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PERES SAYS ISRAEL HAD TO FOREGO SOME INDEPENDENCE IN ACTION TO GAIN U.S. SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 26 (JTA)--Defense Minister Shimon Peres conceded today that Israel had to forego some of its independence of action in order to obtain American friendship and support. Israel has to pay with political concessions because it has nothing else to give, Peres told a meeting of National Religious Party youth. But, he said; America's freedom of action was similarly circumscribed when it attempts to fulfill Israel's requests.

Peres took a position in support of the Cabinet's controversial decision to assent to a U.S. initiative to test Egyptian, Syrian and Jordanian attitudes toward non-belligerence as a Middle East diplomatic goal. He rejected charges by opponents of the decision that it left Israel nothing to bargain with for a final peace settlement.

The Defense Minister said he preferred non-belligerency for the time being because Israel would pay less for it than for a formal peace. According to Peres, the Arab point of view is that a final peace will require Israel to return all territories conquered in the Six-Day War and "I have my doubts if we are ready to pay this price for peace," Peres said.

In any event, Peres predicted that peace may not come for at least 10 years and only when there is a new generation of weapons so costly that neither side will be able to afford them. The intermediate period therefore should be one of interim agreements, he told the NRP youth.

Peres said that was the reason he objected strongly to the position that Israel's next steps with Egypt should be aimed at a final peace. He said he had opposed including that in the interim agreement signed with Egypt last September because he was convinced that peace was not at hand.

An Historic First: JEWISH SCHOLARS, WCC MEMBERS, VATICAN DELEGATION HOLDING AN INTER-FAITH DIALOGUE IN JERUSALEM

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Feb. 26 (JTA)--Meetings here this week and next between world Jewish scholars and representatives of the World Council of Churches and a delegation from the Vatican have become the focus of attention, not because such contacts are new but because this is the first time that either the Protestant WCC or the Vatican has agreed to participate in an inter-faith dialogue in Jerusalem.

Discussions between the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Affairs and the WCC representatives opened last night and will continue through tomorrow. The Jewish committee will meet with the Vatican group beginning Monday. The representatives of all three bodies are already in Israel and will spend an informal weekend together at Kibbutz Lavi where the Christian visitors will learn about the religious kibbutz movement.

The WCC delegation is headed by Prof. Kristian Stendhal, Dean of the Harvard University Div-

inity School, and includes among its members such eminent scholars as Dr. Franz Von Hammerstein, secretary of the WCC's committee on churches and the Jewish people.

The International Jewish Committee, headed by Rabbi Joseph Lookstein, Chancellor of Bar Ilan University, was established in 1969 by the Synagogue Council of America and the World Jewish Congress, which jointly appointed its members. Participants in this week's meetings include Dr. Gerhart Riegner, secretary general of the WJC, Prof. Shmaryahu Talmon of Israel, and other Jewish scholars from Israel and abroad.

The Protestant delegation was greeted last night by Religious Affairs Minister Yitzhak Rabin who noted that the WCC's decision to hold its dialogue in Jerusalem proved that the Protestant Church recognized the centrality of Jerusalem and Israel to the Jewish people.

Will Involve 'Delicate Matters'

The meetings are mainly of an ideological nature and are intended to examine subjects common to Judaism and Christianity. It is expected, however, that the meetings next week with the Vatican delegation, headed by Bishop Ramon Torella of the Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity, will involve such "delicate" matters as the Vatican's position on the anti-Zionist resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly last November.

The Catholic scholars are expected to be asked why the Vatican made no official comment on that measure which was widely criticized by other Christian bodies and leaders, notably by Dr. Philip A. Potter, secretary general of the WCC, who is a participant in this week's dialogue.

It was unclear today whether the Vatican delegation will be received on behalf of the government by the Religious Affairs Minister as was the Protestant group. Sources said that in view of the extremely sensitive relations between the Vatican and Israel, the question of an official meeting with a minister of the Israeli government will be carefully examined by the Vatican before it agrees. The Vatican has never extended formal recognition to Israel.

HERZOG BLASTS COMMITTEE OF 20

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 26 (JTA)--Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Chaim Herzog, reiterated today that his government "will in no way cooperate" with the committee of 20 nations established by the General Assembly last Nov. 10, to implement the Assembly's 1974 Palestinian resolutions which included support for the right of self-determination and national independence for the Palestinians and their right to "return to the homes and property from which they were uprooted."

In a statement issued here as the committee commenced its work, Ambassador Herzog denounced that body as "nothing more than an instrument in the hands of extreme Arab elements who are unwilling to acknowledge the Jewish people's right to national sovereignty in Israel and whose purpose is to block the road toward peace with Israel."

The Israeli envoy blasted the resolution establishing the committee as a "measure of one-sided bias... which is by its very nature irreconcilable with the process of negotiation for peace in the

Middle East. We reject this committee out of hand and we will have none of it," Herzog declared.

Design By Extremists

He characterized the committee as part of "a design by the extreme and intransigent Syrian regime and the Syrian-controlled Palestine Liberation Organization to arrest the process of negotiation in the Middle East and to annul the existing agreements which have been reached" there.

Herzog insisted in his statement that Middle East peace can only be achieved by direct negotiations between Israel and the neighboring Arab states within the framework of the Geneva conference as originally set up on the basis of the convening letter sent out by the UN Secretary General "or within any other mutually acceptable framework."

He warned that "Committees such as this one which are biased and prejudiced and most of whose members maintain no diplomatic relations with Israel, and by this very fact pre-judge the issue, can only exacerbate the situation and create an atmosphere which is not conducive to negotiation and peace."

WJC GOVERNING BOARD CALLS ON THE EEC TO ACT AGAINST ARAB BOYCOTT

PARIS, Feb. 26 (JTA)--The Governing Board of the World Jewish Congress ended a four-day meeting here during which it called on the Commission of the European Economic Community (EEC) to take effective measures against the application of the Arab boycott in the nine member countries of the Common Market.

Specifically, the Commission was urged to exercise its authority under the rules of competition of the Treaty of Rome and subsequent EEC regulations not to permit interference with free trade through boycott practices against individuals and companies that trade with Israel or as a form of racial, ethnic or religious discrimination which the Board described as "an especially reprehensible and abhorrent" manifestation of the Arab boycott.

The meeting of the Governing Board was held under the chairmanship of Philip M. Klutznick, of Chicago, a former U.S. Ambassador to the UN. The matter of Arab boycott practices as they affect the Common Market was raised by the WJC's European Section. The WJC urged "the promulgation of such regulations, the issuance of such directives and the taking of such decisions as are appropriate to preclude the harmful effect of boycott practices."

It proposed that all future EEC agreements with member states of the Arab League and all other countries should continue to insist on the inclusion of anti-discrimination provisions. It also asked for "full and unqualified acceptance" of this principle by all states wishing to make agreements with the EEC in accordance with the EEC's publicly proclaimed opposition to "the measures of discrimination boycott" practiced by Arab countries.

The Governing Board meeting was addressed by WJC President Dr. Nahum Goldmann, who reminded the participants that the future of the Jewish community in the USSR is closely linked with strengthening the policy of detente and stabilization of the situation in the Middle East. The Governing Board approved the declaration of the second World Conference on Soviet Jewry held in

Brussels last week and addressed a "solemn appeal" to the Soviet government asking it to respect fundamental human rights in order to promote international peace and understanding.

BRUSSELS II EVALUATED

NEW YORK, Feb. 26 (JTA)--"Brussels II, where Jews and non-Jews joined to emphasize the rights of Soviet Jews to leave for Israel was a prelude to the 25th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party which has just opened in Moscow. We have every hope that this Congress will show greater sensitivity to the needs and rights of Soviet Jews and that they will be given the freedom to emigrate to Israel."

This view was expressed by Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the American Section of the World Zionist Organization and one of the three co-chairmen of the second World Conference on Soviet Jewry, upon her return here yesterday from the conference in Brussels.

"The Soviet authorities had attacked Brussels I (in 1971) as 'anti-Soviet provocation' and an 'impudent attempt at open interference' in internal Soviet affairs, yet within weeks they were issuing exit visas to Jews who had been demanding to leave," she said.

This time, too, the Soviet authorities attacked the conference and even staged a press-conference of Jews they claimed had been disillusioned by the hardships of life in Israel and the corruption of its government. "But once again, they are issuing visas: a group of 100 Jews, some of whom had applications pending since 1971, arrived in Tel Aviv just this week--the first group of many waiting to leave despite Soviet protestations that all applications have been dealt with," Mrs. Jacobson stated.

Not An Anti-Soviet Parley

"Soviet sensitivity to the pressure of public opinion is important," she said, "and is eloquent testimony to the significance of conferences such as the two Brussels sessions."

The success of the conference, of course, is not expressed solely in the freeing of another hundred Jews, Mrs. Jacobson observed. "It lies in the placing of the right of Soviet Jews to aliya back on the international agenda and the renewing of pressure on the Soviet authorities for their release," she said.

Brussels II "was not an anti-Soviet conference," she said, "but a pro-Soviet-Jews conference. And it is our fervent prayer that we will not have to convene a Brussels III--except to rejoice over the freedom of Soviet Jewry."

ALLON, SAUVAGNARGUES CONFER FOR TWO HOURS; REVIEW MAJOR ISSUES

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 26 (JTA)--Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon conferred here today with French Foreign Minister Jean Sauvagnargues for nearly two hours reviewing at length Franco-Israeli ties, Israel's relations with the Common Market, the Arab boycott and the general situation in the Middle East.

The two ministers had a "working lunch" at the Quai d'Orsay, part of their last year's decision to keep the dialogue open in spite of basic policy differences. Immediately after the meeting, Sauvagnargues left for a three-day visit to Lisbon. He had postponed his trip for several hours to meet Allon. The Israeli Minister is leaving tomorrow morning for Latin America,

with a stopover in the U.S.

One of the central subjects discussed was Israel's request to conclude a financial agreement with the EEC. Israel signed an economic and trade pact last July and would like to top it off with a financial one which would provide for EEC investments in Israel. Allon asked France not to place any obstacles in Israel's path and not to link its request with the negotiations now taking place between the Common Market and a number of Arab states.

Allon protested against the PLO bureau in Paris and also drew Saugagnargues' attention to the fact that certain states which have not recognized the PLO--the U.S., Holland and West Germany--have better relations with Israel than France and have greater influence in the Arab world. The two ministers agreed to continue their periodic meetings.

1000 JEWISH LEADERS AT ISRAEL BONDS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

MIAMI, Feb. 26 (JTA)--Steps to provide large-scale financial aid to Israel to reduce an overwhelming balance of payments deficit and to create jobs for new immigrants from the Soviet Union were on the top of the agenda of the opening session tonight of the 1976 International Inaugural Conference of State of Israel Bonds attended by more than 1000 Jewish leaders from the United States and Canada.

Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, who presided, declared that Israel is confronted by serious economic problems at the present time. Chaim Herzog, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, the principal speaker tonight, reviewed the dramatic developments of recent months in the General Assembly and Security Council of the United Nations.

Plans for extending the scope of the Israel Bond campaign in the Jewish community, as well as in the general area of business and labor organizations, will be formulated at a campaign session tomorrow afternoon. The closing session of the conference will take place on Saturday evening when Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon will be the guest of honor and principal speaker at the 1976 campaign inaugural dinner.

Michael Arnon, president of the Israel Bond Organization, declared that this year's conference is one of the most important in the history of the Israel Bond drive, serving as "the rallying point for total Jewish mobilization to meet the all-out political and economic Arab offensive against Israel."

ORTHODOX LEADER RAPS SUIT BY PEARL

NEW YORK, Feb. 26 (JTA)--An Orthodox spokesman claimed today that a suit filed in Federal Court here Tuesday to enjoin city and federal educational authorities from assigning public school teachers to duties at religious schools during regular school hours was "a deplorable attempt to deprive poor handicapped children of corrective and remedial services so that they should not go through their lives handicapped."

Dr. Bernard Fryshman, chairman of the Agudath Israel of America's commission on legislative and civic action, also disputed the contention that the assignment of public school teachers to religious schools was in violation of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling. The suit was filed by the National Coalition for Public Education and Re-

ligious Liberty (PEARL) and a group of taxpayers.

It named as defendants Irving Anker, Chancellor of the New York City school system, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, F. David Mathews and U.S. Commissioner of Education, Terrell H. Bell. The government officials are charged with implementing the assignment policy nationally, and Anker with doing the same in the city.

Leo Pfeffer, counsel for PEARL, said the suit was brought "with great reluctance" after Mathews, HEW officials and Anker indicated "that until compelled to do otherwise by a court order, they will continue to do what they have been doing."

Elements In The Suit

Pfeffer cited as the basis of the suit the case of *Meek v. Pittenger* which he argued before the Supreme Court last May. The court held at the time that the use of tax-raised funds to finance educational services during regular school hours on religious school premises violates the Establishment clause of the First Amendment.

The suit contends that despite this ruling, Mathews and Bell had administered Title I of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act so as "to authorize educational agencies to assign teachers and other personnel to religious schools in order to perform educational services during regular school hours, and have approved the expenditure of federal funds to finance these services."

The suit charged Anker with participating in this use of Title I funds by assigning public school teachers and other personnel paid out of these funds "to perform educational services within the religious schools of New York City during regular school hours."

Fryshman claimed that "these services do not violate the May 19, 1975 ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court because the public school teachers who are assigned to non-public schools under Title I of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act merely provide therapeutic aid to disadvantaged children of a nature not provided by the non-public schools as part of their general academic curriculum."

He claimed that if PEARL won its suit, "it would create unconscionable harm to the handicapped non-public school children who would be different from their peers because they are compelled to spend part of their time in a different school."

URGES BUSINESS WITH ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Feb. 26 (JTA)--Declaring that it is profitable to invest in Israel, Uri Ben-Ari, Consul General of Israel in New York, today urged American businessmen "to do business with Israel" and to invest in that country's economy. Addressing some 200 businessmen at a luncheon sponsored by the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Ben-Ari said that the last 28 years have shown that it pays for American businessmen to invest in Israel's growing economy. Assemblyman Joseph F. Lisa (D, Queens), who initiated the New York State anti-boycott law against Arab discrimination and pressure on companies which deal with Israel, stated that "every state in the country must follow the New York legislation." He said that more than 1500 American companies

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

THE PLO IMAGE IN THE U.S.

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (JTA)--Two nationally prominent U.S. Senators, both members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who believed they saw the bloom of "moderation" on the Palestine Liberation Organization a year ago, are now disappointed with it.

Statements by PLO leaders, before and after the Security Council debate on the Middle East last month have made it plain that the PLO's intention to bring about Israel's disappearance has not changed. The intense campaign by important politicians and media in the West to wrap the PLO in a cloak of respectability in the hope, analysts here believe, that encouragement from the West might induce the terrorists to become reasonable, has failed.

Sen. Charles Percy (R, Ill.) last winter angered many of his constituents by implying Israel should deal with the PLO following his visit to the Middle East. On Feb. 19, however, after the PLO's leadership showed no change of intent, he said: "I believe it is a terrible mistake for the PLO to rule out recognition of Israel because such an attitude is counter-productive. Recognition of Israel would have to be one condition of any future agreement for the establishment of a Palestinian state."

Sen. George McGovern (D, SD) was hailed as a hero by the PLO and its supporters for being the first high American official to speak with PLO chairman Yasir Arafat. A statement issued by his office Feb. 18 said: "In light of recent statements from some Palestinian leaders with opposition to eventual recognition of Israel by the Palestinians, Senator McGovern today reaffirmed his conviction that an eventual peace settlement in the Middle East must include full recognition by the Palestinians of Israel's right to exist as a nation."

True Position Shown

Percy and McGovern were asked for their views by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency following the statement published Feb. 16 in Beirut newspapers by Salah Khalaf, known also as Abu Iyad, the second in command of El Fatah, the PLO's principal body.

Khalaf was quoted as saying that the Palestinians were being asked to pay the "high price" of recognizing Israel in return for a Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. "There is something the world must know," Khalaf said. "Let us all die, let us all be killed, let us all be assassinated, but we will not recognize Israel."

The previous Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press" program, Arafat, who heads both El Fatah and the PLO, re-emphasized Israel must disappear, pointing out in English that Israel "is still, in my opinion, Palestine" and that he will not negotiate with Israel.

Zuheir Mohsin, head of the PLO's military department and a leader in Syria's governing party, said early in February that the solution of the Lebanese crisis would enable the PLO and its allies to devote all their energies against Israel. On Dec. 12, in an interview with West Germany's weekly, Die Zeit, Mohsin said that "eventually" Israel will "have to accept" an end to existing as an independent state. "We want back every piece of land, every field, every village and every house that was ever ours. We will not yield on

that."

In an appearance on ABC-TV Jan. 14, the PLO's deputy observer at the United Nations, Hassan Raman, said the "one condition" for negotiations with Israel is "de-Zionization of the State of Israel after the return of the Palestinian people to their homes and property."

Israelis have consistently pointed out that the PLO has never altered its position when making statements in Arabic but sometimes spoke and acted more softly in the presence of Westerners and toned down terrorism when in the presence of Westerners, particularly Americans whom they wish to persuade to abandon Israel.

PLO Not Challenged

The campaign in the West to dress up the PLO as moderate and respectable reached a climax shortly before the Security Council debate began in January. The New York Times strove for Israel's entry and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger himself suggested the Israelis take part, although not necessarily in the same room with the PLO. The Times prominently featured the PLO's representative in America as a calm, civilized individual with conservative tastes in clothes and manners.

The Washington Post gave the Arab League's apologist in America, Clovis Maksoud, the opportunity to examine an article it had from Dr. Nahum Goldmann, the World Jewish Congress leader, before publishing both Goldmann's and Maksoud's views on the same page. The Post emphasized Goldmann as saying "Once the PLO is ready to recognize the State of Israel, Israel will have to recognize the existence of the Palestine problem."

Having given Maksoud knowledge beforehand of Goldmann's views, the Post stressed Maksoud's statement with an obvious appeal to Americans' sense of fairness: "To ask the PLO to initiate a political process when none of the Palestinian people's rights are fulfilled is unfair." CBS, without any challenge, allowed Maksoud to broadcast that Israel is to blame for Lebanon's civil strife. The Post editorially stressed after "the PLO debate" that both Israel and America "must move" in the direction of the Palestinian problem.

On NBC's "Meet the Press" program, Premier Yitzhak Rabin faced a battery of four reporters, including arch-critic Rowland Evans whose hostility towards Israel was unceasing. When Arafat appeared on the same program a week later, three reporters handled him so gingerly that at one point after Arafat's declaration that Israel is still Palestine, Jonathan Randal, The Post's Middle East reporter, commented "very good sir."

WASHINGTON (JTA)--Peter B. Bensingser of Chicago was sworn in Monday as head of the Drug Enforcement Administration of the U.S. Department of Justice. The U.S. Senate unanimously confirmed him Feb. 5. Before entering the division, which seeks to control traffic in illicit drugs throughout the United States, Bensingser served for seven years in Illinois in posts involving virtually all elements of that state's criminal justice system. Bensingser, 39, is a director of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago and the regional board of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He received the Young Leadership Award in 1969 from the Jewish Federation and Welfare Fund of Metropolitan Chicago. He graduated from Yale in 1958 and is also a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy.