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ADL SUES COMMERCE DEPARTMENT Seeks To Stop Agency From Giving Out Arab Bid Invitations Containing Restrictive Trade, Boycott Provisions

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith filed a suit in federal court today to stop the Department of Commerce from distributing Arab bid invitations containing restrictive trade and boycott provisions. The suit also asked the court to order Commerce Secretary Rogers Morton to release the names of companies that have complied with the Arab request for boycott information including the 44 which the Commerce Department has sent charging and warning letters.

"This is the first time we ever filed suit against the federal government," Arnold Forster, the ADL's general counsel, said at a press conference at the organization's headquarters. Forster and Lawrence Peirez, chairman of the ADL's national civil rights committee, are the group's attorneys in the suit which was filed in the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York.

Forster said the ADL "deeply regretted" the necessity for the action since for the past 20 years the American people have looked to the federal government to protect them from religious or racial discrimination. But he said the Commerce Department, the agency charged with preventing the use of the Arab boycott to discriminate against Americans, is violating U.S. law and policy by "promoting, aiding and abetting Arab boycott operations, thereby restricting free trade and discriminating against American Jews."

The suit against "Rogers Morton in his capacity as Secretary of Commerce," charged that the Department is itself flouting this country's anti-boycott policy as set forth in the Export Administration Act of 1969 and is failing to comply with the Freedom of Information Act in order to shield companies which are also ignoring the policy.

Rape Quest For Petrodollars

Benjamin R. Epstein, ADL national director, noted that although President Ford said last February that the boycott was "repugnant" and that the U.S. government opposes it, representatives of the Departments of Commerce, State and Justice have opposed every one of the some 40 Congressional proposals to strengthen the laws against the boycott.

He said the Commerce Department notification to the ADL that it will continue disseminating the Arab bid invitations which include the request for boycott information is evidence that the Ford Administration believes that it is more important to seek Arab petrodollars than to comply with American laws against discrimination.

Forster noted that it was "ironic" that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has gotten a promise from Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to reduce the boycott against Israel while he cannot get similar action from his fellow Cabinet member, Morton.

One of the documents submitted by the ADL in its suit was a confidential Commerce Department

memorandum which said that since 1968 it has been the Department's policy to supply complete information on its bids including the boycott reference because "we would not properly serve the interests of U.S. business by denying it the complete conditions of the bid invitation."

Disputes Department's Claim

Epstein also disputed the Commerce Department's claim that there was a distinction between the Arab economic boycott of Israel and discrimination against American Jews, which is illegal. "Both defy U.S. statutes--and since implementation of the Arab boycott is directed primarily against American Jews, the two are synonymous."

The ADL suit came after the Commerce Department told the group it would continue to send out the Arab bid invitations and after the Department's refusal to release the names of the companies complying with the boycott requests to the ADL and others including the House Commerce Committee. Forster said Morton's action in refusing to reveal the names was to "protect those firms from exposure and criticism by the American people."

POLL FAVORS SINAI PACT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- Pollster Lou Harris told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today that his latest survey of opinion on the Middle East showed that a majority of Americans approved of the posting of American civilian technicians in Sinai--although a majority did not believe this would prevent new fighting and a majority felt that the risk of American involvement would increase sharply.

Harris was one of eight professional poll-takers who testified at what Committee chairman Sen. John Sparkman (D-Ala.) described as "educational hearings" on the "challenges and choices likely to be encountered in American foreign policy" in the remainder of this decade.

Harris said Americans approved technicians in Sinai by a majority of 42-28 percent with 30 percent "not sure." A majority of 48-20 percent did not believe that the surveillance by Americans would prevent a sneak attack by either Egypt or Israel; and a 49-20 percent majority saw the risk of direct U.S. involvement in the Middle East conflict increasing sharply as a result of the American presence, Harris reported.

RABIN: READY FOR OVERALL SETTLEMENT

TALKS WITH EACH NEIGHBOR: NO

DECISION ON INTERIM TALKS WITH SYRIA

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- In an attempt to stem the growing tide of speculation here and abroad over future possible interim talks between Israel and Syria, Premier Yitzhak Rabin published a brief statement today which he had made earlier to the Cabinet asserting that Israel was ready to talk peace with all of its neighbors, and that there was no Cabinet decision "on the question of interim talks with Syria."

The carefully worded statement gave rise to yet more speculation. Observers noted that it

did not say there was a Cabinet decision not to hold interim talks with Syria, but merely that there was no Cabinet decision on the subject. Highly placed sources, however, firmly insisted that there seemed to be little or no hope of an interim accord with Syria because of geographical/strategic considerations on the Golan Heights. The "piece of land for piece of peace" thesis which formed the basis of the Sinai accord did not necessarily apply on the Golan, these sources said.

Accent On Overall Talks

By stressing Israel's readiness to talk overall peace with each of its neighbors, Rabin's statement put the accent on overall talks rather than on interim talks in the future. The Premier is known to feel that there ought to be no more interim accords with Egypt. The next step in Sinai, he believes, should be peace, or at least non-belligerency in its broadest sense. His view on this is not shared by Defense Minister Shimon Peres who told an interviewer last weekend he still expects a further interim accord in Sinai since peace was too far off for a one-step leap.

But Rabin, Peres and other ministers seem united in opposing interim accords on the eastern or the northern fronts. Rabin has, on occasion, intimated that Israel would entertain a "cosmetic" pullback on the Golan, more as a gesture than as a meaningful change. But he is not prepared to pull back extensively, or to remove existing settlements as part of an interim accord, and mainly for this reason he favors an overall negotiation.

Intended To Achieve Three Aims

Rabin's uncompromising statements regarding the Golan are believed intended to achieve three aims as a well-placed source explained today:

- * To reiterate, primarily to the U.S., that Israel really won't have much to offer when and if the time does come to consider a Golan interim accord.

- * To impress the Americans and the Syrians with the fact that a Golan accord is not in any way linked automatically to the Sinai accord.

- * To defer for the coming months any active consideration of a Golan accord option. Israel wants to see first how the Sinai accord is implemented, and how Syria and other parties, including the Soviet Union, react to it.

U.S., Arab Reactions Examined

At the Cabinet meeting held today because the regular meeting day, Sunday, was Rosh Hashanah, Foreign Minister Yigal-Allon reviewed the reaction in the Arab world to the Sinai accord. He said the Arabs were split, with the hardliners led by Syria and the PLO violently attacking the accord and President Anwar Sadat for signing it. Egypt has found steadfast support only from Saudi Arabia and Sudan, with some other countries expressing half-hearted approval.

Examining the reaction in the U.S., Allon said he hoped Congress would approve the American presence in Sinai without too much trouble. But top sources here are concerned over Congressional and public opinion reaction in America to Israel's aid package, which will be, it now seems, \$2.3 billion.

This tops the total U.S. foreign aid bill for the year, Israeli sources noted with some trepidation. They stressed that the great bulk of the aid is for the purchase of arms and there is no effective increase in economic aid--"supportive assis-

tance"--which will remain at around \$350 million.

ALLON BIDS NATION TO REMEDY INEQUITIES IN ISRAEL'S SOCIETY

By Yitzhak Sharpi

TEL AVIV, Sept. 10 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Yigal Allon called on Israelis last night to make use of the relative calm resulting from the new interim accord with Egypt to remedy the wrongs and inequities within Israel's society. As Israeli and Egyptian teams were working out the final details of the interim pact in Geneva, Allon warned against a return to pre-Yom Kippur-War complacency and urged against a repetition of easy money-making and profiteering such as was done by private contractors employed to build front line fortifications.

Addressing an audience at Ben Gurion University in Beersheba that included community leaders, academicians, students and youths from developing communities, Allon said it might be better to construct Israel's new line of fortifications in Sinai by the army engineers corps rather than private contractors. He said if the engineers lacked all the equipment, laws could be passed to commandeer equipment for the task.

Allon said the deficiency of the Israeli-Egyptian interim pact in Sinai was that it is not a final peace agreement but only a stage on the road towards peace. Its advantage, he said, was that it may possibly provide the chance for a political settlement instead of a military one.

Two Interviews On U.S. Personnel

In an interview published in Ma'ariv on the eve of Rosh Hashanah last week, Allon was reported as saying that if the United States was for any reason unable to provide American civilian technicians to man an advanced warning station in Sinai as proposed in the interim accord with Egypt, "we shall find a way to implement the agreement without them."

According to Ma'ariv, Allon, who with Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Defense Minister Shimon Peres, comprised the Israeli negotiating team for the agreement, said, "I did not present the question of American technicians as a demand" and I did not regard the American technicians' presence as an essential condition for the signature of the agreement. I had my reasons for and against American technicians. But I have decided in favor of the technicians because the pros are more than the cons."

Asked by Ma'ariv if he would implement the agreement should Congress fail to approve the American presence, Allon replied that there was an understanding with the Americans that if the stationing of technicians was not possible, the U.S. would not hold Israel responsible for not reaching an agreement. He said he believed Congress would approve. Pressed on that point, Allon said if there was no approval, "we shall have to find a way how to advance to the agreement under conditions that will result from the cancellation of the American presence."

(Asked the same question in an interview published in the Sept. 15 edition of U.S. News & World Report, the Israeli Foreign Minister replied: "Now, if Congress fails to approve the Administration's undertaking to dispatch to the area a couple of hundred technicians, it will be a great disappointment to Israel, and I think, also to Egypt. Such refusal may paralyze the process of implementation of the agreement, and some new methods would have to be sought out.")

HERZOG URGES U.S. NOT TO ABDICATE ITS ROLE IN THE UN; WARNS THERE IS STILL DANGER ISRAEL MIGHT BE OUSTED

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Sept. 10 (JTA)--Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, today urged the United States to assert itself at the world organization and warned that there is still a danger that Israel could be expelled from the General Assembly. His remarks were made at a discussion on "Israel and the United Nations," sponsored by the Synagogue Council of America at the Carnegie International Peace Center here.

Herzog said that the abdication of power in the UN by the U.S. had an unfortunate impact on the world organization which during the years has been bad for Israel. "Israel must regard the UN as an important arena," Herzog said, and therefore must urge the U.S. to reconsider its position. However, the Israeli envoy noted that the American position appears to be changing as indicated by the strong stand it has taken against the Arab-led efforts to expel Israel from the General Assembly.

Calling the move to expel Israel an "act of international anti-Semitism," Herzog said if it is successful "then in the final analysis there will be no General Assembly. The process of disintegration which has taken hold of UNESCO will seize hold of the United Nations."

Herzog also attacked the anti-Israel resolutions at the conferences of the Organization of African Unity in Kampala, Uganda, and the non-aligned nations in Lima, Peru, as an "unbelievable concentration of vilification, hate and baseless vituperation against Israel and the Jewish religion." He said the Lima declaration "openly attacked one of the great religions of the world," an attack, he said, which is unheard of in modern history.

Welcome Non-Aligned Reversals

But Herzog noted that many Third World countries are showing a defiance toward the Arab attempts to dictate their policy. "We welcome this important change in the attitude of many African countries," he said. "I personally felt an indication of this new attitude in the reception accorded my appearance this week at the UN special assembly, openly and demonstratively by so many African and non-aligned countries." Herzog said the African countries have become aware that all they have received from the Arab states for breaking relations with Israel was "a four-fold price increase for their oil."

Herzog noted that Jews accepted the Lima document with a sense of relief because it didn't call for Israel's expulsion from the UN. "The Jewish people must not lose sight of the very serious nature of this document drafted by the PLO and the Syrians which recalls from the shadow of the past the racist vituperations of the Sturmer in Nazi Germany," he said. The Lima Conference, Herzog said, termed Zionism "a danger to world peace" and expressed deep concern at "the invalidity and illegitimacy of the measures taken by Israel...with the aim of Judaizing Jerusalem."

The Israeli envoy said the new Egyptian-Israeli agreement could be "the most far-reaching one Israel has ever achieved with a neighbor, and still leave Israel with adequate depth for defense should it not work out."

Speaking earlier, Arthur Goldberg, a former Supreme Court Justice and U.S. Ambassador to

the UN, said the agreement means that "peace is not at hand but neither is war." He added that "even delaying war and providing the basis for further negotiations is not an insubstantial achievement."

U.S. Involvement Not New

Goldberg predicted Congress would approve sending American civilian technicians to monitor Sinai listening stations. He noted there was nothing new in "American involvement" because since 1948 approximately 260 American military officers have served as observers in the Middle East. He said that since the Yom Kippur War, 88-American-military officers have served in the area, including 36 who perform inspections as observers with the UN Truce Supervision Organization.

The event, attended by about 200 persons, was interrupted briefly at the close of Herzog's address when Linda Feldman, a Jewish Defense League member, ran up to him and shouted that he failed to speak about the American pressure on Israel to give up its security. Four JDL members picketed outside the building during the meeting. The JDL is demanding "not one inch" of retreat by the Israeli government.

BELKIN RESIGNS FROM YESHIVA U.

NEW YORK, Sept. 10 (JTA)--Dr. Samuel Belkin, president of Yeshiva University for 32 years, has resigned because of illness. The 64-year-old Dr. Belkin, who was hospitalized last Sunday, has assumed the newly-created post of chancellor. A committee has been named to seek a successor. Meanwhile, the university's four vice-presidents will run the day-to-day operations at Yeshiva.

Dr. Belkin, a Hellenist scholar, played a major role in developing Yeshiva University from an institution with 800 students and 94 full-time faculty members to 7000 students and 1500 faculty members with 15 schools and affiliates. One of Dr. Belkin's major achievements was the establishment of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, the first medical school under Jewish auspices in the United States.

SOVIET JEW ARRESTED, AWAITING TRIAL ON CHARGES OF DRAFT EVASION

NEW YORK, Sept. 10 (JTA)--Alexander Silnitsky, a 23-year-old Jewish student in Krasnodar, has been arrested and is awaiting trial on charges of draft evasion, the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry reported today. The NYCSJ said this was the third time in two weeks that young Soviet Jews who had applied for exit visas were arrested on draft evasion charges. The two others arrested were Anatoly Malkin of Moscow, and Yacov Vinarov of Kiev.

Silnitsky applied for a visa to emigrate to Israel in September, 1974 and was immediately expelled from the Technological Institute in Krasnodar where he was a student. He was subsequently repeatedly summoned to the registration office but refused to report on grounds that he was no longer a Soviet citizen but a citizen of Israel, the NYCSJ said.

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AMSTERDAM (JTA)--A Dutch Reformed Church delegation Tuesday presented Israel's Ambassador Hanan Bar-On a check for 700,000 guilders for a trade school in Estel Hahass, near Beersheba. The contribution comes from a collection by Dutch Reformed Churches to show their solidarity with the Jewish people and Israel.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Defense Minister Shimon Peres, in a visit Tuesday to Israeli military installations in the Sinai, revealed that the first area to be evacuated by the army under the interim agreement is Ras Sudar in the northern part of the Gulf of Suez. This area includes the Abu Rodeis Oilfields. Peres said it will be evacuated by Sept. 30, the date when Egyptian oil workers are scheduled to arrive. The Defense Minister also said that by the time Israel completes the entire arduous withdrawal task the new Israeli defense line will be ready. He said this line will not require any more men than manned the line being evacuated.

COPENHAGEN (JTA)--Thirty-nine rectors of universities in all four Scandinavian countries have signed a petition to reinstate Israel to full membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The letter, sent this week from Oslo, calls on the UNESCO General Secretary to return Israel to full activity in the international organization, in the spirit of the decision of the conference of intellectuals in Paris in March 1975.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd. will be represented for the first time in any military oriented exhibition held in the United States when it participates Sept. 16-18 in the Air Force Association's annual show here. IAI, through its American subsidiary, Commodore Aviation Inc., is participating in the exhibition "in order to make U.S. government decision-makers more fully aware of the total capability of Israel Aircraft Industries," an IAI statement said. The show will include more than 50 international aerospace companies.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Judge Alfred H. Kleiman, of the City's Criminal Court, announced that 40 judges of the court signed an appeal to the government of the Soviet Union to grant amnesty to the "Jewish Prisoners of Conscience" presently imprisoned in the USSR. Among the signers of the petition are Judge E. Leo Milonas, Supervising Judge of the Criminal Court, New York County; and Judge M. Marvin Berger, president of the Association of Judges of the Criminal Court. The amnesty appeal notes "with dismay the injustices suffered by Soviet Jews" and calls on the leaders of the Soviet Union to release the POCs "and to allow them to be reunited with their families in Israel."

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA)--More than 300 Jewish young people from eight Western states gathered in San Francisco's civic center plaza to protest the treatment of Syrian Jews by the Syrian government. The rally was the largest such demonstration for Syrian Jews ever held in northern California. The youngsters, who attend the Union of American Hebrew Congregation's Swig Camp Institute in Saratoga, sang Hebrew freedom songs and heard from many speakers, including Zvi Gabay, Consul of Israel in San Francisco, himself a former inhabitant of Iraq. Gabay spoke on the hostility of Syria towards Israel and how that hostility has jeopardized Syria's Jewish population. After the rally, the youngsters spent the afternoon canvassing shopping areas to obtain support for their cause.

BUENOS AIRES (JTA)--The Bar Mitzvah year of the Latin American Rabbinical Seminary here

was marked in ceremonies at which Marcelo Rittner of Buenos Aires was ordained as a rabbi. The event culminated three days of deliberations by representatives of Latin American Reform synagogues. Graduates of the seminary serve as rabbis for congregations in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela. Representatives of Liberal congregations from Sao Paulo, Peru and Chile took part in the ceremonies and discussions.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--An El Al jumbo jet with over 400 passengers aboard, landed safely Tuesday at Ben Gurion Airport despite two flat tires sustained during its take-off that touched off a crash alarm. Convoys of ambulances, fire engines and other emergency equipment rushed to the airport as army units and police set up roadblocks in anticipation of a possible crash. The Boeing 747 circled the airport at low altitude so that ground personnel could examine the condition of its landing gear. The pilot, however, brought the giant aircraft back to the tarmac with hardly a jolt. El Al is investigating this incident and similar incidents of ruptured tires at take-offs and landings in recent weeks. Some sources blame the unusually hot weather, but the composition of the rubber used in the tires is under investigation.

NEW YORK (JTA)--The Jewish Defense League has wired the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House International Relations Committee asking permission to testify against the recently signed Sinai interim agreement. In the telegram, JDL head Rabbi Metz Kahane pointed out that the group opposed the pact in general and particularly against the clause calling for the introduction of U.S. personnel into the Sinai. The JDL sent a number of its representatives Monday to Washington where they began a week-long lobbying campaign against the agreement. Rabbi Kahane has asked permission from prison authorities to fly to Washington to testify personally before Congress. He has sought permission on grounds of "a potential death in the family, the Jewish people."

LOS ANGELES (JTA)--In response to the concern of Jewish parents in school districts where the opening day of school had been set for Sept. 15, the day of Yom Kippur, the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation-Council of Greater Los Angeles has helped to sensitize many school boards to the importance of this issue, the Committee reported. Through its Commission on Education and its Area Council CRCs, it conducted a letter writing campaign, early in the year, to school superintendents, outlining the concerns of Jewish parents and teachers and suggesting that meetings be held to explore the issue. As a result, the Los Angeles Unified School District and the school districts of Santa Monica, and the eastern and southern areas have changed their opening dates this year.

NEW YORK (JTA)--The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry will sponsor a special Simchat Torah celebration on the steps of the main branch of the public library in midtown Manhattan Sept. 23 to call attention to the curtailment of holiday services in the USSR.

ATTENTION: REMINDER -- There will be no Bulletins dated Sept. 15 or 16 due to Yom Kippur.