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THE WAR IN LEBANON HAS CAUSED THE VIRTUAL DISINTEGRATION OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THAT COUNTRY

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Nov. 24 (JTA)--Lebanon's small Jewish community has virtually disintegrated as a result of internecine warfare in that country. Most of Beirut's 2000 Jews have fled to European capitals or have taken refuge with Druze or Christian villagers in the countryside. Only the very old and very poor have been left behind in Beirut's ancient Jewish quarter that has become a battlefield between Moslems and Christians.

That account of the fate of one of the last Jewish communities remaining in any Arab country of the Middle East was given by a Beirut Jew now in Europe. It was published today in Yediot Achronot. According to the account, the Jewish quarter remained for some time outside the zone of fighting in Beirut, and Jews lived relatively undisturbed under the joint protection of Moslems and Christians.

But as the civil war intensified between those two elements, the fighting spread into the Jewish streets. One 70-year-old member of the Jewish burial society was killed as he left the shelter of the synagogue but he was the only Jewish casualty as far as the informant knew, according to the report.

Looting Of Jewish Property

As Jewish families fled the capital, there was some looting of Jewish property by Arab neighbors. In one case, a Moslem former employe of a Jewish family removed the family's furniture piece by piece from their flat. The family did not protest because they wanted to reach the airport alive, the informant reported. He said the few Jews left behind in Beirut are without leadership, without money to escape and face starvation.

The Beirut Jewish community was an ancient one, he said, and while it suffered its share of persecution, Jews generally lived in peace with their Moslem and Christian Arab neighbors. It appears now, however, that the Jews who left Beirut will not return and the community has ceased to exist as such.

FORD, KISSINGER STRONGLY SUPPORT EFFECTIVE JOB MOYNIHAN HAS BEEN DOING IN UN; URGE HIM TO SPEAK OUT CANDIDLY, FORCEFULLY ON MAJOR ISSUES

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24 (JTA)--President Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger "expressed strong support for the effective job" Ambassador Daniel P. Moynihan "has been doing representing the United States at the United Nations" and have "encouraged" him "to continue to speak out candidly and forcefully on major issues coming before the UN," the White House said today. The statement was read to reporters by White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen following a meeting between Moynihan and Ford who were joined for about 10 minutes by Kissinger.

The strong endorsement of Moynihan by Ford and Kissinger put to rest rumors that the Administration was unhappy with the U.S. envoy's outspokenness in the General Assembly, especially on

Middle East issues, and that Moynihan intended to resign. Those rumors came to a head last week when the British UN Ambassador, Ivor Richard, sharply criticized Moynihan without mentioning him by name, allegedly for using the UN as a "confrontational area" to assail countries whose political systems or ideologies he disliked.

Moynihan was one of the most vociferous critics of the Third World countries that voted for or abstained on the anti-Zionist resolution adopted by the General Assembly Nov. 10. Earlier, Moynihan called President Idi Amin of Uganda a "racist murderer" after Amin, who is currently chairman of the Organization for African Unity (OAU), called for the extinction of Israel as a state.

Moynihan Has Ford's 'Complete Confidence'

Richard's attack on Moynihan was believed in some quarters to have been approved, if not inspired by State Department elements believed anxious to have Moynihan resign after less than five months in office. There were reports that the 48-year-old former Ambassador to India and former Harvard professor was about to submit his resignation last Friday.

Nessen would not say what prompted the President's meeting with Moynihan this morning except that it was by mutual agreement. He did say there was "no communication" from Moynihan to the President. The UN envoy was not accompanied by any other members of the U.S. UN Mission when he visited the White House. The White House statement said "a range of matters involving the UN" was discussed and that "the President wants it clearly understood that Ambassador Moynihan has his complete confidence."

IL REDUCED BY 1.5 PERCENT; NO NEW PRICE HIKES EXPECTED TO FOLLOW

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 24 (JTA)--Government officials said today that the latest devaluation of the Pound will not set off a new round of price hikes for food and public transportation. But price stability is expected to be short-lived because of planned massive cuts in the government's subsidies of basic food products and transportation.

The Pound was reduced by 1.5 percent at midnight last night and now stands at IL 7.10-\$1--ten agorot less than it was one month ago. It was the fourth instance this year of the so-called "creeping devaluation" which permits the government to depreciate the Pound by up to 2 percent every 30 days if necessary. Last Sept. 28 the Pound was devalued by 10 percent in an effort to conserve the nation's dwindling foreign currency reserves and stimulate exports.

There was no massive run on the banks or widespread hoarding at that time because the prices of basic commodities and services were held firm by government subsidies. But the Cabinet is due shortly to consider recommendations by the ministerial economic committee for an IL 1.5 billion cut in the government's present IL 4 billion subsidy program.

Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz has warned that the national budget for the next fiscal year must not exceed IL 86 billion. This is more than IL 6 billion less than the total budgets sub-

mitted by the various ministries which exceed IL 92 billion. Rabinowitz insists that drastic cuts will have to be made and a reduction of government price supports is one measure that is considered inevitable.

In practical terms it will mean a 40 percent rise in the price of basic commodities, a 30 percent rise in public transportation fares and a 20 percent increase in the prices of meat and poultry. A standard loaf of bread that now costs IL .85 will go up to IL 1.20; a liter of milk selling for IL 1.60 will cost IL 2.25; chicken will rise in price from IL 10 to IL 12 per kilo; and a Tel Aviv-Jerusalem bus ticket will go up from IL 9.50 to IL 12.50.

HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE APPROVES ANTI-BOYCOTT MEASURE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24 (JTA)--An amendment to the U.S. economic assistance authorization bill to counter discrimination by Arab governments against American Jews, Blacks and women has been approved by a House-Senate conference committee.

Its supporters, led by Sen. Clifford Case (R, NJ), said following its adoption late last Thursday that they expect both branches of Congress to approve it without much opposition when the legislators return to the Capitol after the Thanksgiving holiday recess.

The amendment, designed to counter Arab discrimination, particularly by Saudi Arabia, directs the President not to take into account in assigning officers or employees of the United States to serve in any foreign country, their race, religion, national origin or sex but that "such assignment shall be made solely on the basis of ability and relevant experience."

The Secretary of State is directed to establish "such rules as may be necessary" to implement the law six months after its enactment. Case, who authored the amendment, said the conference committee, by its approval, "put teeth into the effort" to prohibit discrimination against Americans by countries "wishing to receive our assistance." The amendment, he said, "is a welcome step towards assuring that all Americans are given equal treatment overseas as well as at home regardless of their race, religion or sex."

Ford's Regulations Deemed Inadequate

The conference committee action, resulting from Congressional activities that included hearings since last January, came shortly after President Ford announced Thursday regulations designed to protect American citizens against discrimination, such as the Arab boycott.

Along with Case and others, Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D,NY) welcomed the President's regulations but she added that they were both "long overdue and inadequate." The President, she said, was only endorsing the "first section" of the Holtzman-Rodino bill she and Rep. Peter W. Rodino Jr. (D,NJ) had introduced last spring.

"American citizens and businesses must not only be protected against foreign pressures to discriminate but against foreign efforts to dictate with whom they can and cannot do business," Rep. Holtzman said.

"In other words, an Arab country should not be able to tell an American business not to hire or trade with Jews. It should also not be permitted to tell an American business not to trade with

Israel or with an American company that trades with Israel. The Ford proposal is inadequate because it does not deal with this latter problem, which is actually the direct object of the Arab boycott."

Statements to the effect that Ford's regulations were inadequate were also issued by the American Jewish Congress, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Committee. Ford's regulations to end foreign boycott practices that discriminate against Americans because of race, color, sex, religion or national origin will not affect U.S. firms complying with the Arab boycott against Israel. They were drawn up solely to bar discrimination in the U.S.

KNESSET DELEGATION IN U.S. HAS BUSY, HECTIC SCHEDULE

NEW YORK, Nov. 24 (JTA)--The seven Knesset members who are on a two-week visit to the U.S., at the invitation of Congress participated in numerous meetings during the last days of their visit with American public officials, Israelis and Jewish communal leaders and addressed meetings of Zionist groups.

Menachem Beigin, leader of the Likud opposition, told leaders of the Zionist Organization of America that Israel must not allow Syria to take over Lebanon "because it would be a direct threat" to Israel. Commenting on the UN anti-Zionist resolution, he said that the time is now favorable to state Israel's case in the U.S. "to prove who the racists are." Beigin noted that it has been a long time since a UN resolution whose purpose was meant to bring harm to Israel "has met with such adverse reaction in the media and in Washington."

While the Likud leader welcomed U.S. aid, he said that "if we want to live our own life and have our own destiny we must change our own system of life economically and socially so that we will be less dependent on foreign aid."

Chaika Grossman, Mapam Knesseter and leader and heroine of the Bialystok ghetto uprising, told some 200 people yesterday attending a Chanukah luncheon of the Americans for Progressive Israel-Hashomer Hatzair that the UN resolution is "a racist act, like a poison which drips slowly but obtains murderous results." She noted that Zionism is the national liberation movement of the most oppressed peoples in the world and that "progressive elements always prevailed in it and prevented the movement from deteriorating into a chauvinist nationalism. Thank God we don't have an Arafat among us."

Nine-Point Program For Peace

Expressing a strong belief that it is possible to end that state of confrontation in the Middle East, Grossman offered a nine-point program to achieve this objective. It included: negotiations in any form, direct or indirect; a plan for a final settlement with options left for a partial settlement, which would include Syria and Jordan; the establishment of a Palestinian leadership in the administered territories; readiness to negotiate with any Palestinian organization which declares its recognition of the existence and sovereignty of the State of Israel; and sincere and thorough preparations for a Geneva conference in which a Palestinian delegation might take part within the delegation of another Arab country.

Other points included: the possibility of establishing a confederation between the State of Israel,

which would remain Jewish, and between a Palestinian state--either Jordan or independently Palestinian--which would insure access to holy places of all religions and would eliminate connotations of religious and historical patrimony over the land; Israel's final frontiers to be based on the 1967 lines with slight territorial changes, and not massive annexations; and international guarantees by the U.S., the Soviet Union and the UN to assure Israel's security.

Other members of the delegation included Knesset Speaker Yisrael Yeshayahu, Yitzhak Ben Aharon, Zerah Warhaftig, Yosef Tumor and Ari Ankorian. Yeshayahu addressed the National Committee for Labor Israel, the Labor Zionist Alliance and attended the 44th General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds in Miami Beach, Fla.

SISCO GIVEN PETITION WITH 202,000 NAMES OF AMERICANS URGING FORD TO HELP END PERSECUTION OF SYRIAN JEWS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24 (JTA)--A delegation of Jewish leaders today gave Undersecretary of State Joseph Sisco a petition signed by 202,000 Americans urging President Ford to "intervene personally" to help end the "persecution" of Jews in Syria. Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, who led the delegation, made the presentation in Sisco's office in the State Department.

The petition called on Ford "to intervene personally using the power and prestige of your office to urge the President of Syria to cease the persecution of the Jews of Syria and to ensure their human rights and dignity." Ford was also urged "to request the Syrian government to permit the emigration of Syrian Jews."

According to the petition, there are 4500 Jews in Syria. They were described as subject to "arbitrary arrest, imprisonment and restriction of movement, constant police surveillance, severe economic restrictions and special identification cards marked with the word 'Jew.' These are only some of the indignities inflicted on these unfortunate people."

The campaign for signatures was initiated earlier this year by the Central Conference of American Rabbis and endorsed by the Conference of Presidents on behalf of its 32 national constituent bodies. Members of the delegation that met with Sisco included 16-year-old Michael Sohoen of Baltimore, who personally collected 20,000 signatures in the petition campaign.

SYRIA DEMANDS REPLACING RESOLUTIONS 242, 338 WITH FORMULA ACCEPTABLE TO PLO AS PRICE FOR EXTENDING UNDOF MANDATE

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 24 (JTA)--Syria is insisting that the UN Security Council replace its Resolutions 242 and 338 as the framework for a negotiated peace settlement in the Middle East with a formula acceptable to the Palestine Liberation Organization. That is the condition Syria has attached to its agreement to extend the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observers Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights which expires Nov. 30. It was learned here today following two hours of talks between UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and top Israeli leaders.

Highly qualified observers here believe, however, that despite the present impasse, the UNDOF mandate will be renewed. The observers cited

Soviet pressure on the Syrians for an extension, reportedly because Moscow does not wish to exacerbate Middle East tensions at this time for global political reasons.

Waldheim arrived here this morning from Damascus and immediately went into conference with Foreign Minister Yigal Allon. They were joined by Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Defense Minister Shimon Peres. Waldheim told reporters afterwards that "It is a very delicate situation and I do not want to comment before this phase is over." He is returning to Damascus Wednesday for further meetings with Syrian President Hafez Assad "to clarify a number of points."

Waldheim remarked that it was still "premature" to express confidence that Syria would agree to extend the UNDOF mandate. He said "there are differences" between Israel and Syria on the matter which required him to return to Damascus.

It was learned that the Syrians apparently told Waldheim that they were dissatisfied with the present state of affairs in the Middle East. They reportedly felt that Resolutions 242 and 338--which Syria has never accepted--failed to break the impasse and the Geneva conference was not convened as a result. Therefore, the Syrians suggested a new framework for Mideast negotiations to be formulated by the Security Council, acceptable to the PLO and opening the way for its participation in the Geneva talks.

Israel Presents Its View

Israel's leaders, however, reportedly made it clear to Waldheim that Israel was determined not to participate in any forum at which the PLO was present and that it regarded extension of the UNDOF mandate a matter completely independent of any other possible developments.

The news Waldheim brought from Damascus surprised some circles here who were apparently convinced that the Secretary General had succeeded in gaining Syria's assent to renewal of the UNDOF mandate, conditional on improved prospects for further diplomatic movement in the region. Waldheim will go to Beirut today and to Cairo tomorrow prior to his second Damascus visit. He is scheduled to return to New York and report to the Security Council at the end of the week.

It was understood that Israeli leaders reiterated to Waldheim that Israel does not accept the Nov. 10 resolution of the UN General Assembly inviting the PLO to participate in any Mideast peace forums and will not cooperate with any committee set up by the General Assembly, in accordance with another resolution, to oversee implementation of the rights of the Palestinians.

The Israelis were also believed to have protested sharply to Waldheim over the murder of three Israeli students on the Golan Heights last Thursday night by Arab terrorists who infiltrated Israeli lines with the apparent help and knowledge of the Syrian army.

Earlier, Allon expressed regret that Waldheim had met with PLO chief Yasser Arafat in Damascus. He said the meeting only encouraged extremism and was especially insensitive on Waldheim's part following the Golan Heights murders. The Secretary General reportedly explained that he did not initiate the meeting with Arafat but that the General Assembly had decided that such contacts should take place.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--The Liberty Bell Garden, in honor of the U.S. Bicentennial, will be dedicated here on July 4.

