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JWV OPPOSES BROWN'S RENOMINATION AS HEAD OF JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 10 (JTA)--Judge Paul Ribner, national commander of the Jewish War Veterans, sent a telegram to President Ford today to "vigorously protest the nomination of General George S. Brown for a second term as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff." Ford nominated the 57-year-old Air Force general for another two-year term yesterday.

Speaking for the JWV and JWV Auxiliary president Elaine Mass, Ribner said they felt "there are severe questions concerning Gen. Brown's judgment as evidenced by his past public statements and conduct with respect to policy determination." Ribner said "it is inconceivable that among our senior general and flag officers, the President could not find a more acceptable and equally capable successor."

Ribner said members of the JWV would actively oppose the nomination by contacting members of the Senate Armed-Services Committee which must approve the President's recommendation.

In 1974, Ford ordered Brown to publicly apologize about remarks the general made about Jewish influence in the U.S. during a speech at the Duke University Law School on Oct. 10, 1974. Brown, in answering questions from the audience, said that Israel had too much influence on Congress and that Jews "own...the banks in this country, the newspapers."

ISRAEL MAY ABANDON NON-INTERVENTION IF PAN-ARAB FORCE SENT TO LEBANON

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 10 (JTA)--Reliable sources said here today that Israel would reconsider its present policy of watchful non-intervention in the Lebanese conflict if the Arab League's decision in Cairo yesterday to send a pan-Arab force into Lebanon materializes. Official sources stressed, however, that there has been no change yet in Israel's policy toward Lebanon.

"According to the circles, the Syrians are aiming at a decisive victory over the Palestinian terrorists they are now battling in Lebanon before any multi-national Arab force reaches that country. They are therefore moving more men and equipment into Lebanon and are trying to gain control of the main road from Syria to Beirut which has been blocked by the terrorists and Lebanese leftists.

Syrian strength in Lebanon is now estimated at a full armored division and Damascus has apparently reached the point where it cannot turn back without incurring the stigma of defeat, the circles said. They also noted the movement of Iraqi army units westward toward the Syrian border. These units are not intended for entry into Lebanon but to exert pressure on Damascus to accept the decisions of the Arab League conference in Cairo to limit its involvement in Lebanon, the circles said.

Meanwhile, the Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces, Gen. Mordechai Gur, said today that the Syrians and Palestinians presently fighting each other in Lebanon may decide to turn

against Israel once the Lebanese conflict is over. He said the terrorists in particular may have been encouraged by their successes against Syrian regulars and warned, "Let them not be mistaken, when the Israeli army fights it is not like the Syrians, it fights to win." Gur made his remarks to an infantry unit composed mainly of Druze soldiers which just completed an exercise in northern Israel.

U.S. SEES ISRAEL AS 'FACTOR' IN DEVELOPING LEBANON CRISIS

WASHINGTON, June 10 (JTA)--The State Department said today that it regarded Israel as "a factor" in the developments presently unfolding in Lebanon and was also keeping a close watch on the actions of the Arab states in the Lebanese conflict. Referring to the Arab League's decision in Cairo yesterday to form a pan-Arab force aimed at ending the fighting in Lebanon, Department spokesman Fred Brown told reporters, "We have noticed the decision of the Arab foreign ministers and are watching closely the actions which flow from it."

He said that at this time he had "no comment on inter-Arab positions including these efforts at forming an inter-Arab force for a peace-keeping goal." He said the U.S. judged events in Lebanon according to whether they contribute to "or make more difficult an effective cease-fire and political accommodation among the parties in Lebanon that will preserve the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and national cohesion of that country."

Questioned about the role of other Middle Eastern countries, specifically Israel, Brown said, "I think the Israelis are a party to the general picture in the Middle East. They certainly are a factor taken into account when talking about events now going on in and around Lebanon." But Brown said he could not "characterize the Israeli attitude or what I think about the Israeli position with regard to events taking place in Lebanon." He reiterated that the U.S. is in contact with the various parties "and we have the sense of what their attitudes are." Brown said he had no information on future Syrian troop movements into Lebanon "or any indication of that."

FORD ADMINISTRATION OPPOSES NEW BOYCOTT LEGISLATION, SIMON SAYS CONFRONTATION TO BE AVOIDED

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 10 (JTA)--The Ford Administration's record on the Arab boycott against Israel was reviewed by a variety of supporters and defenders in statements to several Congressional committees today. The principal defender was Treasury Secretary William E. Simon, who told the House International Relations Committee that "no additional legislation is necessary or desirable at this time." He said new legislation "would be detrimental to the totality of United States interests both here and in the Middle East."

Simon said "We have had talks with Arab and Israeli leaders and with leaders of the American

Jewish community on boycott issues and on ways to eliminate racial, religious and other discrimination." In such talks, he said, "we have made the point that our basic goal must be to encourage progress toward peace. It is our considered judgement that confrontational policies will not move to remove the boycott and could undermine the delicate search for peace in that troubled region of the world. The Administration sought and continues to seek effective ways to eliminate this divisive policy and simultaneously achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

'Administration policy, particularly in the Commerce Department, came under sharp attack today from Rep. John Heinz III (R., Pa.), who assailed the Arab blacklist of American firms and individuals having dealings with Israel. He warned the committee that "we will invite Arab intimidation of every corporation, every religious and ethnic group and every individual in our country unless the list is fought now."

Voluntary Measures Called Failure

Will Maslow, general counsel of the American Jewish Congress, and Seymour Graubard, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, both testified before the House committee that the Administration policy of voluntary anti-boycott action had failed. They said that many businessmen would be willing to defy the Arab threats if they had laws on the books backing their stand.

Dr. Arthur F. Burns, Federal Reserve Board chairman, asserted yesterday that American banks had a major role in the boycott and that Congressional action was needed if diplomatic efforts failed to solve the problem. In a letter to a House Government Operations subcommittee, Dr. Burns said "it is clear to me that banks in the United States play a crucial role in giving effect to the Arab boycott in this country. Our banks are not only securing assurances for Arab importers that they are not buying goods of Israeli origin but they also serve as the instrumentality whereby United States citizens having unrelated dealings with Israel may be denied access to the Arab market."

Widespread compliance by American banks with anti-Israel boycott demands was also acknowledged by Rauer Meyer, director of the Commerce Department's Office of Export Administration, who reported yesterday that a department survey disclosed that 119 American banks received 10,443 restrictive requests covering 5190 transactions during a four-month period that ended last March.

In only 72 cases in each of the months, on an average, did the banks refuse to process the letters of credit or otherwise participate, Meyer said. He said that about 80 percent of the requests directed against Israel came from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iraq. The rest came from other Middle Eastern countries. The banks complied with requests to participate in 4071 cases and declined in 288. The rest were decided by other parties or were cases in which the banks did not indicate how the requests were handled.

Scores Horrible Practice

Meyer's report to the House Government Operations subcommittee prompted its chairman, Rep. Benjamin S. Rosenthal (D.N.Y.), to remark that this "horrible" practice further underlined the need for legislation prohibiting American partici-

pation in the Arab boycott. At present, federal law requires only that companies, including banks, report contracts containing boycott clauses to the Department of Commerce. President Ford issued a directive last November enjoining American companies from engaging in business transactions that could result in discrimination against American citizens.

Representatives of the Chemical Bank and the Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. told the subcommittee that while they did not approve of boycotts, laws forbidding even indirect participation by American companies would have serious adverse effects on trade with Middle Eastern countries. Proponents of strong anti-boycott laws argue that the Arabs badly need American products and technology and would disregard their own boycott rules if the U.S. took a tough stand.

DEMS REJECT BALLOTS FROM ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, June 10 (JTA)--The Democratic National Committee has disqualified on "technical grounds" all 651 ballots cast by American citizens living in Israel for delegates to the Democratic nominating convention which opens in New York next month. The ballots were voided because the 39 candidates for delegate were not each provided with a list of all registered American voters in Israel, according to a cable received by the National Committee representatives in Israel. Another reason given was that delegates known to favor "pro-Israel" candidates had received recommendations on National Committee letterheads.

The Democratic National Committee maintains an office in London where the overseas ballots were tallied June 2. Of a total of 1.5 million Americans living outside the U.S., 8000 registered to vote for convention delegates and 3000 actually cast ballots. The candidate in Israel to receive the largest number of votes was Dr. Miron Sheskin who polled 795 of which 144 were cast by Americans living in countries other than Israel.

MORE BUDGET CUTS EXPECTED

JERUSALEM, June 10 (JTA)--Gideon Hausner, Minister-Without-Portfolio in the Israeli Cabinet, told a delegation of visiting Canadian Jewish leaders today that the budget cuts just approved by the Cabinet for social services and education were probably not the last, given Israel's serious economic situation. Hausner met with members of Montreal's Combined Jewish Appeal visiting here under the auspices of the Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal.

Jack Zittler, general chairman of the CJA, who heads the group, replied that as far as overseas Jews are concerned, Israel's social services are not negotiable. He urged the Montreal Jewish community to make its largest peacetime effort ever to narrow Israel's fiscal gap.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--The Knesset approved unanimously a bill to commemorate Israel's first Premier, David Ben Gurion. The bill, approved on its first reading, will be further discussed in the Knesset's Education Committee. Three institutions, Ben Gurion's home in Tel Aviv, the Institute for the Legacy of Ben Gurion in Kibbutz Sde Boker in the Negev, and the Desert Research Institute there, will be run by public councils, according to the bill. The anniversary of Ben Gurion's death will be a national memorial day in state institutions and schools. The graves of Ben Gurion and his wife will become a state site.

MAPAM CONVENTION OPENS WITH DISPLAY OF UNITY WITH LABOR

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 10 (JTA)--The Mapam national convention opened at the Mann Auditorium here last night with a minimum of ceremonial pomp and repaired this morning to Hamaccabiah Village in Ramat Gan for serious political debate. Judging from the initial speeches and the responses from the 1131 delegates, a majority of Mapam wants to preserve their alignment with the Labor Party and work from within to effect the political changes Mapam advocates in Israel's foreign and domestic policies.

A small but vocal minority demands an immediate split with Labor and a separate Mapam list in next year's Knesset elections. The matter will not come up for a decision at this convention however. Mapam's political committee decided a week ago to remain within the Alignment until the Labor Party's convention in December indicates whether the Mapam-Labor gap can be bridged.

Nevertheless, the Labor Party leadership has apparently decided to exert all possible pressure to avert a split. A large Labor delegation was present at the convention opening, headed by Premier Yitzhak Rabin. Mapam ministers and Knesset members mingled with their Labor counterparts on the dais. In a display of partnership and Rabin offered a degree of encouragement to Mapam in his address to the convention.

He reiterated that Israel is ready for far-reaching territorial concessions in Sinai, the Golan Heights and on the West Bank in exchange for a genuine peace. His speech drew warm applause although the Premier did not define what he meant by far-reaching concessions. He said his government's policies were in the tradition of the labor movement and stressed that Israel would not insist on full peace or nothing but was willing to make gradual progress toward peace through interim agreements. He devoted a good part of his speech to Israel's social achievements, noting that this is the only democratic country that does not solve its economic problems by engendering unemployment.

Talmi Urges Initiative

Meir Talmi, Mapam's secretary general, delivered a sober response to Rabin. He said no one was happy with the prospects of terminating the Labor Alignment, especially in view of recent social and political developments and the consolidation of the right-wing factions. Talmi maintained that an Israeli political initiative for peace is essential now to avoid a solution imposed by the two superpowers at a later date. He urged a realistic evaluation of the political situation which he defined as recognition that Israel would have to make significant withdrawals in the Sinai, Golan and West Bank but be prepared to fight for its essential security borders.

Talmi said that Israel could not ignore the Palestinian claim to national identity and should express readiness to negotiate with any Palestinian body that recognizes Israel. He said the problem should be solved within the framework of negotiations with Jordan. The Mapam leader took strong issue with the annexationists of Herut and the Gush Emunim. They must realize, he said, that the nation cannot live forever on bayonets. He opposed Jewish settlements on the West Bank and urged action against the Gush Emunim and

their leader, Rabbi Moshe Levinger of Kiryat Arba, who have repeatedly defied government policy.

Present at the opening of the Mapam convention were many of Israel's leading public figures including President Ephraim Katzir, Histadrut secretary general Yeruham-Meshel, Jewish Agency chairman Yosef Almog and Meir Zarmi, secretary general of the Labor Party. Mayor Shlomo Lehat of Tel Aviv extended the city's official welcome.

There was also a large delegation of guests from abroad, including representatives of the Rumanian Communist Party and the Italian Socialist Party. The two Rumanians were the first Communist delegation ever to attend a Zionist party convention in Israel. They are Vasili Shandry a former Ambassador to Yugoslavia and presently deputy chief of the Rumanian Communist Party's foreign relations department; and Dumitru Hortu. The Italian Socialists were represented by the party's comptroller, Sandro Mancinelli and Enrica Locarelli, head of the women's division. There were also delegations from France and Denmark.

GNYCSJ RAPS RESTRICTIONS ON PARCELS BEING SENT SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, June 10 (JTA)--The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry today sharply assailed the "harsh new restrictions the Soviet Union will put into effect on June 15 on the size and value of parcels which may be sent into the USSR." The GNYCSJ will conduct an intensive drive to pressure the Soviets to rescind these restrictions.

"The move clearly represents a new form of harassment of Soviet Jews who rely so heavily on aid from people in the United States," said Malcolm Hoenlein, GNYCSJ executive director. He pointed out that the new regulations will raise the assessed value of some items sent into the Soviet Union by eight or ten times their normal value. This will have the effect of raising the import duty, already at 70 percent of assessed value, in proportion to the newly assessed amount. In addition, limits will be placed on the quantity and types of goods which may be sent.

The results of these regulations, Hoenlein charged, will be to raise the cost of sending one \$250 package to \$600, which will have to be sent in three installments. He emphasized that packages of goods are "especially vital to those Soviet Jews who have been arbitrarily dismissed from their jobs after applying to emigrate to Israel." Since many "refuseniks" are forced to remain without any income for years, "these parcels represent a lifeline to these oppressed people."

Hoenlein termed the new restrictions a "despicable and cruel attempt by the Soviets to tighten and ultimately to sever that lifeline, and to isolate Soviet Jews from their friends in the West." He said the GNYCSJ has wired top U.S. government officials to urge that they press the USSR to rescind the new restrictions.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--A Modlin torch, lighted at the graveside of the ancient Maccabees, was flown Thursday to New York, on the first leg of its voyage to Lima, Peru, where the Latin American Maccabiah will open next month. Several hundred Jewish youngsters will compete in Lima in preparations for the tenth Maccabiah Games in Israel next summer.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**ISRAEL FACES FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS
CONCERNING DEFINITION OF STATE**

By Uzi Benzman

JERUSALEM, June 10 (JTA)--It is commonplace that Israel's situation in the world today is unique in that its very existence as a state is still under question. But it is equally true, though less commonly recognized, that Israel's other problems--beyond that of existence--are also the most fundamental and basic kind, the kind that affect the very fiber of a nation.

The country today, 28 years after its establishment, is still facing fundamental challenges in each of the main facets of its national life. The government of Premier Yitzhak Rabin, beset by its own inner weaknesses and disunity, must cope with gut issues that have never been effectively tackled, and which show no signs of coping with themselves unaided.

The Yom Kippur War, of course, highlighted a number of these latent problems and difficulties that had never been adequately confronted by the founders of the State. It is too early yet to evaluate David Ben Gurion's overall role in the molding of Israeli society. But there can be no doubt that the Rabin Cabinet must reap some of the bitter fruits that were sown by its predecessors.

The 1973 war had a considerable impact upon the nation's awareness of its natural size and real strength. To a certain extent, the war was "a moment of truth." It removed the veil of deception and illusion that had been blurring Israeli reality. The consequences of the Yom Kippur War--economically, politically and morally--have continued this process of national sobering up.

Thus, Israelis nowadays find themselves forced to face up to issues which were swept under the carpet for many years: the definition of the nation, the boundaries of the State and the relationship between the State of Israel and the Jewish diaspora. Ostensibly, all these issues were resolved many years ago, but the events of the last two years have demonstrated that past solutions were insufficient; a new approach is badly needed.

Definition Of Nation

It was only by chance that the Jewish State was called "the State of Israel." In 1948 there were voices urging that the new-born country be called "Judea" (Yehuda). Had that name been adopted, the citizens of the State would have been called "Jews" (Yehudim) and not "Israelis." Thus the Arab inhabitants of the country, who became its citizens would have had to be called "Jews" or "Arab-Jews."

This is mentioned in order to demonstrate the complexity of problems of coexistence between Jews and Arabs in the same state. Israel was created to enable the Jews to have their own independent state where they would implement the Zionist vision of a restoration of sovereign national life. But relations between the Arab inhabitants and the Jews living in and immigrating to Israel were never sufficiently defined and clarified. Indeed, the current tensions between the government and the Arab minority reflect the weaknesses of the arrangements established in 1948.

In explaining the recent agitation among Israeli Arabs, some critics tend to blame government policy towards the Arabs. These critics claim that Israeli governments over the years paid too much attention to raising the standard of living of the Arab population, and consequently neglected or ignored the Arabs' national emotions and spiritual

needs.

But, though the policies employed by all the Israeli governments vis-a-vis the Arab citizens can be rightly criticized on these grounds, it must remain doubtful whether different policies would have brought different results. The real problem, after all, is rooted in the very definition of the State as a Jewish country which allows the Arab minority to have its own life. Relations between the Jewish majority and the Arab minority cannot be described in the same terms as relations between the Anglophone Canadians and their French minority (and even they have quite severe problems). Relations between Jews and Arabs in Israel are complicated because the majority represents a unique entity that embodies a religion and a nationhood while the minority belongs to a larger, supra-national entity, which exists, in different national forms, along the borders of Israel. A new definition of the Israeli nation is needed.

The Boundaries Of The State

A new definition of the Israeli nation would logically have to be followed by a decision about its size. The borders of Israel were established in 1949 as a result of the War of Independence. The Six-Day War officially changed the border vis-a-vis Jerusalem only, but in practice other changes have taken place as a result of the erection of new settlements in the administered territories. The final borders will be established in the light of a political settlement to be achieved between Israel and its neighbors. The decision about the borders will have to be shaped by the location of the Arab minority and the new definition of the Israeli nation (will Israel be a bi-national state; a Jewish homogeneous country, or "the country of the Israelis"--both Arabs and Jews--who will have to share the same rights and duties, including the army service?).

Relations With Diaspora

A new definition is needed in this area too. The Jewish people, as a whole, must ask itself whether the existence of a Jewish independent State is an important value which deserves a personal sacrifice. Since its birth, Israel has increased its Jewish population from 600,000 to three million. Yet, in order to guarantee the future of the Jewish State, a wider populating basis is needed.

Israel is facing difficult issues nowadays; some of them "normal" problems that every country has; some basic issues stemming from the fact that Israel is still in the process of molding its shape and character.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--The La Am movement, a faction within Likud, held a meeting at Kadum in Samaria Wednesday in a demonstration of support for the Gush Emunim squatters. They demanded the immediate resignation of the Rabin government, dissolution of the Knesset and new elections for a "responsible national leadership" centered on Likud. La Am is composed of the Free Center, the State List and the Greater Israel Movement. The other, and much larger constituents of Likud, are Herut and the Liberal Party. Yigal Horowitz and Eliezer Shostak, spokesmen for the faction, demanded that the Kadum group be authorized to establish a permanent settlement in central Samaria. The Cabinet decided on May 9 to offer the squatters an alternative site but none has been announced so far. Government settlement policies have excluded Samaria.