNS TWO FRIENDS AS CONGRESSMAN'S PLANE IS FOUND CRASHED

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- When the news came Sunday morning that the plane carrying U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland and his party had fatally crashed into an Ethiopian mountain, it became clear that the Jewish community had suffered a doubly painful loss.

Both Leland and Jewish philanthropist Ivan Tillem had been aboard the plane, which was finally found Sunday after it had been missing nearly a week. None of the party of 16 had survived the crash, which occurred while they were on a trip from Addis Ababa to an Ethiopian refugee camp.

That the fates of Leland, a black congressman from Houston, and Tillem, an Orthodox Jewish investment banker from New York, should have been so intertwined speaks to both men's compassion and their desire to reach out beyond their own communities and work on behalf of those living a world away.

Leland, 44, a Democrat and chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger, worked hard for famine relief in Africa, but was also a strong supporter of Israel and an advocate for Ethiopian Jewry.

"Many of us felt a great love toward Mickey," said Ellen Cohen, executive director of the American Jewish Committee in Houston. "He was not only a link between the black and Jewish communities, but between all people."

Cohen sits on the board of the "Leland Kibbutz Internship," a project which Leland created 11 years ago. Each year, 10 high-school juniors are selected from a pool of applicants who live in Leland's largely poor district to participate in the program.

'Evolving Feeling'

The group, which includes black, Hispanic and Asian teen-agers, spends six weeks on a kibbutz and additional time traveling in Israel.

Cohen described Leland's affection for Israel as an "evolving feeling." She said that when Leland first entered politics, in the Texas state legislature, his feelings about Israel were ambivalent.

"But because he was such an open individual, he listened, he went on a trip to Israel, and that had a profound effect on him. He began to see Israel as a democratic state, and he became an advocate," she said.

Cohen recalled a scene two years ago, when the teen-agers selected for the Leland Kibbutz Internship had gathered for an orientation meeting.

"Ten students sat on the floor and Mickey sat on the floor with them and began teaching them Hebrew expressions. Then he started singing Hava Nagila and teaching them the words," Cohen said.

Leland also worked on behalf of Ethiopian Jewry, often bringing the issue before Ethiopian officials.

Will Recant, executive director of the American Association for Ethiopian Jews, said Leland spoke numerous times with Ethiopian officials, including President Mengistu Haile Mariam, trying to help the Jews there join family members in Israel.

Recant met with Leland the week before he left on his trip to Ethiopia and said that the

congressman had planned to bring up the issue of Ethiopian Jewry on this visit as well.

National Jewish leaders mourned Leland's loss.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, called Leland "a warm and close friend, a beautiful and unique person who shall be remembered with affection and respect."

Leland had worked with the ADL on projects involving black-Jewish relations, and Foxman said that in public appearances, the congressman had dealt "candidly as well as factually with black and Jewish issues."

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, noted that Leland did not just pay lip service to good black-Jewish relations, but worked toward that goal with "concrete deeds and actions."

'Shared Commitment To Humanity'

Hoenlein said that it was a "shared commitment to humanity" that had brought Leland and Ivan Tillem together on their mission to Ethiopia.

"The goal of both was to bring relief to victims of famine just as both shared the objective of bringing the black Jews of Ethiopia home to Israel," said Hoenlein.

Tillem, who had been invited on the trip to Ethiopia by Leland, was on the advisory board of The North American Conference for Ethiopian Jews.

He had spoken of assisting the Ethiopians to create kibbutz-style cooperative farms, in an effort to cope with that country's food shortages.

Tillem, who would have turned 33 on Sunday, was an attorney and publisher who was a self-made millionaire through investment banking.

Ray Kestenbaum, a radio talk show host, said he met Tillem when Tillem briefly hosted his own public affairs show. Kestenbaum said he was shocked and grieved when he heard of the plane crash. He said he remembered Tillem as a giving and tolerant person.

"I really didn't know how rich he was," Kestenbaum said. "He was very unassuming, and always a little mysterious. He kept his financial success to himself."

His wealth was apparent only to those who knew of his large contributions to charitable causes. Tillem, who grew up under foster care, was particularly generous to causes for children from broken homes.

Youngest-Ever Board Member

Tillem was most active on behalf of Yeshiva University, where he attended law school.

The youngest-ever member of the university's board of trustees, Tillem also sat on the boards of the school's Stern College for Women and the Cardozo School of Law. He was an assistant professor at Cardozo as well.

In the introduction to the 1987-88 Jewish Almanac, which he published and edited, Tillem summarized thoughts that seem to explain why he travelled to Africa.

"The idea of 'chosenness' does not mean that Jews are good and Gentiles are evil," Tillem wrote.

"Rather, chosenness signifies duty to 'repair the world under the kingdom of God.' Simply put, it is the responsibility of the Jews to fix what is broken, whenever crisis or need may confront him."

HEAD OF JEWISH DEFENSE ORGANIZATION IS ARRESTED FOR SHOOTING BYSTANDER

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, Aug 13 (JTA) -- The leader of the militant Jewish Defense Organization has been charged with attempted murder and first degree assault, after he peppered a Greenwich Village street with bullets Thursday, wounding a bystander.

Mordechai Levy, 27, the founder and president of the JDO, was taken into police custody after authorities searched for him for over two hours.

The shootout appeared to be connected to a rivalry between the JDO and the Jewish Defense League. The JDL was founded by Rabbi Meir Kahane in 1968, who turned the leadership over to Irv Rubin when he moved to Israel in 1985. That year, Levy, who was a JDL member, broke away to form the JDO, saying the JDL "wasn't militant enough."

According to police, Thursday's conflict started when Rubin went to Levy's building to serve him with court papers related to a libel suit in Los Angeles.

The suit reportedly stems from allegations that Levy called Rubin and his wife drug dealers on a Los Angeles radio show two months ago.

Neighbors said Rubin and the two men accompanying him began to throw rocks at Levy's second-floor windows, when they could not get in to his apartment.

A witness quoted in New York newspapers heard the JDL members taunt, "Mordy, come down here, we've got something for you."

Levy then opened fire onto the street with a Ruger Mini-14 rifle, injuring 69-year-old Dominick Spinnelli in the knee.

Spinnelli, a mechanic, had been sitting in a van parked on the street.

Police blocked off the street and searched for Levy for over two hours. Negotiations ensued between Levy and the police, and he was eventually convinced to surrender and was taken into custody.

Levy was charged with four counts of attempted murder, one count of assault in the first degree and one count of possession of a deadly weapon.

Police later found seven additional assault rifles in Levy's apartment, including an Uzi.

As Levy was brought to the police station, he told reporters that Rubin and his companions had been trying to kill him.

BRITISH PRESS SAYS ISRAELI PRISONERS LONG DEAD; ISRAEL DECLINES TO COMMENT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Israel has declined to comment on a British press report that two Israel Defense Force soldiers taken prisoner by Hezbollah three years ago died shortly after their capture.

The Sunday Times of London said Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, the Hezbollah guerrilla leader abducted by Israeli commandos from his home in Lebanon on July 28, told his interrogators the soldiers were dead.

Israel has offered to exchange Obeid for Israeli soldiers and Western hostages held captive by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah or by other groups in Lebanon.

But according to the Times, which quoted

sources in Jerusalem, Obeid said one of the Israeli soldiers died of wounds minutes after being ambushed and the other died "hours later."

Brig. Gen. Ephraim Lapid, a military spokesman, said it was IDF policy not to react to or comment on press reports.

Concerning the two soldiers, Yosef Fink and Rahamim Alsheich, believed held by Hezbollah, Lapid said, "We regard them as alive until proven otherwise."

Interviewed on the Army Radio Station Sunday morning, Lapid observed that the issue of prisoners and those missing in action is a very sensitive one for Israelis and the IDF.

"We occasionally hear various reports, some of which are part of a psychological war against us.

"We consider the prisoners and MIAs to be alive until it is authoritatively proven otherwise," Lapid said.

He added, "Authoritatively does not mean through British or any other media, but through the Red Cross."

The Alsheich family in Rosh Ha'ayin said they were told by the IDF not to be discouraged or misled by false reports and disinformation deliberately spread by Hezbollah and other terrorist groups.

The London newspaper said the third missing Israeli, air force navigator Ron Arad, is believed to be alive and in the hands of a Lebanese militia with closer ties to Syria than to Iran.

The report quoted Arab sources as saying the photograph showing Israeli soldiers three days after the ambush lying in bed being fed intravenously was fake.

"Both were already dead when the photograph was taken," the sources were quoted as saying.

Lapid said he did not think publication of the report would sabotage negotiations for the release of hostages.

But according to the Times, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir tried to conceal the deaths of the two Israeli soldiers from the Bush administration "for fear that Washington will put heavy pressure on him to free Obeid in exchange for American and other Western hostages in Beirut."

SYRIA DENIES SHARON MEETING

By Yossi Lempkowicz

BRUSSELS, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- The Syrian Embassy has emphatically denied recent press reports of a meeting said to have taken place here between an Israeli Cabinet minister and a Syrian emissary of President Hafez al-Assad.

Le Soir, the country's largest daily, reported that the Syrian met in Brussels at the end of May with Ariel Sharon, Israel's minister of industry and trade and a powerful figure in the Likud bloc.

The newspaper, crediting "reliable Israeli and Arab sources" for its information, described the Syrian as a businessman close to Assad who carried "a diplomatic passport."

A statement issued by the Syrian Embassy called the story a "fabrication" which "we categorically deny."

Le Soir insists its report is correct, and said that certain other sources here have confirmed preparations for the meeting, which took place on May 29.

Sharon was here on a one-day visit to meet with Herut party sympathizers in Belgium.