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REPORT BEIRUT SYNAGOGUE LOOTED, SERIOUSLY DAMAGED IN FIGHTING

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Dec. 11 (JTA)--The Lebanese Minister of Interior, Camille Chamoun, announced today in Beirut that the city's Jewish synagogue of Aouadi-Boujntil has been looted and seriously damaged. The Minister said fire broke out in the synagogue as a consequence of nearby fighting. Other reports from Beirut indicate that the former Jewish quarter, deserted since last week's fighting, has been heavily shelled by both Christian and Moslem units and has become a sort of no-man's land.

There are no reports of Jewish casualties in spite of the new flare-up in the fighting, which, according to conservative estimates, caused the death of 235 people in the last two days and the wounding of hundreds of civilians. Lebanese Jewish families who had planned to return to their homes from Western Europe where they have sought asylum are now reported to have decided to settle in Europe. Scores of Lebanese Jews reportedly applied to the French authorities for resident's permits and similar cases are reported in Switzerland.

U.S. PLANS TO SELL ISRAEL 25 F-15 JET FIGHTERS; TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT SEEN AS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT THE U.S. IS NOT ABANDONING ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (JTA)--Congress was informed yesterday by the Defense Department of plans to sell Israel 25 of the advanced F-15 jet fighters that Israel has been seeking for more than a year. The legislators were also advised that Saudi Arabia has contracted for \$1.8 billion in U.S. construction, maintenance and training programs directed toward the modernization of its air force which is to include 100 F-5 jet fighters the U.S. has agreed to sell Saudi Arabia.

Congress has 20 days to oppose both deals. While no opposition is expected on the sale of the F-15s to Israel, the Saudian contract may run into an snag on the issue of that country's discrimination against the hiring of Jews by American contractors engaged in projects in Saudi Arabia.

The Pentagon's announcement of the sale of jets to Israel is considered significant only from the standpoint of timing. It was known in mid-summer that the United States had agreed to provide Israel with these planes and the announcement yesterday of delivery plans was considered as another indication by the U.S. government that it is not abandoning Israel despite its desire for Israel to participate in the Jan. 12 Security Council debate on the Mideast in which the PLO is to take part.

In addition, it is being said here that French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, who is now in Cairo, may agree to provide Egypt with the new Mirage F-1 warplane. The French position, it is now believed, is inclined to deliver the best French fighter to Egypt since the French government, in the light of the U.S. announcement on the F-15 planes, cannot now be charged with destroying the balance of air power in the Middle East. The French say that their new Mirage F-1 is better than any American warplane in Israeli hands.

Yesterday, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee adopted an amendment to the military aid bill barring military assistance to any nation that prevents the employment of an American citizen on grounds of race, religion, national origin or sex. The measure was co-sponsored by Sens. Clifford Case (R,NJ) and Hubert Humphrey (D,Minn.).

No Deliveries Till 1977

The sale of F-15s to Israel was held up by the Ford Administration's reassessment of U.S. Mideast policy, ordered by the President after the failure of U.S. attempts to promote an interim agreement between Israel and Egypt last March. The Administration approved the sale after the Israeli-Egyptian Sinai accord was signed in September. Israel claims its air force needs the highly sophisticated F-15s to counter the Soviet MIG-23 fighters supplied to Egypt and Syria and the MIG-24 interceptors that Soviet pilots are reportedly flying in Syria.

But Israel will have to wait at least until 1977 before the first F-15s are delivered. Administration policy requires that arms sold to foreign countries come from the production line rather than existing stocks of the U.S. armed forces. Production of the F-15s was begun only recently by the McDonnell Douglas Corp. and so far only about 20 have been delivered to the U.S. Air Force.

The F-15s are said to cost about \$24 million each, including spare parts, support equipment and crew training. They will cost Israel about \$600 million altogether, but a substantial portion of that sum is expected to be covered by U.S. military credits and grants.

RABIN CALLS FOR CUTS IN SERVICES DUE TO SERIOUS ECONOMIC SITUATION

TEL AVIV, Dec. 11 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin called on the Labor Party last night to demonstrate political courage by sponsoring severe cuts in government services because of Israel's serious economic situation. He said Israel could not rely on economic assistance from the United States to continue on its present scale and that the aid obtainable from world Jewry will not increase significantly.

Therefore, Israel cannot plan to cover its \$3-\$4 billion deficit from foreign aid and has no choice but to impose further austerity, he told a meeting of the Labor Alignment's economic committee here. There is no escape from acting now, Israel cannot wait until the last moment when its foreign currency reserves have dwindled to take action, he said. He added, however, that for the next year or two, Israel enjoys relatively favorable conditions to cover its balance of payment deficit.

U.S., CANADIAN JEWISH LEADERS INVITED BY ECHEVERRIA TO MEET WITH HIM

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA)--A delegation of American and Canadian Jewish leaders left here by plane today for Mexico City for a meeting tomorrow with President Luis Echeverria of Mexico at the President's invitation. A spokesman for the delegation declined to comment on the reason for the invitation but it was assumed to be connected with the critical reaction in Jewish com-

munities to Mexico's vote of support for the General Assembly resolution last Nov. 10 equating Zionism with racism. Many Jewish organizations cancelled trips to Mexico.

The delegation is headed by Seymour Graubard, chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; Other members are Bertram Gold, executive vice-president and Richard Maass, chairman of the board of governors of the American Jewish Committee; Philip Baum, assistant executive director, and Will Maslow, general counsel of the American Jewish Congress; Burton Levinson, chairman of the ADL Latin American Affairs Committee, and Rabbi Morton S. Rosenthal, director of the ADL Latin American Affairs Department.

Also, Lawrence Peirez, a member of the board of governors of B'nai B'rith; Mrs. Rose Matzkin, president of Hadassah; Dr. Max Matzkin of Hadassah Associates; Mrs. Thelma Morag, of the National Council of Jewish Women; Jacques Toroznyer, chairman of the American Section of the World Jewish Congress; Max Shechter, B'nai B'rith International vice-president, Canadian Zionist Federation vice-president and member of the national executive of the Canadian Jewish Congress; Samuel Brochstein, Synagogue Council of America, and Dr. Seymour Weisman, former executive director of the Jewish War Veterans.

ZIONIST LEADER URGES IMPLEMENTATION OF JEWISH SUMMIT PARLEY DECISIONS

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA)--Calling upon all American Jews regardless of their affiliation to accept the commitment of their leaders to the common Zionist purpose, made last week at the Jerusalem Conference of Jewish Solidarity, Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the Executive of the World Zionist Organization-American Section, praised the overwhelming unity expressed at the conference by all of the Jewish groups and organizations represented.

"There was a renewed sense of common purpose" emerging from the conference, she said, "and most gratifying, a new sense of true partnership in the whole Zionist enterprise. There is no longer any such thing as a 'non-Zionist' organization; every participant accepted, for himself and for his organization, the challenge implicit in the cynical UN resolution, equating Zionism with racism; there was unanimous and enthusiastic support for all of the resolutions passed."

Mrs. Jacobson expressed her gratification over the full participation of the Israelis in the discussions throughout the sessions: "They listened carefully to everything said by Jewish spokesmen from all over the world, and emphasized their own recognition of the unity of the Jewish people in Israel and abroad," she said.

1976 is to be "Solidarity Year," Mrs. Jacobson added, which means intensified efforts for a substantial American ally, journeys to Israel, intensified Jewish education and public manifestations of support for and solidarity with Israel. "All elements of the American Jewish community will be mobilized in this struggle against those who would undo the successes of the last half-century of Zionist effort and destroy the State of Israel," she said. The three-day "summit" conference, called by Premier Yitzhak Rabin and acting WZO chairman Leon Dulzín, brought to Jerusalem 170 diaspora Jewish leaders.

TOON ASSURES ISRAELIS ABOUT U.S.

TEL AVIV, Dec. 11 (JTA)--U.S. Ambassador

Malcolm Toon chided Israelis last night for demonstrating too little confidence in the friendship and support of the United States. Specifically, he warned Israelis who have criticized American actions at the United Nations recently that they ran the risk of doing permanent damage to the special relationship that exists between the U.S. and Israel.

The Ambassador was referring to the bitter reaction in Israel over the U.S. failure to veto a resolution in the Security Council last month that linked the Palestinian issue to renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights. The U.S. envoy, who was posted to the Moscow Embassy for four years, made his remarks in Russian in an address to the members of three B'nai B'rith lodges composed of recent immigrants from the Soviet Union.

He said it pained him to note some questioning of American reliability as a friend and partner of Israel. It has been suggested that America violated its undertakings toward Israel at the UN but none of these charges and allegations has any legitimate or reasonable content, Toon said.

He denied contentions by some Israelis that the U.S. does not understand what the Soviet Union is up to in the Middle East or that it lacks the will to stand up to Soviet expansionism in the region. He said that detente has helped restrain the Big Powers from conflict so far. He conceded, however, that the U.S. has had less success in enlisting Soviet help in developing a constructive approach to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Toon returned to Israel earlier this week after Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and he, along with other U.S. ambassadors to Middle East countries, held a series of consultations in Washington.

KOL SETS GOAL OF ONE MILLION TOURISTS TO ISRAEL FOR 1976

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA)--One million tourists to Israel is the goal that the Ministry of Tourism has set for 1976, Tourism Minister Moshe Kol declared today. But he told a press conference at the St. Regis Hotel that "we will not achieve this goal without doubling tourism from the United States."

Kol said that this year, in which Israel expects to register a total of 650,000 visitors, tourism was up from all other parts of the world but was down from the U.S. There were only 200,000 visitors from the U.S. in 1975, Kol said. He noted that the peak year for American tourists was 1972 when 280,000 visited Israel. That year was also a record year for overall tourism with 726,000 visitors, a mark Kol hopes to break next year.

However, Kol, who has visited 10 American cities on behalf of Israel Bonds and to meet with travel agents, said that since the "shameful" anti-Israel resolutions were adopted by the UN there has been a tremendous response by American Jews in buying Israel Bonds and in deciding to visit Israel.

"I am very impressed with the reactions of Jewish communities in the United States," he said. "They feel that they are being attacked personally, not only Israel." Kol said he hoped that Christians who oppose the anti-Zionist resolution will also visit Israel as an expression of solidarity with the Jewish State.

Kol said Christian tourism to Israel, which

accounts for 40 percent of the tourists, has also picked up this year partly because many persons visiting Rome for the Catholic Holy Year have also gone to Israel. He said he expects at least 15,000 Christian pilgrims to come to Israel for Christmas.

In addition to the regular tourists, Kol noted that 135,000 to 140,000 Arabs from every Arab country will have visited Israel this year. He said he supports the "open bridge" policy because he believes the Arabs who come to Israel will see the real Israel, not the propaganda they are fed. Kol said he has always supported open tourism throughout the Middle East as a way to achieve peace. "If the Egyptian Minister of Tourism will recommend the holy places in Israel, I will recommend the pyramids," he said.

HERZOG: JEWS MUST ACT DECISIVELY

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA)--Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, declared last night that Jews must act decisively to defend Israel and the Jewish people against attacks in the UN and elsewhere. He said the response of Jews to Mexico's vote for the UN General Assembly's anti-Zionist resolution was the reason that Mexican Foreign Minister Emilio Rabasa placed a wreath at the tomb of Theodor Herzl in Jerusalem this week.

Herzog's remarks, made to some 600 Jewish leaders attending a dinner at the New York Hilton ending the 61st annual meeting of the Joint Distribution Committee, was an apparent reference to the cancellation by American Jewish organizations and individuals of scheduled trips to Mexico.

The Israeli Ambassador, while declaring that the UN has become the "world center of anti-Semitism" with an almost daily barrage of anti-Israel statements and resolutions, warned his listeners "not to allow the automatic majority against Israel to blind us to the fact that we are not alone" in the UN. He said there were about 55 countries who will support Israel.

Defends Israeli Raids

Herzog strongly defended Israel's raids against terrorist bases in Lebanon. He said if civilians are killed in these raids it is the fault of the terrorists who place their bases amidst the civilians and those who allow the terrorists to set up bases. "The UN has not had the courage to condemn terrorism," Herzog noted, but they are willing to condemn Israel's defense against terrorism.

Reiterating Israel's refusal to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization, Herzog said that the Soviet Union and "extreme" Arab countries want to move Mideast negotiations from the Geneva conference to the Security Council to destroy the progress that has been made in the Mideast and to attempt to impose a Soviet-Arab solution on Israel. Earlier in the day, the delegates to the JDC meeting adopted a \$33,335,000 budget for 1978.

RABIN HOLDS FRANK TALKS WITH GOLAN HEIGHTS SETTLERS By Yitzhak Shargil

RAMAT MAGSHIMIM, Dec. 11 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin visited this tiny village on the Golan Heights in freezing weather today for a frank discussion with the local settlers and those from adjacent settlements about the problems of terrorism, finances and--what seems to obsess

Israel's most on the Golan--more Jewish settlements in this barren and dangerous region.

The Premier, accompanied by Defense Minister Shimon Peres and Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur, toured military outposts and talked with officers and soldiers before coming to Ramat Magshimim. He chose this particular settlement for his meeting apparently because it was the scene last month of the murder of three student soldiers by terrorist infiltrators from the Syrian lines. The people jammed inside the community center to meet the Premier kept on their heavy overcoats and woolen caps against the cold.

The recent terrorist assault was the first topic on the agenda. Replying to settlers who demanded retaliation, Rabin who commanded more than a few retaliatory raids during his military career, intimated that there were international political considerations that dictated Israeli restraint. The seventies are not the fifties, he said. What was correct policy then is not necessarily correct now, he observed.

Not Satisfied With Government Decision

The Golan settlers were clearly not satisfied with the recent government decision to build four new settlements on the Heights. They demanded at least a fifth to close the defense gap between Ein Zian and Kesho. But Rabin was firm. "I have only one reply for you and that is that the government has decided to set up four settlements on the Golan and the settling on the Golan will be carried out according to the government's decision."

His remarks were apparently a reminder that the government would tolerate no illegal settlement activity despite its controversial compromise with the Qash Emunim squatters in Samaria this week.

It was learned, meanwhile, that Tel Phares, the first of the four new Golan settlements is already inhabited and two others in the southern Golan will be settled next week as soon as water supplies, electricity and pre-fab houses are completed. Preparations are underway for the fourth settlement near Har Odem in the northern sector of the Heights.

NEW ISRAEL CONSUL GENERAL IN N.Y.

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA)--Uri Ben Ari, the new Israel Consul General in New York, told a press conference today at the Israel Consulate that "Israel is here to stay" despite all the difficulties facing the Jewish State. He said that Israel and the Jewish people are presently "in a state of emergency." Not all Jews, he noted, are aware of this situation and one of his major tasks will be to create this awareness among Jews.

Ben Ari, 50, who replaced David Rivlin, now Ambassador to Norway, was born in Berlin and came to Palestine in 1939. He is a brigadier general in the reserves and was deputy commander of the southern command on the Egyptian front during the Yom Kippur War. His post here is his first diplomatic one.

BUDAPEST (JTA)--The liturgical calendar of the Roman Catholic Church in Hungary this year for the first time includes Jewish personalities as "the person of the month." The calendar is published by the local Sec. February's personality is Anne Frank.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Israel was listed ninth in the world among 18 countries that hosted international gatherings in 1974, with 106 international conventions and congresses.

