



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036

Contents copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement

Vol. XLII - 58th Year

Tuesday, September 30, 1975

No. 186

LAWMAKER SAYS ISRAEL NOT INVOLVED IMPROPERLY IN MILITARY EQUIPMENT SALES BY U.S. FIRMS TO MIDEAST NATIONS By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29 (JTA)--Rep. Les Aspin (D.Wisc.) told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that Israel was in no way involved in alleged wrong-doing in the sales of military equipment by American corporations to Middle Eastern countries. Aspin issued a statement yesterday that according to Pentagon documents, American companies have paid \$18.7 million to middlemen in four Middle Eastern countries in connection with weapons deals in the past two years. The countries he named were Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan and Israel.

Regarding Israel, Aspin cited a reported payment of \$300,000 by the Raytheon Corp. to Middlesex International in connection with the sale of missiles to Israel. He told the JTA today that Middlesex was a wholly-owned subsidiary of Raytheon, whose headquarters are in Lexington, Mass., and that the \$300,000 was an internal transfer, a corporate transfer of funds, presumably for certain services the subsidiary performed for the parent company as part of its sales program to Israel. He said that he found absolutely nothing improper or wrong in these circumstances and that the Israeli case was very different from the others.

(Reacting to Aspin's initial statement, the Tel Aviv Chamber of Commerce said today that it had no knowledge of a firm called Middlesex International registered in Israel.) The Israeli Embassy in Washington told the JTA that it knew nothing of the Middlesex case cited by Aspin.

Open Invitation To Corruption

The Wisconsin lawmaker noted that the payments associated with sales to some Arab countries ran into many millions of dollars and raised serious questions that either agents received excessive fees or the money was illegally diverted. "These multi-million dollar fees for arms deals are an open invitation to corruption, graft and bribery," he said in his statement released yesterday.

The largest amount, \$8,886,000, went to a company operated by a Saudi Arabian businessman, Adnan Khashoggi in connection with the sale of aircraft to Saudi Arabia by the Northrop Co. Khashoggi had allegedly passed the money on to Saudi generals to persuade them to buy Northrop aircraft. Khashoggi said he bribed no one but kept the money himself.

Aspin also cited a \$4.5 million payment to Ghassan Shaker by the Vinnell Corp. of Los Angeles in connection with a contract to train the Saudi Arabian national guard; a \$1,381,000 payment to Fifafi Enterprises; and \$3.4 million to the National Contracting Co. by Raytheon for the sale of missile systems to Kuwait. Raytheon is the manufacturer of the "Hawk" anti-aircraft missile which the U.S. is supplying to Jordan. Aspin said the FMS Corp. paid \$200,000 to Shadiah S. Twal for the sale of vehicles to Jordan.

FIRST SHIP TO SAIL DIRECTLY FROM AN EGYPTIAN TO AN ISRAELI PORT ARRIVES IN ASHDOD

TEL AVIV, Sept. 29 (JTA)--The Greek cruise ship Stella Solaris arrived at Ashdod this morning from Alexandria, the first ship to sail directly from an Egyptian to an Israeli port. The vessel, carrying about 400 American passengers on a month-long luxury cruise of the Mediterranean, left Alexandria at 10 p.m. last night and dropped anchor off the Israeli port early this morning. Later tugs nudged her alongside the quay normally occupied by freighters and tankers.

The organizers of the cruise reported that when the itinerary was first announced, the Egyptian authorities had refused to clear the Stella Solaris from Alexandria unless she called at a way port before proceeding to Israel. In the interim, however, the Israeli-Egyptian Sinai accord was signed and the Egyptians dropped their demands. As a result, the Stella Solaris' passengers--mostly physicians or lawyers and their wives--were able to tour Cairo and the Pyramids on one day and Jerusalem the next.

The group will be in Israel for three days and re-board their ship at Haifa. The Stella Solaris was the second passenger ship to call at Ashdod since that port was opened in the 1960s. The other was the Queen Elizabeth 2 which arrived there two years ago on a cruise marking the 25th anniversary of Israel's independence.

ISRAEL'S CREDENTIALS APPROVED AT UN

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 29 (JTA)--The Credentials Committee of the United Nations General Assembly today approved the formal credentials of the delegations to the current 30th session of the Assembly, including that of Israel. The only protest against Israel was a token one by Libya which expressed its "strongest reservation on the credentials of the Zionist delegation."

Ambassador Tapley Bennett of the U.S. said the intervention by the Libyan representative showed a continued abuse of the Credentials Committee. The Libyan representative, he said, has made a political speech which should better have been presented on the floor of the General Assembly. "We would have a pretty small UN" if each member spoke of governments it did not like, Bennett said.

KNESSET REJECTS LIKUD MOTION THAT ISRAEL SHOULD RENOUNCE ITS AGREEMENT TO U.S. PRESENCE IN SINAI By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 29 (JTA)--The Knesset voted 46-33 today to reject a Likud motion that Israel renounce its agreement to an American presence in Sinai under the terms of the Israeli-Egyptian interim accord. The vote followed a vigorous debate on the issue between Defense Minister Shimon Peres and Likud's Shmuel Tamir during which Peres revealed that a Likud official had written privately to a prominent American Congressman contending that the American presence meant that American blood might be shed to protect Israel.

The dramatic disclosure obviously shocked

many MKs as they listened in silence to the text of the letter Peres said was sent by David Nor, chairman of the "young guard" of Likud's Herut faction, to a Congressman the Defense Minister declined to name.

The letter claimed that "most Israelis oppose the interim agreement which has been forced upon us by Dr. Kissinger." It went on to allege that Kissinger was offering Israel "compensation" in the form of a large aid package and the American presence which was in fact "American lives to defend our lives." The letter warned that American blood might be needlessly shed.

"I do not know whether this letter was approved by the authorized bodies of the Herut party," Peres declared. "Nevertheless, even inexperienced politicians ought to know that this is no way to conduct a political argument." Peres' disclosure obviously caused acute embarrassment to Herut leader Menachem Begin who left his seat to consult in whispers with his party lieutenant Haim Landau. Other Herut MKs seemed genuinely shamed by the revelation of the hitherto unpublished letter.

Likud's Insinuation Rejected

In his debate with Tamir, Peres strongly rejected the Likud insinuation that the government had asked for the American presence because it wanted "American boys" to defend Israel. He said the idea of stationing American technicians to man surveillance posts in Sinai was not an Israeli idea to begin with and that the Egyptians, too, favored it as a means of facilitating agreement on the new Sinai lines and surveillance in the complex Sinai passes region.

Tamir said the impression had been created with the American public that Israel had asked for the technicians for protection. Peres replied that while that might have been the initial impression, it has now been largely corrected and there was no need to revive the misapprehension. It was a distortion, Peres said, to refer to the U.S. presence in the idiom of "American boys." He said that Israel never asked for American soldiers to defend her and is not asking for them now.

The Defense Minister noted that the American presence was less of an innovation than it appeared to be. American officers have been part of the truce supervisory forces since 1948 and in 1973 the Security Council voted to attach 36 American and 36 Soviet officers to the new United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in Sinai as observers. The Americans, moreover, took an active role in policing last year's disengagement accord through aerial surveillance and this aerial role will now be carried out on the ground as well, Peres explained.

He quoted President Anwar Sadat and other high-ranking Egyptian officials to the effect that the American presence was desired by Egypt, that it facilitated the Sinai agreement and instilled confidence in both sides that the agreement would be observed. Egyptian officials have rejected as spurious any parallel between the American presence in Sinai and the situation in Vietnam a decade ago, Peres said.

IAI AT ECUADOR EXHIBIT

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador, Sept. 29 (JTA)--Israel Aircraft Industries' exhibit at the fourth international fair of Ecuador was officially opened yesterday by Israel's Ambassador to Ecuador, Yitzhak Shefi. Israel is one of 15 countries

participating in the fair which attracts several hundred thousand visitors.

IAI's display includes presentations of a wide array of aerospace products and services being manufactured in Israel for export. At the dedication of the Israeli-IAI pavilion the fair's general manager, Fernando Lebed, said, "In this exhibit Israel reveals to the Ecuadorian people its best technical achievements and emphasizes the open willingness for cooperation between Ecuador and Israel."

IAI is currently supporting Ecuador's official airline, Ecuatoriana, to whom it sold two refurbished Boeing airplanes. The Ecuadorian air force is also using Arava Stol aircraft built by IAI, in honor of IAI's appearance at the fair. Oct. 3 has been designated Israel Day.

IAI is displaying material on the Arava Stol, the Westwind business jet, the Gabriel sea-to-sea missile, the Dabur patrol boat, the RBY reconnaissance vehicles and the overhaul and maintenance service of IAI's Bedek aviation division.

ISRAELI, EGYPTIAN IN COURTEOUS DIALOGUE AT INTERNATIONAL CONFAB

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Sept. 29 (JTA)--Two high ranking representatives of Israel and Egypt recognized each other in a public debate dealing with the Middle East conflict and referred courteously to each other's remarks while still standing firmly behind the official positions of their respective governments. The speakers were Ambassador Amiel Emile Najjar, political advisor to the Foreign Minister of Israel, and Tahasin Bashir, Egyptian Ambassador-at-Large and an official spokesman for President Anwar Sadat.

The occasion was a three-day symposium on the Middle East held at Laval University in Quebec over the weekend. It was sponsored by the Quebec Center for International Relations in collaboration with the World Peace Foundation of Boston, Mass., the Paris-based Center for Studies of Foreign Policy and the Canadian Institute for International Affairs based in Toronto. The symposium was attended by scores of sociologists, political scientists and other academicians from the U.S., Canada, Britain, France and Switzerland.

Bashir urged Israel "to sit down and talk with the PLO now" and urged the establishment of a Palestinian state as part of a peaceful solution of the Middle East dispute embodying security and justice for all parties. Najjar rejected the PLO because it "has not renounced its aim to destroy Israel." He questioned its credentials as an authentic representative of the Palestinian people and warned that a new Arab state between Jordan and the Mediterranean would be an explosive source.

Desire For Peace Expressed

Although the Israelis and Egyptians were as widely apart as ever on the Palestinian issue, they expressed themselves with moderation and both appeared to be sincerely motivated by a desire for peace, according to Albert Legault, director general of the sponsoring organization.

The Egyptian representative asked rhetorically, "How can a lasting peace be achieved without granting the Palestinians the right to live as an independent nation?" He stated that "What we need now is practical, not theoretical justice to solve the problem on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338; and we are willing to fully implement them and we wish to offer the Israelis and the Arabs the possibility of making a new Middle East in the not too distant future."

Bashir added: "We are ready to discuss with the Israelis our mutual security under iron-clad guarantees while Israel must recognize the Palestinians and the Palestinians must forget the injustice inflicted on them and give peace a chance.... The conflict cannot be solved by war and we must make an effort to meet the legitimate claims of both Israelis and Palestinians." He said that he did not see danger of a new war but the danger of stalemate.

Najar pointed out that there is real interest in Israel for Arab culture—as proven by the opening of an Islamic museum in Jerusalem—and the Arabs need not fear that they will lose their identity in Israel. He noted the existence of Jewish communities in Arab countries 2500 years ago, long before the birth of Islam. If the Arabs renounce their policy of violence, the future of Arab-Israeli relations will develop along healthy lines, he said.

Najar noted, however, that while the Security Council is for a policy of negotiations, the UN General Assembly, maneuvered by Arabs and Communists, is for a policy of dictation to Israel.

U.S. PLAYS DOWN SADAT'S REMARKS REGARDING FORD'S PROMISES TO EGYPT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29 (JTA)—U.S. Administration spokesmen today sought to minimize the statement last night by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat that President Ford had promised him he would cause Israel to negotiate with Syria and with the Palestinians for a peace settlement. In a three-hour speech yesterday, Sadat said that Ford's promises are part of secret Egyptian-American appendices to the formal Israeli-Egyptian Sinai accord.

Sadat's remarks came as Aviation Week reported in its current issue that the U.S. has committed itself to provide Egypt with \$5 billion in military assistance over the next five years.

According to information from Cairo, Sadat's remarks translated into English included the following statement: "I have got an undertaking from the American President that Israel will not attack Syria, that a second disengagement will be concluded on the Syrian front and that the Palestinians will participate in a settlement."

At the White House today, Presidential press secretary Ron Nessen declared that he did not feel Sadat was making a "revelation." Nessen noted that Ford had said the U.S. would do what it could to make progress on a settlement on the Golan Heights and that the U.S. is committed to helping the process towards peace. That, Nessen said, is the subject of the negotiations.

State Department spokesman Robert Funseth said he would not comment "directly" on statements by "the various parties" to the Middle East negotiations. He noted that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger had said the U.S. would be prepared to make a serious effort to encourage Syrian-Israeli negotiations. Funseth said he was "not in a position to make a qualitative definition of effort." Regarding the Aviation Week report, Funseth recalled that the White House had said the U.S. would give "consideration" to Egypt's military requests.

Sadat Coming With Shopping List

Aviation Week said that Sadat will come to Washington in October with a shopping list for military items. "Congress has been told Egyptian military aid will run about \$1 billion a year

for the next five years," the magazine said. "His break with the Soviet and his move toward peace with Israel have improved his chances for obtaining some equipment but difficulties still are expected in Congress."

Ford said military aid is on the Sadat agenda and there is an implied U.S. commitment. Sadat needs U.S. assurances now that he has severed most military relations with the Soviet, a senior defense official said. Aviation Week reported.

ALLON URGES ZALMANSON TO END HER SEVEN-DAY-OLD HUNGER STRIKE

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Sept. 29 (JTA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon today urged Sylvia Zalmanson, the former Soviet "Prisoner of Conscience," to end her seven-day-old hunger strike. Ms. Zalmanson has been staging a hunger strike in front of the Isalah Wall, across from the United Nations, to demand the release of her husband, Eduard Kuznetsov and her two brothers, Israel and Wolf Zalmanson, who have been in Soviet labor camps since their conviction in the first Leningrad trial December 1970. She is also demanding that if they are not released that she be allowed to return to the Soviet Union and visit them.

"In my opinion you have to end your hunger strike so you will be strong and healthy and will be able together to struggle for the release of your husband and other 'Prisoners of Conscience' in the Soviet Union," Allon said in Hebrew during his 15-minute visit with Ms. Zalmanson, who told him that she feels weak and in pain. She said, nonetheless, that she will continue her hunger strike "until I will see some results."

Allon said that the Foreign Ministry has taken a special interest in her husband's case and is seeking his release on an individual basis. But when asked by reporters whether he discussed the case of Kuznetsov, who is serving a 15-year sentence, with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko last week, Allon refused to comment. He signed his name on a petition to release Kuznetsov. Allon was accompanied by Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the UN.

Earlier in the day, Allon held meetings with the Foreign Ministers of Rumania and Japan at their UN Missions. An Israeli spokesman described the meetings as "cordial," adding that the situation in the Mideast and bilateral relations were discussed. Allon is scheduled to address the General Assembly tomorrow afternoon. Syria is scheduled to address the Assembly tomorrow morning. President Idi Amin of Uganda is scheduled to address the Assembly Wednesday and is expected to include an attack against Israel. On Wednesday evening, Allon will host a reception for diplomats, Israeli officials and newsmen in New York.

4 KILLED, 9 INJURED IN ACCIDENT

TEL AVIV, Sept. 29 (JTA)—Nine persons remained hospitalized today for injuries sustained in a railroad crossing accident last Thursday in which four Israeli soldiers were killed. The latter, all Druze or Circassians aged 19-20, were identified as Eliah Sabah, Hamid Tatoul, Ahmed Abbas and Naif Quardaf. They were riding in an army half-track when it was struck by a Haifa-bound train at Bustan Hagaili, a rural junction on the Nahariya-Haifa line. The accident was attributed to the half-track driver's failure to see the warning lights at the unguarded crossing. The accident is under investigation.

THE ISRAELI SCENE

TEL AVIV (JTA)--New York's financial problems have their counterpart in Israel. Amikan Shapira, spokesman for the municipality of Tel Aviv has reported that the city is constantly in the red and currently lacks IL 15 million each month to come out even. These deficits, he noted, can only grow as the city's financial situation goes steadily from bad to worse. The chief problem is the mounting price of goods and services. The city has already had to take out commercial bank loans each month in order to pay its employees. Ironically, Shapira added, the government owes Tel Aviv more than IL 40 million and "has failed to turn over those sums promised many months ago."

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Some 150 East Jerusalem Arabs have opted for Israeli citizenship, Mayor Teddy Kollek revealed. The vast majority of East Jerusalem residents have retained their Jordanian citizenship and have not taken up Israel's offer of citizenship. As non-Israeli residents of Jerusalem, Kollek said, they are able to vote and run in municipal elections but they cannot vote for the Knesset.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Anticipating a new interim agreement between Israel and Syria, Druze residents of the Golan Heights went on a shopping spree to convert the Israeli currency they have been saving since 1967 into hard goods. The latter, according to the Jerusalem Post, included 55 expensive tractors purchased by the villagers of Majdal Shams who did not need them; six Mercedes-Benz cars; and large quantities of gold. They may end up wishing they had saved their cash. Contrary to foreign press reports, Israeli authorities insist that no decision has been reached on negotiations with Syria.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--A cell of Syrian-sponsored Al Saika terrorists has been uncovered by security forces in the Judea-Samaria regions and 55 persons have been detained for questioning. The kingpin of the gang was identified as Sharique Jumaia, a Nabulus lawyer. The terrorists are suspected of shooting at Tzur Nathan, an Israeli settlement near Tulkarem; planting explosives in the Petach Tikva market; planting bombs in the Nabulus Labor Exchange and in a school yard in Kfar Saba.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Israeli policemen will be issued new dark blue uniforms--to match field conditions--to improve their public image as a result of criticism over the way they allegedly roughed up anti-Kissinger demonstrators during the shuttle talks last month. But that will be their only concession to public opinion. The cops will not smile more often or say "pardon me" when they raise their clubs to disperse rioters, a police source said.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Former Premier Golda Meir who was as tough as any man--and sometimes tougher than most--during her six years of presiding over Israel's government in war and peace, is no militant women's libber. "I am not a great admirer of the kind of feminism that gives rise to bra-burning, hatred of men or a campaign against motherhood," Mrs. Meir wrote in her autobiography, "My Life," just published in Israel by Steimatzky and in London by Weidenfeld & Nicholson. "I had a great regard for those energetic, hard-working women within the

ranks of the Labor movement," she said.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--A shot-gun wedding, Arab style, means firing into the air as an expression of joy, not pointing the muzzle at a reluctant groom. But that happy custom may soon be ended in Israel. Sheikh Jabber Muadi, a Druze leader and Deputy Minister of Agriculture, warned that he would ask the authorities to confiscate guns brought to wedding celebrations unless Arabs--and members of his own Druze community--heeded his warning to cease fire. He published his request in response to appeals from many wedding guests who were wounded at the noisy nuptials.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Two hatchetmen from Hebron were fined IL 1500 each and given six-month suspended jail sentences for cutting down Jewish National Fund trees near Kibbutz Ruhama in southern Israel. They wanted wood without paying for it. Now they will have to pay the JNF IL 6000 for felled trees, in addition to their fines.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Sheikh Abu Rushdi Natour, a Druze from Daliyat Al-Carmel village near Haifa, just returned from a one-man technical assistance mission to West Germany. The Sheikh, a baker by trade, taught bakers in Munich how to make pitta, the round, flat bread of the Middle East. He went to Munich at the invitation of German investors who have since established a pitta bakery there. According to Abu Rushdi, the demand for pitta and falafel is on the rise in Germany.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--A passenger on an incoming flight threw Ben Gurion Airport into an uproar last week when he disappeared during the routine security check. The terminal gates were closed and all vehicles leaving the airport were searched, but nothing was found, including the missing passenger. Authorities believe the man intended no harm and wandered off innocently, believing the security check to be over.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--The streets here were filled with song, dances and colorful parades last Wednesday as 30,000 participants in the annual Succoth season march entered the city at the end of their day-long trek over hills and dales--an event sponsored by the army to inculcate love of the land and just plain fun. The march, previously a three-day affair, was reduced to a day for budgetary and security reasons. Among the marchers was a contingent from Finland in their national costumes and a group of "New Zionists" from Japan who sang Israeli songs in flawless Hebrew to rousing applause from the throngs.

Tel Aviv was not to be outdone as tens of thousands of local citizens and visitors lined the beach front last Tuesday spell-bound by the daring of sky-diving paratroopers who descended into the Mediterranean to be plucked up by hundreds of flag-bedecked small craft cruising offshore. The occasion was Paratroopers Day, a tribute to battle-hardened airborne infantry who played a major role in every Israeli battle from the 1956 Sinai campaign to the Yom Kippur War. In the evening the paratroopers were feted at a pageant and light show in the Ramat Gan stadium.