



ISRAEL TO PURCHASE U.S. COMBAT AIRCRAFT AS PART OF PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN, MODERNIZE ITS AIR POWER

TEL AVIV, July 7 (JTA) -- Air Force Commander Gen. Benjamin Peled disclosed today that Israel is in the process of deciding which of two advanced U.S. combat aircraft to purchase as part of a new program to modernize and strengthen its air power. He also disclosed that Israel's air defenses have been bolstered by the introduction of a new American ground-to-air missile and a 20 mm. anti-aircraft gun of U.S. manufacture.

Peled made his announcements on the eve of Air Force Day which will be marked this Tuesday. He said the Air Force was concentrating on implementing the lessons of the Yom Kippur War and was seeking the most modern equipment and the best available manpower. He said in that connection that the Air Force's medical standards have been raised.

He said the air defenses now have the "Chaparral" ground-to-air missile manufactured by the Philco Corp. He described it as a self-contained unit consisting of four missiles mounted on an amphibian carrier with additional missiles in a storage space. The missiles are heat-guided. Each unit costs \$228,000. The air defenses also have the Vulcan anti-aircraft gun designed for defense against low flying planes. The six barrels fire 3,000 20 mm. shells per minute at a maximum altitude of 2,000 meters. Peled disclosed that both weapons were used during the recent war of attrition on the Syrian front.

USSR Supplies MIG-23 To Syria

Peled also said the Russians have supplied Syria with their newest and most sophisticated war plane, the MIG-23 and that Syrian pilots have already been trained to fly them. Israel has no aircraft to match the MIG-23, reputedly the world's fastest and highest flying combat aircraft. But according to Peled, Israeli pilots in their planes are still superior to Syrian pilots in MIG23s. He admitted, nevertheless, that the gap in Israel's air superiority has been dangerously narrowed.

The American answer to the MIG-23 is the F-14 and F-15, a multi-purpose fighter that Israel is interested in purchasing, Peled said. He said, however, that Israel is also considering the new American UF-16 and UF-17 which he described as interceptors of great maneuverability that are less expensive than the F-14 and F-15. He said Israel's ultimate decision would be based on its military and economic needs.

NRP EXPECTED TO JOIN GOVERNMENT

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA) -- The National Religious Party is expected to join Premier Yitzhak Rabin's coalition government, possibly before the end of this week. NRP Secretary General Zvi Bernstein intimated as much today when he said there would be some action following the return of Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren from the U.S. where he has been visiting for the past three weeks. He is due back on Tuesday.

Rabbi Goren is understood to have agreed to a temporary formula for resolving the Who is a Jew issue -- one acceptable to the Labor Party

and with which Labor's present coalition partners, Mapam, the Independent Liberal Party and the Civil Rights Party, presumably could "live." NRP circles believe that Rabbi Goren succeeded in persuading the American Mizrahi leader, Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, of Boston, to accept the formula.

In a taped interview with Kol Israel radio, broadcast here today, Rabbi Goren insisted that Rabbi Soloveitchik was in no way involved. "The subject will be decided in Israel, not in America," he said. He accused the Israeli press of making too much of what Rabbi Soloveitchik allegedly said on the matter. "I met with him (Soloveitchik) three times for three long discussions but he did not advise me as to the NRP attitude toward the coalition. It is in Israel that things will be decided," Rabbi Goren said.

Approves Formula Defining Conversion

The formula that Rabbi Goren has reportedly approved defines conversions as those made "according to Jewish tradition through the generations." This skirts the Orthodox demand that the Law of Return be amended to specify that only conversions according to halacha (religious law) are recognized in Israel -- meaning only conversions performed by Orthodox rabbis. Rabbi Goren is expected to convene the Chief Rabbinate Council as soon as he returns to consider the proposal. It is generally acknowledged here that the Chief Rabbinate usually goes along with whatever Rabbi Goren approves.

This has raised Labor Party hopes that the NRP will add its 10 Knesset votes to the government coalition which has had great difficulty functioning on its narrow majority of one.

ARAB LEAGUE DEMAND DENOUNCED AS ILLEGAL BY ISRAELI DELEGATION

CARACAS, July 7 (JTA) -- The third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea adjourned for the weekend after running into heavy weather. A demand by the Arab League delegate, Mamdouh Azzam, to seat representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization as observers, was denounced as illegal by the head of the Israeli delegation, Ambassador Amiel Najjar. He said that Israel hoped to avoid "utterly useless" political discussions of matters unrelated to the problems confronting the conference. But he warned that if there is a debate on seating the PLO, the Israeli delegation would make its position known "with the necessary spirit."

Azzam told the conference Thursday that equity and justice demanded the participation of the PLO in formulating laws of the sea because they would be affected once their "national aspirations" are fulfilled. Ambassador Nouredine Djoudi, of Algeria, the assistant secretary general of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) which is backing the Arab League demand, said the matter would be put to the conference when it reconvenes this week.

The Arab countries form a strong bloc at the conference. They are represented among its 31 vice-presidents and on its various committees. Israel is one of the few countries among the 135 participants that is unaffiliated with any bloc. Najjar noted that the conference's composition was decided by a UN resolution last Nov., and changes now would be illegal.

COJO EXECUTIVE APPEALS FOR ACTION TO AID SYRIAN JEWS

GENEVA, July 7 (JTA) — The World Conference of Jewish Organizations Executive (COJO) appealed to all of its member organizations today to take fast and thorough action on behalf of Syria's Jewish community. The COJO executive met here today under the chairmanship of Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson. The meeting was attended by 30 delegates representing 11 member organizations.

The executive heard the Deputy Director General of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, Abraham Avidor, stress that the only thing that can help "lighten the burden of Syria's Jews is a concerted international action." The Israeli diplomat said that the effects of this pressure already have been felt and that world public opinion can and should continue its efforts on behalf of Syria's 4,500 suffering Jews.

The COJO executive also heard a report from the representative of CRIF (Representative Council of French Jews), Pierre Kauffmann, who said that an improvement in France's policy toward Israel has been felt since the last French Presidential election. Kauffmann also expressed "optimism" as to France's future policy in this area. COJO Secretary General, Yehuda Hellman, described the meeting as "one of the most important" yet to be held. He said a plenary conference will be held in Dec.

HISTADRUT REJECTS GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL TO CUT COL ALLOWANCE

TEL AVIV, July 7 (JTA) — The Histadrut Executive today flatly rejected the government's proposal to cut in half the 20 percent cost-of-living allowance payable to Israeli workers beginning this month. The measure, one of many in a belt-tightening economic program intended to combat inflation which the government promulgated last week, was denounced by coalition and opposition factions alike within the Labor federation.

It was the first time in fact that Histadrut stood in opposition to the Labor-led government. The c.o.l. reduction was intended to absorb some IL 600 million from the economy. Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz warned earlier that the cycle of rising prices and increased c.o.l. would have a disastrous effect on wage earners. The Treasury had hoped to retain 50 percent of the c.o.l. but was willing to exempt workers earning less than IL 1,000 per month.

The Histadrut Executive unanimously adopted a resolution opposing any plan to dilute, postpone or absorb any or all compensation due workers for the high cost of living. Histadrut Secretary General Yehoram Meshel demanded to know "why did the government not impose taxes on luxuries? Why did the government refrain from touching the banks, the insurance companies and other financial enterprises?" He warned that cutting the c.o.l. would have a severe psychological impact on workers which the government should have considered.

Histadrut has not, however, rejected the rest of the economic austerity package which includes a new compulsory war loan, a property tax, higher tariffs to reduce imports and new incentives for export industries.

CHILE DENIES NAMING FORMER SS OFFICER AS INTELLIGENCE CHIEF

PARIS, July 7 (JTA) — Chile has categorically denied what it terms "reports coming from Europe" that it has named former SS officer Walter Rauff head of the Chilean Intelligence Services, the French Daily, "Le Monde," reported last week. Col. Pedro Erwing, Secretary-General of the Chilean Military Junta, called the reports of Rauff's nomination "totally false" and said they were inspired by "international Marxism" which is trying to portray the Chilean government as "fascist," the paper reported.

"Le Monde" reported that Chile had appointed Rauff head of the "Direccion de Inteligencia Nacional (DINA), the Chilean Intelligence Services. Subsequently, the paper cited the Austrian newspaper, "Arbeiter Zeitung," as the source of this report and also referred to "other sources" as the basis of the report. Rauff, now a merchant in Chile, is said to have been responsible for the deaths of some 100,000 Jews during Hitler's Third Reich.

VERDICT DUE IN KLARSFELD CASE

BONN, July 7 (JTA) — A verdict will be rendered Tuesday in the case of Mrs. Beate Klarsfeld, the Nazi-hunter accused in the 1971 attempt to kidnap Kurt Lischka, the World War II SS chief in Paris who is wanted in France on war crimes charges. The trial, before a Cologne judge, ended yesterday after two stormy weeks during which Judge Viktor de Somoskoeoy was forced to clear the courtroom several times and engaged in angry altercations with the defendant.

Mrs. Klarsfeld's attorney, Arie Marinsky, asked for her acquittal. The public prosecutor demanded a six month suspended sentence which came as a surprise considering that, if found guilty, Mrs. Klarsfeld would face a maximum of five years imprisonment. The prosecutor explained that the penalty he asked for would have the effect of not minimizing the crime and at the same time would satisfy Mrs. Klarsfeld's many supporters because it would be suspended.

The main issue at the trial was not the attempt to kidnap Lischka, which Mrs. Klarsfeld readily admitted, but the failure so far of the West German parliament to ratify the 1971 Franco-German extradition treaty under which former Nazis like Lischka could be brought to trial in France. The matter is expected to be raised by President Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France when he meets next week with the West German Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, a government spokesman said Friday.

Mrs. Klarsfeld, who courted arrest when she appeared in Dachau last April to attend a memorial for Nazi victims, gained world-wide support in her trial, especially from survivors of the Nazi occupation in Europe. Tumult broke out in the courtroom on several occasions and last Wednesday police battled French demonstrators clad in concentration camp garb outside the court. The judge cleared the court of all spectators and the press with the exception of a few selected news agencies.

Last Friday, Mrs. Klarsfeld denounced the judge. "It would have been better if you had conducted the trial with greater tact and humanity and less arrogance, and with consideration for the people who spent long years in concentration camps," she said. Somoskoeoy said, "The court emphatically rejects this kind of tactless and impertinent insult."

KNESSET TO RECEIVE OUTLINE OF REPORT ON MAALOT TRAGEDY

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Rabin reported to the Cabinet today the findings of a special two-man scientific committee he appointed last month to study the implications for Israel of President Nixon's offer of a nuclear reactor and American atomic know-how to Egypt. Nixon made a similar offer to Israel. The findings will not be made public.

Rabin will make a statement to the Knesset Wednesday outlining the report of the committee investigating the May 15 Maalot tragedy, it was announced after today's Cabinet meeting. The findings will be published except for portions involving national security or those that might cause further grief to the families of the 25 high school students murdered by Arab terrorists in the Maalot schoolhouse.

Rabin received statements last Friday from former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur clarifying their roles in the Maalot episode. The statements were not made public. Dayan, however, is believed to have refuted charges that he had passed inaccurate information to the Cabinet from the scene of the tragedy at Maalot.

Nothing New in U.S.-USSR Communique

Foreign Minister Yigal Allon told the Cabinet today that the government did not intend to press Washington for any clarification of the Nixon-Brezhnev joint communique following the Moscow summit meeting last week which referred to the "legitimate interests" of the Palestinian people. Allon said that Israel saw nothing in the communique that was new or surprising.

He said the term "legitimate interests" has often been used in the past by the Americans and certainly by the Russians, in connection with the Palestinians and that "interests" was different in tone than "rights." This does not mean that Israel was pleased with every word in the communique, but there were no surprises in it, Allon said.

Tourism Minister Moshe Kol reported on his recent meeting with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican. He described it as "warm and sympathetic" and said that they had talked only about matters relating to pilgrimages and tourism between Jerusalem and Rome. It was not known whether the Cabinet discussed U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's meeting with the Pope.

UNDOF Officers Had Been Warned

Defense Minister Shimon Peres told the Cabinet that four Austrian officers killed by a mine on the Syrian front a week ago while serving with the United Nations Disengagement Observers Force (UNDOF) had been clearly warned by Israel not to enter a danger zone in the Mt. Hermon region because of possible mines. Peres was responding to reports from Vienna that Austrian authorities were not satisfied with the Israeli explanations and had demanded further investigation by UNDOF.

It was announced today that the Cabinet would try to hold two regular meetings each week, reserving the Sunday meeting for current affairs that need immediate decisions and the second meeting, probably on Fridays, for long term subjects to be dealt with in depth.

VORONEL PLANS TO GO AHEAD WITH SCIENTIFIC SEMINAR

LONDON, July 7 (JTA) -- Prof. Alexander Voronel who was released from jail yesterday

plans to go ahead with the scientific seminar that the authorities prevented him from holding while President Nixon was in Moscow, sources in the Soviet Union said today.

According to the sources, Voronel indicated that the gathering, supposed to have begun July 1, will be held as planned, probably next fall. It was called off when most of its organizers, including Voronel, were jailed or sent into hiding on the eve of Nixon's arrival. Soviet police cordoned off Voronel's Moscow apartment where the scientists were to meet and arrested all persons entering or leaving.

The purpose of the seminar, which had wide support from scientific circles all over the world, was to focus attention on the plight of Jewish scientists deprived of their jobs for applying for emigration to Israel. It was also intended to bring these scientists, who have been isolated from contacts with their colleagues, up to date on the latest developments in their fields. The seminar was planned a year ago and only by chance coincided with Nixon's visit.

RABBI AMRAM BLAU BURIED

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA) -- Rabbi Amram Blau, leader of the Neturei Karta, was buried at the Har Hamenuhot cemetery Friday afternoon. Police estimated that 5,000 mourners followed the bier on foot through the streets of Jerusalem, as is the custom when a famous rabbi dies. Rabbi Blau, who succumbed to a kidney ailment last Thursday at the age of 80, headed the tightly knit group of religious zealots who refused to recognize the State of Israel because they considered it a blasphemous creation against God's word.

So strong was their antipathy toward the "Zionist State" that Rabbi Blau and his followers once asked the "protection" of King Hussein of Jordan. One of the Rabbi's last acts was to petition President Nixon, on his visit to Israel, June 16-17, to make Israel the 51st state. So-called "Zionists" -- persons who participated in Israeli elections -- were barred from the funeral, though several religious MKs were seen in the throng. The funeral procession stopped at every yeshiva along its route for recitation of the kaddish -- except the Gerrer Yeshiva. The Gerrer Hasidim are considered "Zionists" and therefore sinners by the Neturei Karta.

POPE ASKS FOR JERUSALEM GUARANTEES

ROME, July 7 (JTA) -- Pope Paul VI has apparently dropped the Vatican's long-held demand that Jerusalem be internationalized and instead is asking for international guarantees of the rights of Christians and Moslems in the ancient city. The Pope reportedly made his request during a 70-minute meeting he had yesterday with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger at the Vatican in which the Pope was briefed on the American-Soviet summit talks in Moscow and the Middle East situation.

According to Vatican sources, the Pope stressed to Kissinger that Jerusalem represented supreme values for Judaism, Christianity and Islam and that this must be taken into account in the future status of the city. The Pope reportedly indicated that the Vatican is no longer insisting that the city be a separate entity from Israel, Jordan or any Palestinian state that may be created on the West bank but that it was not enough for Israel alone to guarantee that all faiths have access to the holy places.

