



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036

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Vol. XLIII - 59th Year

Thursday, May 6, 1976

No. 88

RECRIMINATIONS IN CABINET OVER ELECTIONS ON THE WEST BANK

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 5 (JTA)--Israel's top ministers are locked in a bitter battle of recriminations over last month's elections on the West Bank which resulted in a pronounced shift towards younger and more radical, nationalist-oriented mayors and town councils. Defense Minister Shimon Peres has come under sharp attack from Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, to a lesser extent from Premier Yitzhak Rabin, and also from other ministers who all assert that his pre-election forecast was misinformed and misleading.

Peres contends that his forecast was basically correct, that other assessments supported his and that in any event Israel could hardly have put off the elections, having announced they would be held, without incurring tremendous damage to its image.

Sources close to Allon charge Peres with having effectively sabotaged the idea of "self-rule" for the West Bank, a scheme which called for the gradual evolution of a moderate indigenous leadership in which key administrative functions would be vested. The sources say Peres ruined the chances for this by trumpeting the scheme in a public speech in Beit Jallah, a West Bank town, last summer.

The "self-rule" issue was a focus of the West Bank election campaign, with the nationalist candidates fighting hotly against it. They claimed it meant a measure of acceptance of the Israeli conquest. Peres' aides argue in reply that Allon was among the most ardent advocates of the "self-rule" idea and that he, too, made public statements in newspaper interviews backing the self-rule thesis.

SCHLESINGER ASSAILS FORD-KISSINGER POLICIES TOWARD ISRAEL; SAYS NIXON, KISSINGER DELAYED IN RESUPPLYING ARMS TO ISRAEL DURING YOM KIPPUR WAR

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 5 (JTA)--The Ford-Kissinger policies toward Israel were sharply attacked by former Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger here last night. He said "it is improper--pernicious--to blame the failure to achieve a settlement (in the Middle East) on the one nation prepared to accept a settlement," an obvious allusion to the Ford Administration's open criticism of Israel's alleged failure to offer initiatives for peace. Schlesinger made his remarks in an address at the seventh annual policy conference of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee at the Shoreham Hotel.

In reply to questions, he offered an account of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, airlift to Israel in which he alleged that President Nixon and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger procrastinated in resupplying Israel with urgently needed arms until the war was in its seventh day. Schlesinger was Secretary of Defense at the time and served in the same capacity in the Ford Administration until late last year.

In his address last night, he referred to two

themes of the Ford Administration's Middle East policy--momentum and even-handedness. He said the tendency is to blame the slow progress in negotiations on Israel and to assert "the failure to achieve momentum is a direct responsibility of Israel."

"Momentum is fine," Schlesinger said. "The question is momentum toward what? To a just and comprehensive settlement? To a reduction or the end of terrorism? To the recognition of state entities? It is improper--pernicious--to blame the failure to achieve a settlement on the one nation prepared to accept a settlement. That is an improper judgement."

Schlesinger added that if the U.S. "is to be the guarantor of freedom it must be prepared to support democracies" because "if we are not prepared to support democracies, we must ask who will we support?"

Even-Handedness And Forced Concessions

With respect to even-handedness, Schlesinger who is currently a Visiting Scholar at Johns Hopkins University, observed that "even-handedness is different from forcing either side into concessions. If the United States is to be the leader of the diverse nations it must be responsible for all nations and it cannot be in a position of forcing one side."

He said that the military balance in the Middle East today is interlocked with a global military balance and support of Israel by the U.S. is "a barometer of American intentions.... The strategic significance of Israel is of growing importance in the world-wide military balance" because it is "an indicator of American steadfastness" after the difficulties of the U.S. in Southeast Asia and Africa, Schlesinger said.

He noted that Israel is "highly dependent" on the U.S., "far more than the Israelis expected after the 1967 war." This, he said, put the U.S. in a position to extract concessions from Israel but he was "concerned" by the undermining of America's moral support for Israel and the "parallel tactics" employed by the U.S. in Southeast Asia.

Genesis Of U.S. Airlift

Schlesinger's version of the genesis of the American airlift to Israel in October, 1973 corresponded with what he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an exclusive interview two years ago. He said the Nixon-Kissinger policy when the war broke out on Oct. 6 was that Israel could receive whatever American military equipment it was able to pay cash for and to transport in its own or chartered aircraft.

Subsequently, a decision was made that the U.S. would transport military equipment to the Azores where it would be picked up by Israeli planes, but that did not work out, Schlesinger said. He said the idea then was to transport the equipment in unmarked American aircraft to maintain a low profile for the U.S. According to Schlesinger, the decision to send Israeli military supplies directly by U.S. Air Force transport planes was not taken until 1 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 13.

Schlesinger's version has been disputed by the State Department which has implied that the

delay in sending military supplies to Israel was due to foot-dragging by the Pentagon. Schlesinger declared last night that "This should be out of contention." However, he said, "We have the latest authorized leaks" in an article in Foreign Policy magazine by Edward R.F. Sheehan on Kissinger's diplomacy. Schlesinger observed that this was "a clever stratagem to neutralize Israel's supporters in the United States." He said that Sheehan's version of events is in conflict with his own knowledge and added, "I must allow others to sort out the conflict."

Supplying Arms To Arab States

Asked whether the U.S. should be a "major" arms supplier to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, Schlesinger said that "some modicum of related arms is appropriate" for Egypt but that "modicum" was distinct from being a major supplier. He said that others could supply Saudi Arabia along with the U.S. "All arms, to the Middle East should be carefully balanced on the basis of the regional basis. The United States should take a long-term view rather than a short-term one based on diplomatic views," he said.

Schlesinger claimed that "we recognize" that in the last three or four years, the American military position has declined, notably in naval strength and "it is essential" that both the Middle East and the world military balances be in "appropriate equilibrium" because without that, "ultimately" there will be no survival for Israel and the Middle East will be subject to "Soviet fiat." A militarily weakened America "will be unable to hold the rings in the Middle East," Schlesinger said.

2000 PERSONS MARK INDEPENDENCE DAY

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 5 (JTA)--More than 2000 persons streamed into Carnegie Hall last night to celebrate Israel's 28th anniversary and to affirm their solidarity with the Jewish State. The event was sponsored by the American Zionist Federation.

Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, who came to address the gathering directly from the Security Council where a debate began yesterday on Israeli practices on the West Bank, said that Israel is ready to make peace and negotiate with its Arab neighbors. But he reiterated Israel's determination not to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization which, he said, bases its policies on "brutal terrorism."

The Israeli envoy also said that no peace will be achieved in the Middle East unless the Arabs recognize Israel as an independent sovereign Jewish State in the Mideast and become reconciled to this idea. On the current Mideast debate in the UN, which Egypt called for, Herzog said that "extremist elements are trying to sabotage the mechanism for peace in the Middle East and the agreements" which have already been achieved. The issue, he declared, "is not territories or Palestinians. At the heart of the conflict is the Arabs' refusal to recognize the existence and sovereignty of Israel."

Mrs. Faye Schenk, president of the AZF, called on New York's Jewish community to "show their solidarity and support for Israel" and conveyed the greetings of New York's Jews to Israel on its Independence Day. "As we join our fellow Jews and Israel in beginning another year of Israeli independence, Israeli sovereignty, and Israeli democracy, let us include along with our

congratulations and greetings, a determination to exert every effort on behalf of Israel and the world Zionist community at large," Mrs. Schenk declared.

Mayor Abraham Beame presented the city's greetings for the occasion. A dramatic program called "Mutuality," written and directed by playwright Dore Scharly, was presented to commemorate Israel's anniversary and the American Bicentennial.

Anniversary Marked In Other Cities

Israel Independence Day celebrations were held in Jewish communities across the country. In Los Angeles, more than 15,000 participants joined a 10-mile Solidarity Walk-Israel Independence Day Celebration last Sunday which also marked the conclusion of the United Jewish Welfare Fund-Israel Emergency Fund drive. The day-long event was sponsored by the Jewish Federation-Council Youth and Young Adults Council. Officially registered walkers presented their credentials to be stamped for redemption by previously solicited sponsors who agreed to make a contribution to the UJWF for each mile completed.

An afternoon rally in Los Angeles featured Russian emigre Aviva Klein Gendin whose husband, Lev, is still waiting permission from Soviet authorities to join his wife in Israel. Subject to constant harassment and repeated arrests, Gendin gained world-wide headlines in 1974 when he escaped prison after being beaten by anti-Semitic inmates and guards. Mrs. Gendin expressed confidence that American public opinion would help free her husband.

POHER URGES MOBILIZATION OF PUBLIC OPINION ON SYRIAN JEWRY

NEW YORK, May 5 (JTA)--The President of the French Senate, Alain Poher, last night told American Jewish leaders, that "the time has come to mobilize American public opinion on behalf of Syrian Jewry." Poher, chairman of the International Conference for the Rescue of Jews in Arab States, said that his 10-day U.S. visit will be devoted to the issue of Syrian Jews.

Poher, who addressed the Jewish leaders at a reception held by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said that he is undertaking this campaign because the situation of Syrian Jews has not improved since the June 1967 war, when their freedom of movement in Syria was restricted and their right to leave the country was ignored. "We are determined to obtain a change of policy on this issue from the Syrian government and to convince President Assad that it is impossible in 1976 to keep people as hostages."

Some Hopes For Emigration

Poher said Monday night that he had "some hopes" that Syria's remaining 5000 Jews will be permitted to emigrate. He said he based his hopes on a meeting he had recently with Assad, "but nothing has happened yet," he added.

Poher, who spoke before 700 members of New York's Syrian-Jewish community, urged them to ignore media reports that Syrian Jews did not want to leave, "let them say they don't want to leave," declared Poher, who is not Jewish.

He said he would raise the issue of Syrian Jews when he meets with Congressmen in Washington later this week. According to Poher, his task is to convince the Syrian government that it is in its own interests to permit Jews to leave. Under

international pressure, Syria will find it "impossible to remain deaf to your requests. We must do everything to liberate them," he said.

The French leader was introduced by Rep. Stephen Solarz (D.N.Y.), a member of the House International Relations Committee. Solarz said he was pressing for an amendment to next year's foreign aid bill that would bar U.S. aid for countries that do not show reasonable progress in allowing free emigration. Ms. Liliane Levy Winn, president of the American Sephardi Federation, is accompanying Pöher in his talks here and Washington. She also serves as his translator since he does not speak English.

HERZOG CHARGES COUNCIL DEBATE IS A FUTILE, USELESS WASTE OF TIME By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, May 5 (JTA)--Israel charged today that the current Security Council debate on the territories under Israeli control is "a futile, useless, waste of time" and charged that it is a result "of the volatile, unstable, internecine interrelationship within the Arab world."

In remarks prepared for delivery to the Security Council this afternoon, Israeli Ambassador Chaim Herzog said that Egypt requested the meeting because it "has to indulge in a game of one upmanship with Syria and to take advantage of the tension and confrontation between Syria and the PLO in Lebanon." Herzog said that the Palestinian Arabs are only an excuse "as always" used by the Arab states "as pawns in the inter-Arab game."

Analyzing in depth the situation in Lebanon, Herzog concluded: "This debate is part of an Egyptian effort to reassert itself in the Arab world and to score over the Syrians within the framework of the struggle one with the other."

Answers Charges-On West Bank

Turning to the situation in the West Bank, Herzog cited a recent case of an Egyptian woman who came to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem for open heart surgery. "If the territories are such a hell on earth for the Arabs why the long line of Arabs crossing from every country in the Middle East to Israel for treatment?" he asked.

"If conditions in the administered areas are so unbearable and it is claimed that Israel is committing 'war crimes' in the areas, why is it that hundreds of thousands of Arabs, including women and children, voluntarily cross the Jordan River to spend their vacations in the very same areas?"

According to the Israeli envoy, since June 1967 4.5 million people crossed the bridges of the Jordan River in both directions, including 700,000 Arab tourists arriving from different Arab countries.

Herzog, referring to Egyptian accusations yesterday at the Council meeting, of Israeli mistreatment of the Gaza population, accused Egypt of oppressing the people of the Gaza Strip during the 19 years they were under Egyptian control.

"You treated them as slaves," Herzog said to the Egyptian representative. "You violated one human right after another."

The same charges were made by Herzog against Jordan which Herzog said "oppressed the Arab population for 19 years" while the West Bank was under Jordanian control.

Proud Of Record

Stating that he does not ignore the problems

that presently exist in the West Bank, Herzog said, however, that Israel is proud of its record in the West Bank. He noted that Israel has never carried out a death penalty against an Arab terrorist, that the standard of living of the Arabs in the administered territories has risen and that there is freedom to express any political opinion "including extreme views opposing the State of Israel."

Herzog disclosed during his speech that an investigation is under way in Israel concerning the proposal by a West Bank resident to a foreign television crew to organize incidents such as burning of tires or creating road blocks in return for a payment of \$300. He accused Egypt and the PLO of inciting the disturbances in the West Bank and charged that the incitement "is designed to prevent the development of a dialogue between the new leadership (in the West Bank) and the Israeli administration."

Reiterating Israel's call for negotiations, Herzog said a solution to the Mideast conflict can be achieved only on the basis of understanding. "You have no option today but to choose between the 'ongoing force towards peace in the Middle East' as envisaged in Resolutions 242 and 338, 'or on the other hand, between the uncompromising, intransigent attitude reflected in the Arab statement 'before you which means a perpetuation of war and misery,'" Herzog stated.

U.S. Objects To Seating PLO

Ahmed Meguid, the Ambassador of Egypt, which asked for the Security Council meeting, yesterday urged the Council to adopt a resolution condemning "Israel's brutal and illegal actions" in the administered territories and calling for "immediate and effective" steps to stop what he said were violations of international law.

The start of the debate yesterday was similar to the start of a discussion on Israel's occupation policy last March which ended with a United States veto of a resolution condemning Israel. American Ambassador William Scranton objected yesterday as he did in March to seating the Palestine Liberation Organization. As in March the PLO was seated by an 11-1 vote with Britain, France and Italy abstaining.

DIPLOMATS MARK ISRAEL'S ANNIVERSARY

WASHINGTON, May 5 (JTA)--More than 350 diplomats, ranking members of both houses of Congress, Jewish community leaders and journalists celebrated the 28th anniversary of Israel's independence at a reception today in the Israeli Embassy residence. The assembled guests raised a toast to Israeli Ambassador and Mrs. Simcha Dinitz. Acting Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco headed the Administration delegation of White House, State Department and Defense Department officials. In addition to the envoys of Western European and Latin American countries, the reception was attended by the Ambassadors of Burma, Thailand, Swaziland and Barbados.

BRUSSELS (JTA)--Belgium's tiniest inhabitant, the famous Mannequin Plaisir Statue in the center of Brussels, celebrated Israel's Independence Day with the full regalia of an Israeli kibbutznik. The statue was introduced with the traditional short trousers and the "kove tembel," presented as a gift by Israel to Brussels. The statue will henceforth spend one day a year clothed, on Israel's Independence Day.

ISRAEL IS A NON-COUNTRY: OMITTED IN BRITISH AIRWAYS PUBLICITY SENT TO ARAB COUNTRIES...

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, May 5 (JTA)--British Airways today disclosed some of the steps it takes to avoid offending the Arab world by omitting Israel from much of its publicity.

A press officer for the state-owned aviation company told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that it prints two editions of its 24-page world-wide timetable. One of them, which includes the services to Israel, is for general distribution. The other, omitting Israel, goes to British Airways offices in the Arab world. The spokesman also disclosed that BA draws up special lists of its offices which omit mention of its three offices in Israel.

This has come to light because one of these lists was inadvertently sent to a company in Israel in connection with an international conference on fire, security and safety held in London last week. British Airways had supplied the list to the organizers of the conference who distributed it exactly as it was received.

These admissions were made following protests to BA over the absence of Israel from an otherwise comprehensive list of nationality marks on civil aircraft published in the company's 1976 diary. Previously, BA has claimed that this was "an unfortunate oversight," pointing out that the diary does give the addresses of its offices in Israel.

But Paul Maurice, one of the BA's press officers, told the JTA that whoever drew up the list "must have dropped the Israeli marking for obvious political reasons." Had Israel been included, it would have appeared between the names of Yemen and Libya.

Matter Taken Up

Meanwhile, the matter has been taken up with BA by the newly-formed Anti-Boycott Committee. It is understood, too, that the British government has been made aware of Israeli views about it.

Amos Lavie, the Economics Minister at the Israeli Embassy in London, described BA's behavior as "voluntary compliance with the Arab boycott of Israel." Many British businesses, he claimed, voluntarily evade Israel out of irrational fear of the boycott. Often they are deterred from actions which do not contravene the Arab boycott's regulations.

Other apparent examples of BA's attitude include an advertisement announcing the use of the Tristar aircraft to the Persian Gulf and India as "the first time this popular new aircraft has been operated by the airline outside Europe." In fact, it has been flying to Israel daily for the past eight months. In the three days before Passover, the aircraft helped BA to carry 2000 more passengers to Israel than it would have done otherwise.

...AND IN PUBLICITY BY AIR FRANCE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 5 (JTA)--The state-owned airline Air France avoids mentioning Israel and its connections with that country in a promotional booklet just printed titled "Air France Serves the Businessman." The booklet, which is being widely distributed, describes in detail the services and help Air France offers in North and South America, the Far East and the Middle East. A smaller brochure deals with the Middle East under the title "Advice for Middle East Business." In

neither of these publications is Israel mentioned.

An Air France spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the company has two separate advertising campaigns: one for the oil-producing countries and the other for Israel. The spokesman said, "We keep the two areas separate so as to avoid possible repercussions." The spokesman added that Air France has an intensive advertising campaign for its Israel flights and works in cooperation with the Israeli airline El Al.

Meanwhile, a Gaullist member of Parliament, Claude Gerard Marcus, has asked French Transport Minister, Marcel Cavaille, to investigate whether the omission of Israel is not due to Arab boycott threats. Marcus, a Jew who represents a Paris district, also asked the Minister whether he considers this "normal in view of Franco-Israeli relations." Air France runs a twice-daily service to Israel and has started using one of its newest and largest planes, the "Airbus" on this route.

SAMUEL H. WANG DEAD AT 59

NEW YORK, May 5 (JTA)--Samuel H. Wang, a shipping executive and philanthropist who was active in many Jewish organizations died Sunday at the age of 59. Born in Poland, Wang came to the United States as a refugee in 1940. He went into shipping operations after World War II and developed a fleet of tankers and dry-bulk carriers. His American Bulk Carriers, which is no longer active, at one time operated 12 vessels.

One of his ships, the Kern Hills, was the first American flag ship to arrive in Eilat in April 1957 to deliver the first cargo of oil to Israel after the 1956 Sinal War.

Wang was the chairman of the national public affairs committee of the Zionist Organization of America. He was also active in the Israel Bond Organization, the American Friends of Hebrew University and the American Friends of Boytown Jerusalem. He was treasurer of the New York Board of Rabbis Advisory Council. Wang was also the financial backer for the establishment of Kiryat Arba, the Jewish settlement next to Hebron on the West Bank.

U.S. DELEGATION TO UNESCO TO PAY DUES TO RETAIN VOTE, BUT NO OTHER PUNDS TILL ANTI-ISRAELI POLICY CHANGES

PARIS, May 5 (JTA)--The American delegation has informally advised the UNESCO Director General that it will make the minimum \$3 million contribution to the organization's budget so as not to lose its right to vote. The money will be paid before the General Conference which is due to take place in autumn in Nairobi.

The United States owes the sum of \$42 million in outstanding dues and would lose the right to vote unless it makes the minimum \$3 million payment before the end of the year.

UNESCO sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that a bill asking for this appropriation is currently before the U.S. Congress. American sources told the JTA that the U.S. delegation has made it clear to the UNESCO administration that besides the token contribution no other funds will be provided until UNESCO changes its anti-Israeli policy.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Top Moscow activist, Dr. Victor Brailovsky has received permission to leave for Israel but his wife has again been refused, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported.