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ISRAEL DENIES PRESSURE FROM U.S. TO DISOWN JACKSON AMENDMENT

JERUSALEM, March 19 (JTA)--Reports that Israel is being pressured by the Nixon Administration to disown the Jackson amendment were denied here today by authoritative sources. A source close to Premier Golda Meir told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that President Nixon made no such request of Mrs. Meir at their White House meeting March 1.

According to the sources, the subject of Soviet Jewry was raised at that meeting. Nixon said that he understood the Israeli leader's concern and added that he believed in the value of quiet diplomacy. But he did not speak of Mrs. Meir's intervention in the debate over the Jackson amendment and it would have been unthinkable for him to have done so, the sources claimed.

The sources were commenting on a report today by the syndicated Washington columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak who said the Nixon Administration was getting tough with the Israeli government over the latter's support of the measure that would deny most favored nation trade status to the Soviet Union unless obstacles to emigration were lifted.

According to Evans and Novak, the President informed Mrs. Meir that he was not about to risk the U.S.-Soviet detente on the extraneous issue of Jewish emigration from Russia. They said that since then, Presidential emissaries have let the Israeli government know that "Israel, through the powerful lobby of the American Jewish community must share major responsibility if the Jackson amendment passes." The columnists added: "Then Israel would have to answer to Richard M. Nixon himself."

Informed sources here said Premier Meir has stressed many times that the Jackson amendment was proposed on the Senator's own initiative. They said the amendment's strong support was by no means altogether due to pro-Jewish sentiment. They said that many Congressmen wanted to demonstrate opposition to the administration and the free emigration issue was one that attracted many sympathizers in the U.S. apart from its Jewish ramifications. According to the sources the amendment also has the support of die-hard anti-Soviet elements in Congress.

PRO-ARAB FASCIST ARRESTED

By Ben Juarez, JTA Rome Correspondent

ROME, March 19 (JTA)--Milan police have arrested a nephew of the late fascist leader Italo Balbo in connection with a series of bombings in Italy in 1969. The man is Claudio Orsi, 42, known for his past devotion to right-wing, anti-Semitic and, more recently, Palestinian causes. The arrest comes in the course of investigation into the murky series of events that culminated with the bombing of a Milan bank in Dec., 1969, with the loss of 16 lives.

Although police at first blamed anarchists for the bombing and others preceding it, and held anarchist Pietro Valpreda in jail for three years, suspicion is now swinging to the extreme right. Two radical right-wingers, Franco Freda and Giovanni Ventura, have been in custody and under questioning for several months about the bank tragedy and other bombings.

Police sources said Orsi is being questioned in connection with a series of explosions set off in trains in various parts of Italy Aug. 8, 1969. Orsi was secretary general of the extreme right Young Europe Movement from 1965 to 1968 when he broke away to form what he called a Nazi-Maoist Party. His family's motel at Ferrara was long a center for right-wing groups.

But more recently he had demonstrated a change of political color from far right to far left. He openly expressed sympathy for Mao Tse-tung and formed an Italy-China Association, and had also been mixed up in pro-Palestinian causes. He has contributed anti-Semitic articles to small local fascist news sheets and was detained last year in connection with a series of attacks on synagogues, but never charged with an offense.

His mother was the sister of Italo Balbo, one of the founders with Benito Mussolini of the fascist movement, a well-known aviator and later the governor of Libya.

PURIM IN MOSCOW

LONDON, March 19 (JTA)--Jewish sources in the Soviet Union report that the synagogue at Archipovo Street was packed to capacity for the reading of the Megila on Saturday night and that there were also many people attending the service Sunday morning. On Saturday night there was also an overflow in the vicinity of the synagogue, composed mostly of young people. The militia soon arrived and told them to disperse, the sources reported. No one was permitted to stand outside. They all dispersed and there were no arrests.

TREPPER FRIENDS TO MEET GIEREK, POPE

PARIS, March 19 (JTA)--The first international conference for the release of Leopold Trepper has decided to send a delegation to Warsaw to meet Premier Edward Gierek and other Polish leaders. The conference has also decided to call for the support of Pope Paul VI and UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim in order to obtain the release from Poland of the former head of the "Red Orchestra" network.

The conference, the first of its kind to be called, was held yesterday in London. It was attended by delegations from seven countries and by Trepper's wife, Mrs. Elisabeth Trepper.

Trepper's lawyer, Souliez-Lariviere, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the conference called on world public opinion to support Trepper's case "as a matter of common decency and gratitude for the work done by one of the war's great heroes." The conference, which held a press conference yesterday at the Imperial Hotel in London, stressed that the Polish government's refusal to permit Trepper's departure is "linked to the current anti-Semitic campaign in Poland."

EAGLETON SAYS U.S. DIPLOMAT SLAIN IN KHARTOUM BECAUSE HE WAS TRYING TO BEGIN SUDAN-ISRAEL DIALOGUE

BOSTON, March 19 (JTA)--Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton (D. Mo.) said here that "There is evidence" that George C. Moore, one of the two American diplomats murdered by Black September terrorists in Khartoum, Sudan March 1, "was actively engaged in efforts to begin a dialogue between Sudan and Israel through the United States."

Eagleton, who was Sen. George McGovern's original running mate in the 1972 Presidential election campaign, made that remark in the course of an address at the Leadership Dinner of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston last week.

(A spokesman for Sen. Eagleton's Washington office told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the reference was based on appraisals by political analysts following the murder of Mr. Moore who was the Charge d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum and had served there for two years at the time of his death. The other diplomats murdered by the Black Septemberists were the U.S. Ambassador Cleo A. Noel Jr. and the Belgian Charge d'Affaires, Guy Eid.)

Eagleton said he did not believe "that the attack on our diplomats in the Sudan was simply a question of their taking advantage of an opportunity. It was a well-planned attack and it was designed to interfere with a dialogue that might eventually lead to peace negotiations in the Middle East," he said.

The Senator described Moore, 47, as "an outgoing man who believed that the widest gulfs between nations could be bridged by good humor and dialogue." He said that Moore had "made great strides in transforming American-Sudanese relations from nearly complete estrangement at the time of his arrival to an almost cordial relationship when he died. There is evidence that Mr. Moore was actively engaged in efforts to begin a dialogue between Sudan and Israel through the United States."

Eagleton, one of the co-sponsors of the Jackson amendment, told his audience that "Congress will stand behind the position that it will not authorize most favored nation trade status to the Soviet Union unless that country permits its Jewish citizens to emigrate." He said that while he supported "the concept of lowering East-West trade barriers, I do not believe that the United States can ignore the continued oppression of fundamental human rights.... Our government must act to prevent the Soviet Union from transforming human suffering into economic gain."

HEAVY SECURITY FOR QE2 PASSENGERS BOUND FOR ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, March 19 (JTA)--Elaborate security precautions will be in effect aboard the Queen Elizabeth 2 when the giant liner arrives in Israeli waters next month with 1700 passengers who will attend Israel's 25th anniversary celebrations, it was learned today. According to information from Cunard Line headquarters in London, the ship will carry a team of anti-terrorist experts. Armed guards will be stationed on the bridge, in the engine rooms and in the wireless cabins. Magnetic and electronic checks will be made of passengers' baggage when they board at Southampton, April 15.

The QE-2, under charter to Associated Travel, an American firm, is due at Ashdod April 21 and will remain there four days while her passengers, using the ship as their hotel, tour Israel. The 65,000 ton liner will then steam to Haifa, where she will remain until May 7 to embark a new group of passengers for the return voyage to Britain. Her original complement of passengers, mostly Americans, will leave Israel by air.

The 66,000 ton French Liner France is also due at Haifa during the 25th anniversary celebrations with more than 1000 passengers. There has been no information from the French Line regarding security precautions. The QE-2 and the France, the world's largest passenger ships,

will be the largest passenger vessels ever to call at Israeli ports. The prestige of the vessels, the occasion of their visits to Israel and their predominantly Jewish passenger lists on the Independence Day cruises have aroused concern that they may be targets for terrorist outrages.

According to reports from London, some members of the QE-s crew have asked the National Seamen's Union to demand a "danger bonus" from Cunard for the trip. Some crewmen have reportedly asked permission to sign off for the voyage to Israel. Any substantial defection by crew members might cause the cruise to be cancelled, costing Cunard nearly 1.2 million pounds sterling in charter fees.

2 ARRESTED BELIEVED TO BE BLACK SEPTEMBER LEADERS IN FRANCE

PARIS, March 19 (JTA)--Two persons, believed to be members of the Black September gang, who were arrested by French criminal police Saturday may be the terrorist organization's leaders in France, according to unconfirmed reports today. Police have refused to disclose any details of the arrests or to say whether the two detainees are both men or if they are, as one report claimed, a man and a woman.

Sources close to French counter-intelligence agencies said it was highly unlikely that the Black September has established its headquarters or even operational bases on French territory.

There has been no official confirmation either of the general belief that Saturday's arrests stemmed from the detention last week of two Arabs described as Jordanians who were carrying large quantities of explosives in their car with the alleged intentions of blowing up the Jordanian and Israeli Embassies in Paris. According to one report, the Jordanians were delivering the explosives to the two persons arrested Saturday.

An El Fatah spokesman in Beirut said yesterday that the pair arrested with the carload of explosives were not members of his organization and had not been entrusted to carry explosives for El Fatah. A Fatah communique carried by the Palestinian news agency, "Wafa," claimed that the incident was part "of a general plan by counter-revolutionary forces to undermine the Palestinian revolution."

ROOM FOR EFSHER AND AVADAH

PORT HUENEME, Calif., March 19 (JTA)--The parking lot at the Naval Civil Engineering Laboratory here is slowly beginning to look like a metallic textbook in misspelled Yiddish. California's six-letter-limit personalized license plates are doing it. So far, Jewish employees at NCEL are sporting "Hutzpa" and "L'Kaim" on their vehicles. Two more employees at the laboratory have announced plans to add "Nudnik" and "Schlep" to NCEL's rolling Jewish dictionary.

FRENCH DELEGATION IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, March 19 (JTA)--Two members of the French parliament accompanied by a parliamentary administrative employe, arrived here last night on a two-week visit to study political and administrative institutions in Israel. The visiting law-makers are Marcel Chabpex, a Socialist, and Jacques Roselli, a Gaullist. Their visit is unofficial. The French delegation was originally to have consisted of four members of parliament. The other two are expected at a later date.

U.S. NOT READY TO ACT ON RABBI IN MOSCOW EMBASSY

WASHINGTON, March 19 (JTA)--The State Department today described as "all hypothetical at this point" whether an American rabbi will be appointed for the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. Department spokesman Charles Bray said he was "aware of possible interest" in the American Jewish community regarding the appointment of a rabbi there but added that he did not think the Department has taken official cognizance of this interest.

Bray was questioned by newsmen after three clergymen said in New York yesterday that the Appeal for Conscience Foundation of which they are leaders had urged the State Department to give serious consideration to such an appointment. The three clergymen--the Rev. Donald R. Campion, editor-in-chief of the Jesuit weekly, America; the Rev. Harold A. Bosley, senior minister of Christ Church, United Methodist, New York; and Rabbi Arthur Schneier, of the Park East Synagogue, New York--recently returned from a tour of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Rabbi Schneier, Foundation president, said the three had been told last week by a State Department official that "no impediment" should bar a rabbi from being stationed at the Embassy in Moscow. Under the Soviet-American agreement of 1933 that established diplomatic relations between the two governments, the United States has a right to station chaplains at its Embassy in Moscow. Roman Catholic and Protestant chaplains are already stationed there.

Bray said under questioning that he had been "aware" of the sentiment for the stationing of a rabbi in Moscow prior to the published report of the statement by three clergymen. He said he did not believe personnel of the Jewish faith in Moscow had asked for a rabbi.

The chaplains at the Embassy have no official standing and no official connection with the U.S. government, Bray said. The U.S. government's role is limited to aiding in arrangements for the clergymen in Moscow such as providing facilities at which religious services may be conducted. He said the same considerations would be given to a rabbi who would minister to the needs of Americans and other foreigners in the Jewish community in Moscow. He emphasized that the rabbi, if he were stationed there, would not serve Soviet Jews.

SOVIET EMIGRANTS CELEBRATE PURIM

VIENNA, March 19 (JTA)--Fifteen American couples representing the Young Leadership Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal met today with 100 newly arrived Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union at the Schonau Castle transit center here. The Americans are enroute to Warsaw to observe the 30th anniversary of the Ghetto uprising there. The Jews are on their way to Israel.

The Soviet Jewish emigrants were celebrating their first Purim outside the USSR. As the Americans greeted the refugees with platters of hamantashen, one elderly Jew from the Soviet Georgian Republic remarked, "This Purim is a true victory over a modern day Haman." The Russians, young and old, sang Purim songs and danced. All of those present wept as the Russians stood to sing Hatikva, the Israeli national anthem. One emigre told the Americans, "You need us as much as we need you."

RIVLIN: SOCIAL GAP MUST CLOSE IN ISRAEL

ATLANTIC CITY, March 19 (JTA)--Moshe

Rivlin, director general of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, warned here this weekend that the social gap in Israel must be closed "or Israel faces the danger of having two Israels--and two Israels is the greatest present we can give the Arabs." Rivlin made this observation in an address to more than 400 Zionists attending the Greater New York Region Labor Zionist Alliance leadership conference.

The Jewish Agency official said that nobody can deny that "we have a social gap in Israel," but stressed that the main effort to reduce it must be in education. He cited the present compulsory education system for those between five and 14 years of age, the longer school day and the free high school tuition program being developed in most of the new immigrant centers as examples of reducing the social gap. Another example cited was the expansion of the junior college system in Israel.

Rivlin also noted that one of the greatest social experiments in Israel was the 500 agricultural settlements established in the last 25 years with new immigrants from Morocco, Yemen and Iraq.

At another session of the IZA weekend conference Yaakov Moriss, an Israeli diplomat and press counsellor to the Israel Mission to the United Nations, declared that "too little attention is being paid to the social problems within the Arab states as a factor determining their foreign policy and their ability to make peace with Israel."

Morris who has held Israeli diplomatic posts in India, Scandinavia and the U.S. said there are, for example, "beginnings of signs within the Egyptian society of a growing demand for social change, and it is to this that Israel looks with growing optimism." He also said that "the double cry of Egyptian students for war with Israel on the one hand, and greater democracy within Egypt on the other hand are self-contradictory. As time goes on these Egyptian students will realize this contradiction and will themselves have to face up to the reality that peace with Israel is the only alternative."

NO ISRAELI PRESENCE ON ETHIOPIAN COAST

JERUSALEM, March 19 (JTA)--The government denied today two claims by Southern Yemen that Israel has established a presence on the Ethiopian coast and on several islands in the Red Sea which command the shipping lanes to and from the Indian Ocean. The Southern Yemeni Embassy in Beirut claimed Saturday that Israel has leased Ras (Cape) Sintian from Ethiopia where it was allegedly building an air and naval base some 30 kilometers from the Yemeni island of Perim that controls the southern entrance to the Red Sea.

Perim was the base for a rocket attack on the Israel-bound tanker Coral Sea in June, 1971. The Southern Yemeni Embassy in Baghdad claimed yesterday that Israeli forces had occupied five islands in the Straits of Bab el Mandab. The islands were not identified but the Beirut Embassy indicated that they included Zuqar island and the Hanish group. A similar report that appeared in Time magazine a week ago, was denied by Israeli authorities at the time.

According to the Yemeni Embassy in Beirut, the islands belong to Southern Yemen but were turned over to Ethiopia by the British before the Aden Protectorate, which became Southern Yemen, achieved independence in Nov., 1967. The Embassy charged that Israel was coordinating its "serious penetration" of the Red Sea with the United States, and that Israel wanted to control navigation in the area.

