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SOUTH-LEBANESE BECOMING INCREASINGLY DEPENDENT ON ISRAEL FOR SERVICES

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Sept. 12 (JTA)--The population of southern Lebanon is becoming increasingly dependent on Israel for commerce, law enforcement and social services since the authority of the central government in Beirut has virtually disappeared. The population of southern Lebanon, moreover, is being swollen by a steady influx of refugees from the war-torn north.

Trading between Lebanese and Israelis over the border fence has been growing in recent months. Lately, however, Maronite Christians in southern Lebanon have complained to the Israeli army that shrewd Lebanese merchants have been selling Israel-made goods in the north, where they bring higher prices. This leaves the southern villages without many needed commodities. A Maronite priest accused the merchants of profiteering and urged the Israelis to put a stop to what he called an abuse of their good will.

Southern Lebanese are also trying to prevail upon Israel to extend to them the same social welfare payments given Arabs in the Israel-administered territories. They have asked Israel to extend its telephone lines into southern Lebanese villages so that the Lebanese can contact Israeli merchants, hospitals where their relatives are being treated and relations in the U.S. and Europe.

Ominous Reports Cited

While these developments are welcomed by Israel, there have been ominous reports recently that the break-away Lebanese Army (LAA) is building a civilian and military airstrip some 15 kilometers north of the Israeli border with the help of Soviet technicians.

There has been no official confirmation of the airstrip located northwest of the Israeli border towns of Misgav Am and Kiryat Shemona. But heavy equipment, including tractors confiscated from Christian villagers, have been seen in that area. The airstrip is reportedly four kilometers long and is intended to handle cargo aircraft and Soviet-made MIG fighters. The LAA is said to be rushing it to completion before the rainy season sets in.

JERUSALEM PLAYING DOWN ALTERCATIONS WITH UNITED STATES OVER OIL DRILLING

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12 (JTA)--Officials here today continued to play down the significance of last week's sea clash, followed by a diplomatic altercation, with the U.S. over an American firm's oil drilling efforts in the Gulf of Suez. Following last Thursday's meeting on the subject between Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Ambassador Malcolm Toon, Israeli officials have indicated that they would like the issue now dealt with through channels of "quiet diplomacy" far from the stresses and tensions of media coverage.

The officials are thus uniformly reticent in discussing the affair. They refuse even to furnish information or opinions even on the purely legal aspects of the incident.

The officials speak hopefully of a "pragmatic solution" being evolved, which would apparently satisfy the immediate needs of the firm involved, Amoco, and at the same time not prejudice Israel's assertion of the right to control the waters of the gulf up to the median line, a right which Washington does not recognize.

The episode is expected to figure in consultations which Ambassador Simcha Dinitz will hold in Jerusalem starting Thursday with Rabin, Foreign Minister Yigal Allon and top officials. Dinitz is expected here Wednesday for talks which were arranged some weeks ago and are not connected with the oil drilling affair. The Cabinet discussed the affair today, sitting as the secret "Ministerial Defense Committee." Rabin, Allon and Defense Minister Shimon Peres reported on the shooting incident and on the diplomatic follow-up.

SOVIET SHIP SEEN IN LEBANESE WATERS

TEL AVIV, Sept. 12 (JTA)--A mysterious Soviet ship, said to be an intelligence-gathering vessel though it carries no visible antennae or other equipment, has been observed in Lebanese waters recently, several miles off Beirut. According to unconfirmed reports, the ship can monitor wireless messages and can maintain surveillance of other ships and transports on land. Sources here suggested that it may be conducting certain hydrographic measurements. But its presence may also be intended to deter Israeli ships from taking any action in Lebanese waters.

Soviet policy in the Lebanese civil war has been ambiguous. While Moscow has been trying to provide the Moslems and PLO with arms and political backing, it also continues to supply arms to Syria whose forces have battled the Moslems and Palestinians in Lebanon. Despite differences over Syria's intervention in Lebanon, there has been no deterioration of relations between the Soviet Union and the Syrian regime.

UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM TO BE STUDIED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12 (JTA)--The ministerial committee on employment will meet shortly to consider ominous signs of unemployment, particularly in industrial plants in new development areas. Although employment remains high and there are still more jobs available than there are applicants for them, experts fear that the recent wave of mass dismissals may portend trouble in the immediate future.

About 40 plants throughout the country either closed down this year or dismissed workers at an average rate of about 100 per plant. A total of 3500 industrial workers found themselves without jobs, though most of them had little difficulty finding new employment. According to Labor statistics, about 22,000 persons applied for work in August, 3000 above the average for the previous months. The number of job openings registered with the Labor Ministry's placement office dropped from 6500 to 4500 in August.

Labor Minister Moshe Baram and Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz are concerned that unemployment may develop into a serious problem. Rabinowitz has said repeatedly that he does not

subscribe to the view that unemployment is an effective means to curb inflation. The government is especially worried over the dismissal of industrial workers. Its declared policy has been to shift the labor force from service to productive industries.

Employers in Jerusalem say that unemployment has been recorded only in the Jewish sector of the labor market. Most Jerusalem industrial plants are manned by Arab workers and many jobs are going begging. Want ads have proliferated in East Jerusalem Arabic newspapers. "It is not that there is no work. The problem is simply that Jewish workers are very choosy," one employer said.

ISRAEL, MEXICO CONCLUDE PACT IN PRINCIPLE TO GRANT EL AL LANDING RIGHTS IN MEXICO CITY

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12 (JTA)--President Luis Echeverria of Mexico and Israeli Ambassador Hanan Enor met last week in Mexico City to conclude an agreement in principle to grant El Al landing rights in Mexico's capital, it was reported in the Jerusalem Post. Echeverria expressed hopes that the final details could be rapidly worked out.

In an interview with Erwin Frenkel, Jerusalem Post correspondent, Mexico's chief executive stressed his support for Israel and said he hoped the agreement with El Al would help boost tourism to Mexico and also smooth over what he termed "the misunderstanding" with Israel over Mexico's vote last November in the UN General Assembly for the resolution equating Zionism with racism. In addition to discussing El Al landing rights, Frenkel reported that Echeverria also discussed other measures of cooperation with Enor.

By gaining landing rights, Israel's national airline would be able to offer American tourists from the West Coast who visit Israel an alternative route home. Mexican officials hope that such tourists would take the opportunity for a stopover in Mexico. Tour operators are expected to offer such combined Israel-Mexico packages once the El Al-Mexico route is established. Echeverria had discussed landing rights for El Al during his visit to Israel last year, but talks were suspended after Mexico's vote in the UN.

SOUTH AFRICAN JEWS TRYING TO DEAL WITH RACIAL UNREST, TENSIONS

JOHANNESBURG, Sept. 12 (JTA)--The racial unrest in South Africa confronts the country with the problem of restructuring its race relations. But South African Jews cannot be bound, any more than other communities, to a particular line of action. Dr. Ellen Hellman, a social anthropologist, told a meeting of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. She is past president of the Institute of Race Relations and a former chairman of the Board's public relations committee.

Hellman noted that during the past 10 weeks "we have had ample evidence of the frustration and anti-white feeling of young Colored and Black people, especially the educated elite." There has been acknowledgement of the need for change not only from liberal quarters but from Afrikaan institutions and leading Afrikaaner businessmen who are critical of the government and in favor of change, Hellman said.

She noted that some moves have been made in recent years toward desegregation but more are needed while the government has given the Black

community no indication that they are contemplating major changes.

Many Jews In Progressive Movements

"South Africa must realize that the fiction of a white homeland which occupies 84 percent of South Africa's total land area and in which whites constituted 26 percent of the population in 1970, cannot be upheld," Hellman said. She noted that many individual Jews have been active in progressive social movements and special tribute must be paid to the Union of Jewish Women which has provided social services for Black communities over the years.

But while there are many lines of activity for South African Jews as individuals, there is no sphere of action for the community as a whole, represented by the Jewish Board of Deputies, "simply because there is no program acceptable to the community as a whole," she said. "One cannot bind Jews any more than other communities to a particular line of action," Hellman said.

However, she said it was time to re-issue an appeal to Jewish businessmen and to all employers to equalize salaries for equal work and to introduce medical aid and pension schemes for their Black employees where these are not already operating.

"For the individual, the practice of commitment to change is unlimited" and "we must also seek opportunities for meaningful social contact, especially where there is a basis of shared interests," she said. She also noted another aspect to be kept in mind was that young Black radicals look to the Organization for African Unity (OAU) with its Arab participation for their inspiration.

ISRAELI ENVOY URGES CLOSE WATCH ON UPCOMING GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE

NEW YORK, Sept. 12 (JTA)--Ambassador Dov Schmorak, acting permanent representative of Israel to the United Nations, yesterday urged the Zionist Organization of America to watch closely the upcoming General Assembly debate and the voting pattern of each country and "lead the Jews in their fight against those who attack them."

Speaking at a luncheon of women delegates to the ZOA's 79th national convention at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Schmorak declared that since last year's General Assembly meeting "the scope of the attack against Israel by the petro-Communist group and the satellites was broadened to include the whole Jewish people and the Jewish movement of national self-preservation, Zionism." He said that in the Assembly session that starts Sept. 21 "we can expect a further escalation of these attacks."

Schmorak said that the "Arabs are in alliance with anti-Semitic extremists of the far left and far right, an alliance which has produced in the last few months a new wave of virulent anti-Semitic and pro-Nazi literature in many countries, particularly in Latin America."

He charged that the "Soviet Union is seeking, by the attack against Zionism in the UN, to stop the decline of Soviet influence in the Middle East and at the same time to legitimize by UN resolutions the brutal Soviet anti-Zionist campaign within the Soviet Union and the denial of the right of the Jews for self-preservation as Jews."

RABIN URGES WIDER SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 12 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin urged wider support for Israel through

the Israel Bond Organization in a message today to 1000 Jewish leaders from the United States and Canada at the closing session of the three-day International Fall Leadership Campaign for Israel Bonds at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

In a cable addressed to Sam Rothberg, general chairman, and Michael Arnon, president of the Bond Organization, Rabin stressed that increased economic strength is essential to help Israel consolidate its position during the coming year. "More than ever before, the health of our economy constitutes a major building block for the prospects of stability and peace," Rabin's message said.

Simcha Dinitz, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, who was guest of honor at the closing dinner tonight, warned that Israel "cannot hope to maintain its freedom and independence if it is weak." He pointed to Lebanon's "sad experience" as proof that Israel must be strong to survive. "Israel cannot hope to overcome the campaign of terrorism, boycott and blockade that has been launched against her unless she is strong militarily, economically and morally. Our deterrent military capability and our economic strength are indivisible," he said.

More than a score of film and television celebrities attended the Ambassador's gala which climaxed a full day of sessions to inaugurate the fall drive of the Bond Organization in the Jewish community and in major segments of the financial and industrial world and among trade unions.

Special High Holiday Efforts

A total of more than \$40 million in Israel Bond sales is expected to result from special efforts to be conducted in 1100 synagogues in the U.S. and Canada during the forthcoming High Holidays. Ze'ev Sher, Israel's Economic Minister to the U.S., noted specific indicators of steady recovery in Israel's economy. However, he cautioned, it will take some time for Israel to regain the annual average increase of up to 10 percent in its gross national product that prevailed before the Yom Kippur War.

Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem said last night that "all attempts by Arab extremists to sow the seeds of violence in Israel are doomed to failure," and that united Jerusalem offers living proof that Arabs and Jews can live together in "neighborly relations." Jerusalem's experience since June 1967, Kollek said, "encourages us to hope that not merely co-existence, but mutual understanding, cooperation and true reconciliation can ultimately be achieved in Jerusalem, in Israel and in the entire Middle Eastern region."

Arnon said that the conference was being held in Los Angeles for the first time in the history of the Israel Bond Organization to give recognition to the growing importance of the Jewish communities of the West Coast in the program for Israel's economic development. He observed that the spirit of this weekend's gathering "augured well for the attainment of increased support this year."

B'NAI B'RITH AVERTS DEBATE OVER ISSUE OF COMBINED MEMBERSHIP UNITS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12 (JTA)--The threat of a stormy floor debate at the B'nai B'rith biennial convention was averted when a committee dealing with the controversial issue of "combined membership units" -- a departure from the tradition of sex-separated men's lodges and B'nai B'rith women's chapters -- recommended a compromise

proposal that was readily accepted by the 1300 delegates.

The convention action formally established integrated units as an option for single men and women in urban areas and for both single and married couples in communities of 250 or fewer Jewish families.

But a more comprehensive proposal which would have formalized the option in any size city for married couples and "peer groups" -- B'nai B'rith units whose members are in the same profession or industry -- was withdrawn in favor of further "pilot projects" in both categories over the next two years.

The compromise was worked out after a coalition of delegates, including representatives of B'nai B'rith Women, objected strenuously during committee hearings that the more inclusive proposal, as a radical break with tradition, needed further experimentation and study.

Basis For Compromise

The "combined-unit" structure provides that its male members are enrolled in a unit of B'nai B'rith, its women members in a unit of B'nai B'rith Women. B'nai B'rith Women, organized 74 years ago as an auxiliary, is now a self-governing body with some 150,000 members. It has a small voting delegation at the men's convention.

The leadership of five of B'nai B'rith's seven geographical districts in the United States had called for the more drastic change, which might easily have carried if brought to a plenary vote. But concern that such action could impair relationships between the men's and women's movements led to the compromise.

B'nai B'rith began its experiment with combined units five years ago to accommodate new attitudes and lifestyles growing out of the feminist revolution. It had found a "low ratio" of B'nai B'rith members in the 25 to 35 age bracket and sought to explore whether this was attributable to a decline in interest among this generation's single men and women and young married couples to join sex-segregated volunteer groups.

Originally described as "co-ed units" and administered jointly with B'nai B'rith Women, the pilot project began with a group of singles in Cleveland. There are currently 43 such combined units.

David M. Blumberg was installed for a final two-year term as B'nai B'rith president at today's closing session of the organization.

NEW PIONEER WOMEN'S HEAD IN BRAZIL

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept. 12 (JTA)--Mrs. Ida Portnoi of Sao Paulo was reelected president of the Pioneer Women's Organization in Brazil at the sixth national convention of the organization, which has changed its name to Na'amat, an acronym in Hebrew for Nashim Ovdot Umithad-vot (Working Women and Volunteers). The name of the group was changed earlier this month in Israel.

Mrs. Leah Rabin, who took part in the convention held in Sao Paulo, attended by some 300 delegates, told reporters that she was not "forbidden by my husband to talk politics, so you may ask." In response to questions about the role of women in Israel, she said that Israeli women must still fight for equality, although by law they have the same rights as men. In practice, however, women are not equal, she said.

MONDALE ASSAILS ADMINISTRATION POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL, BOYCOTT...

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Sept. 12 (JTA)--Sen. Walter Mondale, the Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate yesterday sharply criticized the Ford Administration's policy toward Israel and its stand on the Arab boycott against American companies trading with Israel.

Addressing the 79th annual national convention of the Zionist Organization of America at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here, Mondale said that the support of Israel, apart from being a strategic interest of the United States, "is a moral imperative." The Minnesota Democrat said that America's military and economic support for Israel must be assured without any conditions of timetables and maps.

Mondale said that he and Democratic Presidential candidate, Jimmy Carter, believe that any peace plan for the Middle East should include unquestioned support for the existence of Israel. He said both of them support providing Israel the arms it needs for its security.

Israel Working Hard For Peace

Noting that "there seems to be a notion around that Israel does not want peace," Mondale declared: "There is no people in the world that is seeking and working for peace more than Israel." He observed that Israel wants a change of attitude on the part of the Arabs regarding Israel's existence and therefore, he said, America must be patient when dealing with the Middle East because this process of changing Arab attitudes is a long one.

In criticizing the policy of the Ford Administration, Mondale recalled "the unfair scolding of Israel" after the failure to reach the disengagement agreement with Egypt in March 1975. He also pointed to the Administration's opposition to aid for Israel for the transitional quarter. Mondale also noted the supplies of "unlimited" arms to Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries by the Administration.

He told the cheering audience that one of the first issues that Carter raised with him in a private conversation was Carter's "unwavering commitment to the security of Israel" and his concern for the fate of Soviet Jewry. He said that he and Carter criticized the massive U.S. arms sale around the globe, but both of them support arms deliveries for the security of Israel.

Support For Anti-Boycott Amendments

Describing the Arab boycott as a "pernicious, immoral, outrageous tactic," Mondale accused the President of being against legislation aimed at stopping boycott practices. He said that the Democrats in Congress supported the Ribicoff and Stevenson amendments on the Arab boycott while the Administration rejected them.

"Let's stop raising doubts of American support for Israel," Mondale declared. He called for removing Israel as a partisan issue in the election campaign. He said American support of Israel is a bipartisan commitment. He said by supporting Israel, the United States supports the cause of "decency, justice and democracy."

...DOLE AFFIRMS THE U.S. WILL NEVER JEOPARDIZE ISRAEL'S SECURITY

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Sept. 12 (JTA)--Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas, the Republican candidate for Vice-

President, has pledged that the United States will never jeopardize Israel's security. "I wish it were possible to come here tonight and to lay before you some radical new initiatives, some grand strategy for peace," Dole told the 79th annual national convention of the Zionist Organization of America Thursday night. "Instead, I come only with the firm commitment that the Ford Administration will continue to search, and that it will never jeopardize the security of Israel in the search for peace, nor will the Ford Administration retreat one inch from its commitment to the security of Israel," he said.

Dole also stressed that "I believe no enemy of Israel, real or potential, can mistake the will or the intentions of President Ford toward the safety and security of Israel."

However, Dole said friends of Israel should not question American efforts to win friends among the Arabs. "The United States has a role to play with each nation in the Middle East," he said, "and those who doubt or suspect the motives and actions of the United States in that regard should recognize that the interests of Israel rest with a resolution of the conflict there which is acceptable to all parties and beneficial to all parties."

Warns Against Palestinian State

Discussing the issue of the Palestinians, Dole said the Lebanese conflict has demonstrated the fallacy of the Palestinian argument that Israel should become a secular state. He said the state the Palestinians "envision for the future looks precisely like Lebanon before they tore Lebanon apart. The events in Lebanon are the best refutation for the Palestinian argument for a new state," he said.

Dole charged that "demagogues" have since 1948 used the plight of the Palestinians to stir up hatred against Israel while keeping the Palestinians themselves in camps and feeding them hatred. "Finally, the generation that grew up in the camp was set loose, not merely on Israel, but on the world," he said.

Dole pointed to his own record of support for Israel and Soviet Jewry. Noting that the Jewish vote in Kansas is minimal, he said, "my support of Israel is based on conviction, not politics."

O'DWYER SUPPORTS ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Sept. 12 (JTA)--City Council President Paul O'Dwyer, a contender for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate, charged this weekend that for the past eight years many politicians and public figures have tried to tie the American relationship with Israel to the changing United States policy toward the Soviet Union and defense spending. O'Dwyer said such a move would deprive the U.S. of its "moral strength," and would "deprive Israel of its freedom and convert it into a pawn of the great powers."

Noting that he aided Israel in its struggle for independence, O'Dwyer declared that twice in this century the U.S. did "not stand by while England, France, Holland or Belgium were invaded or threatened with destruction....We owe no less to a country (Israel) spawned by us and particularly a country patterned after our democracy."

TEL AVIV (JTA)--A Lebanese carrying a rifle was fatally wounded by an Israeli patrol near the border fence Saturday night.