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SYRIAN FLIER'S DEFECTION TO ISRAEL COULD YIELD AN INTELLIGENCE BONANZE By Hugh Orgel

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northern Israel on Wednesday and then askedzfor and returned to Syria in a prisoner exchange. political asylum, he placed one of the Soviet (JTA correspondent Tamar Levy in Geneva Union's most sophisticated combat aircraft into contributed to this report.) Israeli hands for study.

to Israel in more than 20 years.

The bizarre incident was announced by Israeli security sources, but the details were sparse. The Israel Defense Force spokesperson refused to comment.

Israeli sources claimed a second Syrian pilot defected to Egypt on Wednesday, landing a MiG-23 at Alexandria. Cairo denied this, but the reports persisted.

In Damascus, a senior Syrian official said the plane that arrived in Israel made an emergency landing because of mechanical trouble. Syria asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to have its delegates in Israel visit the pilot.

In Geneva, ICRC spokesman Carlos Bauverd confirmed Wednesday that Red Cross representatives in Israel have already approached the authorities for permission.

Military sources here identified the defector as Maj. Abel Bassem, 34. They said he was cooperating with Israeli debriefing officers.

Gaining possession of a fully equipped MiG-23 is a major coup for Israel. The plane may be the only one of its kind intact and fully armed in Western hands.

Rabin Flies To Air Base

The MiG-23, known to NATO as "Flogger," national organizations to admit it," he said. is a variable-wing, single-seat jet interceptor capable of speeds of 1,520 mph, which is 2.3 times the speed of sound. Its normal armament consists of one 23mm twin-barrel cannon and four air-toair missiles.

The first MiG-23 went into service with the Soviet air force in 1971 and set a world speed record. It was exported to Iraq, Syria and Egypt after the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Some intelligence sources believe the Soviets supply Arab client states with stripped-down versions of their aircraft, lacking the most advanced equipment.

Nevertheless, the Israelis are believed delighted to have an intact MiG-23 in their hands to study and test. Immediately after Wednesday's Cabinet meeting, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin flew to the air base where the jet landed.

Retired Col. Ze'ev Eytan, a senior research associate at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, said although the MiG-23 is not one of the most modern fighters in the Syrian air force, Israel could gain valuable information from its radar, avionics and communications systems.

Arab pilots defected to Israel in 1964 and 1966. They were Egyptians and Iraqis flying older model MiG-17s and MiG-21s.

Abbas Hilmi of Egypt flew a YAK-11 to Israel'in 1964, after months of careful preparation.

He eventually found asylum in Argentina, only to die there at the hands of an assassin.

An Iraqi, Capt. Munir Radfa, flew a MiG-21 to Israel in 1966.

TEL AVIV, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- When a Syrian Co Two Syrian pilots mistakenly flew MiG-17s air force major flew his MiG-23 to an air base in to Israel in 1971. They were taken into custody

He also became the first Arab flier to defect UNESCO BODY RECOMMENDS POSTPONING ACTION ON PLO BID FOR MEMBERSHIP By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- The executive committee of the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization reached consensus Wednesday to postpone for two years consideration of the Palestine Liberation Organization's application for membership as a state called "Palestine."

The resolution, adopted without a formal vote by UNESCO's 51-member governing body, is considered a triumph for American and Israeli diplomacy aimed at denying the PLO admission to international agencies.

The resolution will be submitted for final approval to UNESCO's General Conference, which convenes here from Oct. 17 to Nov. 16. Since that vote will be a formality, adoption is expected.

The General Conference is UNESCO's equivalent of the U.N. General Assembly. The resolution defers consideration of the PLO's bid until its next session in October 1991.

Ambassador Ya'akov Aviad, head of the Israeli delegation to UNESCO, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Wednesday's decision was a great success. "UNESCO cannot serve, as the PLO had hoped, as an example to other inter-

The Americans withdrew from UNESCO in 1985, charging mismanagement and anti-Western bias. It is the only major international organization or specialized U.N. agency of which the United States is not a member.

\$1 Million In Aid For Palestinians

In spite of its formal absence, the American observer delegation, headed by Assistant Secretary of State John Bolton, played a crucial role in obtaining a consensus vote on a very sensitive issue.

The United States was able to exert decisive influence by making clear that its chances of rejoining UNESCO were nil if the PLO was admitted.

The resolution was backed by 11 Arab and Afro-Asian countries that normally support Palcstinian aspirations and by America's Western European allies.

The PLO representative, Omar Massalah, told the executive committee his organization accepted the deferral, "so as not to break UNESCO's harmony and tradition of international coopera-

There was some succor for the PLO. A lastminute addition to the draft resolution provided about \$1 million in aid for scholarships and for Palestinian participation in various UNESCOsponsored conferences and seminars.

U.S. SAYS NO MEETING IN WASHINGTON UNTIL THERE'S ACCORD ON CAIRO TALKS By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- Unless Egypt and Israel can agree on proposals by Secretary of State James Baker to bring about an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, there will not be a meeting in Washington between Baker and the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel, the State Department said Wednesday.

"Washington comes last," State Department

spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler stressed.

A Washington meeting is the final item on a list of five points Baker has proposed to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid, in an effort to get the bogged-down Middle East peace process moving again.

The meeting, first suggested when Baker met with the two foreign ministers in New York last month, is the only one of Baker's five points that the State Department has publicly confirmed.

Tutwiler emphasized that if there is no agreement on the first four points there would be no use in having the meeting in Washington.

"We remain convinced that the best way to proceed is to focus on how best to implement the Israeli government's peace initiative," Tutwiler said. "To that end, we are continuing to work on developing a framework that meets each side's respective needs."

This framework is aimed at bringing about a dialogue between the Palestinians and the Israelis in order to implement Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's plan for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel Insists On No PLO Role

Baker discussed his five points in telephone conversations with Arens and Meguid over the weekend, after Israel's Inner Cabinet rejected Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's offer to host a meeting between Israelis and Palestinians. The vote last Friday was a tie, with the six Labor ministers backing the Egyptian offer and the six Likud ministers rejecting it.

On Sunday, Baker sent his proposals in writing to the Israeli and Egyptian governments,

in an effort to get talks in Cairo started.

Israel is seeking assurances from the United States that the Palestine Liberation Organization will have no role at all in the talks in Cairo.

Mubarak has suggested that he select the Palestinian delegation, which would include two Palestinians expelled by Israel from the West Bank. They would likely have strong ties to the PLO.

A State Department source denied Wednesday that Baker's points contained any specific recommendations about the makeup of the Palestinian delegation.

Baker's proposals would have Israel, Egypt and the United States discuss the makeup of the Palestinian delegation. Israel could refuse to attend the Cairo meeting if it objected to any of the Palestinian delegates.

The Cairo meeting would focus on Israel's May 14 election proposal in which Palestinians would elect representatives to negotiate with Israel on self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This would eventually be followed by negotiations on the final status of the territories.

Tutwiler repeatedly stressed that Baker, in his conversations with Arens and Meguid, was

trying to work out language "to meet the basic concerns of the Egyptian government and the Israeli government."

Asked about the concerns of the Palestinians, she replied, "It is obvious that the Egyptians are talking to the Palestinians."

In Israel, meanwhile, one of the leaders of the hard-line faction within Shamir's Likud bloc called Wednesday night for immediate national elections, given the "yawning gap" between Likud and Labor, the two chief partners in the national unity government.

Moda'i Calls For Elections

Economics and Planning Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, who heads Likud's Liberal Party wing, issued his unequivocal call at a meeting of Likud hard-liners, led by Ministers Ariel Sharon, David Levy and himself.

The meeting was convened to exert pressure on Shamir to reject Baker's proposal and, specifically, the concept of Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo.

Earlier in the day, at a meeting of all Likud ministers in Jerusalem, Shamir pledged there would be no indirect dialogue with the PLO. He appeared to imply that the Baker proposal for consultations on the makeup of a Palestinian delegation would be tantamount to indirect talks with the PLO.

"Let's be straightforward," Transport Minister Moshe Katsav, a Shamir supporter, said after the ministerial meeting. "We will not countenance talks with the PLO -- above the table or under the table."

Likud sources said Foreign Minister Arens has been pressing the State Department to ensure that Israel would have the right to veto any member of the Palestinian delegation it found objectionable.

Israel's Labor Party, however, welcomed the American proposal unconditionally and, as party leader Shimon Peres put it, any "improved formulation" that Baker might make.

The party also refused to be drawn into Moda'i's challenge for national elections at this time. A party spokesperson said Labor's primary concern at this time is to maintain momentum in the peace process.

(JTA correspondent David Landau in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)

ARSON SPREADS TO WESTERN JERUSALEM By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- The intifada moved into the heart of Jewish western Jerusalem Wednesday, when three more cars were set afire in a parking lot under an apartment building in the German Colony.

Residents were evacuated for fear the fire might spread.

Police Chief Rahamim Comfort said it was unquestionably arson with Palestinian nationalist motivations.

Some 21 Jewish-owned cars have been torched this month, most of them in Abu Tor, a neighborhood that straddles East and western Jerusa-

Police detained two children who live there as suspects.

The arson in the German Colony was the first such incursion into the western part of the city. Undercover agents have been stationed in areas where further arson is possible.

GROUPS CONCERNED CHILD-CARE BILL COULD POSE CHURCH-STATE PROBLEMS By Andrew Silow Carroli

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- While American Jewish groups are delighted that Congress is about to make federal funds available to improve child care in this country, several are concerned that provisions in pending legislation could undermine the separation of church and state.

By contrast, Agudath Israel of America, representing an Orthodox perspective, has welcomed news that both houses of Congress may extend funding to sectarian child-care programs without restricting the religious content of their programs.

Leaders in the Senate and House of Representatives are wrangling over conflicting versions of the bill, all of which provide a system of tax credits for low-income families, combined with either federal grants to states or direct grants to child-care providers.

Unless the Senate-House conference committee decides otherwise, the bill will be included in a huge package of omnibus legislation that is to come before Congress in the near future.

Non-Orthodox groups were pleased with the House's various conceptions of the bill, which would allow sectarian institutions to receive the federal funds only if their day-care programs were determined to be non-sectarian in nature.

But the same groups are disappointed that House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) has indicated his willingness to accept a Senate version containing no church-state safeguards.

Judith Golub, assistant Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee, said her group realizes that too much of the nation's child care is provided by church- and synagogue-based institutions for them to be excluded by the plan entirely.

Religion Could Be 'Undermined'

But she said the proposed House-Senate compromise could threaten parents' choices in choosing a day-care center. "If a parent sends a child to federally subsidized day care, they shouldn't have to worry about their religion being undermined," she said.

Groups holding similar positions include the American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith Women, Council of Jewish Federations, Na'amat Women, National Council of Jewish Women and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Hyla Lipsky, president of B'nai B'rith Women, said in a statement this week, "We simply do not believe that child care should come at the expense of safeguarding the separation of church and state."

Gephardt's proposed compromise on the bill, outlined in a letter to members of the House, is seen here as a calculated risk to get child-care legislation passed before enthusiasm for it wanes on Capitol Hill, even if parts of the bill raise church-state concerns.

If the Senate-House conference committee agrees to the compromise, Jewish groups that favor a strict separation of church and state may have to take similar risks.

"Do you support this bill now because of the need for child care and then take your chances by ichallenging the church-state violations in court, or do you oppose it now and risk not getting a child-care bill this year?" asked David Saperstein, UAHC's Washington representative.

He said the UAHC, the congregational arm of Reform Judaism, will take its chances in court.

Other groups are awaiting the outcome of the conference committee negotiations, expected sometime this week, before deciding on tactics.

Agudath Israel has no such dilemma. The group, representing a constituency overwhelmingly educated in exclusively Jewish schools, has long called for federal support of sectarian institutions and programs.

Abba Cohen, Washington representative of Agudath Israel, cited studies saying that as much as one-third of the nation's child care is provided by sectarian institutions.

"If a bill doesn't reach sectarian institutions, you are disenfranchising one-third of the country's child care from the benefits of the bill," he said.

HALF THE 15 NUNS AT AUSCHWITZ HAVE ALREADY LEFT THE CONVENT By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- About half the nuns at the Auschwitz convent have already left the premises, according to Kalman Sultanik, vice president of the World Jewish Congress.

Sultanik, who was in Poland last week, said members of the Polish government and Polish Catholic Church officials told him that several, perhaps "seven or eight" of an estimated 15 nuns at the Carmelite convent have left and that the others will leave soon.

Sultanik said he has "no idea" where the nuns went.

There was no connection made between the nuns leaving the convent and their eventual relocation to an interfaith center, Sultanik said.

"Everybody knows that building a center will take a year or two, and they all know that relocating the nuns has to take place," he explained.

However, Sultanik said there is a feeling in the Polish Catholic Church that "the center would do a lot of good for the young people."

Most important, he emphasized, is that "the Polish Church and government want to get this whole business behind them, to resolve it according to the signed agreement."

The nuns were supposed to have left the convent by Feb. 22, 1989, according to an agreement signed two years earlier in Geneva by nine Catholic and nine Jewish religious and community officials. The date passed with no movement by the nuns to evacuate.

Since the breakdown of official Catholic-Jewish ties over the convent matter, French and Belgian Carmelite nuns visited their sisters at the Auschwitz convent to try to convince them to abide by the agreement, according to the Jerusalem Post.

The Israeli newspaper also said the head of the Belgian Jewish community, Joseph Wybran, who was murdered last week, had met with the mother superior at the convent for an hour and a half.

She told Wybran she would leave the convent as soon as the new convent would be ready, but said she did not understand why she had to leave, according to the Post.

Sultanik also reported that Poland is primed to re-establish diplomatic relations with Israel, which were ruptured in 1967. He met with officials of the Foreign Ministry, Religion Ministry and Solidarity, who greeted him at the airport.



MASSACHUSETTS TOWN SEEKS MOTIVES BEHIND ANTI-SEMITIC GRAFFITI SPREE By Bette Keva Boston Jewish Advocate

men have entered pleas of "not guilty" in connection with a wild night of painting anti-Semitic and other racist graffiti throughout the Boston suburb of Wellesley on the eve of Yom Kippur.

Craig Cooper of Wellesley and Bickford White Jr. of Natick were arrested after stakeouts

late Monday and early Tuesday.

The pair were charged with one count of willful and malicious destruction of property. That could change, however, to 27 counts, because of the number of acts of vandalism.

The splurge of racist epithets, spray-painted on streets, homes, mailboxes and cars, took place at about 3 a.m. Sunday, hours before the most solemn day in the Jewish calendar began.

A shopping arcade under construction also

was defaced.

About 90 percent of the graffiti were pointedly anti-Semitic, even in areas that had no tangible connection to Jewish life, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith reported.

The crime is a felony punishable by a maximum sentence of 10 years in state prison, according to police. The pair may also be charged with violations of the federal civil rights laws.

Cooper and White are alleged to have spraypainted signs, cars, houses, stores and buildings in 26 locations throughout Wellesley, a town of 27,000, 15 miles from Boston.

The men have no connection to any anti-Semitic, neo-Nazi or Skinheads group, said Wellesley Detective Pasquale Cerasuolo. He said the men "had no clue" it was before Yom Kippur.

Synagogue Escapes Damage

"I hate niggers, cops, Jews, chinks, spics," read one sign about 50 yards from Rabbi Ronald Weiss' home. Weiss is religious leader of the town's only synagogue, Temple Beth Elohim, which was, ironically, not defaced.

Swastikas with dollar signs, "Hitler's Children;" "Nazi Youth" and "ZOG," for Zionist Occupational Government, were some of the graffiti Wellesley residents woke up to Sunday morning.

In nearby towns, there were also graffiti. In the wooded suburb of Dover, where mansions sit on acres of land, the three-car garage of a very large two-story home was covered with swastikas and the word "Hate." Ethnic slurs covered the driveway and the street.

White, one of the two arrested, grew up in that house until moving in 1984, according to Dover Police Sgt. Jeffrey Farrell.

"We are absolutely desolate that this has happened," Margaret White, the suspect's step-mother, said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

"We are sorry we offended anybody. His sister is married to a Jewish man; we have many Jewish friends." She called his act "just a wild prank."

She said her stepson, a part-time college student, only wanted "a grab for attention." He has no previous criminal record, she said.

Warren Cooper, the other suspect's father, did not wish to comment.

Wellesley was the scene of another anti-Semitic incident two weeks ago. Swastikas painted in a Wellesley College building two days before

Rosh Hashanah set the campus on edge, according to the Wellesley News.

In July, anti-Semitic graffiti was painted on several Jewish buildings and some cars in Marblehead, about 50 miles from Wellesley.

ADL is alarmed at the sharp rise of racist incidents in Massachusetts. Such incidents during the summer alone outnumbered those perpetrated in all of 1988.

ADL and other observers of hate groups are baffled by the rise, particularly in Massachusetts, which reportedly has the highest employment rate of any industrial state in America.

Leonard Zakim, New England regional director of ADL, said it was "chilling" to be in Wellesley on Sunday morning, surrounded by all those defaced homes.

Zakim said Wellesley residents with whom he spoke were very disturbed because of the language chosen by the vandals, which was "more troubling than a random act of vandalism."

However, community support has been heartening. Hundreds of local people, including the entire high school football team and the congregations and clergy of the Protestant and Catholic churches, signed a statement deploring the incident and expressing solidarity with the Jews.

(JTA staff writer Susan Birnbaum in New York contributed to this report.)

3 TEEN-AGE SUSPECTS ARRESTED FOR ATTACK BEFORE YOM KIPPUR

NEW YORK, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- Three Brooklyn teen-agers have been taken into custody and will be arraigned on felony charges in connection with the anti-Semitic attack that seriously injured two Jewish students near the Brooklyn College campus early Sunday, just before Yom Kippur.

The three suspects surrendered separately at the 70th Precinct in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn Tuesday evening, according to Detective James Coleman of the Police Department's Public Information Office.

Coleman identified them as Anthony Sorrentino, 18, Joseph Guben, 16, and James Hynes, 17.

He said that Sorrentino, who lives in the Bensonhurst section of the borough, has been charged with felony assault in the first degree, riot in the first degree, two counts of aggravated harassment and violation of New York state civil rights laws.

Guben, a resident of the Sheepshead Bay section, and Hynes of the Midwood section, are both charged with first degree felonious assault and violation of the civil rights law.

Coleman said Sorrentino was the first to surrender, coming to the precinct house in the company of a lawyer.

Guben and Hynes arrived later escorted by detectives, and the three were charged after interrogation. Detectives at the 70th Precinct would not say whether further arrests are expected at this time, but said the case is still under intensive investigation.

Police also declined to comment on an earlier report that the 16-year-old suspect -- apparently Guben -- was Jewish.

The attack, which witnesses said was committed by 10 to 20 white teen-agers and young adults, left two 19-year-olds, Steven Weisburg and Joshua Fogel, hospitalized with multiple injuries including skull fractures and one ruptured spleen.

(J.J. Goldberg of The New York Jewish Week

contributed to this report.)