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FORD PRAISES ISRAEL, SYRIA FOR HAVING 'ACTED VERY RESPONSIBLY' IN THE CONTINUING LEBANON CRISIS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 20 (JTA)--President Ford praised both Syria and Israel yesterday for having "acted very responsibly" in the Lebanon crisis. He said that if the crisis is resolved and a central government is again functioning in Lebanon, "then the restraint Syria has had and the restraint Israel has had will have gotten the Middle East off one of the most potential volatile situations in recent months there."

The President also disclosed that the U.S. is "working with the parties" in the Mideast for an extension of the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights which expires at the end of May.

Ford made his remarks in response to questions at a meeting with newspaper editors of Texas where he is engaged in a tight race with Ronald Reagan in that state's Presidential primaries.

Ford also predicted "additional headway" in the Middle East if Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization are able to resolve their differences. He stressed that "those two parties will have to make that decision," according to a transcript of his remarks.

U.S. Tolerance Of Syrian Intervention

While the President was speaking here, his press secretary, Ron Nessen, briefing newsmen at the White House, indicated the expansion of U.S. tolerance of Syrian intervention in Lebanon. He said "the United States opposes outside military intervention that could lead to a military confrontation or to a Middle East war."

That was a departure from Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's statement last December that the U.S. opposed military intervention in Lebanon from "any quarter" without the qualifying reference to confrontation or war. Later, however, when the Syrian-sponsored Palestine Liberation Army and Syrian regulars entered Lebanon, Administration officials, including Kissinger, praised Syria's "constructive role."

Yesterday, Nessen said, according to the White House transcript, "Even though we are opposed to outside military intervention that will lead to a confrontation, if you look at Syria's intent and nature of what they have done, I think overall you would have to say they have played a constructive role." He did not deny that U.S. tolerance of Syrian activities in Lebanon had expanded.

Kissinger, testifying before a Senate foreign aid subcommittee last week, spoke of a worrisome situation regarding Syrian military intervention in Lebanon and of Israel's difficult position. Reports reaching here from Lebanon since then have indicated that the U.S. put great pressure on Israel not to move against Lebanon in any way regardless of possible provocations stemming from the proximity of Syrian forces to the Israeli border.

Ford's remarks here also seemed to indicate an edging away from the often stated U.S.

position that it would have no contacts with the PLO unless that group recognizes Israel's existence as a sovereign state. Asked, "Will Israel have to sit down with the PLO," Ford replied: "That is a decision they have to make and it is, of course, involved, because Israel says as long as the PLO does not recognize the existence of Israel, they are not going to negotiate with the PLO. But that is a decision they have to make. Somehow I feel that we can make additional headway there but those two parties will have to make that decision."

Some Headway in Lebanon

With respect to the Lebanese situation, the President said that the special envoy he sent to that country last month, Ambassador L. Dean Brown, has been "negotiating and working with all parties." He added "and it has been tough, but I think that we have made some headway." Nessen told reporters that when he made his last check, Brown had made no contacts with the PLO in Lebanon. "There have been exchanges between the United States and all the parties involved (in Lebanon) with the exception of the PLO," Nessen stated.

Kissinger had informed the JTA two weeks ago that Brown would be in violation of his instructions if he contacted the PLO during his mission in Lebanon. The State Department indicated, when Brown departed, that his instructions did not include contacts with the PLO but the Department did not seem to rule out the possibility of such contacts.

Frying For UNDOF Extension

The President said yesterday that if the Lebanese conflict can be resolved satisfactorily, "I think the prospects for peace in the Middle East continuing are excellent and a satisfactory solution to the Lebanese problem can't help but have a beneficial impact on the extension of what we call UNDOF which comes up in May. So we are working with the parties there to try and get that extension. If that is extended, that gives us another six months to continue the peace process in the Middle East."

Ford added that he did not think "we are going to have an outbreak or conflict in the Middle East because our whole thrust, our whole leadership in this area, is to keep the peace so we can continue the peace-making process in the whole area which is, you know from history, the most controversial, emotional area in the history of mankind, really. But I am confident that wiser heads are working to really achieve success of peace moves in that area."

UNREST CONTINUES ON WEST BANK

JERUSALEM, April 20 (JTA)--Unrest continued and escalated on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem today in the aftermath of the Gush Emunim march. Israeli security forces wounded three Arabs, one of them seriously, in a battle with stone-throwing youths in Nablus. Two soldiers and a policeman were injured by stones in East Jerusalem where security forces clashed with rioting students. Fifteen youngsters were detained.

Reinforced troops also broke up demonstrations in Jenin and Tulkarem.

In the latter city, a curfew was imposed this morning and police arrested 19 demonstrators and curfew violators who were immediately brought before a military tribunal and sentenced to prison terms of 8-9 months and fined IL 6000.

Shopkeepers who went on strike in many West Bank towns were forced to return to their shops when security forces smashed the locks. The trouble in East Jerusalem was the first there in more than a month. About 200 Arab schoolgirls marched through the Old City carrying signs denouncing the Israeli occupation. Police broke up the march near Herod's Gate but were pelted by stones. Youths burned rubber tires in the Old City. Foreign tourists were cleared from the area.

The disturbances were apparently provoked by the two-day march through the West Bank by some 20,000 supporters of the militant Orthodox nationalist Gush Emunim claiming the right of free Jewish settlements in the Samaria and Judea regions. Protest demonstrations in Nabulus yesterday resulted in the fatal shooting of a 55-year-old Arab by Israeli forces.

WEST BANK MARCH CONDEMNED

NEW YORK, April 20 (JTA)--Four prominent American Jews condemned the march of some 20,000 Israelis through the West Bank and called on "Jews who support a militarily and morally strong Israel" to reject the notion "that territories are more important than peace," and called on Israel to "prohibit further Jewish settlement in the occupied territories."

Rabbi Joachim Prinz, chairman of the World Conference of Jewish Organizations, David Tulin, chairman of the Philadelphia Zionist Federation, Rabbi Max Ticktin, assistant national director of B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, and Rabbi Balfour Brickner, director of the department of interreligious affairs of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, issued the condemnation and appeal in a statement on behalf of Breira, a national Jewish educational organization. The four signed the statement as individuals, not as representatives of their respective organizations.

Breira, which means "alternative" in Hebrew, claims it is "promoting an overall peace settlement in the Middle East as the foundation for Israeli security and hopes to revitalize and democratize American Jewish life."

Consequences Of The March

In condemning the two-day West Bank march by more than 20,000 followers and sympathizers of the Gush Emunim, the four Jewish spokesmen declared: "Coupled with recent violations of civil rights and loss of life on the West Bank, this march serves only to strengthen Arab nationalism and to weaken faith in Israeli and Jewish commitment to the human and national rights on which Israeli society was founded and maintained."

The statement added that "we who believe fervently in the right of national self-determination for the Jewish people in Israel must offer an alternative to Israeli occupation of territories inhabited by over one million Palestinian Arabs and recognize the parallel right of the Palestinian Arab people to national self-determination in a state of their own alongside Israel."

Breira said it proposes to "challenge all elements in the Arab world to make peace with Israel on the basis of Israel's pre-June 1967 borders, with special provision for open access for all to a

united Jerusalem."

SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO HEAR JDL SUIT ON FBI 'ILLEGAL' WIRETAPINGS

WASHINGTON, April 20 (JTA)--The Supreme Court refused yesterday to hear a suit brought by members of the Jewish Defense League asking for damages from government officials who conducted an "illegal" wiretap against them in 1970 and 1971. The High Court let stand a decision by a United States Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia that suggested that officials may escape paying damages if they could demonstrate that they had sincerely believed the wiretap to be proper.

The JDL suit was against former Attorney General John Mitchell and nine present or former members of the FBI. During a trial against 13 JDL members for gun conspiracy in June 1970, the government revealed it had wiretapped conversations of 10 of the defendants without a warrant.

The District of Columbia Court of Appeals ruled that the wiretaps were illegal since the government may use wiretaps without warrants only if the evidence that the target of the wiretap was a foreign agent or a collaborator with a foreign agent.

Federal law provides that the victim of an illegal government wiretap is entitled to damages of \$100 a day for each violation. But the law says that "a good faith reliance on a court order or legislative authorization shall constitute a complete defense" for government officials. Attorneys for the JDL argued that the wiretaps went beyond the intent of the law.

JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN NORTH AFRICA CELEBRATE PASSOVER

PARIS, April 20 (JTA)--Synagogues in Tunisia and Morocco were filled to capacity for Passover services, a number of communal Seders were held and Jewish families in hundreds of homes celebrated the ancestral Passover dinner. French Jewish tourists back from North Africa say that the Passover festivities were held this year in a quiet and peaceful atmosphere in spite of the tension between Morocco and Algeria and Tunisia and Libya.

The local authorities reportedly tried to facilitate the holding of the Seders and Jewish state employees were granted this year again days off to enable them to celebrate at home. Government representatives, especially in Casablanca, Rabat and Tunis, attended the religious ceremonies to convey the authorities' wishes on that occasion.

CAREY, BEAME PROCLAIM APRIL 25 'WARSAW GHETTO COMMEMORATION DAY'

NEW YORK, April 20 (JTA)--Mayor Abraham Beame and Gov. Hugh Carey have proclaimed Sunday, April 25 as "Warsaw Ghetto Commemoration Day" in New York City and State. In his proclamation, Beame declared that "it is urgent that the world continues to remember the heinous crimes committed during the Holocaust and honors the heroes who fought at Warsaw."

Carey said that "permitting society to forget this inhumane episode (the Holocaust) would be an even greater crime. By remembering and paying tribute to the memory of the six million martyrs, we hopefully will prevent history from repeating such a truculent act."

Meanwhile, thousands are expected to gather inside and outside Temple Emanu-El on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue for a memorial service April

25 commemorating the 33rd anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The principal speakers will be Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations; Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; and Beame.

The ceremony, starting at 1:30 p.m., will be held under the auspices of the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization (WAGRO) in conjunction with other major Jewish organizations. Hundreds of memorial candles will be lit in Temple Emanuel by survivors of the Warsaw Ghetto. Other ceremonies are also being planned across the country.

MEMBERS OF DEFUNCT AGRANAT PANEL ARE MUM ON THE 'DADO' DOCUMENT

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 20 (JTA)--Gen. David ("Dado") Elazar's posthumously published challenge to the Agranat Committee's findings on the Yom Kippur War, continued to arouse comment in the press and among the public today. But members of the defunct Agranat panel are remaining silent on the issue. Former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, who Elazar contended should have shared the blame for Israel's unpreparedness in Oct. 1973, said he had no objections to publication at this time of his full testimony before the Agranat Committee.

Much of what Dayan said was classified by the committee, to be released only after 30 years. Elazar's letter of April 1974, to Premier Yitzhak Rabin, claimed that the Defense Minister delayed calling up the reserves as the 1973 crisis escalated even though he was privy to far more intelligence information than the Chief of Staff, the office held by Elazar at the time.

The letter--or document--portions of which were published on the second anniversary of the war last fall, was released in full yesterday by Elazar's family. The former Chief of Staff died last Thursday of a heart attack and was buried with full military honors Sunday. His document was published in full today in all Israeli newspapers.

Elazar's letter was submitted to Rabin, Cabinet ministers and the Agranat Committee along with his resignation. He charged that the investigative panel was remiss in apportioning blame for Israel's failure to mobilize in time to meet the Egyptian-Syrian attack. He said that while he accepted the responsibility that fell on the Chief of Staff, the Agranat Committee failed to take adequate note of the decisive roles of the Defense Minister and the then Premier Golda Meir.

Meanwhile, a public committee has been established to plan projects honoring the late General. A memorial rally will be held on the "shloshim," the 30-day anniversary of his death. Another project is publication of a book on the history of Israel's security forces which Elazar was researching at the time of his death but had not started to write. The book will be compiled from his collected material.

CALL ISSUED FOR TOTAL SUPPORT OF SOLIDARITY SUNDAY FOR SOVIET JEWRY

NEW YORK, April 20 (JTA)--In a rare display of unity, two Republican and five Democratic Senate hopefuls stood in the shadow of the United Nations today and issued a call for all-out support for "Solidarity Sunday for Soviet Jewry," May 2.

Sen. James L. Buckley (C-R), Representatives

Bella Abzug (D), Mario Blaggi (D), and Peter Peyser (R), City Council President Paul O'Dwyer, Assemblyman Andrew Stein, former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and Abe Hirschfeld gathered in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza where the solidarity rally will be held. The session was chaired by Kings County District Attorney Eugene Gold, chairman of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry which is sponsoring the May 2 rally.

On hand also was Aviva Gendin, a 24-year-old Soviet Jew who has not seen her husband Lev for four years, since she was ordered out of Russia and he was forced to remain behind. She is here to rally support for her husband and other Soviet Jews denied the opportunity to emigrate.

The three symbolic figures of the American Revolution and a banner reading "Freedom in '76 for Soviet Jews" provided a vivid backdrop for the session. Prominent public officials and civic and religious leaders are scheduled to address the Solidarity rally. Last year, more than 150,000 took part. A greater number is expected this year. Similar demonstrations are planned in scores of cities in the U.S. and around the world.

ISRAELI FIGHTER PILOTS HAVE LOW OPINION OF SOVIET COUNTERPARTS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 20 (JTA)--Israeli fighter pilots gained a low opinion of the professional competence of their Soviet counterparts, at least as of six years ago, when outnumbered Israeli jets downed five Soviet MIG-21s in a dogfight over the Gulf of Suez during the height of the war of attrition with Egypt. They found the Russians poorly trained and clumsy in combat.

The first report of the encounter, by one of the Israeli pilots who participated in it, was published today in the Air Force magazine. The pilot was not identified by name. His opinions were shared by other Israeli pilots and senior Air Force officers.

The clash between Israeli Phantoms and Mirages and Soviet MIGs occurred on July 30, 1970 when the Soviet piloted jets, then part of Egypt's air defenses, chased Israeli reconnaissance planes returning from a mission over Egypt. The Soviets had 10 or more planes in the air against six Israeli fighters, the pilot recalled. Within minutes, three of the MIGs were shot down.

The pilot, who shot down the fourth one, said in his story that although his Soviet adversary was in a superior combat position at the outset, he did not know how to utilize his advantage. "I do not know what the Russian guy thought. What became apparent to me is that he was inexperienced and was not aware of the basic moves in such circumstances," the pilot wrote. After the Russian "did two things that are simply not done," the Israeli brought him down with an air-to-air missile.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Violinist Yehud Menuhin has offered to contribute to the Jerusalem Foundation half of his earnings from a 60th birthday concert he will perform at Carnegie Hall in New York. A spokesman for the Jerusalem municipality said that the offer was made to Mayor Teddy Kollek following contacts Menuhin had with the Mayor and with Ehud Atriel, Israel's Consul General in Chicago. Menuhin was one of the few internationally famous artists who refrained from denouncing the 1974 UNESCO resolution condemning Israel for its archaeological digs in Jerusalem.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW**SCHINDLER: ISRAELIS ARE ANXIOUS,
UNHAPPY BUT UNITED AS A PEOPLE**
By David Friedman

NEW YORK, April 20 (JTA)--Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, who recently made his first official visit to Israel as chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said he found a feeling of anxiety and unhappiness throughout Israeli society "from right to left, from top to bottom."

But, "beneath this outer shell," Schindler stressed, he found that the Israelis, "as always," were united as a people and ready to make "sacrifices and determined to pursue national goals once they are fully articulated."

He made his remarks in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency at the offices of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations of which he is president. Schindler said that unlike previous visits of the Presidents Conference to Israel where contact was limited to government officials, he sought to meet with Israelis of all views and from all segments of the society. "I met with 40 to 50 people in four days and held talks starting at 6 a.m. and ending at 10 p.m. to midnight," he said.

Schindler said Israel's problem is not only the lack of articulation of goals but also the present form of elections which makes reforms difficult because of the effectiveness of pressure groups. However, he noted that Israelis have complete faith in the army which they believe is strong and has made the needed changes in response to the Yom Kippur War.

The Presidents Conference leader stressed that pessimism may have been especially high during his visit because it came at a time of unrest on the West Bank, demonstrations by Israeli Arabs in the Galilee, the controversy in Washington over the sale of C-130 transport planes to Egypt and the \$550 million in transitional quarter aid sought by Israel, and Ambassador William Scranton's attack in the United Nations Security Council on Israel's policies in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Deeply Concerned About U.S. Attitude

At the same time, Schindler said, the constant self-criticism he heard may also be due to the "Jewish penchant for self-flagellation and exaggerating the problem as worse than it really is." He noted that Israeli newspapers, especially, tend to exaggerate the problems that Israel has with the United States.

However, Israelis are deeply concerned about the American attitude, Schindler said. "The one question by everyone was 'has America decided to abandon Israel?'" Schindler said.

He said there is a "desperate reliance" by Israelis on the American Jewish community. Israelis realize "America is Israel's only friend" and they look to the American Jewish community to influence American foreign policy, Schindler stressed. "We, the American Jewish community, are essentially a self-confident community," Schindler said. "We speak up for Israel when it is popular and pray for the strength to do so when it is not."

Schindler said the Israeli view the Presidents Conference as the voice of the American Jewish community. He said they accept his view that the Presidents Conference should take stands on issues that concern it without necessarily consulting with the Israelis.

Retooling Presidents Conference

The Reform Judaism leader said the major problem for American Jewry is to turn the Presidents Conference into a deliberative body where decisions can be made on a democratic basis. He said this is what he is trying to do and has already taken steps by having leaders of the United Jewish Appeal, United Israel Appeal and the Jewish Federations sit in on meetings. Schindler said he hopes to institutionalize these changes so they will be carried on when he leaves the chairmanship.

Asked about the criticism by Rabbi Mordechai Waxman in his valedictory address as president of the Rabbinical Assembly in which he criticized the Presidents Conference as being reactive rather than deliberative, Schindler said he later received a note from the Conservative leader. He said Waxman said he would not have made the charges if he had been aware of the changes Schindler was making.

Schindler said this year the Presidents Conference has an added responsibility because of the Presidential elections. He stressed the group is non-partisan but it must deal with the Presidential candidates as well as the President. He said the Presidents Conference will be concerned with the platforms worked out by the parties at the national conventions and with the foreign policy advisors, that the candidates choose.

The Israelis look at the upcoming election with fear, Schindler noted, because they know the policies of the Ford Administration and they do not know what a new Administration will do.

ADL CONFAB TO BE HELD IN JERUSALEM

NEW YORK, April 20 (JTA)--Seymour Graubard, chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, stressed today the importance of Jewish organizations scheduling a maximum number of their regular meetings in Israel to help the hard-hit Israeli economy and to express solidarity with the Israeli people.

He made the statement in announcing that the ADL's national commission had scheduled for the first time part of its 63rd annual meeting in Jerusalem next November. He said the decision to meet in Jerusalem had been made in response to an appeal for such scheduling made by Premier Yitzhak Rabin at the Jerusalem Solidarity Conference of world Jewish leaders last December.

The first part of the annual meeting will be held Nov. 13-15 in New York City and the meeting then will shift to Jerusalem for Nov. 15-22, with more than 300 commission members expected to attend.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Dr. Anatol Galperin, a Soviet Jewish activist who recently received an exit visa after years of struggle, arrived here Monday night for a reunion with his wife who has been living in Beersheba. Dr. Galperin, an expert in applied mathematics, was granted a doctoral degree by the Haifa Technion on the basis of the work he completed in the Soviet Union. He was denied his degree--and dismissed from his job--in the Soviet Union after applying for an immigration visa. He will join the faculty of the Negev University in Beersheba.

BRUSSELS (JTA)--A 16-year-old Israeli, Nir Shamir, won the 200-meter swimming competition at the Inter-European Youth Championship held in Luga, Leningrad. The young Israeli won two gold medals and was pronounced "best overall swimmer." The six-man Israeli team, four boys and two girls, reached the finals. The competition was attended by 1700 youngsters from Western Europe.