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SENATORS EXAMINING ISRAEL'S NEEDS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Two U.S. Senators, here to examine Israel's needs in light of its request for \$2.5 billion in U.S. economic aid, bombarded Jewish Agency chairman Pinhas Sapir with questions during a visit Friday to the new immigrant absorption center in the Katamon quarter of Jerusalem. The chief interrogator was Sen. Daniel Inouye (D, Hawaii), chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Aid. He was accompanied by Sen. Charles Mathias (R, Md.), a member of the subcommittee.

"How many immigrants do you expect during this year and what is your estimation as to the possible number of immigrants from Russia? How much does it cost to absorb them, to provide them with housing, education and health services?" Those were some of the questions Inouye fired at the chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives who was formerly Israel's Minister of Finance.

Sapir and his chief aides from the Agency's immigration and absorption department did not have ready answers for all of the questions. But Sapir promised to provide the two legislators with detailed information during their stay here.

The Senators arrived in Israel last Thursday and had long discussions with Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz. But so far they have withheld comments of their own. They told reporters that they might have something to say before they leave Israel.

Meanwhile, the Israelis demonstrated how they were saving money for American taxpayers by rehabilitating and making use of Soviet military equipment captured during the Yom Kippur War. The Senators visited an army camp where they viewed some of the booty and later visited army workshops where Russian tanks and other captured weapons were being modified for use by Israeli forces. The Senators also visited an Air Force base where they watched American Phantom jets and Skyhawks in action.

ALLON: TIME NOT RIPE FOR SPECIFIC IDEAS ON NEW TALKS WITH EGYPT

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yigal Allon told the Cabinet today that the time was not ripe for Israel to come up with specific ideas on the next stage of negotiations with Egypt. Briefing the Ministers on his recent talks in Washington with President Ford, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and other top U.S. officials, Allon said, according to reports of today's Cabinet session, that he did not find it necessary while in Washington to discuss in detail the "territorial aspects" of a second round of talks with the Egyptians. Several Ministers who suggested that the Cabinet discuss those issues now and try to reach a decision were over-ruled by Premier Yitzhak Rabin.

RUSSIANS TRAINING TERRORISTS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- A military tri-

bunal, which sentenced an Arab engineer from Nablus to eight years imprisonment for being a member of the Jordanian Communist Party's military arm, was shocked to learn that the Soviet Union is aiding terrorists by maintaining a training base for persons from a number of West Bank towns, including Judea and Samaria, who visit the USSR.

Mouhammed Yassin, the engineer, related to the tribunal that he went to Moscow to study philosophy but found himself in a Russian training base where he was taught to treat wounded, use Kalachnikoff rifles, and assemble and dismantle bombs, and also how to prevent the dispersion of demonstrations by police. It was learned that the terrorists arrive in the Soviet Union without having their passports checked or stamped and stay in the USSR with Russian identity cards bearing false names.

In issuing the sentence the court stated: "We are faced with the beginning of the organization of a new illegal group, the Palestine Popular Front, which has its axis in Nablus-Amman-Damascus-Moscow." The court noted that Yassin expressed no regret for his actions and, therefore, no leniency could be extended.

SAPIR CALLS FOR INCREASED EFFORTS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOVIET JEWRY

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Pinhas Sapir, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, said today that "we must increase our efforts and unify our power in the struggle for Soviet Jewry." Sapir issued this urgent statement at the opening of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors meeting here.

He said that 100,000 Jews have come to Israel from the Soviet Union since 1971 and that the number of emigrants from the USSR each month should not be measured according to the narrow view of how many do or do not emigrate in any given month. Sapir also noted that the number of drop-outs -- Soviet Jews who leave the USSR but who do not go to Israel -- is a very serious and grave problem and can adversely affect the idea of aliyah.

Max Fisher of Detroit, chairman of the Board of Governors, said that after his discussions in the last few weeks in Washington he was convinced that friends of Israel in the Administration and the Congress want Jews to continue with their activities to save Soviet Jewry. The session today dealt with Jewish Agency activities in the last few months. The session tomorrow will focus on budgetary problems.

ISRAEL CONTINUING EXTENSIVE FORTIFICATIONS IN SINAI

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Despite the political and diplomatic commotion over Israel's future status in Sinai, in the context of second stage negotiations with Egypt, Israeli engineers are continuing extensive efforts of fortifying Israel's present line in Sinai established by the disengagement agreement.

From all indications, Israel may spend some \$100 million in fortifying the Sinai line in addition to the \$3-400 million already spent in fortification, roads and other types of work. The

intensity of the work indicates that there is no impending withdrawal by Israel from its Sinai position. "We have absolutely no feeling of sitting on valises," is the way one senior officer put it.

But the Israelis are not the only ones engaged in building up fortifications. The disengagement agreement, which does not have any provisions dealing with fortifications, is also enabling the Egyptians to carry out extensive works, including new road networks and fortified positions along the hilly ridge a few kilometers east of the Suez Canal. But the most important work being done by the Egyptians is the preparation of sites for a large army and for missile launchers.

Egyptians Prepare For Army Movements

Although missiles are not permitted into the thinned-out area and east of the Suez, the Egyptians are nevertheless preparing sites and a central control station for anti-aircraft missiles within the area under their control east of the Suez.

In fact, the Egyptians discovered a loophole in the disengagement agreement and are taking full advantage of it. The agreement did not deal with armored troop carriers and thus the Egyptians feel free to bring into areas east of Sinai a large number of such vehicles, some of which are equipped with the Sagar anti-tank missiles. The Egyptians are also training their forces to cross the Suez in the least possible time.

A number of Egyptian infantry divisions recently crossed the Suez into the thinned-out zone, in violation of the agreement, but withdrew them after the exercise. It is estimated that the Egyptians can have the bulk of their army in the Sinai within six to twelve hours. They have several pontoon bridges as well as approaches to the Suez Canal that will ease the crossing.

Meanwhile Defense Minister Shimon Peres reported to the Cabinet today, according to government sources, that the Egyptian build-up in Sinai was not an infringement of the disengagement accord because the build-up was beyond the limited forces zone laid down in the accord. At the same time he reported that tension has declined on the Lebanese border but expressed concern that terrorists are trying to take over the southern Lebanese village of Shuba in the area known as Fatahland on Israel's border.

LZA URGES OIL IMPORTS BAN

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Support for the call by leaders of the AFL-CIO for a ban on oil imports from the Arab nations that took part in the 1973-1974 embargo came today from the president of the Labor Zionist Alliance, Dr. Judah J. Shapiro. In backing the general board of the AFL - CIO, Dr. Shapiro told his organization's National Executive Committee meeting that "unless America displays its readiness to resist the pressures of the oil producers, similar pressures are bound to come on other strategic supplies."

Continuing, Dr. Shapiro told the 100 LZA leaders from throughout the U.S. and Canada attending the NEC meeting: "In the present economic difficulties in this country, it would be well to place the highest priority on the well-being of the majority of Americans, rather than to assure protection of the large companies, whether in oil or other industrial areas. We

endorse the stand of George Meany, that the country should not pay 'one cent for tribute' and keep Arab oil out of this country."

Commenting on the recent Soviet action of breaking the trade agreement with the U.S., Dr. Shapiro said: "An impression has been created that American-Soviet detente relates mainly to Jewish issues such as Israel and Soviet Jewry. The fact is that the disagreements between Washington and Moscow relate to issues in many parts of the world. For example, the rivalry in the Persian Gulf, in the Indian Ocean and in Europe are far more crucial to the American-Soviet relationship. It is an error of judgment to allow Jewish concerns to be placed in the forefront of the present contention between the two superpowers."

Dr. Shapiro also pointed out that "in the new acceptance of responsibility by the Congress for a role in shaping foreign policy, it requires Jewish interpretation of major Jewish concerns to members of the Congress. Congressmen and Senators must be given information about Jewish concerns on the local level in order that they may be aware of these issues in Congressional action. This shifts a recent tendency of centralizing Jewish expression in relation to the President of the U.S. and the Secretary of State to a revitalized Congress which is claiming a greater responsibility of American foreign policy."

RUMOR DENIES RUMORS

ROME, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Mariano Rumor has denied local press reports that the United States had concentrated specially trained troops at Italian bases in readiness for possible American military intervention in the Middle East. Addressing the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Rumor said the press reports were speculation devoid of any foundation.

Referring to U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's recent remark about the possible use of force in the gravest emergency, the Italian Foreign Minister excluded any possibility "however remote or theoretical" of a confrontation between Europe and the oil producing countries. He stated that the bases used by Italy's NATO allies here remained under Italian control and could be used only for NATO purposes. The Mideast, Rumor stressed, was outside the scope of NATO.

JACKSON REAFFIRMS JUSTIFICATION FOR LINKING U.S.-SOVIET TRADE WITH RUSSIAN EMIGRATION PRACTICES By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D. Wash.) strongly reaffirmed yesterday justification for the trade law linking U.S. trade benefits with Soviet emigration practices and said he looked to the Congress and the Administration to keep their commitments concerning the linkage. "I do not believe that the Congress will respond to the disappointing Soviet move by abandoning its commitment to help bring about the freer movement of people and ideas between east and west, and I expect the President and the Secretary of State to stand by their own commitments embodied in the October 18 compromise," Jackson said.

In supporting the amendment that he and Rep. Charles A. Vanik (D., Ohio) had co-sponsored, "The Congress upheld the traditional American commitment to individual liberty," Jackson said. "In negotiating the compromise

of October 18 and incorporating its provisions with the original Jackson-Vanik language into the trade act, the Congress acted both in the hope that our good faith would be regarded with good faith on the Soviet side, and with the prudence of providing legislative safeguards which deny the affected economic benefits to the Soviet Union in the event of bad faith.

Jackson indicated that the \$300 million ceiling on loans to the Soviet Union can, under existing law, be increased with Congressional approval but he cautioned that "Congress should not abdicate its responsibility to oversee the disposition of U.S. credits, particularly to the country whose policies require us to spend billions of dollars for defense."

Will Support Expanded Trade

"Our determination in these matters," he added, "is all the more justified by President Ford's January 21 statement that the Administration intends to 'work with the Congress to eliminate any of the problems in the trade bill that might have precipitated the action by the Soviet Union.' This unfortunate reaction suggests that we should regard an egregious Soviet breach of good faith with increased largesse and a weakening of our insistence that they move toward freer emigration."

Jackson said he was issuing the statement "to set the record straight" because Secretary Henry Kissinger's January 14 announcement that the Soviet Union had decided not to bring into force the 1972 trade agreement "had given rise to confusion, speculation, and misunderstanding."

His own position, Jackson said, is that "genuine detente requires freer movement of peoples and ideas and not just of machinery and wheat. I continue to believe that the economic power of the United States should be pressed into the service of human rights, and I continue to believe that the courageous men and women fighting for their freedom in the Soviet Union are worthy of our support. I will not abandon their cause, whether under pressure from the cold-hearted in Moscow or the faint-hearted in Washington."

Jackson said he would continue to support expanded trade with the Soviet Union despite its rejection of the trade agreement and foresaw that ordinary commercial trade might well continue to grow. "But the fact is that to the Soviets the 1972 trade agreement was designed to bring not so much of our trade, as our aid -- in the form of a huge infusion of American capital at subsidized interest rates," he said.

Detailing the history of the trade law since the Jackson-Kissinger exchange of letters Oct. 18, the Washington Democrat said that "rather than saying plainly that the Soviets have reneged, the Administration sought to blame the Congress -- and then to exploit the Soviet action to inhibit the Congress from playing its constitutional role in establishing tariff and regulating credits."

ZOA LEADER SAYS U.S. MUST STOP PRESSURING ISRAEL TO RETREAT

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- The head of the Zionist Organization of America today told ZOA leaders that "notwithstanding official assurances that the U.S. is not exerting pressure on Israel to make further retreats in the Sinai in favor of Egypt and in the Golan Heights in favor of Syria, all reports emanating from the State Department by reliable American and In-

rael correspondents point to a concentrated effort by the Administration to 'persuade' Israel to make further territorial retreats on the Golan Heights and to evacuate the Mitla and Gidi passes and the oil fields in the Sinai."

Dr. Joseph P. Sternstein, ZOA president, said that "such retreat would seriously weaken Israel's defensive positions and open the country to attacks by her Arab enemies, greatly endangering the existence of the Jewish state."

Addressing an area-wide Public Affairs Conference of the ZOA, Dr. Sternstein said "the policy of the Administration pressuring Israel to retreat from indispensable defensive positions in the Sinai endangers not only the Jewish state but also American global interests. The Administration's policy in the Middle East has reached a dangerous point which must not be treated with silence." More than 100 ZOA leaders participated in the conference.

SCREENING PROGRAM FOR ALIYA APPLICANTS

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- The Federation Guidance and Employment Service described today a new program for screening applicants for aliya to help determine their suitability for the rigors of life in a different environmental and cultural milieu. Dr. Walter Duckat, guidance director of the FECS, an agency of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, said, "testing for motivation, emotional capacity and ability to withstand the vexations and hardships which may be encountered in Israel involves a complex amalgam of standard procedures and innovative analysis."

The program was initiated by the FECS in cooperation with the Settlement Department of the Jewish Agency and the Jewish Occupational Council. Dr. Duckat said that "careful observation of applicants' reactions to the testing and interviews by staff members knowledgeable of the conditions in Israel" was an important part of the screening process.

The first project involved screening of some 20 families in the New York City area who planned to join an Israeli cooperative. They included engineers, architects, teachers, business executives and other urban-based Jews hoping to find in Israel an ecologically wholesome environment in which to raise their children, FECS officials said. The officials said those who passed the intricate screening tests are now resettled in Israel and their enterprise, a year-round greenhouse to cultivate tomatoes for export, is well underway.

The officials reported an upcoming project for a group of Sabbath observing young American families who want to set up a religious cooperative. Comprised mainly of educators, scientists and psychologists, they want to provide in Israel computerized photo-typesetting, psychological counseling, educational consulting for computer software, manufacture of toys and games, a health spa, needlecraft materials manufacturing and social work services.

Most of the first 40 families are going on aliya in the coming summer and will live in an Absorption Center until their homes are completed, the FECS said.

PARIS (JTA) -- The Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly has voted to encourage maintaining the death penalty in its 18-member states in cases of politically inspired terrorism. The Commission on Judicial Affairs rejected by a majority vote a proposal to abolish the death penalty in member nations.

AMERICAN ORT APPROVES 1978 BUDGET OF ALMOST \$39 MILLION

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- A budget of \$38,956,000 for 1978, the largest in ORT's history, was approved today by the American ORT Federation at the conclusion of its three-day 53rd annual National Conference meeting at the Hotel Americana. To meet the rising needs for the ORT services, and the inflationary spiral throughout the world, the conference found it necessary to raise ORT expenditures by over \$3,956,000 as compared with last year's expenditures of almost \$35,000,000.

Dr. William Haber, outgoing president, noted that about 60 percent of the budget, over \$22,000,000 was earmarked for Israel ORT programs. There are 84 schools with over 46,000 students and a teaching staff of 2,800 in the ORT network, largest of its kind in the country. In all, over 72,000 youth and adults in 24 countries are expected to attend over 800 ORT job training, vocational education and refugee programs this year.

President Ford, in a letter to Dr. Haber, praised ORT "for its vital contribution to the rehabilitation of refugees and displaced persons in many countries throughout the world. Time has not diminished the necessity for your important work," the President said, "nor has it dulled the vigor with which you approach the challenge of lifting people from poverty and deprivation."

12% Increase in ORT Activities

Max A. Braude, of Geneva, Director of ORT Overseas Operations, predicted an expansion of ORT activities in 1978 of about 12 percent. "The largest part of this increase," he told the 600 delegates "consists of additional students in Israel, 1,000 of them in the enlarged network of ORT technical colleges." Most of the 500,000 Jews who used to live in North Africa have left, largely for resettlement in Israel and France, Braude noted. ORT has closed its programs in Algeria and Tunisia, but continues a limited program in Morocco, where it still serves 1,300 out of a total Jewish population of 20,000. Substantial ORT programs are in operation in Iran and India.

Braude reported that about 300,000 North African Jews, who have settled in France in the past decade, are in the main untrained in modern skills. He said they present a real challenge to ORT to make them economically self-sufficient. ORT will spend some \$10 million in France this year, whose schools had enrollment last year of about 6,000 persons. About \$1 million will be spent in South America, about half of that in Argentina, and the balance in Brazil, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Braude reported that of the almost 46,000 being trained vocationally in Israel, 31,678 are youth between 13 and 19 years of age in full time ORT high schools. Almost 8,500 are adults many enrolled in the eight ORT technical colleges. About 5,830 youth are engaged in work-study apprenticeship programs. He announced plans to open three new technical junior colleges in Israel, and the completion during 1978 of Phase One of the vast complex of the ORT school of Engineering now being built on the Hebrew University campus in Jerusalem.

Additional school buildings are also being constructed in Lyons, France, as well as in Teheran, which is the center of an ORT program serving the youth of this Jewish community of some 80,000. Braude also pointed out the recent growth of the ORT operation in Rome,

where Russian emigres not going to Israel, spend an average of from six to eight weeks before plans are made for their final settlement. Almost 3,700 Russian Jews spent preparatory periods of study in the Rome ORT way station last year. Generally, the Rome school has an enrollment of about 400, he said.

In a dollars and cents evaluation of what ORT means to its trainees, Braude estimated that the almost 20,000 who graduated ORT institutions last June as skilled technicians will earn about \$40,000,000 in their first year of work, with a rapid progression of earnings that are available for trained personnel.

Report On ORT Training Centers

Edward Schneider of Brooklyn, New York, chairman of the ORT Technical Assistance Program, who was elected assistant treasurer, reported on its non-sectarian undertakings in behalf of the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) and other governments including Switzerland, Denmark and Canada. In Chile, a training center has been set up under ORT supervision to train refrigeration and food preservation technicians. In Colombia, there is a special six-year project to train precision mechanics through a government apprenticeship training program.

The Canadians are supporting a training center on the Ivory Coast for training of maintenance personnel for heavy road and agricultural equipment workers. In Nigeria, there are pilot programs for training technicians in housing. The World Bank supports a training program for the 3,6000 personnel of the Iranian Ports and Shipping Organization. In Niger, ORT specialists conduct training programs to upgrade nurses, midwives and para-medical personnel which the U.S. finances through AID.

"This utilization of ORT techniques, and technicians," said Schneider, "is a testimonial to the extent that various governmental authorities show their approbation of services developed over the years by ORT." The American ORT Federation, which now has 130,000 members, was founded in 1922. It receives its funds from membership activities and from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, a beneficiary of the joint campaigns of the Federation and Welfare Funds throughout the country and the United Jewish Appeal.

DINITZ OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ISRAEL'S FUTURE

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Predicting that our great-great grandchildren will be to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the State of Israel in the year 2473, Simcha Dinitz, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, was optimistic about the political future of Israel when he said that "there is no reason for despair, no reason for agony, no reason to walk with our heads down as though we were facing imminent political catastrophe."

Dinitz, speaking at the 53rd annual conference of the American ORT Federation, admitted that "we are facing difficult times, but to use Dr. Martin King's classic phrase, 'we will overcome' our current problems. There will always be a State of Israel," he declared, "and never again will Jews be led to slaughter as was the case during the Nazi Holocaust."

The doors of Israel will always be open to the Jews of the world, Dinitz continued. "And it is the responsibility of the Jews of the world to provide the sustenance to make it possible to keep these doors open."