

**ISRAEL BEEFS UP FORCES IN LEBANON
IN RESPONSE TO HEZBOLLAH ATTACKS**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- Israel has beefed up its forces inside southern Lebanon in response to an apparent change of strategy on the part of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, which has begun firing heavy-caliber Katyusha rockets at settlements in northern Israel.

Tanks and heavy equipment moved northward as heightened violence along the Lebanon border marred continued peace negotiations in Washington.

News reports said fierce artillery duels escalated Tuesday when Lebanese army batteries joined pro-Iranian terrorists in shelling Israeli positions in the security zone.

About 50 missiles fell in two days, half in Israel and the remainder in the security zone. They caused no injuries and only minor damage.

Israelis spent a second night in shelters and anti-blast rooms along a wide area in the north, from Nahariya on the coast to Kiryat Shmona in the Galilee panhandle.

The overt movement northward of Israeli forces was clearly designed to add weight to warnings by Jerusalem that Hezbollah attacks would be met by a strong response.

Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur appeared on Israeli television to tell Hezbollah guerrillas and the Beirut government "that the Israeli army is far more powerful than they are."

Israeli officials say it is up to Lebanon and Syria to curb the Hezbollah. The fundamentalist terror group receives funds and arms supplied by Iran through Syrian-controlled territory.

Talks With Lebanon Cut Short

Jerusalem cannot allow the situation to degenerate into a war of attrition against northern residents, who have shown a degree of fortitude in the current round of Katyusha bombardment.

The problem is how to retaliate without slipping into a renewal of the Lebanon War.

Israel has so far reacted to the latest Katyusha attacks by massive counterbombardment on the part of Israeli troops and their allied South Lebanon Army at areas of southern Lebanon where Hezbollah is known to operate.

In the Washington peace talks, Israel spoke to the Syrian delegation about the urgent need to curb the Hezbollah. The meeting Monday with the Lebanese was cut short after 50 minutes, to protest Beirut's failure to halt the shelling.

The quandary facing the government -- how to respond without creating an escalation, and how to react militarily while continuing the ongoing peace talks in Washington -- has been the subject of editorials in the Hebrew press.

The daily Ha'aretz questioned the wisdom of the Israeli air force attack on Hezbollah bases Sunday night, after a period of quiet, when it was clear Katyushas were being fired in response to each Israeli attack, endangering civilians.

The newspaper said "preventive measures" of that kind played into the hands of Syria and Lebanon, who could now accuse Israel of starting a new cycle of hostilities.

**JEWS PLAYING A ROLE IN TRANSITION,
BUT DENY OPPOSING CABINET CANDIDATE**By Cynthia Mann
States News Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- Jews played a pivotal role in Bill Clinton's election campaign and will be deeply involved in the presidential transition.

But suggestions in the news media that the organized Jewish community has sought to exercise undue influence on key Cabinet appointments have disturbed Jewish leaders.

A syndicated column by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak and an article in the Los Angeles Times last week both spoke of a quiet campaign being waged by Jewish leaders against the appointment of Warren Christopher as secretary of state.

Christopher, who was the deputy secretary of state in Jimmy Carter's administration, was tapped last Friday to co-chair the transition effort along with Washington attorney Vernon Jordan, former president of the National Urban League.

Christopher's name has also surfaced in the rumor mill as a likely secretary of state under Clinton.

The reports of a Jewish campaign against Christopher hit a nerve, in part because they came on the heels of an incident in which the president of the most powerful pro-Israel lobby in Washington was tape-recorded boasting that he had been "negotiating" with the Clinton campaign about candidates for secretary of state.

When the American Israel Public Affairs Committee discovered that the tape had been sent to The Washington Times, its president, David Steiner, resigned and issued a statement saying his boast had no foundation in truth.

Concern Expressed Privately

After the press reports about Jewish influence, AIPAC went a step further and issued a statement this week calling Christopher a "respected public servant" and claiming it knew of no mainstream pro-Israel opposition to him.

In fact, many Jewish leaders have privately expressed concern in recent weeks about Christopher and Anthony Lake, a top foreign policy adviser to the Clinton campaign and a State Department policy-planner under Carter.

They said the prospect of their stewardship over foreign policy in the Clinton administration has triggered "anxiety" in the Jewish community because of their affiliation with Carter's State Department.

Now, however, they are seeking to distance themselves from any systematic Jewish effort to discredit Christopher. They claim that insofar as such an effort exists, and they are not certain that it does, it does not reflect the majority of the community.

Several Jewish organizational leaders have contacted Christopher directly to drive home the point and to offer their support.

American Jewish Committee President Alfred Moses, who was a special counsel to Carter, wrote Christopher a letter saying he was "distressed" over the reports that "some unidentified

Jewish leaders questioned your suitability to serve as secretary of state."

"Apparently forgotten in this criticism is the contribution President Carter made in bringing about the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty," Moses said, adding: "Without his leadership and active involvement, neither would have occurred."

The AJCommittee leader went on to praise Christopher's record of public service and to observe that while Christopher was in the administration, he "always responded with alacrity and understanding to concerns in the Jewish community."

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said he was certain there were individuals on the "fringes" of the Jewish community trying to advance their own interests and candidates with the Clinton camp.

But he said it was irresponsible to represent that as a case being brought against Christopher by Jewish leadership. He said such a distortion could hurt Jewish relations with the new administration.

Foxman denied organized Jewry would jeopardize those relations by setting up this "litmus test" for their support for a "president-elect with monumental responsibilities and serious challenges."

Foxman sent a letter this week to the Los Angeles Times criticizing its news story's reliance on unnamed and off-the-record sources. In the letter, he praised Christopher for his "commitment to principle, fairness and his integrity."

The Evans and Novak piece referred to an unnamed source who cited Steve Rosen, AIPAC's director of foreign policy issues, as "working on contributors to the Clinton-Gore campaign and walking the corridors of Congress to warn against Christopher's supposed Carter-era bias against Israel."

Criticism 'Completely Unwarranted'

But AIPAC this week issued a statement denying it had any knowledge of such opposition and claiming it knew of no cause for alarm.

The lobby acknowledged it had looked into Christopher's public record, but said in the statement: "There is not a scintilla of evidence in anything that we know of to suggest in any way that he is unfriendly to Israel or partisan to the so-called Arabist point of view."

"In the absence of such evidence, criticism of Warren Christopher is completely unwarranted," the statement said, adding: "We know of no opposition to him by the mainstream of the pro-Israel community."

Lewis Roth, spokesman for the National Jewish Democratic Council, pointed out that Jordan and Christopher made up the search team for Clinton that produced his vice presidential running mate, Sen. Al Gore of Tennessee, a pick widely hailed by the Jewish community.

They were joined in that effort by Madeleine Kunin, the Jewish former governor of Vermont, who remains on the transition board.

"If that's an indication of the type of quality people they'll be selecting for the administration, the Jewish community can rest assured about the direction the White House will take for the next few years," said Roth.

Spokespersons for the Clinton operation in Little Rock, Ark., insist there are as yet no firm transition assignments in place beyond Christopher's and Jordan's.

But some of the key players in the campaign are expected to stay on board during the transition, and several are Jewish.

They include Washington attorney Samuel (Sandy) Berger, who will remain a top foreign policy adviser to Clinton, his longtime friend.

Several Expected To Stay On

Also playing a role will be Mickey Kantor, who was the campaign chairman and head of the five-member transition planning board before the election.

Kantor was then bypassed for transition chief after his selection was protested by campaign insiders for his reportedly alienating personal style. A Los Angeles lawyer, longtime Democratic activist and friend of the Clintons, he remains on the transition team.

Kantor brought into the campaign a friend and former client, Gerald Stern, a lawyer on leave from Occidental Petroleum Corp. in Los Angeles. Stern ran the day-to-day operations of the pre-election transition planning team. It is unclear what role he will have in the transition.

Eli Segal, the chief of staff who oversaw the campaign's personnel and financial operations, is expected to stay on board. He was enormously well-liked and respected in the campaign, someone one associate said "would give everyone a fair hearing."

Rahm Emanuel, the campaign's highly successful national finance director from Chicago, has been named as a possible head of the inaugural committee.

Robert Boorstin, the deputy communications director for the campaign, also is likely to stay on.

And Sara Ehrman, the head of the campaign's Jewish outreach effort, is expected to remain involved. She has been touted as a possible White House liaison to the Jewish community.

Philip Friedman, deputy general counsel to the campaign, also could be tapped to stay on during the transition. Friedman is deputy general counsel to AIPAC and a member of the National Jewish Democratic Council.

And Stan Greenberg, Clinton's pollster, is expected to remain a White House adviser.

1st JEWISH WOMAN SENATOR SWORN IN

**By Lisa Richwine
States News Service**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- Facing a crowd of cheering supporters, Dianne Feinstein took her oath of office in the Senate chamber on Tuesday afternoon, becoming the first Jewish woman to serve in the upper house of Congress.

Senate President Pro Tempore Robert Byrd (D-W.V.) swore in the California Democrat, who was elected last week to a special two-year term, replacing Republican John Seymour. Seymour had been appointed to fill the seat left open when his predecessor, Pete Wilson, became governor.

Rep. Barbara Boxer, who is also Jewish, was elected to the other California Senate seat last week, but will not be sworn in until Jan. 5, along with the others elected to regular six-year terms.

Come January, California will not be the only state with an all-Jewish Senate delegation. With Russell Feingold's defeat last week of incumbent Robert Kasten, Wisconsin now also has two Jewish senators, the other being Herbert Kohl. Both are Democrats, as is Boxer.

ANTI-NAZI ACTIVIST'S HOME DAMAGED BY SUSPICIOUS FIRE

By Gil Kezwer

TORONTO, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- Police in Kitchener, Ontario, are labeling as suspicious a fire there Saturday that caused extensive damage to the home of an anti-Nazi activist who had just demonstrated against Holocaust-denier David Irving and his supporters.

"If it was arson, I associate it with these people," Monna Zentner, 55, told reporters. "They're bullies, and it looked like a tactic of intimidation."

The fire caused damage worth \$100,000 (Canadian), about \$80,000 in U.S. currency.

Zentner is a sociology professor at the University of Waterloo, a twin city of Kitchener, about an hour's drive west of Toronto. She has been leading a noon vigil held three times a week in front of European Sound, an electronics store in downtown Kitchener that markets Holocaust-denial literature along with compact discs and cassette players.

Irving, 56, a British historian turned Holocaust-denier, gave a speech at the store, which is owned by Michael Rothe, a known Nazi sympathizer who reportedly paid Irving's expenses.

Irving, who is banned from entering Canada, snuck into the country at the end of October from the United States. The ban is based on his conviction last May in Germany of defaming the dead by claiming the Holocaust has been greatly exaggerated.

Awaits Deportation Hearing

Although he was arrested and incarcerated, he re-entered the country and awaits a deportation hearing, which has been postponed twice and is now set for Thursday.

Meanwhile, he has taken advantage of the lack of a gag order to speak on his favorite theme, that the Holocaust was a hoax, throughout Canada from British Columbia to Ontario. He has addressed groups of supporters ranging in size from 50 to 150.

His itinerary is available on a phone-in racist hot line. His latest speaking venue was changed at the last minute to thwart would-be protesters. He spoke, finally, at the Latvia House in Toronto, whose hall has echoed before with the voices of those who deny the Holocaust occurred.

Irving was first arrested Oct. 28 in Victoria, British Columbia, where he was given 48 hours' notice to leave the country. Just before midnight Oct. 31, he tried unsuccessfully to cross into the United States at Niagara Falls.

He was turned back by American border officials and re-arrested on the Canadian side of the falls, where he was detained until Nov. 4.

Irving was released that day on bail of \$20,000 (Canadian), pending a hearing to deport him to his native Britain.

His bond was posted by Louis Martens, 76, a retired St. Lawrence Seaway employee from nearby Thorold, Ontario. Martens refused to comment when asked about this by the media.

Meanwhile, Irving used the time he remained free in Canada to address Holocaust-denial groups in Kitchener and Toronto.

The Irving case has highlighted differing approaches within the Jewish community in dealing with anti-Semitism and hate propaganda.

B'nai Brith Canada called on the federal government to appoint a royal commission on hate

groups, which would be the government's strongest possible reaction.

But there is disagreement, for example, from two prominent Jewish professors.

Professor William Kaplan of the University of Ottawa's law school and J.L. Granatstein, a respected historian at York University in Toronto, wrote on Monday in the *Globe and Mail*, "Why should the Canadian government give David Irving the martyrdom and publicity he craves by barring him from Canada and incarcerating him and moving to deport him?"

"By denying him a platform in Canada, why raise a very serious issue of free speech around this disreputable figure? Surely simple common sense suggests that it would have been far better to let Mr. Irving enter Canada, speak to his audiences, spread his misrepresentations, and then disappear," they wrote.

AUSTRIAN POLICE ARREST YOUTHS FOR DESECRATING JEWISH CEMETERY

By Marta S. Halpert

VIENNA, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- Five teen-agers, ages 16 to 18, were arrested Monday by police authorities in Eisenstadt, following the desecration of 80 Jewish graves last week.

One 17-year-old boy confessed to the smearing of a swastika at a bus station but denied spraying anti-Semitic slogans at the Jewish cemetery. He is being kept in custody.

The Austrian interior minister has set up a special task force to investigate this desecration. Their findings seem to prove that this action was organized and executed with help from abroad. The letter found on location and claiming responsibility for the smearing shows similar semantics and misspellings to pamphlets found in German Ku Klux Klan groups.

Inhabitants of Eisenstadt, who were upset about the desecration, are said to have given clues to the police about where to look for the culprits.

"Although we found an extreme right-wing scene and searched many houses, we are convinced that these guys got active support from the German scene," a police spokesman said.

The Jewish cemetery of Eisenstadt is to get an automatic surveillance system. "As if this could help solve the problem," said Paul Grosz, president of the Austrian Jewish community.

A protest against the desecration, led by Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky and many leading personalities of the arts and the church, was organized at the cemetery.

Vranitzky recalled that hundreds of Jews had gathered in this very cemetery 54 years ago to escape the pogroms of Kristallnacht.

"One who desecrates a cemetery desecrates the dead and the living alike," he said. "We want to demonstrate here clearly that Austria is the home for all the people who were born here and who had come here over the years."

All day Sunday, a vigil was held at the cemetery, organized by the women of the Social Democratic Party of Austria.

About 500 people gathered Monday in Vienna to commemorate the 54th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

The rally was organized mainly by non-Jewish organizations concerned about a possible referendum on laws placing restrictions on foreigners that was initiated by Jorg Haider, head of the rightist populist Freedom Party.

ONLY RABBI IN SLOVAKIA AIMS AT REVITALIZING COMMUNITY

By Ruth E. Gruber

KOSICE, Czechoslovakia, Nov. 10 (JTA)-- Rabbi Lazar Kleinman took up his post in Kosice as the only rabbi in Slovakia just before Rosh Hashanah and, despite what may seem overwhelming odds, he has ambitious plans to rebuild the local Jewish community into a viable and vibrant congregation.

Kosice, in the far east of Slovakia, has a Jewish population estimated at about 350 families -- perhaps 1,000 people.

The 53-year-old Kleinman, born in Transylvania, educated in Israel and an Australian citizen whose last rabbinical post was in Helsinki, Finland, took up the post of rabbi here in August.

As of October, in all of Czechoslovakia there were only two rabbis -- Kleinman in the Slovak republic and Efraim Karol Sidon in Prague, capital of the Czech republic. The two republics are scheduled to become independent as of Jan. 1, 1993.

"I plan to stay here as rabbi indefinitely," Kleinman said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency at the Kosice Jewish community office.

"Without fantasizing or dreaming, if, say, in 20 years, I will have put the Jewish community here into continuance of Jewish life, Jewish education, Jewish community life, then I will have accomplished something."

Kleinman said he was looking forward to the challenge and stressed that his emphasis will be on education. He said he pinned all hopes on the younger generation.

Jewish Life Here Is 'Bankrupt'

"The situation here is very bad," he said. "What can you expect after World War II and then 45 years of communism? You actually have nothing. Even what exists has to be rebuilt."

He described the situation of Jewish life in Kosice as "bankrupt."

"There needs to be education," he said. "Not just for children, but also for those who were educated under communism."

He said, "There's been no possibility to practice or to have Jewish education. No Judaism. No Jewish feeling. Nothing (Jewish) at all except among old people."

Nonetheless, Kleinman freely admitted that he had alienated a number of older members of the congregation by essentially cutting them out of his plans to revitalize the community.

"Thanks to God, the leadership of the Jewish community here is not in the hands of old people," he said. "The board of the community is made up of young people."

"I am not listening to the old generation here. The old people think that they know Judaism, but they are backwards by 50 years."

He outlined his plans for the community. "We are going to open a kindergarten soon. A cheder for nursery-school children will also be opened," he said.

Also, he said, the organization of the youth club would be changed. Until now it was controlled by a non-religious Israeli political party.

"Now it will be controlled by the Jewish community," he said.

Already, he said, he had organized two-hour educational sessions twice a month on Saturday evenings for people between the ages of 15 and

30. He also initiated a monthly course explaining Judaism aimed at families.

"We are also planning a new, modern old age home," he said. "I think that that's a lot to have accomplished in just two months here."

"But we are not taking the advice of old people," he repeated. "The old people are still under the depression of the communist system. (With) all respect to old people -- but they practice religion isolated from the new generation."

He was carrying out his projects, he said, with the support of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

"The Joint is our big supporter. Without the involvement of the Joint, no changes could be achieved," he said.

Virtually all Jewish community and educational functions, including the old age home, will be centered in the community's old courtyard in the center of Kosice, where there is already a house of study and a kosher restaurant.

The rabbi and his family will move into an apartment in the courtyard complex as soon as restoration work is completed.

Kleinman said that so far he had not met with any organized anti-Semitism on the part of officials or ordinary people in Kosice.

Local officials, he said, attended his installation on Sept. 20, and had been supportive.

PRAGUE RABBI FORMALLY INSTALLED AS CHIEF RABBI OF CZECH REPUBLIC

By Josef Klansky

PRAGUE, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- Rabbi Efraim Karol Sidon, rabbi of Prague since Rosh Hashanah, was installed this week as chief rabbi of the Czech republic.

As the only rabbi in the republic, he takes over the spiritual leadership of nine surviving Jewish communities in Bohemia and Moravia, with a total population of 3,000.

Rabbi Lazar Kleinman was recently installed as the only rabbi of the Slovak republic. The two republics are scheduled to become independent in January.

The Nov. 9 installation ceremony in the Jewish town hall of Prague was preceded by a morning service at the Altneuschul, the foundation of which dates back to the 13th century.

The installation was attended by Czech government representatives, priests from eight churches, the ambassadors of Israel, Poland, Austria and Germany and diplomats from the United States and other countries.

The gathering listened to Sidon's inaugural speech and was addressed by the chief rabbi of Haifa, Shear Yashuv Cohen, and by the director of the Heidelberg College of Jewish studies, Rabbi Julius Karlebach.

Both were Sidon's teachers during his studies of Judaism at Heidelberg University and his rabbinical studies in Israel.

The speakers stressed the great responsibility of the new rabbi, who inherits the legacy of such spiritual leaders and scholars as the Maharal of Prague, Yehuda Loew Ben Bezalel and other famous Czech rabbis of the past.

Sidon was born in Prague in 1942 to a Jewish father and a non-Jewish mother. He became a well-known Czech playwright and novelist and was among the first signatories of the anti-communist "Charter 77" manifesto, initiated by Vaclav Havel.