



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. XLIII - 59th Year

Tuesday, February 24, 1976

No. 37

HOD WARNS THAT EGYPT WILL HAVE AIR ADVANTAGE IF U.S. SELLS THE NEW J-79 JET ENGINE TO CAIRO By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 23 (JTA)--The former commander of the Israel Air Force has warned that Egypt will gain a distinct advantage in air power if the United States goes through with plans to sell Cairo the new J-79 jet engine.

Gen. (res.) Mordechai Hod, who headed the Air Force in the 1967 Six-Day War, said in a special interview published in Yediot Achronot today that the Egyptians could install the J-79 in their MIG-21 interceptors replacing the original MIG engines as they wear out. The Soviet Union has refused to supply Egypt with replacement engines.

The J-79, which powers the American Phantom jet, would increase the MIG's rate of climb, give it greater speed and a longer range for patrolling and interceptor missions, Israeli experts have said. Hod observed that the Egyptian Air Force would thus be benefitting from two technologies--the Soviet and the American--while Israel is dependent solely on American technology. This, he said, would be contrary to Washington's repeated statements that it intends to preserve the balance of power in the Middle East.

Reports that the U.S. plans to sell the J-79 engine to Egypt surfaced in Washington last week. Hod said in the interview that the least the U.S. could do is condition the sales to a demand that Egypt end its state of belligerence with Israel. Otherwise the American statements about the balance of power are absurd and ridiculous, the former Air Force chief said.

Technical Problems Surmountable

Israeli experts noted that the J-79 is heavier than the Soviet-built MIG engine and the Egyptians may be required to make some alterations in the MIG body before installing it. Foreign sources have indicated that it would take between 12-18 months to produce a prototype MIG with a Phantom engine and only after that was tested could the Egyptians proceed to replace the original engines in their MIG-21 fleet which consists of about 200 of the Russian-made aircraft.

However, Israeli sources said the technological problems are not insurmountable. They noted that the Chinese have installed British engines in their MIGs and Israel has transplanted American engines into its French-built Mirage jets. Israel's own fighter aircraft, the "Kfir," is powered by an American engine.

U.S. MUM ON ISRAELI CABINET DECISION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (JTA)--The State Department had no comment today on the decision by the Israeli Cabinet yesterday to authorize the United States to begin talks with Egypt, Syria and Jordan about the possibility of a non-belligerency agreement with Israel. Department spokesmen said a spokesman said the U.S. has not received the "full text" of the Israeli decision and "we look forward to seeing more of the Israeli Cabinet position."

The Israeli decision was reportedly made on the request of the Ford Administration to Premier Yitzhak Rabin during his visit to Washington last month. Trattner said that since Rabin's visit the U.S. has been in consultation with all the governments involved in the Israeli-Arab conflict on procedures for the next step toward a Middle East peace. Since the consultations are now in diplomatic channels, Trattner said, he was not at liberty to discuss them.

Trattner volunteered that the U.S. began yesterday its official operations of the early warning systems in the Mitle and Gidi passes in the Sinai. He pointed out that the U.S. participation was at the request of Israel and Egypt as part of the Sinai agreement they signed last September.

BAYH: U.S. HAS OBLIGATION TO ENSURE THAT ISRAEL'S DEFENSES ARE STRONG

MANCHESTER, N.H., Feb. 23 (JTA)--Sen. Birch Bayh (D,Ind.) declared here yesterday that the "obligation" of the United States "is to ensure that Israel's defenses are sufficiently strong to leave absolutely no doubt in the minds of her adversaries about the wisdom of launching an attack upon her." In that connection, Bayh called on President Ford and Congress to grant Israel "full funding" in her requests for military aid to meet the serious threat to her security. "posed by 'almost a score of hostile states.'"

Speaking at Temple Adath Yeshurum here, Bayh, a candidate for the 1976 Democratic Presidential nomination, said that "the reality of the situation in the Middle East also means that this country must stand alongside Israel to defeat the hostile resolutions" that have come out of the UN General Assembly and other UN bodies. "These are not harmless resolutions," Bayh said.

"They are racist slanders that abuse historical truth and trivialize the suffering of the very people in whom the light of civilized humanity burns."

Bayh referred to his visit to Israel and his inspection of that country's front line positions. He said: "Every military conflict must be decided in Israel's favor because the first war that Israel loses will also be her last. The unremitting hostility of her neighbors and the vow by Yasir Arafat and the PLO that success for them means dismantling the State of Israel gives Israel no latitude."

"What choices are open to a state whose only alternatives are victory or political oblivion? What costs must be borne by a people for whom failure means national oblivion? The range of choices for Israel are perilously narrow. The best prospects are for a tense, protracted armed coexistence with her neighbors. The worst is a massive onslaught by Israel's enemies if they perceive her to be weak."

TEKOAH: BRUSSELS II WILL INFLUENCE SOVIET POLICY REGARDING ALIYA

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 (JTA)--Yosef Tekoah, Israel's former Ambassador to the United Nations, believes that the second World Conference on Soviet Jewry held in Brussels last week "will have

an effect on the Soviet position toward aliya." Tekoah expressed this view in a special interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here.

He said, "The conference will undoubtedly influence the Soviet authorities. The Soviet government has paid attention to international public opinion in the past on the question of Soviet Jewry.... The Brussels conference is a beginning of a chain of events reflecting (international) interest in Soviet Jewry."

Tekoah, who is now president of Ben Gurion University in Beersheba and a special advisor to Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, also said he believed that the restoration of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union "is secondary to the question whether there is a freedom of emigration from the Soviet Union."

He said "The renewal of diplomatic ties can be no more than a touch of cosmetic with no effect on aliya." Israel, in Tekoah's opinion, must concentrate its efforts on ensuring aliya from the USSR while leaving aside the question of diplomatic relations with Moscow. In any event, he said, there are no "serious indications" that the Soviet Union is moving in the direction of renewing the diplomatic relations with Israel that it broke during the 1967 Six-Day War.

Future Of Israel In The UN

Tekoah said that Israel's position at the United Nations should continue to be that "Israel will be bound only by resolutions adopted by its agreement." With regard to Arab attempts to expel Israel from the world organization, Tekoah said "the only way to prevent it will be by demonstrating to them (the Arabs) that it will be detrimental to their own interests."

He explained that "should the Arabs bring this (expulsion) to a vote, Israel would reconsider its attitude to all UN activities regarding the Mideast situation; including the continuation of the UN peace-keeping forces and any role played by the UN at the Geneva conference."

Tekoah is visiting the U.S. on a two-week speaking tour on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal and Ben Gurion University. He told the JTA that he has received "many offers" to return to active political life in Israel but "I will weigh the offers when the time is right." He said that he was, in fact, very much involved in Israeli politics. "I am active in the framework of the Labor Party. I have been elected head of the fund-raising of the party and I appear at least four times a week on behalf of the Labor Party in public gatherings," Tekoah said.

While in the U.S., the former diplomat will complete final arrangements for the publication of his new book, "In the Face of the Nations," which includes his major speeches at the UN.

AJ COMMITTEE LEADER PROPOSES PLAN TO ATTRACT U.S. INVESTMENTS TO ISRAEL, INCREASE ISRAELI EXPORTS TO THE U.S.

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA)--The American Jewish Committee's Board of Governors ended its 10-day meeting here yesterday--the first ever held in Israel--with a declaration that Israel's survival "is a challenge not only to those who have made their home here, but to every Jew everywhere."

The declaration stated: "We return to the U.S. with a determination to do everything possible to help all Americans understand the legitimacy of Israel's case, to help provide the economic know-how and resources it so desperately

needs, and to urge our own government to continue providing Israel the political and economic support it requires."

Elmer Winter, AJ Committee president, proposed a new plan to attract American investments to Israel and increase Israeli exports to the United States. He called for the establishment of 20 regional "task forces" throughout the U.S. to encourage investments in Israel on a purely business basis. Winter said his study of the problems and his meetings with government officials here, manufacturers and businessmen convinced him that there are money-making opportunities in Israel for American business.

He noted that Israeli exports to the U.S. rarely went further than the Eastern seaboard, a situation that called for immediate remedies. Winter said he believed that the AJ Committee could play a key role in the establishment of the "task forces" because of the preponderance of businessmen and professionals among its membership.

A highlight of the AJ Committee's deliberations was the dedication of the "Hanna Hirschhorn Baumann Collection of Americana" at the AJ Committee's Jerusalem office last Friday, a gift of Mrs. Baumann, a member of the Board of Governors from Rye, New York. The collection consists of over 500 books and periodicals on American Jewish life which will be available to scholars and the general public at the AJ Committee Library here.

EGYPT IS SEEN AS TENTATIVELY MOVING TOWARD CO-EXISTENCE WITH ISRAEL

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Feb. 23 (JTA)--"Egypt is showing definite signs of tentatively moving toward co-existence with Israel, but Syria is attempting to move all of the Arab nations against Israel and not toward peace," Israeli Ambassador Pinchas Eliav told a national academic conference of the American Friends of the Hebrew University at the Fontainebleau Hotel.

Eliav, Israel's deputy permanent representative at the United Nations, was the keynote speaker at the two-day conclave of more than 500 American and Canadian Jewish leaders. He stated that "Syria has virtually taken over Lebanon as a protectorate and is actually absorbing the Palestinians in its striving to realize its dream of a greater Syria equal to its position in ancient history." He said that Israel now views its northern and eastern borders with Syria, Lebanon and Jordan "as our main concern. Although there have been some problems, Egypt has been carrying out the second interim agreement in the Sinai."

Prof. Shlomo Avineri, dean of the Hebrew University faculty of social sciences and newly-appointed director general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, presented a comprehensive view of the various aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He stressed that "the root cause of this conflict lies in the Arab refusal to accept the legitimacy of the State of Israel. Zionism is the political embodiment of the Jewish right for national liberation and self-determination."

The Arab attack on Zionism, Avineri continued, is aimed at "the delegitimization of Israel. The conflict in the Middle East is not about territory or refugees but about the unwillingness of the various Arab states to accept the sovereignty of Israel. So long as this refusal goes on, there is little hope for a true peace in the area."

UN Deterioration Cited

Dr. Max M. Kampelman of Washington, D.C., national president of the American Friends and a

former senior advisor to the U.S. delegation at the UN, said "the deterioration of the United Nations in recent months and years is a harsh reality we must face. It has shifted from a forum of negotiations and accommodations in the interest of peace to a monopoly of totalitarian states and brutalitarian systems." He noted that the recent UN vote for the resolution equating Zionism with racism "is a tribute to Israel, because to be condemned by these totalitarian states is a compliment of the highest order."

Novelist Saul Bellow, professor of English at the University of Chicago, who recently returned from a six-month stay in Jerusalem, received the S.Y. Agnon Gold Medal of the American Friends for his support of the Hebrew University Dr. Leon Kronish, rabbi of Temple Beth Shalom of Miami Beach, Honorary Fellow of the Hebrew University and national campaign co-chairman of the State of Israel Bonds, was presented with the Judah L. Magnes Award. Mrs. Lillian Kronish, president of the Women's Division of the Greater Miami Chapter of the American Friends, received the Torch of Learning Award.

Also honored were more than a dozen new founders of the Hebrew University. Individuals contributing a maximum of \$25,000 each are designated as founders, according to Dr. Kampelman.

SCIENTISTS FORM FEDERATION TO AID OSTRACIZED SOVIET SCIENTISTS

BRUSSELS, Feb. 23 (JTA)--Scientists from eight countries who attended the Second World Conference on Soviet Jewry have formed an International Federation of Concerned Scientists to be located in Paris. The purpose of the Federation will be to gather and disseminate information and to coordinate the activities of its affiliates in all countries where committees on behalf of ostracized Soviet scientists already exist or are in process of formation. The Federation will encourage its affiliates to increase their efforts and activities on behalf of Soviet scientists who are denied fundamental scientific and personal rights.

The announcement was made at a press conference at the Palais de Congress here by Dr. Dennis Sciama of Oxford University, England, on behalf of scientists from England, U.S., France, Israel, Italy, Sweden, The Netherlands and Belgium, following a symposium devoted to the exploration of ways to assist Soviet colleagues.

Nobel Laureate Urges Caution

Nobel Laureate Dr. Polykarp Kusch (1955-physics), of the University of Texas at Dallas, said at the press conference that in his view cooperation by U.S. scientists in exchange programs between the U.S. and USSR was interpreted by the Soviet government to mean support of their repressive measures against dissident Soviet scientists. He advised his American colleagues to think carefully before engaging in such cooperation.

Dr. Kusch, in his address to more than 1000 delegates at a plenary session of the conference, declared: "If more demonstrations such as this one had been held in the 1930s, I am convinced that many lives could have been saved."

As its first official act, the affiliates of the federation adopted a motion which supports the resolution on the free circulation of scientists adopted by the 15th General Assembly of the International Council of Scientific Unions which as-

serts the right of scientists to participate in international conferences without hindrance of a political nature. Each affiliate will urge its national representatives to ICSU to ensure that this resolution be implemented.

CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE, HEBREW DAY SCHOOL TO BE VIEWED ON JAPANESE TV

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 (JTA)--An estimated 20 million Japanese viewers will watch a one-hour documentary film on religion in the United States, at the end of March, which will feature a segment filmed by a Japanese TV crew at a Conservative synagogue in Manhattan and a Hebrew Day School in Brooklyn, the director of the Japanese television network NHK office here reported.

Yoshio Uchida, the director here, said a five-man crew came from Japan to film material for the documentary, one of five on religions throughout the world. He said the documentary on the United States would also cover Catholics, Protestants and Mormons and perhaps some other sects. He explained he could not be more specific because the raw film was being taken back to Japan for editing.

The film on the United States, like the other four, will have Japanese subtitles. Uchida also said he could not give a more exact date for the time of the telecast of the American documentary. NHK is a public service network, he said.

Filming Done On Sites

Arrangements for the crew to shoot film at the Magen David School, described as the largest and oldest of six Sephardic day schools in the United States, were made through Torah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools. Rabbi Moshe Greenes, principal of the day school, said the TV crew filmed a Torah lesson in grade five, filmed the children in the school playground and interviewed the principal. Filming was done on Jan. 7.

The synagogue visited by the TV crew was Congregation Shaare Zedek in upper Manhattan, on recommendation of the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Conservative institution. Rabbi Shlomo Balter, spiritual leader, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, that the crew, two members of which were fluent in English, asked to film a regular Saturday morning service but was told this was not permitted.

Instead, the crew attended a regular morning service on Jan. 5 in a downstairs room at which some 60 worshippers were present. The camera at one point was angled to shoot over the reader's shoulder, focussing on the pointer as it was moved across the Torah Scroll.

Balter said he had called to the attention of one of the cameramen a wall designed by Sol Nodel, president of the congregation who is a well-known artist and miniaturist, to commemorate the Holocaust. The rabbi said that the cameraman interrupted his explanation to say "I have been in Auschwitz."

Uchida was asked how much of the one-hour documentary could be devoted to any one religion. He said that while this would be determined by the technicians in Japan, he expected that about 12 to 15 minutes of the hour-long documentary would deal with the Jewish material filmed here. He said he had been informed the documentary will not be shown in this country.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**RABIN UNDER FIRE: CRISIS MOUNTS
WITHIN LABOR PARTY ALIGNMENT**

By Yitzhak Shargil and Tuvia Mendelson

TEL AVIV, Feb. 23 (JTA)--The Labor Party leadership had been meeting urgently over the weekend to try to find a successor to Meir Zarmi who announced his resignation Thursday as secretary general of the party. So far, no key Labor personality has shown any interest in taking the post and Zarmi has refused to reconsider.

The latest crisis within Israel's governing political party coincides with a rising flood of criticism of Premier Yitzhak Rabin from Labor Alignment and opposition forces and from many individuals who were regarded as close supporters of Rabin when he took office two years ago. Pressure is also mounting for the establishment of a national unity government that would embrace Likud.

At the same time, the Labor Alignment itself appears in danger. The Mapam political committee engaged in heated debate over the weekend as to whether it should remain in the Alignment or strike out on its own. The veteran party secretary Meir Talmi continues to favor the alliance with Labor but even he insists on minimum conditions without which, he said, Mapam should prepare to enter a separate list in the next elections.

Chaika Grossman, on the other hand, called for a clean break with Labor and suggested that many Laborites would defect to a Mapam list. The differences between Mapam and Labor run deep and involve such basic issues as an overall peace plan, the Palestinian question and the social and economic gap in Israel.

Viewed As Rudderless Ship

Zarmi said he was resigning because the Labor leadership is allegedly indifferent to the party's serious financial situation. But many observers believe the real reason is the crumbling of the party's internal structure, the public differences between party leaders over policy and the leadership's alleged lack of support for the party's elected bodies.

The Labor Party is viewed by many Israelis as a rudderless ship on the verge of foundering. This view seems to be borne out by the refusal of many top men to take over Zarmi's office. Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban flatly rejected the post and refuses even to talk about it. Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz shunned any suggestion that he become secretary general and insisted that he will remain in the Cabinet as long as he is wanted.

Housing Minister Avraham Ofer swiftly denied rumors that he would consider the secretary generalship if he could retain his government portfolio. Other public figures who have been mentioned--former UN Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, Uzzi Baram, head of the Labor Party's Jerusalem branch; and doveish Labor MK Yossi Sarid--have not responded.

Many observers say the Labor Party has been without true leadership since the death of Pinhas Sapir last year. Sapir, who was Finance Minister in the government of former Premier Golda Meir and later resigned to become chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executive, was the Labor Party's "strong man" and undisputed "boss" for years. The strength of his personality held together the various divergent factions that make up Labor and those fac-

tions are now coming unglued, observers say.
Unprecedented Political, Personal Criticism

Rabin, the titular head of the party, is being faulted for failing to take over the reins of leadership. The Premier, in fact, has come under unprecedented political and personal criticism since his return from the U.S. last month and this has even spilled over on his wife who is alleged in some quarters to be interfering in affairs of state.

Dissatisfaction with Rabin apparently has been smoldering for some time. It surfaced during his visit to Washington when a "senior source" in his entourage criticized Israel's weapons purchase list as inflated, sloppy and a dishonor to the State. The criticism reflected on Defense Minister Shimon Peres, regarded as Rabin's principal rival. The Premier acknowledged when he returned to Israel that he was the "senior source" and, in effect apologized to Peres. But most observers believe the episode is far from over.

Rabin is being faulted for alleged drift and indecisiveness. Yoel Markus, one of his early supporters, wrote in Haaretz several days ago that "more and more people find it difficult to understand his (Rabin's) motives and are asking, 'is there method to his madness?'" Markus titled his article "Rabin--The Last Chapter?" He claimed that the Premier now commands only token support from the Labor Alignment and asked, "How long can you hold the man (in office) just because there is no one else?"

Rabin has also been criticized by other former supporters, among them former Communications Minister Aharon Yariv, who said if there is no improvement soon in the Labor Party leadership, "I will either retire from political activity or find a new framework to fight for my opinions." Prof. Yechezkel Dror of the Hebrew University, a former Rabin supporter, has called for the establishment of a national unity government. Police Minister Shlomo Hillel acknowledged that the Labor Party had to present the public with a good, "national league team."

Grist For Likud Mill

The difficulties faced by Rabin and his party have provided grist for the Likud mill. Gen Ariel Sharon, the Yom Kippur War hero who founded Likud as the non-Labor opposition, spoke out sharply against the Rabin government in a radio interview over the weekend. It was his first public criticism since Rabin named him a special advisor to the Premier last year despite the objections of many Labor Party leaders.

Sharon said the only way to cure the "fever" that is sapping Israel's strength is to form a small emergency government before the next elections. He said if this is not done, early elections must be held. Sharon and another Likud leader, Mayor Shlomo Lehat of Tel Aviv, participated in a private meeting here last week with several businessmen and political figures, reportedly to discuss early elections.

Meanwhile, Rabin appears to be getting the message from both the right-wing opposition and the leftists and doves within his own party that there is serious dissatisfaction with his regime. He seems to be trying to appease both sides. Many observers believe Rabin will soon invite Eban, a "dove," to join his Cabinet. He has also met with former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, who is associated with the hawkish Rafi wing of Labor headed by Peres.