(Jews in the Soviet Satellites, The American Jewish Committee, edited/authored by: Peter Meyer, Bernard Dov Weinryb, Eugene Duschinsky, Nicolas Sylvain, 1953, p. 128)
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THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

In 1948 the Library of Jewish Information of the American Jewish Committee undertook a long-range research project on the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union and its European satellite countries. Its purpose was to obtain an organized body of knowledge, based on a critical examination of all available sources, on the Communist attitude towards Jewish problems and the effect of the Soviet system on Jewish life. The American Jewish Committee initiated this study in line with its traditional policy of studying and making available the facts about the civic and political status of Jews in the contemporary world.

The first half of the study was completed in August 1951 with the publication by Syracuse University Press of *The Jews in the Soviet Union* by Solomon M. Schwarz. The American Jewish Committee has been gratified at the uniformly favorable reception this work has received both in the United States and abroad, and at the extensive use that has been made of it by scholars, publicists, journalists, and all those interested in Soviet affairs. Part II of this work, "Antisemitism in the Soviet Union," has been translated into the Russian and Hebrew languages and published in the United States and Israel; negotiations are currently under way for other foreign language editions.

The present volume marks the completion of this project. It consists of

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was also expressed in the much discussed deliveries of weapons to Israel. The American press carried many reports of Czechoslovak deliveries of machine guns, artillery, and other arms, including even fighter planes,[22] and at the end of July 1948 it was reported that the United States government had protested in Prague against such dealings.[23] Nor were official Israel authorities the only consignees. According to another report, "many of the guns on the illegal Irgun ship Altalena were of Czech make."[24] All these stories, although officially denied or ignored, were widely advertised by the Communists in their propaganda among the Jews abroad. They sought to show that through Czechoslovakia Russia was supporting the Jews of Israel in their war against the Arabs.[25]

Less publicized were reports of deliveries of Czechoslovak arms to the Arabs. These were officially denied by the Prague Foreign Ministry and by the head of the Czechoslovak National Bank in January 1948.[26] But the rumors persisted. In February, some reports said that the Arab League, after discussing the purchase of Czech arms, had postponed a decision.[27] On February 25, Riad-es-Solh, the Premier of Lebanon, declared in Cairo: "Russia voted with you on the Palestine question, but where do you think we are getting our arms? From Czechoslovakia. And who is Czechoslovakia but Russia herself?"[28] Scattered reports seem to confirm this claim. On March 19, a shipment of Czechoslovak rifles and machine guns for the Palestinian Arab army arrived at the small Lebanese port of Djounish in a large schooner from Genoa.[29] In April, a Syrian government official declared that 8,000 rifles and 6,000,000 rounds of ammunition had been lost en route from Czechoslovakia to Syria in a recent explosion aboard a ship in Bari, Italy; this was said to be the second shipment from Czechoslovakia of arms of a total value of $2,085,000. Both shipments were consigned to the Syrian army.[30]

On April 30, 1948, *Věstník* carried an editorial, written by the Communist writer Louis Fuernberg, which said:

> The terrible fate of Jews under the capitalist system bred in them the psychosis of persecution. This is understandable wherever capitalism is in power, but nonsensical where its power has been broken. We know that we have to use patience and careful understanding. But we will fight resolutely against those backward Jewish circles which want to use the foolishness of the youth, especially the Jewish youth, for adventurous purposes. We believe that the place of the Jewish youth is with the youth of our state. . . . Our youth needs no substitutes, no false romanticism or delusions. We will fight against the nonsensical propaganda which leads its victims into errors, suffering, and jeopardy. . . .[32]

On May 14, 1948, *Věstník* carried on its first page an interview with Professor Arnošt Kolman, a Czech Communist who had spent most of his life teaching in Soviet universities and who had now been appointed to the Charles University in Prague.[33]

Kolman announced that he had been invited to lecture at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and that he wanted to go there when the fighting ended. He declared that the Jews in Palestine had done wonderful things in the economic as well as in the cultural field, and that they deserved their own state. He added that "a hand soaked in oil" was committing crimes in Palestine, as well as in Greece, China, Indonesia, India.

But when asked if he favored Zionism, this was his answer:

> Not at all. I think that the Zionists make four fundamental errors. First, they see a solution of the Jewish question in the Jewish colonization of Palestine, without taking into account that a large section of the Jews have grown roots in the milieu in which they live and a long time ago already lost their national feelings and national culture. For them, such a solution is artificial, alien, and forced. Second, the Zionists maintain

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UDB-helps-Mossad-sink-Czechoslovak-ship-with-weapons-for-Syria

STRICTLY ILLEGAL

by

MUNYA M. MARDOR

translated by

H. A. G. SHMUCKLEV

Foreword by

David Ben Gurion

Illustrated

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obstacle had the effect of creating others. We took advantage of every single opportunity to get one man, a few, a considerable contingent of immigrants, over the frontiers and into Palestine. Such opportunities, for few or the many, came rarely; but we kept at the work night and day and felt rewarded every time we managed to bring someone in, to take his or her place in a Yishuv that co-operated magnificently with us.

Naturally, meeting the Russians in Teheran gave us the opportunity to raise the question of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. But we ran up against a blank wall every time. We met Russian Jews among the Soviet Army units in Persia; but most of them had lost touch with Jewish traditions and few of them had retained any knowledge even of Yiddish. On the basis of these encounters it seemed to us that Russian Jews were well on the way towards complete assimilation, and that unless there came some radical change in Soviet policy, this process would continue until Russian Jewry had ceased utterly to exist as a distinctive community. The Soviet authorities in Teheran made it clear to us that the Soviet Government was opposed even to our taking homeless Polish Jewish children from the U.S.S.R.

The chance of getting considerable numbers of Polish refugee Jews into Palestine came—or seemed to come—with the movement of a chain of transports carrying General Anders' Army, and the men, women and children—Christian refugees from Poland—who had accompanied the army on its way from Russia into Persia. For these people special reception centres were being built in Palestine. The Iraqis, however, refused to allow Polish Jewish refugees, even the children, to move with the Christian refugees across their territory. The British Government, unfortunately, showed more understanding for the discriminatory attitude of the Iraqis than for the plight of the Jewish refugees, and did nothing to bring about a change of heart at Baghdad.

What we had thought to be a chance of rescuing these Jews, turned out, therefore, to be nothing of the kind. We had to return to our own devices.

That was how matters usually worked out. Luckily, our own devices were not ineffective. Where, however, we did get some official help was in the matter of setting up direct contacts with the Jewish communities left in occupied Eastern Europe. The British gave their agreement in principle to the dropping of Haganah representatives by parachute over those territories. Parachutists were dropped in Yugoslavia, from where some of them managed to get overland to Hungary, and in Rumania. I had agreed to be dropped in Poland with a parachute company under the leadership of Eliahu

The time it took for the sulphuric acid to eat through the layers of newsprint represented the time it would take for the mine's fuse to become active. This was Jossele's ingenious way of working out just how much time he and his comrades would have, once the mine had been fixed to the ship, for making their getaway.

The casing of the mine was the inner tube of a motor-cycle, filled with T.N.T., and resistant to water. The detonators were contained in rubber contraceptive sheaths, again as a water resistant, and had potash powder distributed about them. When the time came, one of the bottles would be fitted to the inner tube, upside down, so that the acid would begin eating through the paper until it reached the potash and could generate sufficient heat to touch off the detonator and so explode the T.N.T.—and sink the *Lino*.

At last everything had been got ready. Evening was drawing near, I assembled the unit and gave operational orders. It was arranged that Amnon Jonah, who would be "walking out" with Mrs. Grossmann, should be at the focal point for the returning sappers—that is, in the neighbourhood of the gap in the Corso Vittorio's wall. It would be my job to ride with Mr. Grossmann in his Topolino and, if occasion should require it, to behave as a witness, brought out by the jealous husband, Grossmann, to his wife's infidelity.

A sense of urgency was upon us. We tried to eat a hasty meal but had no appetite, although each of us did his best to outdo the other in stuffing food down his throat. It was a gesture—and a fairly obvious one—by which each of us tried to show the others that there was no nervousness. The meal over, we put out the lights, collected the equipment, including the rubber dinghy, completed the assembly of the mine, transferred the mine, the odds and ends of equipment necessary for fixing the mine to the ship's side, the dinghy and its oars, to the truck, and set off.

There were no incidents on the way. Amnon Jonah, with Mrs. Grossmann consolingly at his side, was at his post. As we came up he gave the signal that all was clear. We unloaded and made our way down through the hole in the wall to the rocky shore. Jossele and the two sappers, one with the mine on his knees, entered the dinghy, having first removed their outer clothes and hidden them among the rocks. They were wearing dark, woollen bathing-trunks.

Everything had gone smoothly. I stood watching the sappers as they rowed off. Then I returned to the lorry, instructed the driver to move off to the assigned spot along the highway, which henceforth was to serve as our base, and, once that had been done, and the truck had pulled in to the side of the road with the two drivers and the wireless operator behaving as if they had had a breakdown, I returned with Grossmann, in his little Italian car. We cruised by the

The sinking of the *Lino*. (*Above*) Little is visible as she lies sunk beside the quay. In the background is the ship from which the saboteurs swam to fix the mine. (*Below*) Under tow after she had been raised.

(Strictly Illegal, Munya Mardor, 1957, p. 209)

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The Bomb in the Basement: How Israel Went Nuclear and What That Means for ...

By Michael Karpin

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A BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPH, taken at four o'clock in the morning, shows four men standing on a sand dune on a beach a few miles south of Tel Aviv, looking up at the sky. On the right is Shimon Peres, deputy minister of defense, in a white open-necked shirt and a jacket. He is the only one of the four that has a smile on his face. To his left stands the short and stocky figure of Prime Minister and Defense Minister David Ben-Gurion, wearing a military battle-dress jacket. His shock of white hair stands out in the dim light, and he has a grave and thoughtful expression on his face. Next to him is Munya Mardor, head of the Authority for Weapons Development and host of this event, appropriately togged out in a light-colored safari suit. To his left, in uniform, is the chief of staff of the Israel Defense Forces, Lieutenant General Zvi Tsur. Foreign Minister Golda Meir was also present, in a summery floral dress and a dark jacket, but she's not in this picture.

(Missions with No Traces: Sixty Years of Israeli Underground National Security, Israel Defense Army Publication, Amnon Yona, originally published 2001, p. 99) https://books.google.ca/books?id=7viWqKOsdZcC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false

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Missions with No Traces: Sixty Years of Israeli Underground National Security

By Amnon Yona

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Missions with No Traces: Sixty Years of Israeli Underground National Security

By Amnon Yona

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Procurement and *Aliya Bet* operative Shaike Dan sat in his Yugoslavian hotel waiting for news about *Nora*: had the ship managed to bring its cargo of weapons to the Hagana armories, despite the British Army and the UN observers who were trying to prevent it? Late on Friday night, a Yugoslav officer who was responsible for contacts between procurement personnel and the authorities came into Shaike's room. His message was brief: "The ship that is to load the weapons from Czechoslovakia has entered Fiume port." Shaike, being fully aware of our shipment plans, immediately understood that the weapons and the ship had nothing to do with us. He immediately phoned Ehud Avriel in Prague. Ehud was no less surprised than Shaike, and he promised to check the story and its implications. Two days later Ehud responded that the Czech armaments plant Zabriovka had sold arms and ammunition to the Arabs: the Fiume shipment included 8,000 rifles and six million rounds of ammunition, intended for Syria. By sheer coincidence, the route from Czechoslovakia to Fiume in Yugoslavia was exactly that used for our shipments. The significance of this secret supply was earthshaking. Clearly, everything possible had to be done to prevent the weapons from reaching the Syrians. Shaike tried to persuade the Yugoslavs to impound the weapons since the shipment documents listed machine parts – not weapons. He promised that we would purchase the shipment immediately at full price. The response was negative. The Yugoslavs contended that such an act would adversely affect their relations with Czechoslovakia. Shaike's other proposals for action against the ship were also rejected, but the Yugoslavs did agree to supply information about the vessel, its crew, the time it would sail, its speed and declared destination.

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