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ECHVERRIA TELLS 15 JEWISH LEADERS THAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT IDENTIFY ZIONISM WITH RACISM

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 14 (JTA)--The Mexican government "in no way identified Zionism with racism," President Luis Echeverria told a delegation of American and Canadian Jewish leaders he had invited to visit him in response to critical Jewish reactions to Mexico's vote for the United Nations General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism.

The 15 Jewish leaders, who met with Echeverria at a lengthy luncheon Friday, issued a statement declaring that the President had told them that Mexican Foreign Minister Emilio Rabasa "is now at the United Nations to ensure that future votes by Mexico cannot be misinterpreted or misunderstood as equating Zionism with racism or opposing the national aspiration of the Jewish people."

Rabasa spent five days in Israel last week in an effort to clear up what he called "certain misunderstandings" resulting from the Mexican vote on the resolution. One result has been suspension by American and Canadian Jewish organizations of tour programs to Mexico, with Mexican hotels receiving thousands of room cancellations.

General Assembly Vote Will Be A Test

Lawrence Peirez, a member of the B'nai B'rith board of governors and one of the 15 members of the delegation, said after the meeting that B'nai B'rith will await "formal action" by Mexico in the United Nations disassociating itself from the anti-Zionist resolution before considering whether to reinstate its tours to Mexico. Peirez said he "anticipates" such a move by Mexico tomorrow when the UN General Assembly will consider an omnibus resolution that includes anti-Zionist declarations adopted by the International Women's Year conference in Mexico City last summer.

The resolution contains an operative paragraph which specifically adds Zionism to its condemnation of racism, colonialism, apartheid, and imperialism. From a procedural approach, this paragraph is expected to be voted on separately from the remainder of the resolution which contains elements that can be supported, Peirez noted. "This should give Mexico an opportunity to offer formally the statements by President Echeverria that Mexico does not identify Zionism with racism and supports the right of the Jewish people to a national homeland in Israel," Peirez said.

David Blumberg, B'nai B'rith president, who just returned from a visit to Mexico, also said that the current B'nai B'rith position on tourism to Mexico would continue pending further developments on Mexico's UN actions. Will Maslow, general counsel of the American Jewish Congress, said Echeverria assumed full responsibility for the vote on Nov. 10 when the General Assembly adopted the anti-Zionist resolution.

Seymour Graubard, chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said he was "entirely satisfied" with the meeting with the Mexican President. Graubard said Echeverria

told the Jewish leaders that he had hoped the Zionist-racist resolution "would lead the conflicting parties in the Middle East to make progress in their talks." The President added that the vote did not accomplish the results he had hoped for. Graubard and Maslow were part of the 15-member delegation. (See Dec. 12 Bulletin for full delegation list.)

PERES: 10 ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE SIGNED \$19 BILLION ARMS DEAL WITH THE WEST AND EAST, MAKING THEM LARGER THAN THE NATO FORCE IN EUROPE By Yitzhak Rabin

NEW YORK, Dec. 14 (JTA)--Israeli Defense Minister Shimon Peres said here last night that 10 Arab countries have signed \$19 billion worth of arms deals since the Yom Kippur War, "half from the West and half from the East" which makes them, from the point of view of armaments, "larger than the NATO force" in Europe.

Peres also presented a detailed breakdown of the armed strength of the so-called confrontation states on Israel's borders. But he assured the more than 2000 people attending the United Jewish Appeal Conference Dinner at the New York Hilton Hotel that while Israel does not underestimate this force "we can and shall repulse them." Peres said that while he could not go into details, Israel possesses the strength to face the concentrated Arab power if necessary and "she will retain this ability for the foreseeable future."

The Defense Minister also explained Israel's rationale for refusing to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization under any circumstances and why it opposes the creation of a third state between Jordan and Israel. He also stated, in general terms, what Israel proposes to offer the Palestinians by way of compromise should they agree to recognize Israel and come to terms with it.

Peres, who is seeking to speed up U.S. arms deliveries to his country, conceded that Israel is dependent for military supplies on the U.S. but stressed that U.S. support of Israel is in America's interest. "Without Israel, the U.S. would have fewer problems, but without Israel the Middle East and the Persian Gulf would already have become a Soviet arena and the free world would lose by being excluded from the area and by the area becoming a card in the Soviet deck," Peres said.

Position On Palestinian Problem Explained

Reiterating Israel's view that a solution of the Palestinian problem can be achieved only through negotiations with Jordan, Peres noted that the PLO is not an elected body but a "coalition of armed factions who resort to violence." He said it was impossible to negotiate with them because "matters agreed upon with (PLO chieftain Yasser) Arafat may not be accepted by (George) Habash or (Ahmed) Jabril, and vice versa."

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, headed by Habash, and Jabril's Popular Democratic Front are Marxist-oriented extremist terrorist groups that broke away from the PLO. Peres stressed that the PLO does not recognize Israel and wants to destroy it and even if Israel

recognized the PLO "It is highly theoretical that the PLO would recognize Israel."

A Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan potentially "carries with it a Lebanese-like tragedy," Peres said, and would place Soviet missiles within 10-15 miles from the heart of Israel.

He said that when the Arabs show they are ready for compromise, Israel would offer them two fundamental options: "an agreement in the European style between us and Jordan which will enable the Palestinian people to retain their identity without cutting the land into impossible pieces; or a federation in which every citizen will enjoy equal rights and every people will enjoy the right to bedifferent." Peres did not elaborate on these proposals.

Military Strength Of The Arabs

According to the Israeli defense chief, "Those Arab states which confront Israel have today 22 armored divisions; 40 tank brigades; 8100 tanks; 4800 artillery pieces; about 1000 ground-to-ground missiles; 1980 attack aircraft; 150 helicopters; 200 batteries of ground-to-air missiles; 12 submarines; 12 destroyers; 65 airfields and 22 naval bases" on the Mediterranean and Red Seas. He said they have under arms a combined total of 1.5 million men or "for every man, boy and child in Israel there is one Arab soldier."

Peres called on the Jewish people to show Israel that it has "a people it can depend upon." He said the future "will require the Jewish people to dedicate even greater material means; in Israel in the form of taxes and here (the U.S.) in the form of donations to minimize our dependence and enhance our independence." Peres will be in Washington this week where he is scheduled to meet Tuesday with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld "to present the up-to-date and accurate situation in the Middle East." He also has speaking engagements in Dallas and Baltimore.

Appearing today on CBS "Face The Nation" program, Peres said that Israel would be prepared to give up most of the Arab territory it occupied in 1967 "if we get a meaningful peace or an end of the state of belligerency." He also said his country probably would boycott the Security Council's Middle East debate on Jan. 12 to which the Palestine Liberation Organization has been invited, because Israel would have nothing to gain from it. Peres defended Israel's Dec. 2 air raids on terrorist strongholds in Lebanon, saying they were justified because of the build-up of arms and personnel at those bases which posed a direct threat to Israel.

UJA Campaign For 1976

Frank R. Lautenberg, who was re-elected general chairman of the UJA, told the UJA conference dinner audience that the 1976 UJA campaign for \$600 million "is the renewal of a very special process to share in the responsibility for the destiny of our people.... When anti-Semitism is given credence in the forum of the family of nations, the very existence of our people is being threatened. Our response in the year ahead will be the greatest show of strength and unity in the history of American Jewish fund-raising."

The theme of the two-day conference was "Proclaim Liberty" from the Leviticus verse inscribed on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. "Our sense of unity in the face of attack and our dedication to individual freedom will combine to make our campaign in this bicentennial year an

act of affirmation," Lautenberg declared. "For wherever Jewish people inhabit this earth, we are bound together by remembering, by tradition, by faith, by our refusal to succumb to indifference... by our affirmation of life."

Irving Bernstein was re-elected as the UJA's Executive vice-chairman a post he has held since 1971. Elie Wiesel was presented the UJA's first annual David Ben Gurion Award. The dinner concluded two days of intensive briefings on Jewish overseas needs, campaign workshops and lectures and seminars of contemporary and historical Jewish issues, during which American Jewish community leaders from every part of the country developed the program and strategy of the 1976 UJA fund-raising campaign.

YAAD FACES SPLIT OVER ISSUE OF NEGOTIATING WITH THE PALESTINIANS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL-AVIV, Dec. 14 (JTA)--The issue of negotiating with the Palestine Liberation Organization threatened today to split the left-of-center Yaad faction formed earlier this year by former Cabinet Minister Shulamit Aloni and former Labor Party official Arye Eliav. Yaad has four seats in the Knesset.

The schism developed last week when Eliav and other prominent Yaad adherents announced the formation of a Committee for Peace Between Israel and the Palestinians, which has as its program negotiations with the PLO and recognition of the Palestinians' right to a national state. The committee's members include Res. Gen. Matti Peled, journalist and former MK Uri Avneri, David Shaham, Amos Kenan, Moked MK Meir Pavil, and Marsha Friedman of Yaad.

Ms. Aloni, though an outspoken "dove," claimed at a Yaad meeting yesterday that the committee was going too far. She said that while Yaad differed sharply with the Rabin government on foreign and domestic policy issues, it supported the government's refusal to have any dealings with the PLO. She said it was not possible for political figures such as Eliav to form a peace committee on a personal basis and likened it to Communist Party cells that infiltrated democratic movements to try to drag them further to the left.

Aloni was supported by Boaz Moav, a colleague of her Civil Rights Party, which she formed after quitting the Labor Party during the administration of Premier Golda Meir. The Yaad secretariat was scheduled to meet later today to try to heal the breach.

Pressing With Dialogue With The PLO

The Eliav faction is pressing for a dialogue with the PLO on the grounds that Israel has negotiated interim agreements with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Hafez Assad of Syria, neither of whom recognizes Israel at this time. "If we sit with them and negotiate, why should we not talk with the Palestinians and their representatives which is now the PLO?" Kenan asked on a radio interview.

The split in Yaad parallels in a way the differences within Premier Yitzhak Rabin's Labor Alignment over negotiations with the Palestinians. But Rabin's colleagues, who include several ranking Cabinet ministers, have not gone so far as to suggest that Israel deal with the PLO. Their formula has been that Israel should indicate its willingness to negotiate with any group of Palestinians who first recognize Israel's right to exist. The PLO's official policy calls for the replacement of Israel by a secular democratic state.

DULZIN CALLS FOR JEWISH UNITY AND SOLIDARITY AS A RESPONSE TO THE ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLUTION

By Yitzhak Rabin

NEW YORK, Dec. 14 (JTA)--Leon Dulzin, acting chairman and treasurer of the Jewish Agency, called for "unity and solidarity" of the Jewish people as a response to the recent resolution adopted by the United Nations stating that "Zionism is a form of racism."

"We, as one people, will fight this resolution," Dulzin told the more than 2000 Jewish leaders attending the United Jewish Appeal National Conference here. He observed that the intentions of the Arabs and their Communist backers at the UN, who introduced the anti-Zionist resolution, are to undermine Israel's existence and can be viewed "as a call for genocide."

"We should take their intentions seriously," Dulzin said, in his address Friday, adding: "We should answer as a united people." He cited the cancellation by American Jewish organizations and individuals of scheduled trips to Mexico, which voted for the anti-Zionist resolution, as showing that "when we are together we have strength."

Addressing himself to what he described as "my problems as a treasurer," Dulzin called on American Jewry to increase its efforts to raise money for the Jewish Agency activities in Israel. He noted that American Jewry has done a great deal in this respect, but he asked for "a little greater effort" to raise money here.

Jewish Agency Budget For 1976

Dulzin said that this year the budget of the Jewish Agency is \$540 million while the budget for 1976 is \$700 million. This additional sum of \$160 million must be raised, Dulzin said, so the Jewish Agency can fulfill its responsibilities to more than 500,000 underprivileged Israelis.

"We are appealing to American Jews this year for a greater increase to fulfill our responsibilities," Dulzin stated. "In spite of all our difficulties and our increased military budget, we must provide possibilities for the development of Israel and a strong infrastructure, to absorb the immigrants coming in and those who came many years ago and have not yet been absorbed. We want to keep life in Israel as normal as it can be and maintain a quality of life."

Noting that 40 percent of Israel's budget is spent in defense (about \$4 billion), Dulzin said that the proposed \$2.2 billion in aid from the U.S. government will only cover \$1.5 billion of defense needs. "The burden on the Israeli government in this area is so great that the Jewish Agency has to take over more social services," Dulzin said.

Mark UIA's 50th Anniversary

Other speakers were Dr. Israel Goldstein, former world chairman of Keren Hayesod, Dr. Emanuel Neuman, founder of the United Israel Appeal, and Melvin Dubinsky, chairman of the UIA, who marked the 50th anniversary of the UIA.

Goldstein observed that the UIA "has served two generations of American Jews as a means of self-identification with the Jewish heartland, Eretz Israel, and as a unifying force in American Jewry itself. At the same time it has enriched their lives as Americans as well, since Zionism opens up the fountains of human idealism." He added: "The UIA Jubilee has one message above all others, namely, that we Jews are one people, indivisible and indestructible."

Neuman, recalling the establishment of UIA in 1925 (known then as the United Palestine Appeal), said that by the end of 1925 the UPA "had established itself sufficiently for me to feel that I could withdraw from its active leadership in good conscience, finally to devote more attention to my private affairs. I considered that my effort and the sacrifices involved, had all been worthwhile. The UIA, later called the UIA, has remained ever since, a great productive force, expressing the devotion of American Jews to our historic Zionist goal, down to the present day."

Dubinsky stated that the UIA has become "the bridge between American Jewry and the Israeli people. Through the Reconstituted Jewish Agency for Israel, we join Jews throughout the world in receiving the homeless from Russia, Syria and Rumania, and assisting them by using the funds raised by the UIA and the Jewish Agency--to new lives in freedom." He added: "Our goals remain the same as those articulated 50 years ago. We gather once more to rededicate ourselves and our efforts to Jewish survival."

TRUDEAU SAYS CANADA WILL AID SOVIET JEWS IN THEIR STRUGGLE TO EMIGRATE

OTTAWA, Dec. 14 (JTA)--Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau received a delegation of the Montreal and Toronto Women's Group of 35, a group dedicated to the aid of Soviet Jewry. Mrs. Elaine Dubow of Montreal, who introduced the delegation to the Prime Minister Friday, asked him what the Canadian government had to say about the violation of the human rights, specifically about the human rights of Soviet Jews, following the Helsinki conference.

Trudeau said, "I will wait for six months and then I shall ask statistical information providing violations of the Third Basket," a reference to the human rights clause of the Helsinki agreement. He added that at that time, "the Canadian government would be prepared to make representations to the Soviet government on behalf of the Soviet Jews who are denied their basic human rights, one of which is the right to leave their country."

The women also met with John Diefenbaker, former Prime Minister; Liberal MP John Roberts, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Soviet Jewry; and Conservative MP Gordon Fairweather, all of whom assured the women of their full support for the cause of freedom of Soviet Jews.

NEW YORK (JTA)--The Jewish Defense League, which has announced a campaign to harass diplomats of the 72 nations that voted for the anti-Zionist resolution at the UN General Assembly Nov. 10, said Sunday that it "applauded" the smashing of windows at four UN missions Sunday morning. The windows broken were at the missions of Bulgaria, Pakistan, Dahomey and Thailand. Last week, rocks were hurled through a second floor window of the Indian mission to the UN. Red dye was splashed on the Egyptian mission headquarters and a Polish diplomat was accosted by youths at a post office.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--The number of immigrants arriving in November dropped to 1681, compared to 2068 in November, 1974, it was officially reported here this weekend. Among those who arrived, there was a rise in the number of immigrants from the Soviet Union--873 in November, compared to 715 in October and 622 in September. The rate of those leaving the USSR and not arriving in Israel during November was 38 percent.

MAJOR BID FOR ALIYA, SOLVING ABSORPTION PROBLEMS OUTLINED AT FIRST NATIONAL ALIYA COUNCIL PARLEY

NEW YORK, Dec. 14 (JTA)--In a bid for increased aliya from the United States, Uzi Narkiss, director of the Israel Aliya Department of the World Zionist Organization, outlined a number of concrete proposals to the inaugural meeting here of the National Aliya Council. More than 120 Jewish leaders representing regional aliya councils from across the country and national Jewish organizations attended the all-day conference today under the auspices of the WZO-American Section to deal with absorption problems, making known available job openings in Israel and strengthening aliya centers in this country.

Two innovative approaches, introduced by Narkiss, were part of a lively discussion. One, he explained, was "a people-to-people campaign in which communities in the United States select a kibbutz, moshav, hospital or development community in Israel and take as their responsibility recruitment and shipping of volunteers. A mechanism will be set up to effect a flow of ideas and cooperation between the 'twin communities.'"

Another proposal was "a project to be developed and promoted by all the United States. Our gem: Jerusalem," Narkiss said. "We propose that the American Jewish community declare the populating of Jerusalem as a major target goal."

In discussing the problems of aliya and absorption Narkiss did not minimize the difficulties involved. But he also asserted that solutions have been inaugurated. "The main identifiable problems of absorption are housing, employment, social integration and culture shock," he said. "Steps are being taken to improve these areas of concern, and, what is perhaps more important, increased American aliya will create a new atmosphere of progressiveness in Israel; a new willingness not only to discuss but to effect change.

Solution To Housing Problem Noted

In housing, for example, "a change took place in order to solve a critical problem of absorption," Narkiss reported. "Among American olim more than 50 percent are between the ages of 18 and 29, and many are single. A major construction project currently underway to help solve this problem will result in the availability, for the first time, of 4500 efficiency apartments for single olim--a significant departure from the old line of thinking." He credited Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the NAC and chairman of the Executive of the WZO-American Section, for initiating this change.

Focusing on the subject of employment, he conceded that "what you have read in the newspapers is true? There is unemployment in Israel." However, Narkiss continued, "What you do not read is the fact that there are thousands of jobs, meaningful positions, that remain vacant because they are 'blue collar' and middle management jobs." Israel, he observed, has an overabundance of doctors, lawyers and teachers and not enough middle management and blue collar olim. To better communicate about jobs, Narkiss said a program will be introduced in cooperation with the Israel Manufacturers Association through which up-to-date listing of openings will be available.

In addition, there must be better communica-

tion between Israel and potential olim regarding the opportunities which exist for new arrivals, Narkiss said. He noted that the working group on aliya at the Jerusalem Conference on Jewish solidarity which took place two weeks ago "called on all Jews, organizations, communities and individuals to share the responsibility of aliya by 'taking upon themselves the obligation for promotion and implementation.'"

Volunteer Projects Outlined

The first plan was for "all Jewish communities to consider 1976 as a year of commitment to volunteer projects in Israel," Narkiss said. This involves the people-to-people campaign. One example of this approach involves Garin Sham, a group formed this year of former volunteers, which is planning aliya to two development towns in the Northern Galilee: Kiryat Shemona and Safed. Another example is the undertaking by Kibbutz Gezer, a kibbutz comprised of young American olim, to send one of their members, David Twersky, to Philadelphia campuses at the end of January for a concentrated six-week pilot program to recruit volunteers and members for the kibbutz.

Narkiss conceded that these suggestions "are complicated to implement." But, he added, "it is equally true" that "not all Jews are involved with these problems. Much gifted talent goes untapped. We leave it to you, the leaders of American Jewry, to find the ways and means of giving life to these objectives."

Other speakers at the conference included Israeli Defense Minister Shimon Peres; Rabbi Herschel Schacter, chairman, aliya committee, American Zionist Federation; Yehiel Leket, director, Israel Aliya Center in North America; and Mrs. Jacobson.

MAURICE EDELMAN DEAD AT 64

LONDON, Dec. 14 (JTA)--Maurice Edelman, Labor Member of Parliament, writer and former president of the Anglo-Jewish Association, died here today. He was 64. Born in Cardiff, Wales; the son of a Jewish photographer, Mr. Edelman graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge, and was first elected to Parliament in 1945 representing the Coventry West constituency.

Since 1950 he was returned to Parliament in every election for the newly formed Coventry North-West constituency. Mr. Edelman managed to combine his parliamentary career with that of a successful author. He wrote many books, including "Disraeli in Love," and a biography of David Ben Gurion. He was also an active member of the Friends of the Hebrew University.

JOSEPH KAZAKOFF DEAD AT 58

TORONTO, Dec. 14 (JTA)--Joseph Kazakoff, 58, who was allowed to emigrate from the Soviet Union to Israel in 1971 after a strenuous campaign by one of his sons, Yasha, was killed last week in an automobile accident near here. His body was sent to Israel for burial. Yasha, now living in Israel, staged a hunger strike near the United Nations to help obtain his father's departure from the Soviet Union. A transport engineer in the Soviet Union, Mr. Kazakoff ran into problems as a settler in Israel in finding work suited to his professional training and he left Israel for Belgium and then for Canada with his other son, Alexander. His wife, mother, Yasha and a daughter remained in Israel. Alexander is a student in Toronto where his father had resided during the past year.