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HEBRON VIRTUALLY PARALYZED BY PROTEST STRIKE; CURFEWS REMAIN; SECURITY FORCES PATROL TOWNS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 18 (JTA)--The West Bank remained quiet but tense today as a protest strike virtually paralyzed Hebron, the largest town in the Judaea region and curfews remained in force in Ramallah, El Bireh and Chalchul. Re-enforced Israeli security forces patroled the towns and roads on the alert for breaches of peace by either Arabs or Jews. No new incidents were reported, however, except for scattered demonstrations and tire-burnings by Arab youths.

Defense Minister Shimon Peres toured the deserted streets of Hebron where shops and schools were shut down. But he avoided a meeting with Hebron's Mayor, Sheikh Mohammed Ali el-Jabaari, a sign of Israel's displeasure over the wave of violence that has escalated on the West Bank during the past three weeks. At the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, a team of neuro-surgeons worked to save the life of an 11-year-old Arab boy, one of three shot and wounded by Israeli soldiers in a fracas yesterday on the Jerusalem-Jericho road.

The military police were reported to be conducting a vigorous investigation of the incident which occurred when Arab youths stoned a private car carrying soldiers and tried to overturn it. According to unconfirmed reports, shots were fired at the youngsters by soldiers in the car and by other soldiers passing by. The soldiers in the car were said to have fired into the air to frighten off the demonstrators. It was not clear whose shots hit the three Arab youths, critically wounding one of them in the head.

Jewish Extremists Warned

Israeli authorities made it clear, meanwhile, that they would not tolerate lawlessness and vigilantism on the part of Jewish militants on the West Bank. Defense Minister Peres declared on a television interview last night that the authorities "will not hesitate for a moment" to use whatever means are necessary to restore order and security on the West Bank "on behalf of all residents, Arabs and Jews." He specifically warned "Jewish extremists" that any breach of the law or incitement to breach the law would be severely dealt with.

Peres was responding to provocative statements by Rabbi Moshe Levinger, leader of Kiryat Arba, the Orthodox Jewish community established several years ago adjacent to Hebron. Levinger went on television last night to exhort the townspeople to "shoot to kill" if they were stoned or otherwise endangered by Arabs. He said he "issued these orders" because the Hebron Arabs "have to be taught a lesson and put in their place." Peres reminded the Kiryat Arba residents that only the authorized representatives of the State and its security forces are permitted to shoot or give others orders to shoot.

Attorney General Aharon Barak said he would examine Levinger's words and deeds to see if they constituted a breach of the law. Defense Ministry officials said they would prosecute him if it was found that he violated the law by incitement to violence. Observers noted that all of the Kiryat Arba residents were licensed to carry weapons. There were reports yesterday that some Kiryat Arba Jews were stoned by Arabs in Hebron but no serious injuries were reported.

RABIN: ISRAEL NOT A NUCLEAR POWER

JERUSALEM, March 18 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin reiterated at Sunday's Cabinet meeting that Israel "is not a nuclear power and will not be the first state to introduce nuclear weapons into the Mideast." The Premier's remarks on the subject were officially published today. They were not, however, regarded as an official comment on a recent leak of a CIA report that claimed Israel possessed 10-20 nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, they could be construed as a denial of the CIA assessment.

Rabin spoke in reply to Religious Affairs Minister Yitzhak Raphael who asked if former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan's recent public urging that Israel acquire a nuclear capability had been coordinated with the Premier. Rabin said it was not and declared that the Cabinet could not take responsibility for remarks made by individuals. Observers believe that Raphael, who belongs to the "hawkish" wing of the National Religious Party, was in effect suggesting that the government adopt Dayan's prescription on the nuclear question.

SENATE COMMITTEE VOTES TO INCREASE AID TO ISRAEL, ARAB COUNTRIES

WASHINGTON, March 18 (JTA)--The Senate Appropriations Committee gave a green light yesterday to a $5.3 billion foreign military and economic aid program for the current fiscal year which includes a 25 percent increment to cover the transitional quarter July 1-Oct. 1 between the end of fiscal 1976 and the beginning of fiscal 1977. The funding for the transitional quarter would provide Israel with an additional $550 million, making up for the $500 million the Ford Administration had earlier chopped from its aid recommendations for Israel.

In adopting the foreign aid measure by voice vote with no oppostition, the committee, headed by Sen. John McClellan (D.Ark.), endorsed earlier action by its subcommittee on foreign appropriations headed by Sen. Daniel Inouye (D.Hawaii). Although the House omitted funding for the transitional quarter from an otherwise identical bill it adopted two weeks ago, it is expected to accept the additional appropriation when the final foreign aid package is hammered out by a Senate-House conference committee. The Senate is considered virtually certain to adopt its appropriations committee's measure when it comes to the floor for a vote next week.

The House bill's omission of the transitional funding stemmed from the fact that President Ford did not provide the legislation for it and left it to Congress to take the responsibility during a difficult economic year in which all of the House and a third of the Senate is up for election, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was told. But the JTA was informed that the President indicated only yesterday that he would accept the extra funding proviso

if Congress approves it.

Apart from the transitional quarter funding, the foreign aid package earmarks $1.5 million in military credits for Israel with the stipulation that up to half of that amount may be forgiven by the President.

In security assistance, Israel is allocated $700 million, Egypt $695 million, Syria $80 million, Jordan $72.5 million. The latter country will also receive about $150 million in military grants and credits. The transitional quarter allowance, if finally adopted into law, would provide Israel with an extra $550 million for the three-month period and Egypt with an additional $146 million.

Sen. Edward Brooke (R.Mass.) was instrumental in assuring that the bill includes the $15 million approved by the House to assist Israel in resettling immigrants from the Soviet Union. The Senate subcommittee had voted to cut that amount to $12 million, but at Brooke's insistence the full appropriations committee restored the original sum.

LEVICH URGES SUPPORT FOR SOVIET JEWS WISHING TO EMIGRATE

NEW YORK, March 18 (JTA)--Dr. Yevgeny Levich, the former Soviet physicist who emigrated to Israel in April, 1975, said here on his arrival for the beginning of a nationwide one-month tour that he is seeking "continued support and increased pressure from scientists across the United States to help my father and mother and other Jews leave the Soviet Union."

Dr. Levich, whose tour is under the auspices of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Committee of Concerned Scientists, said his parents' condition is serious. "I believe that continued protest from Western scientists could result in my parents' release. If necessary, I would suggest that Western scientists apply both moral and practical pressure, especially on scientific exchanges, until Soviet Jewish scientists can freely emigrate and the open exchange of scientists between the two countries becomes the rule, rather than the exception."

Yevgeny's father, Dr. Benjamin Levich, a noted Soviet electrochemist and Corresponding Member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, first applied to emigrate in March, 1972. As a result of his application he was dismissed as department head of the Moscow Institute of Electrochemistry and from his job as full professor at Moscow University. His request for an exit visa was refused on the grounds that he possessed "scientific secrets."

In 1973, despite two military exemptions, Yevgeny was ordered for military duty as a private. Refusing to do so, he was sent to a camp for military criminals in Tiksi Bay in the Arctic Zone. He is currently a senior scientist in the department of nuclear physics at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovoth.

Markman Due In The U.S.

In a related development, Vladimir Markman, a 38-year-old engineer from Sverdlovsk who served three years in a strict regime Soviet labor camp on charges of "hooliganism" and "dissemination of anti-Soviet propaganda," will arrive here March 24 to begin a national tour on behalf of others still imprisoned in Soviet labor camps. It was announced by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry which is coordinating his stay in New York.

Markman, who together with nine other Sverdlovsk activists signed a statement six years ago protesting the harsh sentences meted out to the first Leningrad trial defendants and was arrested in April, 1972 following a malicious campaign in the local press, was released in July, 1975, now lives with his family in Beersheba.

JNF WORKING ON YAMIT DEVELOPMENT

JERUSALEM, March 18 (JTA)--Jewish National Fund bulldozers and earthmovers are working throughout the daylight hours to prepare the ground for the industrial park of the town of Yamit, at the southern tip of the Gaza Strip. Some 350,000 cubic meters of sandy soil have already been shifted, according to JNF officials. Other JNF equipment is still working in Yamit itself--the industrial zone is slightly to the north of the town--preparing another 150 dunams for residential settlement.

There are presently 58 families living in Yamit, 20 from the Soviet Union, 20 from the U.S. and the rest are Israelis. Many of the settlers themselves are quick to complain to visitors that not enough is being done to develop Yamit into a major Jewish town. Housing is not going up fast enough, they say, and not enough jobs are being created. They say thousands would come to live there if the conditions were favorable.

Their fear is that the government is still ambivalent about Yamit and is therefore holding back on development work there. Officials in Jerusalem, however, deny this. They say Yamit is being built according to plan and predict its rapid expansion in the months ahead.

TORCZYNER TAKES ISSUE WITH SULTANIK

NEW YORK, March 18 (JTA)--Jacques Torczyner, co-president of the World Union of General Zionists, took issue today with Kalman Sultanik, executive vice-president of the World Confederation of United Zionists, for suggesting postponement of the elections to the World Zionist Congress scheduled to be held in Jerusalem in December. (See Daily News Bulletin March 18.)

In a statement released here, Torczyner observed that the Jewish communities of Europe are faced with immediate problems of assimilation and Jewish education. He said the Zionist organizations are preparing for the World Zionist Congress and that Zionism has again become an active movement as a result of the attacks on it in the United Nations.

Torczyner said the WCUZ's policy of "non-interference" in internal Israeli affairs has become less popular as diaspora Zionists have become more critical of Israeli developments. He also suggested that Sultanik feared that his group would have fewer delegates at the forthcoming Congress.

But that, Torczyner said, is not sufficient reason to justify the cancellation of elections. He also maintained that Sultanik's proposal that World Zionist Organization chairman Yosef Almogi be given more time to acquaint himself with the Zionist movement was a false issue. Since his election last year, Almogi has taken hold of the leadership with a firm hand, Torczyner said.

WEIZMAN EXCORIATES RABIN LEADERSHIP

LONDON, March 18 (JTA)--Gen. Ezer Weizman, former commander of the Israel Air Force, levelled a blistering attack on the leadership of Premier Yitzhak Rabin here this week. In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, after announcing

that he would return to an active role in Israeli politics, Weizman, a member of the Central Committee of Herut, described Israel's present leadership as "gray, divided and uncharismatic." He said that Rabin dissipated the personal and political credit he enjoyed when he took office two years ago. The Premier "made a big fortune in to a small one," Weizman declared.

His remarks were sharply attacked by Zvi Reisman, co-chairman of the British Poale Zion who charged that "such reckless statements can only undermine the Israeli position in the international arena and greatly harm the Zionist struggle to put across the Israeli case." Reisman also attacked Weizman for "breaking the code that citizens travelling abroad should not criticize their own country."

Weizman is currently on a speaking tour as the guest of the British Zionist Federation. The Federation has not commented on his statements made to the JTA but senior Zionist officials who do not share Weizman's views have privately expressed embarrassment. However, the Federation-sponsored periodical "Jewish Observer and Middle East Review," is scheduled to publish an interview with Weizman in which the latter attacks the "midgets" who rule Israel today and calls for new elections.

Will Seek Office In Next Elections

The former air force commander told the JTA that the weakness of Israel's Labor Party was exposed when it summoned 77-year-old Golda Meir out of retirement to participate in its new leadership forum. "I take my hat off to Mrs. Meir but not to those who asked her back," Weizman said.

He charged that the "lack of unity among senior ministers (in the Rabin government) made things seem worse than they were." He said there was much to be desired in Israel's relations with the United States and that Israel's current economic policy of "creeping devaluation" of the Pound was deplorable. However, Israel's military situation is "not all that bad," Weizman said.

Weizman, who served briefly as Transport Minister in the wall-to-wall coalition government formed by Premier Meir after the Six-Day War, told the JTA that new elections would be held in Israel within the next 18 months and indicated that he would seek office on the Herut slate although he had once contemplated forming a new political faction of his own. Weizman said he would press Herut for a "definite program" and would support the creation of "a shadow cabinet" in Israel. Herut, a constituent of the Likud opposition, is headed by Menachem Beigin, who decisively defeated Weizman in a struggle for party leadership several years ago.

FORD TELLS JEWISH LEADERS THAT THE U.S. WILL SELL EGYPT C-130S

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 18 (JTA)--President Ford made it plain to a dozen Jewish community leaders yesterday that his Administration will complete the sale of six C-130 troop transport aircraft to Egypt and thereby end the 20-year U.S. embargo on delivery of American military equipment to that country.

However, he left uncertain whether he will direct the sale involving about $40 million to be on a government-to-government basis which is seen by opponents of the deal as symbolizing the opening of a U.S. military supply relationship with Egypt, or by a commercial arrangement with the aircraft manufacturer, the Lockheed Company, which would not require Congressional sanction.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, who headed the delegation, met with reporters after the 85-minute meeting with Ford at the White House and told them he has "no idea what the Jewish community will do" now. Schindler said that the Jewish leaders came to the White House to express concern about the sale of arms to Egypt, although "we certainly sympathize with the overall thrust of American foreign policy which seeks to separate moderate Arabs from more radical Arabs" and "therefore fully support economic aid to Egypt."

He pointed out that "we were silent and made no fuss" when Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger pledged two nuclear plants to Egypt during President Anwar Sadat's Washington visit last October. The Jewish leaders, Rabbi Schindler said, "nevertheless have serious reservations" on the transfer of the military aircraft because, although that fact will not tip the power balance in the Middle East, the sale is a "symbolic act that represents the beginning of a policy that reverses the American policy" going back to the mid-1950s.

Arming Egypt, Schindler observed, is not to be seen just in a bilateral Egypt-Israel relationship but in the context of Arab arming. During 1975 Israel received $1.3 billion in arms, he said, while the Arab countries obtained in "actual shipments" $14-$15 billion in equipment of which about half were from the Soviet Union and the rest from Western sources, including the U.S.

Ford Reaffirms U.S. Commitment To Israel

Schindler said that Ford reasserted the American policy of the need to help Sadat and Egypt and of encouraging the moderate forces among the Arab leaders to draw them into the U.S. orbit. The President also said "over and over again," Schindler added, that his Administration is committed to Israel and despite Israeli-American disagreements, the President continues to hold the conviction he has held all his life, a conviction attested by deeds and not words.

In this connection, Schindler said Ford denied the report by Edward R.F. Sheehan in Foreign Policy magazine that he had told Sadat he favored Israel's withdrawal from territories occupied since the Six-Day War. Schindler said the President stated he had made no promise to Sadat and has always been consistent with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and has never said anything different to anybody.

The meeting was attended by Kissinger, Brent Scowcroft, National Security Council chairman, David H. Lissy, associate director of the President's Domestic Council, and Robert Goldwin, a special consultant to the President. Jewish representatives included Max M. Fisher, David M. Blumberg, Yehuda Hellman, Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, Jerold C. Hoffberger, Harold Jacobs, Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, Arthur Levine, Mrs. Rose Matzkin, Rabbi Israel Miller, Jacob Sheinkman, Rabbi Joseph P. Sternstein, and Elmer L. Winter.

Some of those attending observed that the President was well prepared on the facts taken up at the meeting and indicated they were impressed with his self-confidence and leadership.

2 PHILLY BANKS AND 1 LOCAL FIRM INDICATE THEY WILL END ALL COOPERATION WITH THE ARAB BOYCOTT

PHILADELPHIA, March 18 (JTA)--Two of three Philadelphia area banks and one local manufacturing firm have indicated that they would cease any semblance of cooperation with the Arab boycott of Israel in the wake of public disclosures by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, according to a story by David Gross in the next issue of the Jewish Exponent.

Included in a list of more than 200 U.S. corporations charged with "waging economic war against Israel in collaboration with the Arabs," which was announced at the ADL press conference last week in New York, were Continental Bank, Provident National Bank, Philadelphia National Bank and Schutte and Koerting, a Cornwell Heights manufacturer.

The banks were accused of "processing boycott-tainted letters of credit" and "flagrant disregard of U.S. anti-boycott policy" as well as "flouting Federal Reserve Board warnings against participation in the boycott."

Letter Of Explanation Issued

Responding to the accusations, the Continental Bank Board's vice-chairman, James J. Morris, said in a letter to Exponent editor Frank F. Wundohl, "We did, in fact, handle, as agent, certain export letters of credit for our customers which contained as part of the documentation a statement that the goods were 'shipped on vessels which did not stop at any Israeli ports.'"

Continuing, the letter stated, "Senior bank management was not aware of the acceptance of such documents by members of our staff and, effective immediately we have instructed our personnel to refuse to accept such letters....We hope that we will be measured by our supportive performance over many years and not by isolated transactions which occurred without the knowledge or approval of the senior manager of Continental Bank."

Another Continental vice-chairman, John T. Wagner, sent a similar letter to Samuel L. Gaber, regional director of the ADL. In another letter to Gaber, Roger S. Hillas, chairman of the board of Provident National Corporation, said "...our officers are instructed not to accept letters of credit containing conditions that call for the economic boycott of Israel or any other country."

Robert J. Coffman, treasurer of Ametek Inc., the parent company of Shutte and Koerting, said in a letter to the New York office of ADL, "...we have advised all divisions that as a matter of corporate policy no one shall take any action, including the furnishing of information or the signing of agreements, that has the affect of furthering or supporting a restrictive trade practice fostered or imposed by foreign countries against other countries friendly to the United States. To insure that this policy is enforced...we have also named a corporate officer...as the person responsible for implementing the policy."

Came To Fore Last October

The whole issue of the Arab boycott came to the fore locally on Oct. 20 when 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, employes, suppliers, customers or clients as a condition of investment.

On Dec. 23, the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Jewish Committee wrote to eight major commercial banks in the area asking them to endorse the position expressed by the Chamber of Commerce. Except for the Philadelphia National Bank, all the others responded affirmatively. On Feb. 13, the AJCommittee again wrote to the PNB. At that time there was no response. Finally, after PNB was included on the ADL list of boycott supporters, PNB affirmed its support of the Chamber of Commerce statement.

When the Jewish Exponent asked if PNB's support of the Chamber position meant it would cease approval of letters of credit containing Arab boycott provisions, William Wolf, director of corporate public relations for PNB, said that he didn't think the two were tied together.

"Letters of credit are strictly between the importer and the exporter," he said. "The bank merely acts as an intermediary. It is unfair to say that we are anti-Israel." Wolf also indicated that PNB acts in a similar fashion on behalf of Israel when it is requested to do so by Israeli firms.

Israel Consul General Emanuel Shimoni maintained that Wolf's statement regarding Israel was misleading. "We do not have a blacklist of ships or firms," he said. "On a specific voyage we may ask that a ship not pass through Arab ports so that goods bound for Israel will not be confiscated. However, we are not in the least interested in previous or subsequent voyages nor whom the firm deals with nor who its officers or directors may be."

Special Committee Dealing With Issue

Esther Polen, president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia, said that since January a special committee convened by JCRC to deal with Arab economic warfare has been working on this issue. In addition, a JCRC committee headed by Sidney Margulies, past president of the local American Jewish Congress, is working with the leadership of the AJCommittee, AJCongress and ADL to prepare a set of recommendations related to local banks and business concerns.

Because of the complexity of the issues and the different questions posed to the banks by the AJCommittee and the ADL, Mrs. Polen said it was not immediately clear what response is warranted at this time. She said the JCRC committee in consultation with JCRC member agencies will attempt to clarify the situation and issue a public statement.

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--French Health Minister Simone Weil received an honorary doctorate at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot Monday. In her address, she said the concept of Palestine--which at the time had meant nothing to her--had been a ray of hope for many of the Jews incarcerated with her in German concentration camps during World War II. She praised Chaim Weizmann, founder of the Institute and Israel's first President, as a man who symbolized the synthesis between pure science and public office. Also honored by the Institute at the same doctorate ceremony was Gerhard Herzberg, of Canada, who won a Nobel Prize for chemistry.

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WASHINGTON (JTA)--The American Nazi Party has scheduled a rally on July 3 in Lafayette Park opposite the White House.