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**STUNG BY CRITICISM, ISRAEL INSISTS  
IT'S READY TO MAKE DEAL ON HOSTAGES**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 8 (JTA) -- Israel this week underscored its readiness to release Shi'ite prisoners as part of a deal to win the freedom of Western hostages in Lebanon, as long as Israeli soldiers held by Shi'ite groups there are included.

The Israeli statement, issued by the prime minister's spokesman, followed criticism of Israel from U.S. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) in connection with the hostage affair.

Moynihan, in a strong statement made Sunday in Washington, called on Israel to release prisoners it is holding, saying, "Hostages held anywhere are an offense against humanity -- and someone has to say it."

In a more temperate reference in the Senate on Monday, he said, "Not every prisoner is a hostage. But prisoners held for the express purpose of trading them for persons and other advantages are hostages and should be released."

Israel also came under implied criticism from the Senate Republican leader, Robert Dole (R-Kan.), and from the two recently released U.S. hostages, who have been urging their government to secure the release of more American captives held in Beirut.

"A hostage is a hostage and should not be held against his or her will," Dole was reported to have said at a news conference Sunday.

**Terrorists, Not Hostages**

It was Moynihan's strong words that apparently shook the Israeli government into issuing its statement Tuesday. Because the senator is considered one of Israel's most consistent supporters on Capitol Hill, his outspoken criticism of Israel surprised and dismayed Israeli policy-makers.

The government's statement reaffirmed that Israel is ready "to play its role in any move that brings about the release of all the hostages, including the Israeli prisoners and those missing in action."

But it also took issue with Moynihan and other critics, insisting that the captives in Israel's hands are "not hostages, but terrorists or members of terror organizations."

The statement went on to say that Israel "fully shares the American concern for the lives and welfare of innocent people."

Acting Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his aides are apparently anxious to persuade U.S. and Western opinion that Israel is not being uncooperative or recalcitrant on this sensitive and emotive issue.

Shamir, who is struggling to form a new government, wants to be seen as helping the United States in the hostage predicament. He knows that a Likud-led government is likely to run into head-on collisions with Washington over its peace policy. Therefore, he is seeking areas in which he can strengthen and improve the Israeli-American relationship.

As Foreign Minister Moshe Arens put it Monday, in remarks to the Knesset, "There is no point concealing that there are differences of opinion between the United States and Israel. But such differences between friends are natural."

The Israeli statement on the hostage question did not refer specifically to Sheik Abdul Karim Obeid, the ranking Lebanese Shi'ite cleric whom Israeli commandos apprehended in Lebanon last July. But it is clear that Obeid will be part of any prisoners-for-hostages deal.

The Israeli statement insisted, though, that there must be an Israeli component to any deal.

That is consistent with the broad national consensus here, which wants Israeli leaders first and foremost to "bring our boys back." It is virtually unthinkable that any Israeli government could offer a gesture without receiving an Israeli quid pro quo.

Israel has six soldiers missing in Lebanon. While it is likely some of them are dead, there is good reason to believe that airman Ron Arad and soldiers Rahamim Alsheikh and Yosef Fink are still alive.

**ON 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-E DAY,  
WJC REMEMBERS AT WANNSEE VILLA  
By Charles Hoffman**

WEST BERLIN, May 8 (JTA) -- The birds sang in the tall, leafy trees, and a warm spring sun shimmered on the lake, as Jewish leaders gathered from around the world Tuesday at the villa where the Final Solution was planned.

On the 45th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, leaders of the World Jewish Congress gathered to read a declaration written by Elie Wiesel, the Nobel Prize-winning writer on the Holocaust. They stood in front of the elegant, neo-classical villa in the resort area of Wannsee, in the countryside west of Berlin, to remember the past while hoping for a better future.

"It is here," Wiesel wrote in his declaration, "that in a businesslike atmosphere of banality and efficiency, 12 German high officials, in the name of their criminal leadership and on behalf of their nation, condemned the entire Jewish people to death and oblivion: teachers and their pupils, brides and grooms, intellectuals and workers, rabbis and their disciples, young revolutionaries and old dreamers of Zion -- all were doomed. Simply, solely as Jews."

On Jan. 20, 1942, high-ranking Nazi officials, including Reinhard Heydrich and Adolph Eichmann, assembled at the Wannsee villa to work out the overall plan for the Final Solution -- the systematic destruction of every Jew in Europe.

The villa, which sits on a secluded plot of land beside the lake amid lovely homes set in dense woods, was used as a vacation home for children for over 30 years following the war. It is now being renovated, and will serve as a historical research institute dealing with the Nazi period.

Wiesel's declaration, written especially for the occasion, was read in three languages. Raya Jaglom, president of the Women's International Zionist Organization, read the text in Hebrew.

She was followed by Heather Harris of the United States, the newly elected president of the World Union of Jewish Students, who read it in English. Then Micha Guttman, secretary-general of the West German Jewish community, read it in German.

The ceremony, led by WJC President Edgar

Bronfman, was covered by about 100 radio, television and print journalists from Germany and around the world.

Heinz Galinski, president of West German Jewry, said at the ceremony that "it is shameful and tragic that this date, which marks the capitulation of the Third Reich, is hardly commemorated either here or in the rest of Europe, since everybody would have been enslaved" had Hitler succeeded in his designs.

"A message should go out from this place," Galinski continued, "that for the crimes planned here, no statute of limitations should be set, no one should ever be released from their responsibility. We appeal to the young people -- ask questions! Even if they are awkward questions. Do this so that attempts to suppress the past can be stopped."

#### Meeting With East German Leader

From Wannsee, the delegates to the three-day WJC conference crossed over through Checkpoint Charlie to East Berlin, where they were the guests of East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere.

De Maiziere told the delegates that May 8 "is a day of liberation for us Germans, as well as for the rest of Europe. We have to live with our history and be constantly reminded and warned by it.

"On this date, the attempt ended to expunge the Jews from German history. But if we look at our history, we see that Germany without Jews never existed and Germany can exist only with its Jews," he said.

Addressing the recent decision of the democratically elected parliament of East Germany, which acknowledged for the first time that East Germany also shares responsibility for the Holocaust, de Maiziere said that "this is only a first step. We can't make it easy for ourselves."

He said East Germany must teach its children the truth about what happened under Nazism, "and we must teach them how to solve their problems in a democratic way, and to show them the dangers of anti-Semitism.

"We have to break through this 40-year denial of responsibility in our country. One of the gloomy signs of this denial are indications of anti-Semitism among our youth," he said.

The Communist regime in East Germany had always claimed that West Germany was the true successor state to the Third Reich, and that East Germany, as an "anti-fascist" state, bore no responsibility for what happened under Hitler.

Before returning to West Berlin, the WJC leaders visited the Weissensee cemetery, one of the largest Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe, to lay a wreath in memory of the 6 million Jews murdered by Hitler.

During the conference, the WJC presented an award to Neal Sher, director of the Office of Special Investigation of the U.S. Justice Department, for his dedicated work in tracking down and prosecuting Nazi war criminals.

#### **BONN SEEKING ARREST OF WAR CRIMINAL** **By David Kantor**

BONN, May 8 (JTA) -- West Germany is offering a \$125,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of Herbert Heim, a doctor accused of selecting Jews for the gas chambers of the Mauthausen concentration camp.

The reward was announced after prosecution

spokesman Alfred Streim disclosed in Berlin on Monday that the government paid \$250,000 to unnamed individuals for the information that resulted in the apprehension of Josef Schwammberger.

Information about that award was previously reported by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, according to information provided by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The reward for Schwammberger was by far the highest sum ever paid to bring a Nazi war criminal to justice.

The 78-year-old Schwammberger, who found haven in Argentina more than 40 years ago, was arrested there in 1987. He was extradited to West Germany on May 2, and has been confined to the maximum security prison at Stammheim near Stuttgart to await trial.

Schwammberger, the former commandant of the Przemysl and Mielec concentration camps in Poland, is held responsible for the murders of at least 5,000 Jews between 1943 and 1944.

#### **HIGH COURT TO HEAR NEW EVIDENCE** **IN CONSIDERING DEMJANJUK APPEAL** **By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, May 8 (JTA) -- Israel's High Court of Justice will hear an appeal next Monday of the death sentence imposed on John Demjanjuk, the Ukrainian-born former U.S. citizen, who was convicted of being the Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible."

Demjanjuk, the only accused war criminal ever deported to Israel from the United States, went on trial in Jerusalem in 1987 and was sentenced to death in April 1988.

The man who was called "Ivan" operated the gas chambers at Treblinka and was exceedingly brutal to Jews, according to surviving eyewitnesses.

Demjanjuk's lawyer, Yoram Sheftel, asked the High Court to hear evidence from a Polish woman which he says can substantiate the defense claim that his client is a victim of mistaken identity.

A five-judge panel agreed Monday to do so, over the objections of the prosecution, which claimed the evidence contains nothing new.

But it rejected Sheftel's appeal for another -- fourth -- postponement of the hearing, to give him more time to gather testimony.

The defense witness is a Polish woman, Maria Dudek, 73, from the village of Volka Okrolnik. According to Sheftel, she told an investigative team that a Ukrainian SS auxiliary named Ivan Marchenko, who frequented the pub she and her husband, Kazimierz, ran near Treblinka during the war, was called "Ivan the Terrible."

Sheftel argues that if Marchenko was "Ivan," Demjanjuk could not have been.

But Dudek has refused to come to Israel to testify. Sheftel sought a further postponement, hoping he could persuade her to change her mind or make a sworn statement before a Polish judge.

In any event, the High Court has agreed to admit Dudek's testimony as reported by Sheftel.

The prosecution is expected to claim that Marchenko and Demjanjuk are the same person.

Under questioning at his trial, Demjanjuk said he could not remember his mother's maiden name. The prosecution claims it has written evidence that the name was Marchenko, which Demjanjuk conveniently "forgot" because he was known by that name.

**TWO LOST ISRAELI BOYS ARE RESCUED  
BY RESIDENTS OF INTIFADA STRONGHOLD**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 8 (JTA) -- Ten-year-old Ariel Or and his friend Harel Barzel were lost and frightened when they walked up to a gasoline station at the Dehaishe refugee camp, south of Bethlehem.

Dani Or, Ariel's father, was sick with worry over the missing boys. His apprehension turned to cold fear when he learned where they were. Dehaishe is a center of violence, a stronghold of the intifada, where Israelis venture at their peril.

But the episode had an unexpectedly happy ending, which proved, at least to Dani Or, that the enemy can have a human side.

The odyssey began when the two boys unknowingly boarded the wrong bus in Jerusalem on Monday. When it reached the end of the line in the Talpilot neighborhood, near Jerusalem's southern limits, they started to walk home, unaware that home was on the other side of the city.

Night fell as they wandered for four hours through the unfamiliar hills. "Then we saw the lights of a gasoline station. As we approached, we heard people speaking Arabic," Ariel Or later told the mass-circulation daily Yediot Achronot.

"We took off our yarmulkes, prayed 'Shema Yisrael' and spoke to the workers," he recounted.

Speaking Hebrew, they told the two gas station attendants they were lost.

**'Drove There Like Crazy'**

The two Arabs, Issa Ahmad Ja'afari, 31, and Adnan Ja'afari, 29, both residents of Dehaishe, invited the youngsters inside. They offered them food and drinks and let them telephone their families.

Dani Or said he could not believe his ears when an Arab voice told him his son was at Dehaishe. "I drove there like crazy, shaking all over. I know what Dehaishe means," he said.

"I arrived at the gasoline station, and I found the children safe and sound," Or told Yediot Achronot, which ran the story with big headlines.

Later the father wrote the two Arabs, thanking them for their "noble act."

"With guys like you," he wrote, "we are confident that peace will come, amen. We hope that this letter will make your life easier in these difficult days."

**ISRAEL COOPERATING WITH INQUIRY  
INTO WEAPONS SHIPPED TO ANTIGUA**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 8 (JTA) -- An investigative team from Antigua arrived here Tuesday to try to find out how a mysterious \$200,000 shipment of Israeli arms to that Caribbean island nation found its way into the arsenal of a Colombian drug trafficker.

The Israeli authorities say they are cooperating fully.

The Defense Ministry issued a detailed statement to show that the arms deal with Antigua was completely aboveboard as far as Israel is concerned.

But it did not explain why the Antiguan government denies ordering the arms and is seeking information from the Israeli Foreign Ministry as to who did.

The statement also did not explain the Colombian connection or offer any new information about the affair, which has evoked expressions of concern from the U.S. State Department.

The government of what officially is called Antigua and Barbuda, formerly part of the British West Indies, requested and received the Israeli government's permission to send a delegation to conduct an inquiry.

It is headed by diplomat Patrick Lewis and includes representatives of the Antiguan police and three Washington lawyers hired by Antigua.

The visitors met with the head of the Foreign Ministry's Latin American division Tuesday. They plan to question several unidentified persons in an attempt to clear up conflicting reports about individuals in both Israel and Antigua implicated in the deal.

**Serial Numbers Match Up**

The shipment consisted of 500 Israeli-made Uzi submachine guns and Galil assault rifles, in addition to shoulder-held rocket launchers, nightscopes and ammunition.

Israel said they were ordered by Antigua in 1988 and shipped there in March 1989 with all documents in order, including an Antiguan pledge that the weapons would not be transferred to a third party.

The cargo was, in fact, accompanied by an Israeli official to make sure it reached the proper consignee, the Defense Ministry said.

The weapons were discovered on the estate of a major Colombian cocaine dealer, Jose Rodriguez Gacha, after he was killed in a shoot-out with police in December 1989.

The Defense Ministry's statement confirmed that the serial numbers supplied by the Colombian authorities matched the weapons shipped to Antigua.

**HIGH COURT RULES POLITICAL PARTIES  
MUST DISCLOSE COALITION-MAKING DEALS**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 8 (JTA) -- The High Court of Justice ordered Israel's political parties Tuesday to make public every agreement they reached with other parties or individual politicians during coalition negotiations over the last six weeks.

"This information is essential for the existence of a democratic system," Justice Aharon Barak wrote in the court's ruling. "The decency of public activity necessitates its exposure to the probing and cleansing sun."

The High Court acted on appeals from citizen groups which have expressed disgust and mistrust of the political deals, intrigues and bribery that have characterized the recent coalition-forming efforts.

The court decreed that no arrangements between parties, between Knesset members, or between parties and members can remain classified. All must be revealed by the time a new government is ready to be presented to the Knesset for approval.

It recommended that the Knesset quickly enact legislation that would embody the ruling into law.

Eliad Shraga, a 30-year-old activist for electoral reform who was one of the appellants, hailed the ruling. Now the public has the right to know "what has been done with its assets, its money, what its leaders are doing and what they promise each other," he said.

**WOMEN AGAIN FAIL TO MUSTER VOTES  
FOR ADMISSION TO CANTORS ASSEMBLY**

By Elena Neuman

NEW YORK, May 8 (JTA) -- For the third year in a row, the Cantors Assembly has voted down a motion to admit fully accredited women cantors as members.

The 100-68 vote in favor of amending the assembly's bylaws fell 12 short of the required two-thirds vote needed for passage. A similar resolution last year fell 19 votes short.

This year's vote took place Tuesday during the 43rd annual convention of the Cantors Assembly in Loch Sheldrake, N.Y. The assembly, which is affiliated with the Conservative movement of Judaism, claims to be the world's largest professional organization of chazzanim (cantors).

"The issue of admitting women is a sensitive and emotional one that poses complex questions of tradition, religious authority, the status of women in the synagogue and many other factors," Cantor Robert Kieval, who was elected to a second term as president of the assembly, said in a statement.

"The Cantors Assembly calls on all its members and the American Jewish community, whatever their personal feelings, to accept this decision with understanding."

Despite controversy over the halachic propriety of women leading a congregation in prayer, the Jewish Theological Seminary, the leading Conservative educational institution, has been granting cantorial degrees to women since 1987.

But the Cantors Assembly has never recognized women ordained as cantors by the seminary.

The assembly, while a voluntary organization, is responsible for the placement of its members in cantorial positions. Some women cantors have contended that by not having membership in the assembly, they are missing out on opportunities for professional placement and advancement.

**'Shock And Dismay'**

Cantor Marla Barugel, spokeswoman for the eight women seeking membership, expressed her "shock and dismay" at the result of the vote.

"We are disheartened, considering that we share the same goals, qualifications, professional concerns and the same love of chazzanut as those who have rejected us today," she said.

"The problem has to do with the traditional model of the chazzan and various interpretations of what the halachah stands for," Cantor Samuel Rosenbaum, executive vice president of the assembly, explained in a telephone interview. He was sharply critical of those who voted against the proposal.

After last year's vote, members of the assembly tried to work out a proposal that would satisfy a constitutional majority of the assembly. Most were expecting the vote to pass Tuesday.

In fact, a simple majority of the assembly was in favor of granting women cantors membership, but not enough to fulfill the two-thirds vote requirement.

"I regret very much that though the majority of members voting were in favor of the admission of women, the constitutional structure of our assembly has overruled the will of the majority," said Rosenbaum. "The admission of women would have brought an added dimension to the liturgical spirit of the synagogue," he said.

Ismar Schorsch, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, also expressed disappointment with the decision.

**NEW ZEALAND PANEL COMES UNDER FIRE  
FOR LINKING ZIONIST GROUP TO RACISM**

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, May 8 (JTA) -- A storm of protest roiled New Zealand's normally placid political waters last week, after a government agency invoked the U.N. General Assembly's 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism in connection with a grant to a local Zionist youth group.

Paradoxically, New Zealand voted against the U.N. resolution and is involved in efforts to get it rescinded.

But the Youth Committee of the Lottery Grants Board claims it was unaware of the government's policy on the issue.

The Youth Committee granted \$800 to Habonim-Dror, a Socialist Zionist youth group that had applied for help to purchase equipment for its summer camp.

But it wrote to the local Habonim leader, Tina Rose, that the committee "noted with concern your group's association with the Zionist Federation."

The letter quoted the 1975 resolution, which it said "determined that Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination."

The committee warned that "future applications will be considered very carefully by the committee in light of the U.N. resolution."

Blanche Weinstein, president of the New Zealand Zionist Federation, said Monday that she and her colleagues in the New Zealand Jewish Council have protested to Internal Affairs Minister Margaret Austin.

They asked for a retraction of the Youth Committee's letter and an apology.

Weinstein called the letter "an affront, insulting and racist toward Jewish citizens of New Zealand because of their natural interest and commitment to the State of Israel."

There are 4,000 Jews in New Zealand out of a population of over 3.2 million.

Austin, declaring publicly that the letter in no way reflects the policy of the Lottery Grants Board, has asked for a report on the incident.

**PRO-ISRAEL ACTIVIST CONVICTED  
OF VIOLATING U.S. ELECTION LAWS**

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, May 8 (JTA) -- Michael Goland, a maverick pro-Israel activist, was convicted May 3 of violating federal election laws to ensure the 1986 re-election of Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), one of Israel's staunchest supporters.

Goland was convicted in federal court here on one count of making an illegal political donation, while the jury acquitted him on four other counts of conspiracy and deadlocked on a felony false-statement count.

Sentencing was set for July 16, with Goland facing up to one year in jail and a \$360,000 fine.

According to court testimony in the convoluted case, Goland secretly and illegally funneled \$120,000 to a fringe right-wing candidate in the 1986 senatorial race in California.

The alleged aim was to siphon enough conservative votes away from the Republican contender, Ed Zschau, to assure the victory of Cranston, a Democrat. As it turned out, the fringe candidate took just enough votes away from Zschau to clinch Cranston's re-election.

Last year, Goland was tried on the same charges, but the trial ended with a hung jury.