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**ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS SHAKEN
BY INFILTRATION THAT LEFT FOUR DEAD
By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Nov. 25 (JTA) -- Israel has lodged a strong protest with Egypt over a bloody infiltration incident Sunday morning that left three Israeli soldiers and a civilian bus driver dead.

Twenty-three people were wounded in the shooting spree, perpetrated by a lone gunman on a border road about 12 miles northwest of Eilat.

The gunman, wearing the uniform of Egyptian border police, was wounded by Israeli return fire but managed to retreat across the Egyptian border, where he was immediately taken into custody.

Egyptian authorities apologized and promised the assailant would be dealt with to the full extent of the law.

The Israel Defense Force identified two of the dead soldiers as Regiment Sgt. Maj. Avi Serlin and Chief Sgt. Chaim Ashkenazi. The third dead soldier was not immediately identified.

The slain civilian was identified as Eliezer Zakoura, an Egged bus driver from Eilat.

The incident occurred on the Rafah-Eilat road near Ein Netafim. The road parallels the Egyptian border.

According to the IDF commander in the region, the Egyptian gunman crossed the border where it is delineated by stone markers and lay in wait some 300 yards inside Israel, along the isolated but well-trafficked road.

Two buses and two military vehicles were traveling separately, several minutes apart. The dead were all the drivers of their respective vehicles, indicating that the infiltrator took deliberate aim as each vehicle came into view.

Ambassador Summoned To Jerusalem

The first that approached was a light military transport truck with only the driver aboard. He was wounded but managed to drive on until he met an army patrol, which he alerted to the danger.

Next to pass the ambush was an IDF Peugeot, whose driver was fatally wounded. He drove several hundred yards before the vehicle stopped, its driver already dead.

The third vehicle was an army bus, empty except for the driver, who was on his way to the Ovdatt air force base to pick up passengers. The driver stopped, got out and was shot dead.

Another military vehicle heading for Eilat slowed down at the sight of trucks and buses stopped on the side of the road. Thinking there might have been an accident, the driver slowed down and was shot to death.

Finally, an Egged bus came along carrying civilian employees of the Ovdatt base to work accompanied by IDF armed guards. The attacker signaled the bus to stop and opened fire as its slowed down.

An armed guard wounded by the volley returned the fire, hitting the Egyptian, who at that point fled back across the border.

Six of the wounded remained hospitalized Sunday night. The others were treated and sent home.

Foreign Minister David Levy summoned the Egyptian ambassador, Mohammed Basiouny, to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem on Sunday night to register a formal complaint over the incident.

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said Israel would hold Egypt responsible for the attack.

Credit for the shooting was claimed by the Islamic Jihad, a fundamentalist group active in the intifada.

The incident was the most serious between Israel and Egypt since Feb. 4, when masked terrorists opened fire on a tourist bus near the Suez Canal port of Ismailia, killing nine Israelis and two Egyptians.

Another incident occurred on Oct. 5, 1985, when an Egyptian border policeman killed seven Israeli tourists on the beach at Ras Burka in Sinai, about 25 miles south of Eilat. Three of the victims were children. The assailant subsequently hanged himself in an Egyptian prison.

SOLDIERS HURT IN SUICIDE ATTACK**By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Nov. 25 (JTA) -- Two Israel Defense Force soldiers were injured slightly Sunday when a young Arab woman wired with explosives blew herself up while walking near them in the southern Lebanon security zone.

A civilian passerby also was hurt.

The soldiers were spared serious injury because they observed army rules requiring them to wear flak jackets and maintain a good interval between them as they patrolled the road, army sources said.

The incident occurred near the ruins of Beaufort Castle, once a Crusaders stronghold, just north of Metulla in Israel.

Eyewitnesses said the woman wore a long robe and appeared to be "very young." As she strolled near the soldiers, "she suddenly blew apart," one eyewitness said.

A statement issued by a Lebanese terrorist group identified the perpetrator as 19-year-old Fadwa Hassan Ghanem. It also claimed 12 Israeli soldiers had been killed in the blast, despite Israeli statements that there were no fatalities.

The attack was said to be the first instance of suicide with the intent to harm Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon. Booby-trapped cars and even donkeys have been tried in the past.

5 SEABORNE TERRORISTS SUNK BY NAVY**By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Nov. 25 (JTA) -- Five terrorists apparently attempting to infiltrate Israel by sea were killed off the southern Lebanese coast Saturday night, when an Israeli navy patrol boat sunk their motorized rubber dinghy with a single shot.

Navy sources said it was the fourth attempt this year to attack Israel from the sea. According to the sources, there have been 41 unsuccessful attempts in the last five years.

There were no Israeli casualties in the latest engagement, which was very brief.

The terrorists' affiliation was not immediately established.

ANGER OVER BUSH MEETING WITH ASSAD TEMPERED BY PLAN TO MEET WITH SHAMIR By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 25 (JTA) -- Israeli indignation over President Bush's meeting in Geneva on Friday with Syrian President Hafez Assad has been mollified somewhat by indications from Bush that he will soon meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Shamir is going to be in the United States on a private visit next month. He is due there Dec. 7 and is now expected to meet with Bush at the White House before he leaves the country.

The open displeasure that greeted the news here of Bush's talk with Assad aggravated speculation over whether the American president would find time to see Shamir, whom he has virtually ignored since the Persian Gulf crisis began over three months ago.

The prime minister, expecting a rebuff, reportedly had asked his aides and American friends to stop putting out feelers for such a meeting.

Israel supports Bush's policy to reverse Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's aggression against Kuwait, by force if necessary. It has been understanding, if uneasy, about U.S. efforts to shore up ties with Arab governments opposed to Hussein.

But most Israelis believe Bush went too far by meeting Assad, thereby endowing with prestige and respectability a dictator as bloody and repressive as Hussein and one believed to be equally supportive of international terrorists.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens said Israel was apprehensive that the United States might remove Syria from its list of countries that support terrorism, as it did for Iraq during its war with Iran.

Herzog Speaks To Bush By Phone

Arens said, however, that he did not oppose the Bush-Assad meeting per se and would welcome a meeting between Shamir and Assad if the Syrian leader wanted to talk peace with Israel.

But there is no evidence of that. Arens said he hopes Bush's meeting with Assad does not encourage Syria's "aggressive" policies toward Israel.

He was uneasy about the fact that the two presidents discussed the need to advance a solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in accordance with Security Council resolutions.

The Israeli defense minister criticized Bush and Secretary of State James Baker for coming to the region without finding time to visit Israel.

A somewhat different view was expressed by Israel's president, Chaim Herzog, who came to Geneva on a private visit last Thursday and spoke to President Bush there by telephone.

"I am on the record publicly as applauding him for what he is doing, leading the free world against a megalomaniac who is endangering humanity," Herzog said, referring to Bush's efforts to isolate Hussein.

"It's up to President Bush to decide who he talks to in pursuing his policy," he told reporters at his hotel. "Assad has sent troops, he borders Iraq and it makes sense that the various leaders of the coalition should talk to each other."

Some commentators here pointed out Sunday that the Bush-Assad meeting might prove to be an incentive for the Bush administration to mend its fences with Israel and improve their recently strained relations.

That was seen as a possibility given the strong negative reaction of American Jewish leaders to the meeting and the unusually sharp criticism in the American media.

A Low-Key Meeting

Bush and Assad met for three hours, the last 40 minutes of which were a one-on-one session at which Assad is believed to have asked for an international peace conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Bush reportedly appealed for Syrian help to free American and other Western hostages still held in Lebanon.

They also discussed human rights issues, but it could not immediately be confirmed if these included the condition of Jews in Syria. The Brooklyn-based Committee for Rescue of Syrian Jewry had urged Bush to raise the matter with the Syrian leader.

Apparently at Assad's request, both presidents expressed a preference for a "peaceful solution to the crisis, according to Arab League and United Nations resolutions."

The meeting took place at a secluded hotel near the airport. The Americans went out of their way to keep it low-key. No refreshments were served, to avoid the appearance that either side played host to the other.

There was no briefing for the news media, only a short communique stressing that the two presidents declare the occupation of Kuwait to be "unacceptable as would be any partial solution."

U.N. circles in Geneva said Assad was a tougher interlocutor than Bush had expected and did not offer any firm commitment to help the United States in a military confrontation with Iraq.

In fact, Syria has sent what amounts only to a token force to Saudi Arabia, equipped with a few obsolete Soviet tanks. Assad has not massed troops on Syria's long border with Iraq.

But he may drive a hard bargain. He is expected to make clear that if Iraq is required to withdraw from Kuwait, Syria would expect Israel to evacuate the Golan Heights and its self-proclaimed security zone in southern Lebanon.

(JTA correspondent Tamar Levy in Geneva contributed to this report.)

GERMANY URGED TO COMPENSATE KURDS FOR HELPING IRAQ PRODUCE POISON GAS By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 25 (JTA) -- A Kurdish leader in exile has demanded that Germany pay millions of marks in reparations for helping Iraq produce the poison gas it used against its Kurdish population.

Sami Abdul Rahman said in Hamburg last week that "the Bonn government should pay us compensation, exactly as it did to the Jews who were gassed in World War II."

Rahman said his people knew exactly who in Germany made available the equipment to produce chemical and biological weapons in Iraq.

He said at least 50,000 Kurds are dead or missing as a result of gas attacks by the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. But until now, "not a single penny" from Germany has reached the hundreds of thousands of Kurdish refugees who escaped the deadly attacks.

"Just nice words won't help us," said Rahman, a former Iraqi minister who went underground in 1974 after a Baghdad court sentenced him to death for treason.

IN LOS ANGELES, MILKEN KNOWN MORE FOR MUNIFICENCE THAN MALFEASANCE By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 25 (JTA) -- Michael Milken, the junk-bond wizard who was sentenced last week to 10 years in prison, is judged in his hometown more by his good deeds than by his felonies.

Milken was born and still resides in the suburban San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles, which has benefited greatly from his wealth. Through his three charitable family foundations, he has been the largest benefactor of the city's Jewish institutions.

Up-to-date figures on the capital and disbursements of his foundations are hard to come by, but by the end of 1987 they had totaled close to \$100 million to some 200 different programs, with \$183 million remaining in assets.

During the past three years, Milken has actually stepped up his rate of giving. It is estimated that currently more than 500 programs, about half in the field of education, are recipients of his largesse.

No more than 25 percent of all grants have gone to Jewish institutions or programs, but even that fraction is enough to rank Milken as the community's No. 1 giver.

The major beneficiaries are the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles, which received \$5 million in one grant alone to erect the Bernard Milken Jewish Community Campus, named for Milken's father.

Next in line is Stephen Wise Temple, which has received grants in the millions of dollars. Milken, his brother Lowell, and their families are long-time members of the Reform congregation. Their children attended its day school, and, until his conviction, Michael Milken frequently showed up as a volunteer math teacher.

'Good Jewish Boys'

Other large recipients include the United Jewish Fund, the University of Judaism and Valley Beth Shalom Temple (both Conservative institutions) and the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust studies. In a typical gesture, Milken secretly purchased, for \$165,000, a set of letters written by Anne Frank for the Wiesenthal Center's planned Museum of Tolerance.

Lesser but still substantial sums have gone to the American Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Hebrew Union College, Jewish old-age homes and Jewish day schools.

There is no complete inventory of Israeli programs aided by Milken, but according to Metukah Benjamin, the Wise Temple educational director and a good friend of the Milkens, the list is substantial.

Included are three schools and a teacher-incentive program in the West Bank settlement of Ariel; science and computer labs in Druse villages; and the Geshur educational center, designed to bridge religious differences within Israel.

There is a Milken Wing at the Assaf Harofeh hospital, as well as major funding for the Children's Medical Center, the ILAN sports center for the disabled, Everyman's University in Tel Aviv and the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial authority.

When Milken was first indicted on securities fraud charges, there was considerable concern that the government might freeze the millions of dollars received by educational and charitable groups, on the grounds that Milken's money was

obtained illegally. Apparently these fears have proved unfounded.

In contrast to many large Jewish givers, Milken has generally kept a low profile, has lived unostentatiously and has largely shunned personal publicity. His charities for various programs are customarily acknowledged merely by a line in small print, "Funded by the Milken Family Foundations."

Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin of Wise Temple some months ago spoke for most beneficiaries when he described Michael and Lowell Milken, the wealthiest congregants in his affluent congregation, as "very modest people, who are loyal to their friends and deeply concerned with Jewish education. They really are good Jewish boys."

ATTORNEY GENERAL IS URGED TO INDICT RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS MINISTER FOR FRAUD

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 25 (JTA) -- Attorney General Yosef Harish is expected to decide shortly whether to bring fraud charges against Religious Affairs Minister Avner Shaki of the National Religious Party.

Shaki has been under police investigation for alleged fraud in the allocation of bequests made to the state in which the benefactor did not specify a charitable cause.

The minister sits on a Cabinet committee that resolved to channel several bequests to charitable organizations headed by his wife and other family members. The committee disbursed about \$35 million at a session in April that lasted less than two hours.

Shaki has denied wrongdoing. But the police and State Attorney Dorit Beinisch have recommended to Harish that he file formal charges.

Shaki is the second Cabinet minister to come under police probe this year for alleged financial offenses. The other is Interior Minister Aryeh Deri of the Orthodox party Shas, who is accused of malfeasance in the allocation of ministry funds.

POLICE BELIEVE KAHANE'S ASSAILANT, CHARGED WITH MURDER, ACTED ALONE By Shlomo Zwickler

NEW YORK, Nov. 25 (JTA) -- Police investigating the murder of Israeli extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane have found no terrorist link to the Nov. 5 slaying and believe the suspected assassin acted alone.

"There is an ongoing investigation of the case by the Joint Terrorist Task Force, but so far no information has been developed to indict anyone else," Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said last week.

He spoke after El Sayyid Nosair, Kahane's alleged assassin, was indicted on murder charges. Nosair pleaded not guilty to the charges during a Nov. 21 appearance at Manhattan Criminal Court.

During the appearance, the devout Moslem suspect wore a traditional skullcap with Arabic lettering, as he was formally informed of the charges against him. Joining Nosair in the courtroom were supporters of the slain Jewish leader, estimated to number between 50 and 100 people.

Following the hearing, protesters led by Kach International, the extremist movement founded by Kahane, demonstrated outside the courthouse at 100 Centre Street in downtown Manhattan. Approximately 50 people paraded in a circle, chanting slogans calling for revenge.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**ORTHODOX UNION DEBATES ITS IMAGE WITHIN THE LARGER JEWISH COMMUNITY**

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25 (JTA) -- The Orthodox could improve their image among non-Orthodox Jews if they stopped trying to block the national Jewish consensus on various issues, an official of a non-Orthodox Jewish group advised last week.

An Orthodox Jewish leader countered that the American Jewish establishment should pay as much attention to Orthodox concerns as it does to non-Jewish issues.

The spirited exchange took place at the 92nd national convention of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, which convened here during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Speaking at a two-hour session entitled, "The State of American Orthodoxy: As Others See Us," were Gary Rubin, national affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, and Nathan Lewin, a Washington attorney who has argued a dozen cases before the Supreme Court, many on behalf of Orthodox Jews.

Rubin, who, like Lewin, is Orthodox, said the Orthodox Union could improve its image among the non-Orthodox if it stopped vetoing policy statements before the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council.

He chastised the O.U. for some of its actions at meetings of NJCRAC, the policy-planning umbrella group for 13 national Jewish organizations and 117 local Jewish community councils.

Under NJCRAC rules, consensus among constituent groups is necessary for it to take public stands on issues. The O.U. is the lone Orthodox member of NJCRAC.

In particular, Rubin chided the O.U. for blocking NJCRAC last year from joining a coalition on housing rights because the coalition was planning a major march on a Saturday.

More Concerned With The Farm Workers

Although no other Jewish group in NJCRAC supported the idea of a march on Shabbat, the O.U. was concerned about the perception that would be created if NJCRAC embraced the housing coalition, Rubin said.

Rubin also criticized the O.U. for blocking NJCRAC last year from participating in a civil rights commemoration for two Jews and a black who were killed in Mississippi during black voter-registration drives in the mid-1960s.

The O.U.'s concern was that the ceremony, for Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Chaney, was being held outside a church.

Rubin praised the O.U. for adopting resolutions that deal with social justice, such as AIDS and the homeless, saying the O.U. takes action "as a sacred religious obligation, something to which my knowledge very few organizations do."

But Lewin rejected the notion that O.U. should be expending more energy on such issues, saying such a focus would create the perception "that our agenda is trivial."

He chided proponents of the "national Jewish agenda" for being less concerned with the needs of Orthodox Jews than with "the success of the United Farm Workers, the battles for improvements in the civil rights laws and whether silent prayer should be permitted in the public schools."

Lewin criticized Jewish federations for only

starting to fund Jewish day schools 20 years ago, and only after the growth of Solomon Schechter Day schools in the Conservative movement.

He also blamed the American Jewish Congress for arguing so strongly against government endorsement of religion that it helped the Supreme Court reach a decision this past spring to uphold an Oregon statute that bars native Indians from using the peyote drug in religious rituals.

Jewish groups fear the decision could set a precedent that would allow states to prosecute Jewish religious practices, such as the drinking of Kiddush wine by minors, that technically violate local ordinances.

Resolutions 'Laced With Halachah'

Lewin was backed later at the session by David Luchins, one of the O.U.'s representatives to NJCRAC meetings and special assistant to Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.).

Luchins accused NJCRAC constituent groups of being rabidly opposed to an O.U.-sponsored resolution that stated, "Racism is a violation of Torah principles."

"Several organizations informed us that they were going to use their veto power to object to the word 'Torah' in a resolution of NJCRAC," he said. He accused those groups of intolerance toward resolutions that are "laced with halachah," or Jewish law.

Sidney Kwestel, the O.U.'s outgoing national president, said NJCRAC has recently begun "to touch upon areas where we can't live. Abortion we can't live with. They've gone into an area and they don't represent the Jewish viewpoint."

Lawrence Rubin, NJCRAC executive vice chairman, responded in a telephone interview by saying that NJCRAC "doesn't deal with religious issues as such."

NJCRAC has had a "pro-choice position for quite a long time and the O.U. has dissented from that position as long as we've had it," he said.

Kwestel also said of NJCRAC, "They've decided to stick their nose into Israel and the whole issue of the civil rights legislation in Israel," referring to a recent plank adopted by NJCRAC urging electoral reform in Israel.

Rubin of NJCRAC responded by saying NJCRAC's intention is not to suggest what form electoral reform should take, but that the issue needs to be addressed.

Differences With Agudath Israel

The O.U.'s differences with a fellow Orthodox group, Agudath Israel of America, also were highlighted by Lewin and others.

Lewin said Agudath Israel was slow to support the right of U.S. soldiers to wear yarmulkes. The group refrained from joining a suit that reached the Supreme Court a few years ago, because of concern that such an accommodation might encourage Orthodox Jews to join the military and eschew their observant practices.

Lewin said the O.U., in turn, has been slow to support a truth-in-kosher-labeling bill recently introduced in Congress by Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.) that was drafted by Agudath Israel.

David Zwiebel, counsel and director of government affairs at Agudath Israel, confirmed in an interview Friday from the group's convention in Parsippany, N.J., that the O.U. has been "slow" to move on the bill.

But he said he has "every reason to think we will have their endorsement" when the bill is reintroduced in Congress next year.