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FRANCO-ISRAELI RELATIONS APPEAR TO BE IN HARMONY ON MOST ISSUES

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 1 (JTA)--Eight years of estranged and sometimes bitter relations between France and Israel appear to have ended and while the two countries' views diverge sharply on the Middle East, they are more or less in accord on most other issues. The cold winds from the Elysee Palace (the French Presidential residence) have stopped blowing, Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon said yesterday at the conclusion of his three-day official visit to Paris, the first of its kind by any top level Israeli government leader.

Allon had extensive talks with French Foreign Minister Jean Sauvagnargues and conferred with President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac. Summing up these meetings, he told newsmen that he had been received with understanding, friendship and cordiality even though important points of disagreement persist between France and Israel. Although his official visit here ended last night, Allon will stay in Paris until tomorrow in a private capacity.

Bonn Invitation Hailed

(The Israeli Foreign Minister will go to Bonn tomorrow where he was invited by West German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich-Genscher. The two officials will discuss the Mideast situation. Officials in Jerusalem were pleased today that the invitation had been extended to Allon. They pointed out that such impromptu invitations give the lie to Arab claims that Israel is isolated diplomatically from the Western world. Officials in Jerusalem said Dietrich-Genscher would want to report to Allon on his April 14-18 visit to Cairo and Saudi Arabia.)

Focus On Three Major Issues

Allon said his talks with French leaders centered on three major issues: Franco-Israeli bilateral relations; Israel's desire to have closer ties with the European Economic Community; and the issue of peace in the Middle East. Israeli and French circles agree that there are no longer any major problems in the area of bilateral relations. French spokesmen said they were very good. Israeli circles described them as satisfactory.

Allon indicated that Israel would like France to demonstrate additional proof of good will by promulgating special legislation outlawing economic embargoes and discrimination against Jewish or pro-Israeli firms such as have occurred under pressure from the Arab oil producing states. Israel would also like French representatives on international bodies to adopt a more objective attitude on the Arab-Israeli conflict in the future. Allon used the occasion of his meetings with French leaders to express Israel's anxiety over French arms sales to the Arab states.

On the matter of the European Common Market, both sides seemed to be in agreement. France is expected to approve Israel's request that its new agreement with the EEC be implemented on July 1 although the agreement has not been formally signed as yet nor have similar agreements been concluded with other Mediterranean coun-

tries such as Tunisia and Morocco.

Areas Of Disagreement

The only serious areas of disagreement, acknowledged by Allon and his French hosts, relate to the ways and means of achieving peace in the Middle East--the common goal of peace being affirmed by both sides. Israeli circles here said the French insist that their views are motivated by what they consider Israel's best interests.

Giscard d'Estaing reportedly advised Allon that it would be better for Israel to reach an agreement with the Arabs now than in a few year's time because time is on the Arab side. The French leader was said to have based his argument on his view that the Arab oil weapon will become increasingly potent in the next five years as the West grows more and more dependent on Arab oil.

The French continue to believe that the Palestinians should be a negotiating partner and that no solution can be reached without their participation. They believe that international guarantees should be sufficient to reduce Israel's need for what it considers defensible borders; and finally, the French are pressing for the broadest negotiations for an overall settlement of the entire Middle East conflict at Geneva at the earliest possible date. The French have indicated their willingness to participate in the Geneva conference but are also willing to accept Israel's view that the conference should be reconvened with only the original negotiating partners.

Allon reportedly told the French leaders that Israel did not fear broad negotiations and would gladly return to Geneva if and when the conference is reconvened provided that adequate preparations have been made in advance. Allon also said that Israel would welcome any opportunity for peace talks and had not itself chosen the step-by-step approach above all others. However, Allon warned that if the Geneva talks failed, the Middle East situation would revert to a period of stagnation and the prospects of another war would be more serious.

ISRAEL VIETNAM TIES UNLIKELY

JERUSALEM, May 1 (JTA)--Israelis do not expect any sort of relations to develop with the new Communist regime in Saigon despite statements by its representatives that it was ready to establish relations with all countries. There is "not a hope in hell of ties with 'Ho Chi Min City,'" political circles here said today in reply to queries by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

They were responding to yesterday's statements in Paris by Dinh Ba Thi, representative of the Provisional Revolutionary Government (Viet Cong) which now rules South Vietnam that his country intended to follow a policy of non-alignment and was ready to establish relations with all countries whatever their political or social regime "on the basis of mutual respect of independence and sovereignty."

The Israeli circles pointed out that North Vietnam has for years ignored Israel's public statements calling for diplomatic relations with Hanoi. They also noted that in neighboring Cambodia, Prince Sihanouk, titular head of the pro-Communist Khmer Rouge regime, has already announced that he will have nothing to do with Israel.

BEIGIN SAYS VIETNAM EVENTS PROVE HIS CONTENTION ABOUT GUARANTEES

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 1 (JTA)--Likud leader Menachem Beigin referred to events in Vietnam here today to support his contention that international guarantees such as Israel has been asked to accept for territorial concessions were worthless scraps of paper. These are "sad days for every democratic country and every free man," Beigin declared addressing a National Press Club luncheon. The international agreement by East and West and the great powers was turned into a "scrap of paper," he said.

In his address and replies to questions which were frequently punctuated by applause from his audience of journalists, Beigin referred to the January 1973 Paris peace accords which, he said, guaranteed inalienable rights of self-determination supported by all countries.

"And now we see the facts--totalitarian Communism has been forced on millions of people by violations of that agreement and by war," he noted, adding that 11 countries had signed the Paris peace accords, but when asked for support to halt the hostilities, "no one said a word. This is the world we live in."

Beigin said he continued to believe that the U.S. government and Congress will not pressure Israel to surrender to Egypt's demands. He deplored the linkage of military supplies to political concessions and declared that under no circumstances should the U.S. stop shipping vital weapons to Israel.

Pre-1967 Borders Are Vulnerable

Beigin said that those who advised Israel to return to its pre-Six-Day War borders were not aware of the vulnerability of those borders. He invited the newsmen to visit Jerusalem where, from the Knesset windows, he said, they could see hills from which artillery once shelled Israel. "In one night they could destroy Israeli civilian centers with artillery," Beigin said. He said Israel relied on the U.S. in light of the President's statement of support for countries that help themselves. "We ask you to help us because we help ourselves," Beigin said.

Beigin reiterated his five-point "peace-making process" which calls for "a complete truce for a period of time" during which Israel would conduct negotiations with its neighbors; "full cultural autonomy" for "the Arab minority" in Israel; "free option of citizenship" to all Arab residents of Israel; and "proper housing and permanent jobs" to solve the Arab refugee problem. Beigin will address students at UCLA and Los Angeles Valley College May 6.

ROSENBAUM, RIMMER ARRESTED

GENEVA, May 1 (JTA)--Jewish financier Tibor Rosenbaum was arrested here on Tuesday, Swiss police sources said. Arrested with him was Dr. Abraham Rimmer, a director of Tibor's International Credit Bank. The two were arrested on suspicion of forgery, swindling and misuse of public funds.

EFFORT TO COUNTER ARAB BOYCOTT

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin has invited the World Conference of Jewish Organizations (COJO) to hold its next meeting in Israel, it was reported today by Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the world Jewish body. She said the invitation was extended through Yehuda Ayner, advisor on diaspora affairs to Rabin, who addressed a North American meeting of COJO

earlier this week. The invitation has been accepted and COJO will hold its plenary meeting in Jerusalem some time in July, Mrs. Jacobson said.

In another action, the COJO delegates voted to authorize Mrs. Jacobson to consult with the heads of international Jewish organizations to coordinate a Jewish response to Arab boycott pressures around the world. The COJO meeting, held in New York, was attended by top leaders of American and Canadian Jewry. Arab propaganda and Arab boycott activities were the chief items on the agenda of the one-day meeting.

JEWS SHOULD BE MORE FORCEFUL IN COUNTERING ANTI-ISRAEL ARGUMENTS

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA)--The executive head of the American Jewish Committee, applauding post-Vietnam statements by President Ford "rejecting recriminations and calling on Americans to unite in facing the problems of the future," today called upon the U.S. government to reaffirm the importance of Israel to the Western alliance system, as a permanent American ally, and as the cornerstone of regional stability in the area, in its reassessment of Middle East policy.

Bertram H. Gold, executive vice-president, in his keynote address to the 69th annual meeting of the agency at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here, called upon its members to be more forceful and sophisticated than ever before in countering the arguments against support of Israel and in demonstrating "how the whole range of America's security requirements are advanced by a strong Israel."

Gold expressed the hope that, at the conclusion of the Ford Administration's examination of Middle East policy, the U.S. commitment to Israel's security would be reaffirmed, along with its commitment "to provide the economic and military lifeline she needs." He added: "It is important, too, that the current reassessment not be used as a hone-too-subtle form of pressure on Israel for political and territorial demands her own leaders feel would have dangerous implications for that country's security."

As for American Jews, Gold said: "It is becoming more and more apparent that Israeli decisions have an impact upon us here, both as Americans and as Jews. At the very least, we have the obligation to be more forthcoming with the Israelis about our views, particularly when those views may be critical of Israeli positions--positions which could diminish urgently needed American support. And by the same token, the Israelis have the reciprocal obligation not only to listen, but to hear."

U.S. SHOULD NOT MAKE MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY CHANGES: SCHLESINGER

WASHINGTON, May 1 (JTA)--Defense Secretary James Schlesinger suggested today that in the wake of the Communist takeover of South Vietnam the U.S. should not make major changes in its foreign policy. "It is clear that the consequences of events in Southeast Asia has been to shake the confidence of many countries in American power and particularly in American steadfastness," he said. "Under these conditions it is particularly inopportune to contemplate major changes in the U.S. posture abroad."

Schlesinger, who made these remarks at a Pentagon news conference, mentioned treaties and other commitments in Europe, South Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines and U.S. interest in the "stability" in the Mideast but he did not mention Israel or any other Mideast country by name.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**LAYOFFS HIT JEWS IN 4 MAJOR CITIES**

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA)--Jews in the professional, managerial and technical fields have been hard hit by layoffs in recent months in four major urban centers--New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and Miami--but much less affected by recession firings in 11 other cities surveyed by the Jewish Occupational Council last month.

Mrs. Louis A. Bernhard, president of the JOC, the coordinating agency for Jewish job agencies in the United States and Canada, said the survey was carried out by telephone to affiliates during the week of April 14. The findings were in line with the employment distribution of American Jews. Jews were reported less affected by layoffs in cities where heavy industry predominates and more hit in cities with many service enterprises.

In virtually all of the reporting cities, recent Jewish college graduates with no experience are generally unable to find jobs, according to Henry B. Stern, JOC executive director.

Situation In New York

In New York City, home of two million Jews, the Federation Employment and Guidance Service reported a growing problem in handling job applicants in the professional-managerial-technical fields. The FECS file of job seekers in those categories has jumped from 1000 to nearly 2000. The FECS said that, in seeking to develop openings for such job hunters, it is sending promotional bulletins regularly to 1000 social agencies and to 2000 business firms, in addition to an intensive telephone solicitation effort. Applicants with experience who were formerly resistant to leaving the New York area are now more amenable to re-locating, the agency said.

The FECS said job openings for new college graduates in social agencies, previously available to graduates without a Masters degree, have disappeared as a result of layoffs and tightening personnel programs of the city and the state. In summary, the FECS reported, the general job picture in New York City is not bright because of changes in the garment industry and contractions in printing, construction and government.

The Chicago Scene

The Chicago Jewish Vocational Service described the job situation in Chicago, home of 253,000 Jews, as bad. The agency reported that placement was much more difficult than a year ago and that the number of job seekers coming to the agency is increasing. The agency also reported that applicants it has placed are being dismissed because they failed to meet "very demanding" employer expectations or because of business deterioration.

The agency described the job outlook for new college graduates as even worse. Most of these applicants are liberal arts graduates who refuse to give up the goal of finding their "dream jobs" and reject the kinds of jobs the agency can find for them. The agency indicated it expected there will be increasing numbers of competent, trained Jewish job-hunters in the months ahead.

Los Angeles Hard Hit

In Los Angeles, home of 463,000 Jews, the Jewish Vocational Service said the area, with a general jobless level of 10 percent, "has been very hard hit." The JVS reported that its job orders are down 30 percent, placements down 30

percent and registration up about 25 percent, adding that the registration total would be higher if the agency could handle an increase.

The JVS is registering Los Angeles Jews who have been laid off after years of service, including executives and other managerial personnel. The academic community was reported to be "very tight" on jobs and anticipating layoffs. The agency said it had on its rolls many professionals including several Ph. Ds in the natural sciences, who cannot find jobs, as well as high-level business people in their 30's and early 40's who had earned more than \$25,000 a year.

The agency has a large list of recent Jewish college graduates, particularly in the humanities and social services, whom it cannot place, even if they were prepared to give up their professional goals. Graduates trained in business have somewhat better chances. In summary, the JVS reported, job prospects in Los Angeles are grim.

The employment situation in Miami, which has 200,000 Jews, was described as bleak, except for the hotel field. The two largest industries--the garment trade and construction--are dead, the Jewish Vocational Services reported, adding it has had since January a full-time placement counselor under a program funded by the Jewish Federation. Also reporting in the JOC survey were affiliates in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dallas, Detroit, Kansas City, Louisville, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Philadelphia and St. Louis.

Ohio Weathering The Storm

Unemployment in Cincinnati, which has 30,000 Jews, is most widespread in blue collar fields and joblessness has not yet hit Jews. Jewish college graduates with no experience are the main concern of the Cincinnati Jewish Vocational Service.

The 30,000-member Cleveland Jewish community has not yet been hit by massive joblessness, the Jewish Vocational Service there reported, but if the recession continues, there may be a "drastic" change. The agency reported an increase in the number of male applicants dismissed from high-level managerial positions but said most of them appeared to be executives who were not too effective and who were being replaced by younger, more dynamic people.

The Cleveland JVS reported that openings for persons with Masters degrees in business administration and for accountants, computer personnel, engineers and in insurance, banking and social work continue to be available. Persons with Masters degrees in education, a field traditional with many Jews, are having problems, as are new college graduates with Bachelors degrees. The JVS also reported that there were jobless 1974 graduates in the humanities, psychology and social work still registered with the agency.

The jobless rate in Columbus, Ohio, home of 13,000 Jews, is at nine percent but the unemployed are mostly blue collar workers and there is, as yet, no unusual unemployment in the Jewish community.

The Jewish Vocational Counseling Service of Dallas, which has 20,000 Jews, reported that, generally, the Jewish community has not been affected by growing unemployment, with some exceptions. Some Jewish high-level executives and managerial personnel in Dallas electronics firms have been dismissed because of a general economy drive. Men in their 40's and 50's who had been earning \$30,000 a year and more.

Some have come to the JVCs for help but the agency found it has been almost impossible to place them. Also hurt are recent graduates with Bachelors degrees, who are taking any kind of job. Grad-

uates with Masters degrees in business or in social work are having no problems, the agency said.

'Ripple' Effect In Detroit

The approaching end of special benefits for laid-off auto workers in Detroit, which has 80,000 Jews, is having some "ripple" effect on the Jewish community, the Detroit JVS reported, adding that its suburban office has been seeing highly qualified professionals who have been laid off in property management, accounting and engineering.

While they can be employed in other firms, their problem initially is an almost total inability to react effectively to their new situation because they have never before been jobless and have been "at the top of the heap" for a long time, the JVS said. Once helped to organize themselves for job-hunting, the agency said, in most instances they have been able to make the right contacts.

Up to now, most graduates with Masters degrees have been placed, the Detroit agency reported. Possibilities of jobs in banks and other financial institutions, and in social work, rehabilitation and other employment related fields are reported as "good." But there are few jobs for graduates with only Bachelors degrees and this problem is expected to worsen in Detroit.

The tight job picture in Kansas City, home of 22,000 Jews, does not appear to be having any effect on the Jewish community, with the exception of young people seeking entry-level jobs.

The 9200-member Louisville Jewish community has not been too severely affected. About 25 executives laid off by General Electric, airlines and a computer firm have come to the Louisville Jewish Vocational Service for help. The JVS reported it had been able to find openings for them but that most refused the job offers because they involved large salary cuts.

The Jewish Employment and Vocational Service of Philadelphia, home of 350,000 Jews, reported there are no critical employment problems for Jews in the professional, technical and managerial areas but that recent college graduates are having a very difficult time finding jobs. St. Louis has 20,000 Jews and a 10 percent general jobless rate but no specific adverse effect on the Jewish community was reported.

ALL-OUT WAR AGAINST CORRUPTION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 1 (JTA)--Israel mobilized for all-out war this week, not against a foreign foe but against the internal enemy of corruption said to be gnawing at the very vitals of the government and society. It will not be a pre-emptive strike but, according to the 1000-page annual report just issued by State Comptroller, Dr. Ernst Yitzhak Nebenzahl, a long overdue campaign to root out private greed, misconduct and mismanagement that allegedly flourishes in virtually every government ministry, branch and agency, not excluding the armed forces.

Nebenzahl, a man of impeccable integrity, great competence and apparently no political axes to grind, takes a dim view of the outcome. Unless drastic changes are made in the nation's "financial system" which, his report claims, breeds and nourishes corruption, it "will damage the very existence of the State and might even destroy her and our existence as a society," he said at a press conference in Jerusalem this week.

Premier Yitzhak Rabin announced a week ago that his government was taking the offensive against corruption in the civil service and would

spare no one regardless of position. "Something is 'lo beeseder'" (out of order) the Premier said on a televised interview. He acknowledged that it was not a matter of just a few exceptional cases but a widespread and serious phenomenon. Rabin spoke out only a few days before the release of the Comptroller's report and it appeared to some that he was trying to head off criticism of his government and lay the blame on the previous regime.

Even before Rabin's remarks and the Nebenzahl report, Israelis were shocked to learn that at least eight senior Defense Ministry officials and two former high ranking Air Force officers had been either remanded in custody or were out on bail pending prosecution on charges of bribery, fraud and falsification. Their alleged offenses involved collusion with private manufacturers leading to wasteful or unneeded purchases for the armed forces at the expense of Israel's heavily burdened taxpayers.

Specifics Cited In Report

The Comptroller's report cited far more serious manifestations. It claimed that tens of millions of Pounds had been spent on fortifications on the Golan Heights prior to the disengagement agreement with Syria that did not conform to the army's specifications. It found that the Defense Ministry overpaid local vehicle assembly firms millions of Pounds because of the faulty supervision of an IL 120 million contract. It found that military industries were paid to stockpile supplies as directed by the army; but when the Yom Kippur War broke out, the needed supplies were not available.

According to the report, dock workers at the port of Ashdod were paid unlimited overtime for unloading ammunition on the Sabbath. Workers netted as much as IL 3000 for eight hours of work which were counted as 300 hours.

The Housing Ministry does not know how many units it has built at any given time or whether its expenditures match the available budget, the Comptroller's report charged. It said that after the Yom Kippur War, Treasury loans to universities were reduced by IL 15.8 million because of the country's severe economic straits, but in actuality the universities received IL 26.2 million more than they were entitled to.

Nebenzahl called for the appointment of a "young, dynamic and politically and publicly supported minister" charged with the task of completely re-vamping public administration in the country. He pledged to keep plugging away at every case of corruption or mismanagement until the problems are solved.

Defense Minister Shimon Peres said that all the cases under investigation had been unearthed by his Ministry's own internal control and supervisory bodies.

The Nebenzahl report, along with recently exposed instances of police brutality and incompetence; a series of scandals in the private business sector; the impending trial of Michael Tsaur, former general manager of the Israel Corporation and chairman of the Zim Lines on charges of embezzlement and fraud, are all expected to produce lively debate in the Knesset which began its summer session this week.

But the avalanche of corruption reports has made many Israelis cynical. Doubts have been expressed that any major reforms or effective corrective measures will be taken once the smoke clears. Nebenzahl himself professed not to be surprised by his findings. He noted that those who were aware of similar goings-on in the past, including the Netivef Neft oil scandal, "cannot be surprised today."