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71 SENATORS URGE FORD TO REAFFIRM U.S. COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL; SLAM UN, UNESCO; DISCLOSE THAT THE U.S. IS NOT ASKING ISRAEL TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE PLO

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 (JTA)--Seventy-one Senators urged President Ford today to reaffirm the U.S. commitment to the survival and integrity of Israel and to mobilize the allies of the United States toward returning the United Nations to the principles of its charter. In a letter to the President disclosed at a news conference here, the bi-partisan bloc representing 42 states and almost three-quarters of the Senate, declared that the Senators were "deeply disturbed by the UN vote to give recognition to the Palestine Liberation Organization and by the spectacle of Western cynicism, apathy and disunity."

They also said that the UNESCO decision to withhold assistance to Israel is a "shameful example of the transformation of the international humanitarian organization into a political weapon." The letter said "these recent events dramatized the need for the United States to take the lead in organizing our friends and allies to resist political and economic blackmail in the future."

At the news conference of nine of the Senators, Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R,NY), a leader in the movement for the Senate action, disclosed that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger had told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Dec. 4 that "we have never suggested to Israel that it negotiate with the PLO as long as the PLO has not accepted the legitimacy of the existence of Israel."

Javits disclosed this statement when he was asked what the Administration's position was thus far towards the PLO and the UN's recognition of it. Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D,Minn.) another prime mover of the letter, told the news conference that he and his colleagues were not recommending that the United States withdraw from the UN but that they did not want the UN to go the way of the League of Nations in the 1930s -- "powerless and useless."

Test Of Detente Is In Deeds

Humphrey said that the United States should speak out to its allies and friends that the UN relate to member sovereign states and not to political movements such as the PLO. Humphrey pointed out, as did Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D, Wash.), that the Soviet Union is a key to peace in the Middle East. Humphrey said that the "test of detente is not in words" but in "the reduction and stoppage" of the Soviet flow of arms to the Middle East.

Sen. Abraham A. Ribicoff (D,Conn.) said that the Soviet Union should be notified that it must not make "political hay" with the PLO and make UNESCO the "catpaw" for its activities in the Middle East. Jackson, like Ribicoff, Humphrey and others, praised the U.S. Ambassador to the UN, John Scali, for his warning last Friday to the United Nations against the "tyranny" of the small nations in its voting. But, as Humphrey said, the Senators were calling on Ford and Kissinger to "take a strong stand in the United Nations for maintenance of the principles of its charter."

In attacking the UN's support of the PLO that

advocates terrorism, Sen. Richard Schweiker (R, Pa.) emphasized that "our effort here is to save the United Nations and achieve peace and stability in the Middle East." Sen. Clifford Case (R, NJ) pointed out that the "chief significance" of the request to the President was that "the American people across the board are in favor of a strong American policy and will not be divided."

Case authorized the withdrawal of the annual contribution of \$16 million by the U.S. to UNESCO, which the Senate had adopted along with a reduction from \$195 million to \$175 million in its funding to the UN as a whole.

Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D,Ohio) said that he had just returned from Egypt and Israel and that he found that the people in the Arab world want a peaceful solution to the Mideast conflict but, he said, this can be achieved "only when (PLO chief Yasser) Arafat is brought down to an appropriate size."

According to a Jewish Telegraphic Agency survey, Senators from eight states were not represented among the 71 Senators. These states were: Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Utah and Virginia.

ISRAEL TO CEASE PARTICIPATING IN CULTURAL EVENTS LINKED TO UNESCO

JERUSALEM, Dec. 10 (JTA)--Israel will cease participation in cultural events directly linked to UNESCO, the Israel UNESCO Committee decided here yesterday together with Education Minister Aharon Yadin. The move is in protest against the UNESCO General Conference's anti-Israel resolutions adopted last month.

Although the Committee called on Israeli artists and scientists to boycott UNESCO-sponsored events, it carefully avoided calling for Israel's withdrawal from the many international cultural bodies and events which have less direct links with UNESCO.

The Committee at the same time called on world figures and other national UNESCO committees to join in the struggle to nullify the UNESCO General Conference resolutions. Foreign Ministry sources stressed that Israel was not contemplating withdrawing its membership or subscription from UNESCO.

SAPIR SAYS USSR AGREED TO ANNUAL EMIGRATION OF MORE THAN 35,000 BUT NEVER AGREED TO THE 60,000 FIGURE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 10 (JTA)--Pinhas Sapir, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, said he learned during his recent tour of the United States that Soviet authorities had agreed to an annual Jewish emigration rate exceeding the record 35,000 of 1973 but never agreed to the reported figure of 60,000 or any other specific number. He said his information came from first hand sources in the U.S., including Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R, NY) who was directly involved in negotiations linking U.S.-Soviet trade with liberalized emigration practices.

Sapir, who spoke today to editorial staff members of the Jerusalem Post, said he expected 40,000 olim from the Soviet Union next year if the U.S. Congress passes the Trade Reform Act. He predicted that the majority of the newcomers

would be from Soviet Georgia and Bukhara and the rest from Russia proper. Georgian and Bukharan Jews, generally poorer and less educated than those from European Russia, constitute the majority of emigres from the USSR in recent years.

Sapir said the phenomenon of Jews—including olim—leaving Israel to settle abroad was as old as the Zionist movement and did not start with the recent wave of Jews from the Soviet Union. He said that during Israel's first 22 years, before any large scale emigration from the Soviet Union began, 170,000 Jews left the country to settle abroad, and the current trend does not seem substantially larger.

Sapir also referred to the rising drop-out rate among Jews leaving the USSR who decide, while enroute to Israel, that they prefer to go elsewhere. Jewish sources in Vienna reported yesterday that 1100 out of 1700 Jews permitted to leave the Soviet Union during the month of November decided not to go to Israel after they reached Vienna and applied for visas to other countries.

Sapir warned, however, "If the Soviet Jews don't go to Israel they won't be allowed to leave the Soviet Union eventually." He noted that Soviet Jews have already been barred from Belgium and West Berlin and he thought the U.S. itself might eventually close its doors to them.

Aliya From West Might Increase

Sapir expressed hope that aliya from Western countries in 1975 would exceed the 1974 total of 13,000 now that the housing problem has been eased, partly by government action and partly due to the effects of devaluation of the Israeli Pound. He said that devaluation had the effect of reducing the price of flats by 43 percent and that even when local prices rise, they would level off, in terms of U.S. dollars, to 25 percent below the pre-devaluation price.

Sapir conceded that the Israeli bureaucracy was a deterrent factor in aliya but said that not everything labeled "bureaucracy" was in fact the fault of the bureaucrats. He noted that a Young Israel group from the U.S. which sought to settle in Bet Shemesh was having difficulty finding housing because the apartment prices it listed in its original prospectus were far below the real prices. He said he hoped devaluation coupled with strenuous efforts by official bodies would save the project.

Sapir said his trips abroad in the future would be briefer than his most recent five-week tour of the U.S. and Europe. He also promised that Jewish Agency emissaries would no longer be appointed through political connections.

MRS. MEIR CAUTIONS AGAINST PESSIMISM, DESPENCY REGARDING ISRAEL'S FUTURE By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Dec. 10 (JTA)—Former Premier Golda Meir lectured against pessimism and despondency with regard to Israel's future here yesterday and declared that while Israel "may be isolated in the world, with the solidarity of the entire Jewish people, we feel strong."

Mrs. Meir, who was visiting Canada in connection with the 1975 Israel Bond Campaign, spoke to a select audience of 150 top Bond-purchasers at a luncheon given in her honor by Mrs. Samuel Bronfman yesterday afternoon. Last night she addressed an audience of 3500 at the Chevra Kadisha Synagogue. In three appearances here the former Premier was credited with

raising over \$2 million in Bond sales on top of an already successful fall campaign.

Mrs. Meir sounded the theme of courage, solidarity and tenacity in her speeches. "There may be another war and terrorism will go on but there is hope for peace," she said last night. "As long as we in Israel maintain our spirits, as long as our Jewish friends all over the world refrain from complaining, 'how long can this go on,' we shall overcome. We are all involved in the life and security of our people; in living, growing, building our economy and culture and absorbing our Jewish people in a strong Israel. Standing together we shall prevail."

Parallel Between Hitler and Arafat

She told the luncheon guests yesterday, "Thousands of young Jews in Israel are worried but none of them is despondent about Israel's future." She said, "The first condition for our future is not to be scared. You have heard intelligent people say that I am intransigent, that I have complexes. Yes, I have complexes, the Masada complex, the complex of the thirties when a painter like Hitler asked that the Jewish people be destroyed, and people laughed. But one-third of our people was destroyed."

Mrs. Meir, in both of her speeches, drew a parallel between the Hitler era and Yasir Arafat's reception at the United Nations. "I heard thunderous applause for the butcher of children coming not from Damascus or Beirut but from the General Assembly of the United Nations with Arafat in the international rostrum daring to ask for the destruction of Israel."

The former Premier said that Israel had to be strong "and not budge one inch from one point which might endanger our lives and our security." She said Israel was "prepared to talk and negotiate with our neighbors. We are prepared to compromise on many things. On territory we can compromise even if it hurts; but on life and death there can be no compromise....Even though the day of peace may be long in coming, the Arabs must be ready to give a little, too. They must suggest some form of non-belligerency without the threat of war. They must make a move for reassurance and security; meet with us to negotiate peace."

YOSEF REJECTS GOREN'S VIEW ON PERMISSIBILITY OF THE 'PILL'

JERUSALEM, Dec. 10 (JTA)—Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef took issue today with his Ashkenazic counterpart, Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren, over the permissibility of birth control pills. According to Rabbi Yosef, neither the pill nor any other form of contraception is allowable under Jewish law except in the direst medical circumstances. Rabbi Goren had said over the weekend that the pill could be taken, but only by mothers who have fulfilled their religious obligations by giving birth to at least one boy and one girl.

Rabbi Yosef contended that Goren's statement was "damaging" in that it could "weaken the faith" of women who accept it. He said that in his opinion the pill could be taken only by women whose lives would be endangered by pregnancy or who would suffer extreme pain. He insisted that the economic situation of the family was not an allowable factor. "He who gives life will also provide nourishment," said Rabbi Yosef.

ISRAEL OPPOSES MOVE IN UN TO POSTPONE UNTIL 1975 DEBATE ON TERRORISM By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 10 (JTA)—Israel expressed strong opposition last night to the Legal

Committee's recommendation that the General Assembly postpone debate on international terrorism until next year. But the United States, in a reversal of its previous position, supported postponement. The Israeli representative, Ambassador Shabtai Rosenne, said his government "strenuously opposed" adjournment of the debate on terrorism, especially in view of ongoing terrorist acts. The U.S. representative maintained, however, that circumstances did not permit a useful discussion of the item at this time.

A spokesman for the American delegation said today that the U.S. stand on terrorism was well known but the U.S. nevertheless supported the recommended postponement because debate at this time would be "a useless exercise." That stand was at variance with the one taken a year ago when the U.S. opposed a similar recommendation by the Legal Committee which resulted in deferring the debate until this year's General Assembly session.

The agenda item titled, "Measures to Prevent International Terrorism Which Endangers or Takes Innocent Human Lives" had been scheduled for debate during the 1973 fall session of the General Assembly. Debate actually began in the Legal Committee which is comprised of the same membership as the General Assembly, but the item never reached the Assembly floor.

PLO Warns Of Continued Violence

Last night's recommendation, apparently adopted by consensus as no vote was recorded, is almost certain to be adopted by the General Assembly which means that the debate on terrorism will not come up until its 30th session in the fall of 1975. Rosenne noted that while the Legal Committee devoted considerable time to a discussion of parking problems in New York, terrorist acts were occurring frequently and captured terrorists were being handed over to other terrorist gangs for "discipline."

He was referring to airplane hijackers in Tunis who murdered one of their hostages and were released to the Palestine Liberation Organization. Uruguay supported Israel's opposition to postponement and Bolivia expressed "regrets" but no other statements were made against deferring the item. The Legal Committee was addressed yesterday by a PLO delegate who accused Israel of terrorism and said the PLO would continue to respond by "armed resistance."

ALLON'S TALKS WITH U.S. LEADERS INDICATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARABS ARE BOTH FLUID AND UNCERTAIN

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 (JTA)--Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon continued his conversations with American political leaders today after he, President Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger all indicated that the negotiating process is both fluid and uncertain both on bilateral discussions with Egypt or with all of Israel's neighbors in conurbation.

Allon was to meet with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this afternoon and afterwards confer with Treasury Secretary William Simon. Tonight Allon will be Simon's guest at dinner. The discussions with the Treasury chief are expected to center on Israel's financial circumstances.

"It is too premature to decide how, when and what," Allon said yesterday about the negotiating situation after seven hours of talks with Ford and Kissinger. "In a reasonable time we will

know more," he said. Allon emphasized the uncertainty of the future course by pointing out that he had been making "preliminary inquiries" towards achieving "better progress" in the Middle East and that consequently it is "too early to sum up the chances."

Kissinger, standing at Allon's side as he made these remarks, said that he and Allon had exchanged ideas and the "whole range of bilateral relationships." From the U.S. point of view, Kissinger told newsmen in a joint news conference, the talks were "very constructive and very positive." But the Secretary gave no inkling of what further movement may take place in the negotiating sphere.

Kissinger Expresses Optimism

After he had escorted Allon to his car outside the State Department last evening, Kissinger was asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency whether he was still optimistic for early resumption of negotiations. "Yes, I am optimistic," the Secretary replied.

Allon said that the discussions with Kissinger were in the "most friendly way as usual," and that his 75-minute meeting with the President "helped clarify the situation." He did not go into details. It was speculated that he was thinking of the President's "Jordan or PLO" remark in discussing Middle East negotiations a month ago. None of the principals to the Allon discussions have publicly mentioned the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The U.S. is now expected to report the substance of the Allon meeting to the Egyptian government, but Kissinger is not planning to return to the Middle East in the near future--certainly not before Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev's visits to Egypt, Syria, and Iraq in mid-January. However, Allon is scheduled to return to Washington Jan. 10 to resume discussions with Kissinger. This was seen as allowing some time for discussions in Jerusalem, Cairo and Washington in the "quiet diplomacy" period sought by Washington, and a leveling of some common ground among them before Brezhnev sees Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Cairo.

CHINESE BAR ISRAELI REPORTER

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 (JTA)--The National Gallery of Art today cancelled a press preview of an archaeological exhibit sponsored by the People's Republic of China because the Chinese authorities here refused to allow newsmen from Israel, Taiwan, South Korea and South Africa to attend.

Katherine Warwick, the Gallery press representative, said the preview scheduled for this afternoon was called off "because the Liaison Office of the People's Republic of China would not agree to the preview unless assurances" could be given that "certain foreign press representatives would not be admitted." The Gallery, she said, was "unable to give those assurances because to do so would have been contrary to its policy for such occasions."

State Department spokesman Paul Hare told reporters that the Department and the Gallery had "consulted" on the preview before it was cancelled and that the Department agreed with the Gallery's position that it would not abide by the Chinese request. He said, however, that the "primary brunt" of the discussion was between the Gallery and the Chinese authorities. Asked by reporters if similar conditions were imposed by the Chinese authorities on exhibits elsewhere, Hare said he would look into the matter.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW**2 FORMER SOVIET JEWS TOURING U.S.
IN EFFORT TO HELP JEWISH POCs**

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Dec. 10 (JTA)--Bronya Veinger Chernoglaz's five-year-old daughter Naomi cries frequently at their home on Kibbutz Saad in Israel's Negev. She weeps because she wants her father who she does not know except through his photograph. Her father, David Chernoglaz, a 35-year-old agronomist, has been serving a five-year term on strict regime in the Soviet Union since he was found guilty in the June 1971 Kishinev trial.

Mrs. Chernoglaz and Aharon (Arkady) Shpilberg, a 36-year-old mechanical engineer who is now living in Israel after serving a three-year sentence in the Potma labor camp, are now in the United States for a month to seek help for Chernoglaz and other Jewish "Prisoners of Conscience." Their nationwide trip is sponsored by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and their activities in New York are coordinated by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry.

During an interview in the office of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, both Shpilberg and Mrs. Chernoglaz, speaking Hebrew, expressed grave concern about the fate of the prisoners because they said that the treatment of the POCs has become worse. They blamed this on an increase in anti-Semitism among the Russian people as well as Soviet authorities.

They hope during their American visit to speak to President Ford, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and Sen. Henry M. Jackson as well as other American leaders and American Jews to urge that the compromise in which Soviet emigration restrictions will be eased in return for U.S. trade benefits and credits will include the freedom of the Jewish prisoners.

Mrs. Chernoglaz said she was "very afraid" for her husband because since last July he has been in the extremely harsh Vladimir Prison, an institution usually reserved for murderers. Two other Jewish prisoners have been sent to this prison, Yuri Vudka and Yakov Suslensky. Shpilberg said it is believed that some other Jews may be sent to the prison soon.

Families Are Broken Up

Mrs. Chernoglaz and her daughter were allowed to emigrate to Israel shortly after Chernoglaz was sentenced. Shpilberg noted that this is true of many of the prisoners' families. His wife Margarita and their daughters, Ruth, now 7 and Yoheved, 4, were allowed to leave several months before his term was up. He noted that the prisoners want their families to leave even though they will be far away because they want them to achieve the dream of living in Israel.

However, there is no direct contact once the family leaves since the prisoner is not allowed to write to anyone outside the USSR. Mrs. Chernoglaz can only hear from her husband indirectly through his parents in Leningrad. The two emigrants noted that Jewish prisoners in the labor camps are treated worse than non-Jews. They are frequently called "Zhids" and other names by the guards and are denied their lawful rights such as receiving letters or visitors.

In Same Cells With Nazis

Shpilberg said what was especially galling for the Jews was that they were placed in the same cells with Nazis--Russians, Belorussians and Ukrainians--who had supported Nazi Germany

in World War II. He said the Nazis are used to spy on the Jewish prisoners and frequently provoke incidents for which the Jewish prisoner is punished. Having Nazis as cellmates also serves to keep the Jews isolated since they want nothing to do with people who are "covered with the blood of Jews," Shpilberg said. He noted that these are the people who helped murder the civilian population in World War II.

Shpilberg and his family now live in the absorption center at Nahariya where he works as a mechanical engineer. Both the Shpilberg family and the Chernoglaz family had struggled long to emigrate to Israel and both Shpilberg and Chernoglaz were arrested for their Zionist activities, the JTA was told. "We feel we are home," Shpilberg said. "We have problems and Israel has problems, but they are our problems." Mrs. Chernoglaz added: "We don't have to worry that our children will be called Zhids."

SAPIR REPORTS ON FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 10 (JTA)--Pinhas Sapir reported to the World Zionist Organization Executive yesterday that financial difficulties in the United States were making it increasingly difficult to collect United Jewish Appeal pledges and that the Jewish Agency was considering ways to cut next year's budget because of shrinking UJA receipts. Sapir, who is chairman of the WZO and Jewish Agency Executives, reported on his recent five-week tour of 32 American cities and several European countries.

He said a special committee was preparing a convention of American Jews to discuss ways to expand American Jewish activities on Israel's behalf from fund-raising to aliya. Mordechai Bar-On, head of the Jewish Agency's youth department, reported that a massive information drive was underway at 400 American universities to encourage aliya to Israel.

The immigration and absorption department reported that a volunteer organization in Chicago would soon begin an aliya campaign among "blue collar" Jews in that city with the aim of organizing them into aliya groups to settle in new development towns in Israel.

THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING, MAYBE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 10 (JTA)--Israel and the Soviet Union may resume relations on Feb. 13, 1975 --not in the diplomatic arena but on the basketball court. The match was determined by a lottery conducted by the European Basketball Federation (FIBA) in Munich last night to select contestants in the quarter finals of the European championship tournament next year. The leading Soviet team, the Red Army CSK, drew Israel's championship Maccabi team as their opponents.

Whether the match will take place remained a moot question today. No Soviet representative was present at the drawing and the matching of the USSR with Israel was more by default than by chance. The Austrian delegate requested that his country's team not be grouped with Israel because "Austria has enough troubles with the Arabs and the security arrangements with the Israelis are very complicated and costly."

Bulgaria and Hungary refused to be matched against Israel, leaving only the Soviet Union. It was noted in sports circles that the Russians, at previous meetings, had never excluded the possibility of playing against an Israeli team. If neither side raised objections, a Russian team will come to Tel Aviv next Feb. 13 and an Israeli team will go to Moscow on Feb. 20.