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ISRAEL STUDYING AMOCO CONTRACTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22 (JTA)--Government legal experts are scrutinizing the franchise agreement by which Egypt gave the Amoco Oil Co., an American firm, oil exploration rights in the Gulf of Suez. The purpose of the study is to find legal points that would enhance Israel's position in its current dispute with the U.S. over Amoco's right to drill in the eastern sector of the gulf claimed by Israel.

Legal sources here said today that the study, covering hundreds of pages of documents, would take considerable time. But they see no reason to hurry because they believe that a long "and difficult" process of negotiations lies ahead for Israel and the U.S. Negotiations have been in progress for some time and government circles say Israel has not yet received a satisfactory reply from Washington on a basic matter--that Amoco will desist from further operations in the Israel-claimed waters until an agreement is reached.

Israeli lawyers are trying to determine whether the contracts signed with Amoco all date from 1964 when the eastern waters of the gulf were undisputedly under Egyptian control and were simply renewed in 1975; or whether at least some of the contracts were concluded in 1975, long after those waters had come under Israel's control. In the latter case, the experts say, Israel's position that any activity in the eastern gulf waters must have its prior approval would be greatly strengthened.

BOMB DAMAGES HEBRAICA THEATER IN BUENOS AIRES; NO CASUALTIES REPORTED

BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 22 (JTA)--In the latest of a series of attacks on Jewish institutions here, a medium-sized bomb exploded at dawn yesterday in front of the Hebraica Theater. The blast shattered six glass swinging doors but caused no casualties, officials reported.

In a related development, Dr. Central Resnizky, president of the DAIA, the central representative agency of Argentine Jewry, said that the recent decree banning some Nazi publications and shutting down the Milicia Publishing House, a frequent publisher of material defaming Jews, was not as sweeping as the DAIA had hoped for. It was, he said, quoting from the daily newspaper La Prensa, opportune and salutary.

Resnizky said the decree may serve as a precedent for such problems in the future because it declares that social unrest involved in such activity is incompatible with Argentine values. He stressed that the decree came only after intensive representations. He said a major positive element was that the Nazi materials had offended not only Jews but the entire Argentine people.

HYMN OFFENSIVE TO JEWS DELETED BY EPISCOPAL CHURCH FROM PRAYER BOOK

NEW YORK, Sept. 22 (JTA)--The American Jewish Committee today hailed the decision of the Episcopal Church to remove from its revised Book of Common Prayer a hymn that has been considered offensive to Jews. The decision

to delete the offending passages was finalized Monday by the House of Bishops at the Episcopal Church governing convention, now meeting in Minneapolis.

In a telegram to Bishop John Allin, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, AJ Committee's national director of interreligious affairs, and Rabbi A. James Rudin, assistant director of the Committee's department of interreligious affairs, called the deletion an "historic act of respect for Judaism and friendship for the Jewish people."

The controversial hymn, known as the "Impropria" or "Reproaches," consisted of two early Medieval poems that accused the Jewish people of ingratitude for their deliverance from Egypt and held them collectively responsible for the crucifixion.

It had appeared as part of the Good Friday liturgy in an experimental version of the book, titled "The Draft Proposed Book of Common Prayer," of which 50,000 copies were published last February. In May, responding to numerous objections from scholars, liturgists and individuals within the Episcopal Church, as well as from Roman Catholic, Protestant and Jewish leaders, the Church's Standing Liturgical Commission withdrew the Reproaches from the recommended text, and set up a committee to suggest alternative material.

Last week, Episcopalian lay and clergy representatives at the governing convention approved the book without the Reproaches, despite the efforts of a small group of delegates who wanted to retain them. Monday's action by the bishops set the final stamp of approval on the deletion.

Catholics To Discuss Subject Of Hymn

In their telegram, Tanenbaum and Rudin referred to the fact that the AJ Committee had supplied research information, first to Vatican Council II, and later to the Episcopal Church, in an effort to secure the deletion of the Reproaches from both Catholic and Episcopal liturgies.

Archbishop John R. Quinn, chairman of the Catholic Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, has stated that the subject of the Reproaches in Catholic liturgy will be discussed by his committee this fall, Tanenbaum reported. In preparation for that meeting, he added, the Archbishop has circulated an AJ Committee study citing negative references to Jews and Judaism in Catholic liturgy.

The study was originally submitted to Vatican Council II by the Committee at the request of the late Augustin Cardinal Bea, and became a basis for the text of the Vatican Declaration on Non-Christian Religions of 1965 and the Vatican Guidelines for Catholic-Jewish Relations of 1975, both of which called for the elimination of anti-Jewish references in Christian teaching, preaching and liturgy.

SENATE COMMITTEE SPLIT OVER SALE OF 650 MAVERICK MISSILES TO SAUDIA

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22 (JTA)--The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is virtually split down the middle over the proposed sale of 650

"Maverick" TV-guided missiles to Saudi Arabia proposed by the Administration. A decisive vote is expected Friday when the Committee will hold its last session before Congress adjourns Oct. 1 for the national elections. The debate turns in part on whether the Saudis would raise the price of their oil if denied the missiles or would be impelled not to for fear of antagonizing American public opinion.

The "Mavericks," which cost about \$600 million, represent only a tiny fraction of the \$6 billion in contracts for military goods and services negotiated this year between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia. These include the construction of naval bases, barracks and airports.

Sen. Clifford Case (R,NJ) moved to disapprove the "Maverick" sales at a closed door session of the Foreign Relations Committee yesterday. He was backed by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D, Minn.). But Case withdrew his motion, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed, after learning that Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R,NY) intended to vote against it. Javits is involved in negotiations with President Ford to reduce the number of missiles sold to Saudi Arabia.

In a related action, Sens. Joseph Biden (D, Del.) and Dick Clark (D, Iowa) were said to have moved to bar U.S. arms sales to all countries except Israel and NATO members. Their move was apparently offered to dramatize the need to review the entire U.S. arms sales policy.

The Committee apparently is not inclined to object to the sale of 850 more heat-guided "Sidewinder" missiles to Saudi Arabia since the Saudis are using them up at a rate of 165 a year for training purposes. Javits is credited with having succeeded in getting the Administration to reduce the number of "Sidewinders" from 900 to 850 and the number of "Mavericks" from 900 to 650.

May Jolt Saudi Arabia

If the Committee disapproves the sale of the "Mavericks" the Administration is expected to blame Congress for any subsequent increase in the price of Saudi oil. One official, who asked not to be identified, said that disapproval of the "Maverick" deal coming on top of the anti-boycott legislation in the Tax Reform Bill passed by Congress last week would jolt Saudi Arabia. He noted that the Saudis recently doubled their oil sales to the U.S. and are America's largest supplier of imported petroleum.

Case and Humphrey regard the "Maverick" as an offensive weapon against ground targets. According to Case, the sale of "Mavericks" to Saudi Arabia would be a "disturbing and a potentially destabilizing factor in the balance of power equation in the Middle East."

Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton, testifying before the Foreign Relations Committee, characterized the proposed sale as "appropriate and responsible." He said, "We believe Saudi Arabia would not engage in unauthorized transfer of U.S. equipment. They have never done so and we have ample evidence of how much they value their military supply relationship with us."

Administration sources have stressed that use of the "Mavericks" requires specially equipped F-5 aircraft and only those F-5s provided Saudi Arabia possess the necessary equipment. Opponents of the deal argue that this ignores the possibility of the Saudis transferring the equipped planes to countries like Egypt or Jordan or using them itself directly against Israel.

The House International Relations Committee is awaiting the Senate action before acting itself but few legislative days remain for both Houses to act.

WRONG ABOUT ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22 (JTA)--A top State Department official admitted today that he was wrong when he told a House International Relations subcommittee yesterday that Israel has no objection to the proposed sale of arms by the United States to Saudi Arabia. Department spokesman Frederick Brown told reporters that Phillip Habib, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, had testified that Israel had not objected. But today, Habib said that he was "simply misinformed and he wants to set the record straight."

"They (the Israelis) have indicated their objection to the sale," Brown reported Habib as saying. There was no immediate indication that the State Department was sending a correction for the record to the committee.

Habib made his erroneous statement when he was asked by Dante Fascell (D, Fla.), chairman of the subcommittee on International Political and Military Affairs, whether Israel objected to the arms deal with Saudi Arabia. Habib replied, "no." When Fascell asked him if he was sure of his answer, Habib consulted with Departmental aides accompanying him and again replied in the negative.

NEW ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT TALKS OF RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS AND ISRAEL By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 22 (JTA)--The newly elected President of the 31st General Assembly, Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe, of Sri Lanka (Ceylon), declared in his inaugural address to that body yesterday that the most important element for resolving the Middle East conflict is "the need for restoring to the Arab people of Palestine their legitimate rights, which will give them a separate Palestinian state as provided for and endorsed by the United Nations in the partition agreement of 1948." He called on Israel "to withdraw its armed forces from territories occupied by it as a result of war."

But Amerasinghe added that another element for a final settlement in the Middle East is "the acknowledgement, both in policy and in practice, of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area and of the right of every state in the Middle East, including Israel, to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries, free from the threat or use of force." He said that the expression "secure and recognized boundaries" entitles any state to determine for itself what those boundaries should be.

Thorn Pleads For Palestinians

The outgoing President, Gaston Thorn of Luxembourg, who presided over the 30th General Assembly, declared in an earlier speech that the international community cannot deny the Palestinian people its rights "to existence and to a country of its own."

Thorn asked, "Can we continue to refuse to give a definite and objective reply to the Palestinian people who for many years have been subjected to massacre and a life of wandering and unhappiness that only the founders of Israel had known before it?" He said, "We cannot deny to these people the very thing that we have

granted to others, what every people is entitled to, namely the right to exist and to a country of its own."

BUTZ AFFIRMS U.S. COMMITTED TO SURVIVAL AND SECURITY OF ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Sept. 22 (JTA)--Declaring that the United States has an "historic and unwavering moral commitment to the survival and security of Israel," Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz said that America is now working "from a new foundation" toward the goal of achieving peace in the Mideast.

Addressing the inaugural dinner of the American Associates of Ben Gurion University of the Negev, held last night at the Pierre Hotel, Butz observed that although the situation in the Mideast is complex, "major progress has been achieved in the Mideast in recent years" in the direction of peace. He said that Israel's "courage and confidence" in negotiations together with the emergence of moderate Arab leadership "speaking openly and wisely of making peace with Israel," is the new foundation for resolving the Arab-Israel conflict.

"The United States has shown its determination and ability to work with both sides to help bring about a just and enduring solution between the parties, and to prevent this region from again becoming the focal point of a global crisis," Butz told the more than 800 guests at the dinner.

Negotiating Process Must Continue

Continuing Butz stated; "President Ford is committed to continue to see to it that the negotiating process does not wither, that the impetus to peace is not extinguished, that no sound possibility is left unexplored. As the process continues, the United States will not weaken Israel by failing to perceive her needs, or by failing to understand her worries. The United States will never abandon its fundamental commitment to Israel's survival and security."

But, Butz noted, the United States also has an interest in maintaining good relations with the Arab states. "Such ties between the United States and the Arab world can enhance our ability to strengthen the forces of moderation in the Mideast and advance the cause of peace for all," he said.

Faith In The Future

Yosef Tekoah, president of Ben Gurion University and former Ambassador of Israel at the United Nations, told the gathering that despite all the difficulties facing Israel, the Jewish State has faith in the future. "It is this faith that makes us tenacious in our refusal to dissipate the advantage we hold today and to yield territory controlled by us except in return for concrete steps toward peace," Tekoah declared.

"It is also this faith that causes us to believe that our friends will understand that Israel must pursue its present course if it is not to betray the trust of history, if it is not to shirk responsibility to future generations not to squander the hope and opportunity for genuine, lasting peace" in the Mideast, Tekoah said.

Describing the struggle of Ben Gurion University in the face of severe financial difficulties, Tekoah said that the resources available to the university this year are 30 percent lower than those of last year. "Yet we must go on. We shall

go on because we have faith, in ourselves, in the work we are doing. We have faith in our people. We have faith in you."

The dinner last night was in honor of Aron Chlewich, president of the American Associates of BGU. Tekoah presented Chlewich with the "Ben Gurion Negev Award" for his activities on behalf of the university. The award was in the form of a 2300-year-old urn found in the Negev. Also participating in last night's affair were Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Chaim Herzog, Max Fisher, chairman of the board of governors of the Jewish Agency, and Mrs. Bobbie Abrams, dinner chairman and chairman of the American Associates of BGU.

100 SHOFARS SOUND CALL FOR FREEDOM FOR SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, Sept. 22 (JTA)--In a dramatic "call to conscience," 100 shofars were sounded in unison today, heralding the Jewish New Year and highlighting the plight of scores of Soviet Jewish "prisoners of conscience."

The "Shofar for Freedom" ceremony, which launched a series of events to mark the High Holy Days, was sponsored by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry and focused on the need for renewed efforts in the year ahead to gain freedom for vast numbers of Soviet Jews. Bronx Borough President Robert Abrams, Conference chairman, presided at the ceremony, held at the Isaiah Wall opposite the United Nations.

Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton, one of the participants in the ceremony, issued a proclamation naming the day as "Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry Day." Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, a Conference vice-chairman, led in the blowing of the shofars. Mrs. Lynn Singer, another Conference vice-chairman, read a "roll call of honor," the names of Soviet Jewish prisoners in Soviet labor camps, and Cantor Joseph Malovany sang the words to "Sound the Great Shofar of Freedom."

The ceremony took on special meaning in that it also marked the birthday of Dr. Mikhail Stern, a prominent Soviet Jewish physician who is serving an eight-year term in a Soviet labor camp.

Abrams declared that "as we prepare to celebrate the New Year, 5737, we urge New Yorkers of all faiths to rededicate themselves to the cause of Soviet Jewry and to all those living in the grim shadow of oppression."

U.S., ISRAEL SIGN THREE ACCORDS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22 (JTA)--The United States and Israel signed three agreements today providing \$75 million for Israel to buy American industrial and agricultural commodities and services. The agreements, signed at the State Department by Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz and Daniel Parker, Administrator of the Agency for International Development, include a \$35 million import grant, a \$25 million commodity import loan and \$15 million as a cash grant.

This sum is for the transitional quarter between June 30, the end of the old fiscal year and Oct. 1, the beginning of the new fiscal year. Under the old fiscal year program, Israel was provided with \$1.5 billion in military credits and \$705 million in economic supportive assistance. To this was added \$200 million in military credits and the \$75 million in economic assistance contained in the agreements signed today. The 1977 fiscal year program is still before Congress.

Some 4000 U.S. Jews To Participate In UJA National Annual Conference In Jerusalem October 24 To 31

NEW YORK, Sept. 22 (JTA)--The largest single contingent of people ever to journey to Israel at a single time--some 4000 American Jews--will participate in "This Year in Jerusalem," the 1977 United Jewish Appeal Annual National Conference, Oct. 24-31. Announcing the scope of the unprecedented "Jewish happening," UJA general chairman Frank R. Lautenberg indicated the participants would represent 130 American Jewish communities from every state.

The multi-dimensional conference program will emphasize the interaction of American Jews with the people of Israel, and will provide participants with first-hand knowledge about the humanitarian programs supported by their communities in Israel, through UJA. The conference will launch the 1977 general campaign at the earliest date in the organization's history.

"This historic response of solidarity," Lautenberg declared, "is a demonstration to the people of Israel and to the world that the Jewish people are united...in spirit, in responsibility and in commitment."

In a cabled response to the UJA announcement, Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin stated, "The people of Israel draw strength from many sources, not the least of which is the great American Jewish community." He emphasized that "This Year in Jerusalem," in addition to past support, will demonstrate that "the concerns of Israel's people are the concerns of all Jewish people."

Will Visit Auschwitz Site

Participants will depart from New York, Los Angeles, Miami and Chicago. Eighteen aircraft will transport them to their destination. Participants will also come in from three UJA national advance groups visiting Geneva, Warsaw, Cracow, Bucharest, Teheran, Shiraz and Isfahan, among others. Some 500 UJA representatives are scheduled to visit the site of the Auschwitz concentration camp, the largest number of Jews to be there since it was liberated at the end of World War II.

Because there is no hall in Israel large enough to accommodate the total UJA group, many conference week programs will be held out-of-doors. Individual community groups will fan out into some 100 development towns and settlements throughout the country, for face-to-face encounters with the realities of life in Israel today. Special seminars and lectures at seven of Israel's top universities are also scheduled.

"This Year in Jerusalem" is designed by UJA as a solidarity action realizing the age-old prayer--"Next Year in Jerusalem"--from the Passover "Haggadah." According to Lautenberg "For centuries Jerusalem has been a dream, a promise, the symbol of man's quest for peace. To be in Jerusalem this year will be an affirmation and a challenge. By converting prayer into reality we will truly become one with the people of Israel."

CZF Outlines Campaign Activities

TORONTO, Sept. 22 (JTA)--A full-scale campaign for membership in the Zionist movement, the establishment of boarding schools for Jewish children from remote areas in larger Jewish centers and active training on a larger scale

than before for Canadian Jewish teachers in Israel, were among the principal resolutions adopted by the National Executive of the Canadian Zionist Federation, meeting at the Yorkdale Zionist Center here Sept. 18-19.

Dr. Léon Kronish, executive vice-president of the CZF, explained that wearing an "I am a Zionist" button is not enough unless it is combined with active membership in one of the Zionist organizations. Zionism, he said, means full adherence to the Jerusalem Program, membership in a Zionist organization and the learning of Hebrew.

Dr. Sidney Wax, of Toronto, chairman of the commission on education of the CZF, reported on the necessity of establishment of boarding schools for Jewish children from remote areas "if we wish that these children should not be lost to Judaism and Zionist values." There are no such schools now in Canada.

In addition, the commission on education recommended that Jewish students be sent to Israel for a one-year attendance at Israeli universities. Moshe Cohen, chairman of the youth and hechalutz commission of the CZF, proposed enlarging Zionist activities on Canadian campuses and of student Zionist organization publications.

Frank Dimant, chairman of the CZF information commission, expressed the view that it should be the responsibility of the CZF that all information on Israel should be coordinated by the CZF. Philip Givens, CZF president, stressed the fact that the Arab boycott is a matter of concern for the CZF and therefore the CZF would approach the Canadian government on this issue in conjunction with other Jewish organizations.

SOVIET JEWS GET ESROGIM, LULAVIM

ELIZABETH, N.J., Sept. 22 (JTA)--Rabbi Pinchas M. Tetz, dean of the Jewish Educational Center, said today he had received confirmation from Jewish leaders in communities throughout the Soviet Union of the arrival of shipments of esrogim, lulavim and hadassim.

He said the communities which received the shipments, sent about two weeks ago, were Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Riga, Vilna, Kovno, Dvinsk, Tashkent, Slavuta, Kutbishev, Minsk, Kishinev and Odessa. Rabbi Tetz said the larger shipments received by the Jewish communities of Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev will be used in distribution to surrounding communities. He said confirmation had been received by telephone and cable.

The Orthodox leader said that in checking with Riga Jewish leaders on the arrival of the shipment in that city he had been informed that Shlomo Geishkin, president of the only synagogue in Riga, had died of a heart attack at age 65 on Sept. 18.

WALL DEFACTED WITH SWASTIKAS

BRUSSELS, Sept. 22 (JTA)--Swastikas and anti-Jewish slogans have been painted on the wall of a barracks at Malines, near Brussels, close to a memorial plaque to 26,000 Jews who were confined there while awaiting deportation to the Nazi death camps during World War II. The graffiti were daubed outside the barracks shortly before an annual pilgrimage there in memory of the victims last Sunday. Speakers recalled how Belgian citizens saved the lives of over 20,000 Jews during the occupation.