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IRAQI EMBASSY CONFIRMS EXECUTION OF LEON AARONSON IN BAGHDAD

Netherlands Foreign Ministry Expresses Deep Shock, Horror In Formal Protest

AMSTERDAM, March 16 (JTA)--The Netherlands Foreign Ministry expressed "deep shock and horror" in a formal protest to Iraq today over the execution of a Dutch-born Jew, Leon Aaronson, in Baghdad. The Foreign Ministry also voiced profound indignation and astonishment that although Aaronson was hanged nearly three months ago, the Iraqi authorities had insisted, until yesterday, that he was alive. This is "an unparalleled attitude which far exceeds the bounds of what is proper in normal diplomatic intercourse," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The Iraqi Embassy informed Aaronson's family for the first time yesterday of the execution that was reported by the Iraqi News Agency last November but thereafter denied by the Baghdad regime. The 40-year-old male nurse, who was also known as Alexander Haroun, was sentenced to death by an Iraqi military tribunal in October as an alleged spy for Israel.

The Iraqi authorities insisted that the sentence had not been carried out. But subsequent inquiries by the Dutch government were met by evasions and refusals to produce Aaronson to confirm that he was alive. Repeated requests by The Netherlands authorities to permit a representative of their Embassy in Baghdad to visit Aaronson in prison were spurned by the Iraqis, as were similar requests by the International Red Cross.

The Iraqis, who arrested Aaronson in a Kurdish village last March, claimed he was an Israeli citizen, a former soldier in the Israeli army and was gathering intelligence for Israel. They claimed, therefore, that the Dutch authorities had no standing in the matter. Although Aaronson lived in Israel briefly in the 1950s, he retained his Dutch citizenship. Israeli authorities denied that he was ever in the army or ever employed as an agent for Israel.

Iraqi Envoy To Be Summoned To The Hague

Meanwhile, the Dutch Charge d'Affaires in Baghdad, Gerben Meihuizen, has been called home for consultations. The Netherlands Foreign Minister, Max Van Der Stoep, who is presently on an official visit to Turkey, expressed shock over the execution and indicated that he would summon the Iraqi Ambassador to the Benelux countries--who resides in Brussels--to The Hague when he returns. Sources here said, however, that this does not necessarily mean that Holland will break diplomatic relations with Iraq.

Aaronson devoted his life to humanitarian work in underdeveloped nations of Africa and Asia. He worked with Albert Schweitzer in Lambarene and in Biafra, Gabon, India and Pakistan. He was on a medical mission to the Kurds in northern Iraq when he was arrested last March 24. His parents, wife and children live in Holland.

ISRAEL AND THE EEC

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA)--Israel is insisting that its agreements with the European

Common Market contain provisions for financial benefits equal to any that might be extended to other Mediterranean nations concluding pacts with the European Economic Community. Israeli leaders are making that clear to Francois-Xavier Ortoli, president of the EEC Commission, who arrived here Saturday for a four-day official visit.

Israel wants to benefit from the financial assistance and credits extended by the EEC to developing countries. Foreign Minister Yigal Allon told Ortoli at a meeting yesterday that if the Maghreb states--Morocco-Algeria-Tunisia--win a "financial protocol" as part of their impending agreement with the EEC, Israel would insist on the same treatment as only fair and proper.

Israel concluded its agreement with the Common Market last July. Negotiations between the EEC and the Maghreb states and with Spain and Malta are still in progress and are expected to be completed shortly.

Many of the provisions of the EEC-Maghreb pact are similar to the pact with Israel under the so-called "global tariff" arrangement for the Mediterranean area. Allon and Premier Yitzhak Rabin briefed the EEC official--who holds the rank of head of government--on political developments in the area. Rabin stressed that Israel wanted as much trade and cooperation with Europe as possible, regardless of political differences with some Common Market nations.

Reports that Ortoli's visit might result in the establishment of an EEC information office in Israel to help foster foreign trade ties have not been borne out. Ortoli is understood to have explained that there was no budget available to open an office and that there was not much demand for one at this time by EEC members. Ortoli and his party of five aides are continuing to hold talks here with Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz, Minister of Commerce and Industry Haim Barlev and senior officials of both ministries.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

WILSON'S RESIGNATION DEPRIVES ISRAEL, ANGLO-JEWISH COMMUNITY OF A FRIEND
By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 16 (JTA)--Today's sudden and unexpected resignation of Harold Wilson as Britain's Prime Minister deprives Israel and the Anglo-Jewish community of a close and tested friend. His abrupt departure at the age of 60, 12 years after he first became Premier, will cause as much concern among Israeli Labor leaders as in his own British Labor Party.

One of the last foreign visitors to call on him before today's announcement was Yigal Allon, Israel's Foreign Minister, who broke a return trip from Mexico to see Wilson at his country weekend home. Last week, Wilson met Abba Eban, Allon's predecessor. Resident Israeli Ambassadors always found Wilson's door open to them.

Because of his pro-Israel attitude, Wilson was often distrusted in the Arab world. However, he never apologized for his links with Israel which in the end, were accepted by Arab leaders. They were even praised by President Anwar Sadat

of Egypt who was here a few months ago. Wilson was due to have gone to Cairo on an official visit in May.

From the Jewish viewpoint, Wilson's big achievement was transforming the relationship between the British Labor Party and Israel from one of distrust and bitter memories of the late Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin into one of warm friendship, which became all the more striking when Israel was diplomatically isolated.

This correspondent remembers the impact, in 1963, when the newly elected Labor leader announced that when Labor regained power "there will be no broken promises this time." Within a year, Wilson was Prime Minister.

Jewish Affiliations Noted

Wilson's Jewish affiliations are no secret. Both his solicitor, Lord Goodman, and his doctor, Sir Julius Stone, are Jewish. Wilson spoke frequently at Zionist functions. Among his close government colleagues are avowed Zionists such as Harold Lever, his senior economic advisor, and Gerald Kaufman, now Minister in Charge of Aviation. Wilson himself was a genuine admirer of Israel's democratic socialism. One of his sons did a stint as a volunteer at Kibbutz Vagur.

It was easier for Wilson to get on with Israel if only because Britain had lost its great power role in the Middle East. He himself presided over the end of Britain's East-of-Suez role with the withdrawal from Aden at the end of 1967.

In the Six-Day War, Wilson and other ministers said they were ready to support an international naval force to break Egypt's blockade of the Tiran Straits. But the idea fizzled. Nasser mined the straits, and war broke out.

After the June war, Wilson's Labor government focussed its Middle East policy on the United Nations, trying to compensate with diplomatic experience for its loss of global influence. The result was Security Council Resolution 242, a masterpiece of ambiguity which, nine years later, is still referred to as the framework of Middle East diplomacy.

Government Disappointed Israel

It is easy to exaggerate Wilson's personal impact on Britain's Middle East policies. His sympathies did not prevent Britain from reneging on a promise to sell Israel Chieftain tanks, though Wilson is said to have offered Harrier jump-jet fighters which Israel did not want. He has always had a healthy respect for Arab oil power and never personally offended Arab leaders. His government disappointed Israel by supporting the United Nations condemnation of her following the fire in the El Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem set by a mentally ill Australian Christian.

In recent years, as a leading figure in the Socialist International, Wilson has given Israel most cause for gratitude. In the wake of the Yom Kippur War, when pro-Arab appeasement was sweeping Western Europe, Wilson provided then Premier Golda Meir with a much needed political platform when he hosted a special emergency meeting of socialist leaders in London.

He was also responsive, in office and in the opposition, to the plight of Soviet Jews and other dissidents. A close acquaintance of Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin, Wilson has intervened frequently behind the scenes on behalf of hard-pressed individuals.

Anglo-Jewish leaders will regret his resignation because of his unswerving opposition to all forms of racial prejudice in Britain itself. Never-

theless, like his old friend, Mrs. Meir, Wilson is not leaving the political scene entirely. He will remain on the back benches of the House of Commons where his moral authority will probably be all the greater as a result of today's stunning decision to resign.

WEST BANK UNREST HITS JERUSALEM

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA)--West Bank unrest spread to Jerusalem today where police had to use tear gas to disperse stone-throwing youngsters. This latest in the spate of disturbances throughout the West Bank was also in protest at the magistrate court's decision permitting Jewish prayers at the Temple Mount. The young nationalists are apparently unimpressed by the government's repeated assurances that such prayers will not be permitted--nor by action taken by Jerusalem police last week to actually prevent young Jews from praying on the Mount.

In Ramallah and El Bireh, adjoining towns near Jerusalem, the total curfew imposed yesterday was still in force tonight. It had been lifted for two hours during the afternoon to allow people to stock up on food. This afternoon, three curfew-breakers in Ramallah were fined IL 500 by a military court. Elsewhere on the West Bank, only minor disturbances were reported. The radio said school studies were disrupted in several places and in some towns youngsters set up roadblocks.

Defense Minister Shimon Peres toured the area today and met with local leaders later in his Tel Aviv office, including the Mayor of Nablus, Haj Mazouh al-Masri, who has resigned, together with his council, as a mark of protest at the Temple Mount verdict and at the continued settlement at Qadum camp nearby.

Peres told the West Bank leaders, according to an official communique, "to assure that law and order prevail in their towns." He cautioned that the Israel Defense Force would take the required measures and would not hesitate to act vigorously in the face of any disturbances of public order.

Peres also stressed to the mayors that the Israeli authorities firmly intend to hold the elections required by law in the West Bank municipalities in May. Election day is scheduled for May 12.

KISSINGER TO SEEK WAYS TO HAVE USSR COOPERATE IN MIDEAST SETTLEMENT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 16 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger agreed today with a suggestion from Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R, NY) to consult with the Foreign Relations Committee on ways to use American economic and technological power to bring the Soviet Union into greater cooperation for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Kissinger, testifying before the committee's 10th "educational hearing" on foreign policy choices for the next 15 years, made his offer after Javits noted the conflict cannot be settled except through the cooperation of the United States and the Soviet Union. Javits asked why the U.S. cannot tell Moscow that its actions are "deleterious to hopes for peace in the Middle East."

Replying that the "extensive cooperation in the Middle East" between the superpowers "has not yet been completely tested," Kissinger wondered "what does Congress have in mind?" The

Secretary said that cooperation between Congress and the Administration "would strengthen" the U.S. and promised to assign "somebody to work" with the committee. Welcoming the offer, Javits said, "I feel Soviet policy is directed not towards peace in the Middle East, but in seeing it unmade."

Ways To Affect Soviet Policy

Kissinger, in a response to a question from Sen. Clifford P. Case (R,NJ), said "there is no way we can use economic power" to pressure the USSR unless it is "to interrupt the free market in some ways." But Case said there are "many ways" by which the U.S. can use its agricultural products and technology to affect Soviet policy "without confrontation." He urged the Administration to form a coordinated mechanism with other producer countries.

Earlier, Case said that despite the proliferation of weapons in the Middle East, the U.S. had an "obligation" to Israel to enable the Jewish State to maintain "her position where she can defend herself, and her ability to defend herself is the only guarantee of her survival."

Israel's Security: An American Obligation

Case observed that the U.S. is delivering arms to countries "not committed to the security of Israel." He asked Kissinger whether he would "consider other ways of helping Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and his 'impoverished nation' besides supplying weapons to Egypt."

"I agree with you completely," Kissinger said acknowledging that "the security and survival of Israel" is "an American obligation." But, he said, the question is "how to achieve a permanent and just peace." He noted that in this connection Sadat has "gravely weakened, if not ended the Soviet connection without asking anything from us for it." Kissinger said that Sadat was the first Arab leader after the Yom Kippur War to be "prepared to negotiate with Israel." He said the decision to supply Egypt with six C-130 troop transport planes "cannot possibly affect the strategic balance with Israel" and hoped Congress would go along with the sale.

Meanwhile, it was learned here that a delegation representing the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations will meet with President Ford tomorrow afternoon.

AJCONGRESS REPORTS THAT 22 MAJOR U.S. FIRMS HAVE ISSUED ASSURANCES THEY WILL NOT SUBMIT TO ARAB BOYCOTT By David Friedman

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress announced today it had received written assurances from 22 of the largest corporations in the United States, including General Motors, RCA and Texaco, that they will not submit to Arab boycott demands.

But Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, AJCongress president, stressed that while his organization welcomed this development, the Arab boycott is still a threat to American business and hundreds of American corporations still continue to comply with boycott requests, especially American banks. "The banks are the one area that have been behaving quite miserably," he told a press conference at the AJCongress headquarters.

Hertzberg said the letters from 22 companies demonstrated that "it is simply not true that major American companies with world-wide interests cannot stand up to the Arab boycott." He

said he hoped that the position of the 22 companies will be followed by other American firms.

The written assurances from the companies is the outgrowth of a nationwide drive by the AJCongress to have 138 firms tell their shareholders whether they are participating in the Arab boycott of Israel. Hertzberg said some 200 persons who own stock in major corporations have empowered Will Maslow, AJCongress general counsel, to act as their proxy in seeking to have the companies adopt resolutions asking for this disclosure at their annual stockholders meeting. Maslow said about 15 other companies were expected to make statements similar to the 22 companies.

The AJCongress itself has bought stocks in two banks--Irving Trust and Chase Manhattan--and in four corporations--General Motors, International Harvester, Texaco and World Airways.

22 Firms Listed

The 22 companies that gave the assurances are American Brands, Beatrice Foods, Bucyrus-Erie, Continental Can, El Paso Natural Gas, General Foods, General Motors, Georgia-Pacific, Greyhound, Kennecott Copper, McDonnell-Douglas, Ogden, Pitney-Bowes, RCA, Xerox, Scott Paper, G.D. Searle, Simmons, Texaco Textron, U.S. Gypsum and Warner Communications.

The General Motors statement, signed by its chairman, T.A. Murphy, said that while the company plans to begin the assembly and sale of vehicles in Saudi Arabia "we are not limited, nor would be limited" to exploring similar ventures in other countries including Israel. "General Motors has received occasional requests from Arab countries that it agree not to participate in future dealings with Israel or with Israeli companies," Murphy wrote. "General Motors has made no such agreements and would not make any such agreements."

Hertzberg, in criticizing the banks, noted that Federal Reserve Board chairman Arthur Burns has urged the commercial banks "to refuse participation in letters of credit that embody conditions the enforcement of which may give effect to a boycott against a friendly foreign nation or may cause discrimination against U.S. citizens or firms." Hertzberg urged Burns to enforce this policy and said if the banks refuse to comply they should be threatened by the FRB with the revocation of their charters.

Naomi Levine, executive director of the AJCongress, said her organization agreed with the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League's urging for more laws against the boycott. But she said there are laws presently on the books which, if enforced, would effectively end the boycott. Ms. Levine said the 22 companies that gave their assurances to the AJCongress show that American companies have the power "to break the back" of the boycott. She said that American companies have enough economic and technological power to refuse to give in to the boycott.

Hertzberg noted that a Wall Street Journal article yesterday said that New York State's new anti-boycott law will cause the Port of New York to lose needed business. He said this will not happen if anti-boycott provisions are in force at all American ports. Hertzberg said that for this to happen, the cooperation of the government, business and labor is needed.

JTA Special To The JTA**ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO**

By Jack Siegel

MEXICO CITY, March 16 (JTA)--Hanan Aynor, Israel's Ambassador to Mexico is a 25-year veteran of the diplomatic corps. Born in Germany, educated later in Paris, he immigrated to Israel where the march of the then-current events caught up with him. During World War II he served in the British Army and shortly after with the Hagannah. Fluent in many languages, after having served in many countries, he occupies a key and meaningful post at this point in Israel's history.

We talked about his job in Mexico City and his relationship to the Jewish community. He explained that the community here existed in several separate groups: the Ashkenazi, which also had within it separately identifiable groups; two Syrian and Lebanese groups whose origin is Aleppo and Damascus; and the third group is Sephardic.

While there is no broad and common denominator among them, apart from being Jews, and their generally identifiable interest in Israel, it is often the task of the Ambassador to serve as a unifying force. This is done through education, and by virtue of his special position he can bring the groups together. Yiddish is widely spoken as is Hebrew, which Aynor considered an additional unifying factor.

With regard to the general Mexican community and any active anti-Semitism, he said he didn't believe it existed to any degree. Mexico, he said, has had an experience with Xenophobia and while there is dislike of the "Gringo," it is a generic matter. He doesn't equate this with anti-Semitism. This, despite the fact that in the Mexican press, an owner of a factory or business is identified as a Jew. But he said others were identified with an equivalent definition and there was no opprobrium attached to it.

He referred to "the special character" of the country and the importance of the visit of Israel's Foreign Minister, Yigal Allon. As Ambassador, he said, at the insistence of the interviewer, he had some input in the visit, in advice and implementation in good part on the scene.

One could see the importance of his presence during the various stops and meetings during the visit of the Foreign Minister. Contact is initially established with equal counterparts on the Mexican side and the press is much aware of their participation.

Mrs. Hanan Aynor, he pointed out, serves in effect as an aide. She meets with women's groups, speaks before meetings and this is a wide and important responsibility since there are some thirty such organizations.

Doubtless in the days ahead, and following the trip of Allon, there will be even greater responsibility placed on the Ambassador's work.

**BANK BALKS AT ENDORSING RESOLUTION
REJECTING ARAB BOYCOTT PRESSURE**

PHILADELPHIA, March 16 (JTA)--The Philadelphia chapter of the American Jewish Committee reported today that the Philadelphia National Bank was the only major commercial bank in the city that has been unwilling to endorse a Chamber of Commerce resolution which calls on businessmen to refuse foreign investment capital when funds are linked with discriminatory provisions.

On Oct. 20, the board of directors of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce adopted a

statement calling on companies to reject foreign investments that seek to apply religious tests to their directors, officers, employees, suppliers, customers or clients as a condition of investment. The statement further called upon the Congress and the President to enact legislation which would protect American businesses from unfair competition resulting from capitulation to such pressures. The move was seen as a barometer of local business resistance to the Arab boycott and related petrodollar coercion.

On Dec. 23, the AJ Committee wrote to eight major commercial banks asking them to endorse that policy. Seven responded, all affirmatively. On Feb. 13, the AJ Committee wrote again to PNB. No response was forthcoming.

"First Pennsylvania, Girard, Fidelity, Continental, Provident, Industrial Valley Bank and Central Penn have all sent very supportive letters," said Richard J. Fox, board chairman, and Paul S. Weinberg, AJ Committee chapter president, in a joint statement. "In fact, several of the banks also indicated they would reject letters of credit which require firms to comply with the Arab boycott, as well as resisting any attempts to impose discrimination from abroad."

"In a climate of voluntary resistance to the boycott, blacklisting and related discriminatory pressures," said Fox and Weinberg, "the absence of any forthright response from PNB is all the more disconcerting."

**CANADA URGED TO CLOSE LOOPHOLES ON
ARAB BOYCOTT OF CANADIAN FIRMS**

By Michael Solomon

OTTAWA, March 16 (JTA)--A delegation of the Canada-Israel Committee urged Canadian External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen to see that existing loopholes permitting the boycott by Arab countries of Canadian firms dealing with Israel be closed.

During the one-and-a-half-hour meeting with MacEachen, the delegation discussed other aspects of the Arab boycott, Canada's voting record in the United Nations and the need for the creation of a permanent bilateral mechanism to provide increased economic opportunities between Israel and Canada.

The delegation also voiced its opposition to the expected presence of Palestine Liberation Organization representatives at the United Nations-sponsored Habitat Conference in Vancouver this June. MacEachen said Canada is opposed to the aims of the PLO, which he said constituted an assault against the independence and integrity of the State of Israel. The Canada-Israel delegation was headed by its national chairman, Aaron Pollack, and its national director, Myer Bick.

SAVANNAH, Ga. (JTA)--Savannah has a new police chief who holds two masters degrees from Michigan State University, is working on his doctorate and is Jewish. His name is David Epstein and he is the second Jew to hold the office of police chief in the history of this bastion of the Old South. The first was Charles Garfunkle who served from 1903-1907 and whose son, Benjamin M. Garfunkle, served as Mayor Pro Tem in the late 1960s. Chief Epstein came here from Iowa City, Iowa, where he was chief of police. The local Jewish community meanwhile is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Mickve Israel Synagogue which still serves the congregation that claims to be the oldest in the South.