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SOVIET AIRLINER OVER ISRAELI AIR SPACE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 17 (JTA)--Strict adherence to orders by Israel Air Force pilots avoided what could have been a tragic confrontation with the Soviet Union when a Russian tri-motor Tupolev jet airliner violated Israeli air space over Sinai early last night.

The pilot of the Soviet civilian aircraft ignored signals from Israeli jet interceptors and refused to make radio contact with the Israeli planes. But the Israeli pilots, under strict orders to exercise restraint, fired no shots and permitted the Russian plane to return to Egyptian territory where it landed at Cairo airport.

It was learned later that a passenger aboard the Aeroflot jet was the Soviet Ambassador to Egypt, Vladimir Poliakov. An Egyptian news agency report said he was on his way to Moscow for consultations. According to the Egyptians, the Moscow-bound airliner lost radio contact with the Cairo control tower shortly after take-off and its pilot inadvertently flew eastward over Sinai to avoid a storm. That account coincided in general with the account of the Israeli jet pilots who soared into the skies minutes after the unidentified aircraft was spotted on radar screens.

Russians Refused To Comply

The Russian plane entered Israeli air space at about 8 p.m. local time. According to the Israeli pilots, it was flying at an altitude usually reserved for civilian aircraft, came from the direction of the Great Bitter Lake, and reached a position about 15 kilometers northwest of Refidim the site of an Israeli airfield. The Israeli interceptors canted their wings, an international signal to land, but the Russian pilot made no attempt to comply and did not respond to wireless calls on the international band; to identify himself. Instead, the Russian plane changed course to the west and then north in the direction of Port Said and Cairo.

The Israeli pilots said the intruder's lights were visible but at one point it appeared that the Russian pilot extinguished his lights. It turned out, however, that the Tupolev had entered a cloud bank. Altogether, the Russian plane was in Israeli air space for ten minutes.

Israeli pilots are under orders not to fire on unidentified aircraft unless their actions are clearly hostile. The orders are intended to avoid a repetition of the Feb. 21, 1973 tragedy when a Libyan civilian airliner strayed into Israeli air space over Sinai and was shot down by Israeli jets after the pilot ignored repeated visual and radio signals to identify himself and land.

ISRAELIS PLEASED WITH FORD'S MESSAGE

JERUSALEM, April 17 (JTA)--Israeli officials appeared pleased today with the contents of President Ford's message to President Ephraim Katzir on the occasion of Israel's Independence Day yesterday. In addition to extending "warm greetings and best wishes for the peace and prosperity of Israel," Ford's message assured Israel of the "continuing United States commitment to do our part to help promote a lasting peace in the Middle East."

The officials noted that this sentence went beyond the usual formal nature of greetings of this kind and seemed to hold out the hope of renewed American efforts to bring about a second-stage Israeli-Egyptian agreement. President Ford also stated in his message that "There will be challenges ahead and I am sure your people will meet them with the same spirit as before." Independence Day greetings were also received from Queen Elizabeth II of Britain and many other heads of state.

DUTCH-ISRAEL THIRD WORLD COOPERATION UP FOUR-FOLD

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 17 (JTA)--Holland will contribute \$2.5 million during 1975 towards joint Dutch-Israeli cooperation aid projects in Third World countries. The sum represents a four-fold increase over Holland's contribution last year and Israeli officials are hopeful that more money will be available from Holland if the projects already initiated prove successful.

The new \$2.5 million agreement was signed this morning at the King David Hotel by Jan Pronk, Dutch Minister for overseas cooperation, and Moshe Allon, assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry. Pronk left today after a four-day visit. The countries where Dutch-financed Israeli experts will operate under this agreement include Peru, Colombia, Thailand and Nepal.

Pronk told newsmen the project would mainly be in the fields of agronomics and irrigation at which, he said, Israel had shown its high technical standards. Part of the Dutch funding will also provide for scholarships for Third World graduates to study at Israeli schools and institutes, and for Israeli research work in agronomics and related fields.

Pronk, a 36-year-old Socialist minister, will shortly have to decide whether to channel Dutch government funds into the making of a movie on the Palestinians. He told newsmen here yesterday that his final decision would certainly take into account the fact that the vast majority of Dutch parliamentarians oppose the project. On the other hand, a national advisory council had recommended that he set aside the initial 3000 Guilders required for the script, and he would take account of that positive recommendation, too, in weighing his decision.

SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL IN CONGRESS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 17 (JTA)--President Ford was criticized in the Senate today for failing to acknowledge "secure, recognized and defensible" borders for the State of Israel in his State of the World address last week. In the House, the President was urged to "make it clear" that Israel will be effectively supported to defend herself.

Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R.Pa.) declared "the President's comments on the Middle East situation didn't go far enough. We all want peace in the Middle East, but I was disturbed by the President's failure to reaffirm this nation's strong support for the Israeli State." Schweiker added: "As a member of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I'm going to make certain

there is no "hit" toward the Arabs and the Administration would do well to follow suit."

Schweiker also said he will oppose attempts to grant most favored nation trade treatment to the Soviet Union until the USSR lifts its emigration restrictions. "The President said detente is a two way street," Schweiker said. "Well, if it is, the Soviets will have to make some concessions before they enjoy the benefits of free trade with the United States. And a number one concession as far as I'm concerned is the right of Soviet Jews to return to their homeland."

No Equivocation About Attitude

In the House, Rep. Claude Pepper (D, Fla.) said "the United States must make it clear to the Arabs, the Russians and everybody that we will see to it that Israel is at all time effectively able to defend herself against any attack from her neighbors. Let there be no equivocation about our attitude and our determination to do that."

Continuing, Pepper said: "If we will do that and continue to cooperate in a Geneva-type conference, I think in time this long conflict will be brought to an end and a new Israel can feel confident, as Prime Minister Rabin said it was determined to do, to live on that old land for another two thousand years."

Pepper, who recently had a long interview with Rabin in Israel while there with a Congressional committee, said "I strongly entertain that Israel was right in not giving up the critical Sinai passes and oil fields in return for the vague generalizations offered by the Egyptians."

He also said that Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, who meets in Washington next Monday with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, emphasized that in the absence of nuclear weapons, defensible positions were never more essential in war than they are today, particularly in the Middle East.

"It is obvious," Pepper told the House, "that Israel must be able to maintain defensible lines as long as there is a possibility of war and that she can only safely retreat from those lines when there has been an effective, binding, dependable, overall settlement of the dispute and a firm acceptance on the part of the Arab states of the right of Israel to exist as a free, independent and viable state with fairly defensible boundaries."

ALLON URGES U.S. JEWISH COMMUNITY TO HELP ISRAEL IN THE INGATHERING OF JEWS FROM OPPRESSED LANDS

LOS ANGELES, April 17 (JTA)--Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon addressed 350 Jewish leaders from 40 communities in 18 Western states here last night, urging them and the communities they represent to help Israel "live up to our historic undertaking--the ingathering of Jewish people from oppressed lands and the responsibility to make Israel a united society based on ethics and morality."

Los Angeles was the third stop in Allon's five-city tour on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal's \$100 million cash mobilization campaign and its 1975 general campaign. The Israeli diplomat is accompanied on his tour by Moshe Rivlin, director general of the Jewish Agency, Frank R. Lautenberg, general chairman of the UJA, and a contingent of UJA national chairmen. The group flew to Chicago today where Allon will address 300-400 Jewish leaders of that city and surrounding communities.

"Israel's survival is not in question," Allon declared. "We shall survive spiritually and physically. When we come to the American Jewish

community it is to help us live up to our historic undertaking--the ingathering of Jewish people from oppressed lands and the responsibility of making Israel a united society based on ethics and morality," he said.

Rivlin noted that the beginning of another year of independence must be a time for soul-searching by Jews everywhere. He described the Jewish Agency budget as "a budget of desperation" and called for an accelerated cash flow from the UJA to support Israel's programs. "We in Israel shall continue to do the impossible if you continue to do the possible," Rivlin said.

Lautenberg said that "it is a measure of the importance of this occasion that two prominent Israelis have chosen to celebrate Israel's Independence Day meeting with the American Jewish leadership instead of being with their families and people in Israel."

KREISKY URGES STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, April 17 (JTA)--Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Austria said here yesterday that the only "realistic" way to reach a solution in the Middle East was through "a step-by-step approach." He said "the Geneva conference is important, but it is difficult to see how such a conference would obtain substantial results."

Addressing a press conference here, Kreisky also said that the parties to the conflict must "go ahead" with the step-by-step method. He said that approach should be used not only between Israel and Egypt but also in other aspects of the Mideast conflict. "My absolute conviction is that there is a Palestinian problem," Kreisky said in response to a question. "This is a central problem and it, too, should be solved step-by-step," the Chancellor said, adding that the first step in such an effort should be found now.

Kreisky, who arrived in New York Monday to receive the peace prize of the International Rescue Committee, said, when he was asked if Austria would recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization, that his government had not yet been faced with that question but that if it was, "we will make very serious inquiries" before reaching a decision. He added that Austria would follow on that issue "countries that we respect," seen by some to mean the United States.

On the issue of Soviet Jewish immigrants using Austria as a stopover on their way out of the USSR to Israel and other countries, he said such movement constituted "an individual traffic" now and that the borders of Austria were always open as "a country of asylum." Kreisky met yesterday with representatives of Jewish organizations in New York but declined to discuss his talks with the representatives or to identify the Jewish leaders with whom he met.

HOLIDAY UNMARRED BY TERRORIST ACTIONS

TEL AVIV, April 17 (JTA)--Israeli army and police commanders were visibly relieved today after two days of national celebrations--Memorial Day and Yom Haatzmaut--passed unmarred by any incidents affecting security. There was more than the usual quota of traffic accidents and traffic jams however, as thousands of Israelis took to the roads and highways to celebrate their country's 27th anniversary. But no lives were lost and the traffic bottlenecks were unravelled eventually through the exercise of patience.

EBAN CHIDES ARABS AND USSR

WASHINGTON, April 17 (JTA)--Former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban recommended to the

Arabs today that they will reach peace in the Middle East by dialing Geneva 242-338. He added "if the PLO wants to enter the club let them read the membership rules."

Eban, responding to a question before a National Press Club audience, was referring to the principles of the United Nations Security Council's resolutions of 1967 and 1973 that call for direct negotiations between Israel and her Arab neighbors to settle their conflict and to the Palestine Liberation Organization's demand that Israel disappear.

Making his sixth appearance as the Club's luncheon speaker, Eban did not break any new ground in the current political maneuvering affecting the Middle East. He said, regarding Geneva, that the Soviet-Union would appear there as the "unconditional lawyer" for the Arabs. Israel does not ask that position of the United States but Israel and America should at least coordinate principles.

Shuttle Effort Not Dead

Eban flatly refused to respond to a question why President Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger blamed Israel for the failure of the Kissinger peace mission for a second-stage Egyptian-Israeli agreement. But he said, "Israel does not have any guilt of conscience" for the breakdown.

"The matter is not dead," he said regarding the Secretary's shuttle effort and "perhaps Egypt can become more flexible" and be liberated from thinking that its position is "so perfect." Egypt, he said, wants to squeeze Israel like an orange. He reminded the Arabs that an Israeli orange has such a tough skin that a squeezer would dislocate his fingers.

On Israeli-American relations, Eban said that "America needs an independent Israel as a friend not a subservient Israel." Israel, he said, seeks respect for its solitude and can alone determine its requirements for defense since it is Israeli blood and Israeli life alone that is sacrificed. "No outside advice, no matter how friendly, can substitute for an Israeli assessment of itself," he said. (By Joseph Polakoff)

U.S. JEWS, NON-JEWS HOLD SYMPATHY HUNGER STRIKES WITH SOVIET JEWS STRIKING SINCE LAST SUNDAY

NEW YORK, April 17 (JTA)--The chairmen of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council and National Conference on Soviet Jewry today saluted three Moscow Jewish activists who are on a hunger strike protesting the Soviet government's refusal to allow them to emigrate to Israel, and American Jews in Miami, Chicago and Philadelphia who are fasting in sympathy and support.

The fast in Moscow is being conducted by Vladimir and Maria Slepak and their son Aleksandr; Aleksandr Lunts and Vladimir Prestin. The strike began last Sunday, the fifth anniversary of Slepak's application for an exit visa.

Lewis D. Cole and Stanley H. Lowell, the chairmen of NJCRAC and NCSJ, respectively, praised the hunger strikers' "indomitable courage and determination" and the "commitment and devotion to the cause of freedom for Soviet Jews" shown by the American Jews fasting with them "to demonstrate to the Soviet leadership the unshakable resolve of Jews everywhere to dramatize before the world the refusal of the Soviet Union to allow Jews the most elementary human rights and freedom."

The sympathy fast began in Miami last Sunday

by five dentists and their wives and was being continued today by four of the dentists and one wife. The five couples had met the Slepaks in Moscow last year.

Meanwhile in Toronto, Mrs. Genya Intrator, national vice-president of the Canadian Committee for Soviet Jewry, said she was able to reach Slepak by telephone last night and inform him what the Miami group was doing and he sent telegrams to them thanking them for their "support and solidarity."

The Slepaks also sent a message of thanks to the four Miamians in which he said: "Your declaring a hunger strike and your support in these difficult times means a great deal for us. The realization that we are not alone, that our friends are with us, gives a new impetus to our struggle." The Slepaks concluded that although they didn't know when they would be allowed to emigrate, "we do know for certain that eventually we will go to Israel. This will also be your victory."

Five people have joined in the fast in Philadelphia and nine in Chicago, including three non-Jewish women, one of them a nun.

JEWISH LEADER SAYS DESCRIPTION OF BRITISH JEWISH LEADERSHIP AS IRRELEVANT WAS HARSH AND TACTLESS

LONDON, April 17 (JTA)--An Anglo-Jewish leader has responded sharply to the recent criticism by British Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovitz of the state of the leadership of British Jewry. Captain David Taak, outgoing chairman of the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women (AJEX) told the organization's annual conference that Rabbi Jakobovitz's remarks were harsh and tactless.

The Chief Rabbi, in a recent speech, described British-Jewish leadership as "archaic, rigid, remote and irrelevant" and claimed that it "has alienated not only the young but also the most talented and valuable elements in the community, especially the intellectuals who have virtually disappeared from the communal list of leaders."

The Chief Rabbi, who once held a pulpit in New York, urged Anglo-Jewry "to follow the American example of relying on a trained and highly professional Jewish civil service to administer its institutions."

Taak, who served an unprecedented three terms as chairman of AJEX, said the Chief Rabbi's sweeping generalization "does less than justice to Jewish voluntary workers who give their time and energy for the causes they hold dear." He said that if the time ever came when volunteer communal workers were replaced by an entirely professional staff, "this will be the beginning of the end of Anglo-Jewry as we know it." The new national chairman of AJEX is R. Shelley.

GOLDA, OTHERS WIN ISRAEL PRIZE

JERUSALEM, April 17 (JTA)--Former Premier Golda Meir was one of seven Israelis honored here last night by being awarded the Israel Prize for 1975. Bespectacled after two recent cataract operations, Mrs. Meir received warm applause from an invitation audience at the Jerusalem Theater as she accepted her award for "lifelong services to Israeli state and society."

Other recipients of the prize were Supreme Court Justice Yoel Sussman; Hebrew University law professor Aharon Barak; educator Arye Simon, director of the Ben-Shemen children's village; actress Miriam Bernstein-Cohen; literary critic and educator Prof. Shimon Halkin; and Dr. Helena Kagan a well-known Jerusalem pediatrician. She received a special award to mark International Women's Year.

