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SPECIAL TO THE JTA

SOVIET JEWS: PERSUASION NOT COERCION

By Abba Eban

(Editor's note: The Soviet Jewish dropout issue is currently under intensive discussion and analysis in the Jewish community throughout the world. A special committee of Israeli and American Jewish leaders, the Interorganizational Committee on Soviet Jewish Emigration headed by Max Fisher, is studying the situation in all its ramifications. Because of the importance of the issue, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency is publishing an article written by former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban exclusively for the JTA.)

JERUSALEM, Nov. 22 (JTA)--Israelis and American Jews alike believe that Jews who emigrate from the Soviet Union to the United States with Israeli visas do great disservice to the central interests of the Jewish people.

They exchange the idea of a Jewish homeland for the opportunistic notion of individual welfare. They bring discredit on the powerful historic theme in the name of which their deliverance was secured. They reward the State of Israel for their own redemption by reducing the dignity and authenticity of the very statehood which has served them in their ordeal. Every resource of persuasion and incentive should be put to work to bring this moral paradox to an end.

Yet with all the severity of this judgement I hope that American Jewish organizations will reject any advice to withhold aid and compassion from Soviet Jews who reach a free haven anywhere in the world. The deepest issues of Jewish fraternity are here at issue. Since our Jewish relationship is fraternal it imposes an unconditional solidarity.

Zionism has an absolute obligation to the interests of every Jew, in rectitude or in error, for better or for worse. The obligation is transcendent and all-embracing. It springs to our conscience from the depths of our tragic history. And it is sustained by memories too poignant to discard.

Intolerable Moral Implication

Aliya is a unique and a translatable idea. But it is totally incompatible with any concept of coercion. If it lacks the voluntary impulse it becomes drained of its nobility. Nor is there much prospect of durability in a sojourn in Israel engendered by the pressure of deprivation imposed by a docile but reluctant American Jewish decision. The moral implication is intolerable.

American Jews who have shown an infinitely smaller tendency towards aliya than Soviet Jewry have no right to compel Soviet Jews to fulfill an obligation that American Jews ignore with such totality. The American Jewish kettle is not entitled to call the Soviet Jewish pot black or any other color. Whatever the motives for the American Jewish record on aliya it must surely generate a decent humility towards Soviet Jews who, in their fatigue and confusion, are unable to fulfill the dictates of our national history.

When Zionism celebrated its decisive political victory after World War I its leaders took a dou-

ble and parallel course. (Chaim Weizmann and his colleagues appeared before the peace conference in 1919 with their call for recognition of Jewish national independence. And Nahum Sokolow, representing Zionism in its full sovereignty, joined Louis Marshall and Julian Mack in their efforts to protect the civil and collective Jewish rights of Jewish communities in Europe.

The Libel Of Indifference

The most satanic and heinous anti-Zionist propaganda after the second World War sought to saddle Zionism with the sin of indifference to the saving of Jewish lives other than those destined for Eretz Israel. We dare not accord retroactive validity to this libel by giving our Jewish solidarity a parochial or selective interpretation.

When we rightly assert that a Jewish State had it existed in the 1940s, would have saved the lives of millions of Jews, the diagnosis certainly includes not only those who would have "come home" in the fullest sense, but also those who would have used a sovereign Jewish passport for their varied forms of personal deliverance.

Division Would Be Tragic

I hope that Israeli leaders who wish to obey an integral Zionism, free of any Canaanitish emphasis, should think again, and liberate American Jewish leaders from a pressure that goes against every fraternal and humane impulse. In any case this is a theme on which American Jews have a right, and perhaps a duty, to assert their independent judgement.

Nothing could be more tragic than to embark on a policy that would cause division between American Jews and each other, between American and Russian Jews, between Israel and the Jews of the two main diasporas. If we separate our disapproval of the dropout process from our humane duty to those involved, these discords can still be avoided.

TWO LEADING ISRAELI PAPERS DIFFER ON SOVIET DROPOUT ISSUE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 22 (JTA)--Two of Israel's leading newspapers have taken diametrically opposing views on the issue of dropouts. Editorials in the Jerusalem Post and Haaretz reflect the polarization of opinion in Israel as to whether assistance should be extended to Jews who leave the Soviet Union with Israeli visas but go elsewhere.

The Post maintains that dropouts should not be aided by Israel or by world Jewish organizations because their defection jeopardizes the entire aliya movement in the USSR. Haaretz holds, however, that denying these emigrants aid would transgress against a cardinal Jewish precept--"Pidyon Shevuyim" (the rescue of prisoners). The paper states that the rescue of Jews from a land where they cannot maintain their Jewishness takes primacy over what their ultimate destination may be.

RABIN APPEALS TO SADAT FOR TALKS

JERUSALEM, Nov. 22 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin reacted to the Egyptian peace offensive last

last night by making a personal appeal to President Anwar Sadat of Egypt to enter into direct peace talks with Israel. Addressing a closed dinner of the World Union for Progressive Judaism Jubilee Conference at the Knesset, Rabin said: "We are listening to them (the Arabs) very carefully. We noted that the word 'peace' is mentioned quite a lot. This in itself is encouraging. What is not encouraging is that the word is never addressed to us."

Directing his remarks to Sadat, the Premier said: "I have heard what you have had to say to others. Now what do you have to say to me? You have explained your willingness to make peace with American Senators, Congressmen and other visitors. You have talked about peace with NBC, CBS and ABC. If you are serious about peace let us negotiate. Please let us hear from you."

Rabin warned that no peace formula devised outside of the Middle East could take the place of a formula that must be devised inside the region. "On the contrary," he said, "outside initiative of this kind could prove fatal to the peace process itself." He said that Israel was willing to participate in a renewed Geneva peace conference for an overall settlement.

The Premier praised the Reform Movement for establishing its first kibbutz, Yehel in the Arava region. Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations urged equal rights and recognition of Reform Jews and Reform rabbis in Israel.

EX-NAZIS SENTENCED TO PRISON

BONN, Nov. 22 (JTA)--Five elderly Germans who formerly belonged to the Gestapo were sentenced to prison terms by a court at Giessen for complicity in the murder of hundreds of Poles, including Jews. The five were involved in the selection of people for "special treatment" at Gestapo headquarters at Cichanaow, Poland, which Germany annexed in 1939 and incorporated into East Prussia.

According to the court, the rulers of the Third Reich held the "chief responsibility" for the murders. But the court rejected the claim by the accused that they did not know "special treatment" meant execution. Two of them, Hermann Schaper 65, and Dr. Erich Bartels, 68, were each sentenced to six years. Both face separate charges in another case being heard at Giessen.

Others sentenced were Franz Hartmann, 67, to 4 1/2 years in prison; Hans Doermage, 70 and Kurt Baresel, 50, each to four years and three months. Another defendant, Ernst Schardt, 65, was acquitted. Charges against Otto Roehr, 69, were dropped.

LITTLE OPPOSITION EXPECTED TO RESOLUTION ON PALESTINIAN RIGHTS By Yitzhak Rabin

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 22 (JTA)--Little opposition to the anti-Israeli resolution at the end of the present Palestinian debate in the General Assembly is expected when the resolution comes to a vote on Wednesday, sources at the United Nations said today. The discussion on the report by the 20-member Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People which began Nov. 15 is expected to end today. The report recommends the withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied Arab territories and the establishment of a Palestinian entity under the aegis of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

According to sources here the resolution

would call on the Assembly to endorse the report and extend the mandate of the committee for another year. The sources said that the West European countries are likely to abstain on the resolution and that only a handful of countries, including Israel and the United States, will oppose the resolution.

Meanwhile, it was learned here that at least two members of the Palestine committee are trying to convince the other members that European states which have diplomatic relations with Israel should be urged to join the committee. Sixteen of the 20 members of the committee have no diplomatic relations with Israel. Next week, Israel is expected to be a target once again when the General Assembly begins a debate on the Middle East.

SCHINDLER CONFIRMS RABIN'S STATEMENT THAT ISRAEL DID NOT BLOCK POSSIBLE MEETING WITH SADAT By Yitzhak Shargil and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 22 (JTA)--Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, has confirmed Premier Yitzhak Rabin's statement that Israel did nothing to block a possible meeting between American Jewish leaders and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt. Schindler said in an interview published in the Jerusalem Post that the possibility of such a visit had been raised 4-5 months ago "but it never reached a substantive stage."

Nevertheless, he said, "throughout these conversations, Mr. Rabin was most encouraging and eager to pursue any and every avenue which could conceivably advance the cause of peace."

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, expressed dismay that Rabin made a public disclosure of attempts to arrange a meeting with Sadat. In a telephone interview from Geneva with the Army Broadcasting Service, Goldmann acknowledged that he had informed Rabin of the plans "off the record" and that the revelation of them could only harm the possibility of contacts.

The WJC leader said contacts were still being made but in the future he would refrain from reporting such matters to Rabin. "Nobody knows what may have come out of it. Rabin knows only too well that whatever would have come out would have been done with his consent. We would not have done anything on our own accord," Goldmann said.

Suggestions For Meeting Were Vague

Rabin discussed the incident last Wednesday after Maariv published a report accusing him and the Israeli government of blocking a meeting between Jewish leaders and Sadat after initially agreeing to such an attempt. The arrangements were reportedly initiated by Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, after learning that Sadat was interested in a meeting. Goldmann was said to have been informed by President Nicolae Ceausescu of Rumania and relayed the information to Rabin.

According to the version by Schindler, who reportedly was to have been a member of the Jewish group visiting Cairo, the "suggestions" came from secondary and tertiary sources and were entirely too vague to be taken as a serious invitation. Schindler said that after being informed of Rabin's positive response, the "other

side" suddenly changed the conditions and presented them "in a way which made them both undignified and counter-productive."

Meanwhile, news media here and abroad reported an angry exchange between Rabin and Kreisky. The latter reportedly accused the Israeli leader of jeopardizing Jewish contacts with Sadat. Rabin reportedly retorted that "European leaders should not interfere in other countries' business if they feel their own countries are too small for them." Kreisky denied that he made the remark attributed to him and deplored Rabin's response.

Rabin's press advisor, Dan Pattir, said here over the weekend that the Premier has no interest in a conflict with Kreisky. The two leaders are due to meet at the Socialist International Convention in Geneva this week. Israel's Ambassador to Austria was quoted by the radio here as saying that he had smoothed out the conflict in a telephone conversation with the Austrian Ambassador in Tel Aviv. He said there was room for "careful optimism" that it would be resolved when Kreisky and Rabin meet.

ISRAEL'S ACCEPTANCE INTO UNESCO GROUP HAILED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY

JERUSALEM, Nov. 22 (JTA)--Israel's acceptance into the European Regional Group of UNESCO by majority vote of that group's membership was hailed by the Foreign Ministry today as the proper answer to the concerted Arab effort since 1974 to have Israel expelled from that UN body. The acceptance was announced by Ta'itza Towett of Kenya at the full session of the UNESCO Conference in Nairobi.

The only opposition came from the Communist bloc. East Germany, acting as its spokesman claimed that since Israel was not a European country its acceptance should have been conditioned on a unanimous vote. A number of Arab countries abstained from voting on the procedure under which a state can apply to join the regional group of its choice, subject to the agreement of a majority of its members. They said they did not oppose the procedure because they wanted the Nairobi conference to succeed.

A senior Foreign Ministry official said today that Israel was accustomed to condemnations at international forums. UNESCO was the only organization where the Arabs succeeded in making Israel's membership largely ineffectual and this could have led to Israel's expulsion, he said. He noted the important role played by African states in thwarting the Arab aim.

ISRAEL ACCUSES UN OF IGNORING PLIGHT OF SYRIAN AND SOVIET JEWRY

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 22 (JTA)--Israel accused the United Nations today of ignoring and overlooking the plight of Soviet and Syrian Jews. Addressing the Social and Humanitarian Committee (Third Committee) of the General Assembly, the Israeli representative, Ambassador Arieh Eilán, said that since last year's General Assembly where Israel raised the issue of Soviet and Syrian Jewry, there has been no improvement in the condition of those communities.

Eilán said that Soviet Jews are persecuted and subject to pressures to deter them from applying for exit visas. "Discrimination takes different forms," he said, "It is true that the persecution of Jews in Soviet Russia these days is not the same as that seen in the days of the bloody

pogroms during the regime of the Czars or the mass executions in the time of Stalin. However, from his first steps in school to the day he has to queue up for his old-age pension, the Jew in Russia is isolated from the rest of the population by the daily grinding toll of humiliation and ostracism."

The Israeli representative said the struggle of Soviet Jews is for "the right to go where they can be free to practice their religion and where they can be sure that their children will not be branded."

Eilán described Syrian Jewry as a "hostage community." He charged that the Jews of Syria are still not allowed to travel outside of that country without leaving their relatives for ransom and are required to deposit the equivalent of \$6000. Even travel inside Syria is severely restricted for Jews, he said. He also noted that the promises of Syrian spokesmen to cancel the imprint of the word "Mussawi" (Mosaic faith) on the identity cards of Syrian Jews has not been fulfilled. Eilán called on all member states to denounce the tragic conditions under which Syrian Jewry is still held.

FIRST CHARTER FLIGHT FROM U.S.

JERUSALEM, Nov. 22 (JTA)--The first charter flight from the U.S. West Coast landed at Ben Gurion Airport this morning with 250 American passengers, including Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles and his wife. The passengers were greeted by Minister of Tourism Moshe Kol as they disembarked from the World Airways jet. Hostesses distributed Israeli hats. Bradley said he hoped the success of the first charter flight would help strengthen Israel's economy by encouraging more tourism.

BID TO ABOLISH CHIEF RABBINATE SUPPRESSED BY REFORM MOVEMENT By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Nov. 22 (JTA)--Moderates in the World Union for Progressive Judaism suppressed a proposed resolution yesterday which called for the abolition of the Chief Rabbinate in Israel. Rabbi Joseph Glazer executive vice-president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, had denounced the Chief Rabbinate earlier as "oppressive and totalitarian." He said that "archaic vestige of the Ottoman Empire and the British Mandate" must be abolished.

The governing body of the World Union Jubilee Conference, which has been meeting in Jerusalem for the past week, sent the proposal to committee, thus excluding it from the Conference's package of resolutions.

The governing body did, however, approve a resolution by Glazer that protests "vigorously" an alleged halachic ruling by Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef forbidding a Jerusalem printer from printing the new Reform High Holy Day prayer book.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Gen. (Res.) Ariel Sharon announced Sunday that the new political faction he has formed to participate in next year's elections will be called Shlomzion (Peace of Zion) and will be a movement for "Zionist fulfillment" through peace. Spokesmen for the various established parties doubt that he will be able to form a significant alternative to the present leadership. They give him eight Knesset seats at the most.

CARTER AND KISSINGER'S FUTURE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22 (JTA)--President-elect Jimmy Carter's personnel coordinator has indicated the successor to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has not yet been selected and that Kissinger would provide counsel to him and the new chief executive.

Hamilton Jordan, head of Carter's successful campaign for the Presidency, said on the CBS-Television program "Face the Nation" yesterday he does not rule out Cyrus Vance, former Defense Secretary, or Zbigniew Brzezinski, Columbia University professor, from high posts in the new Administration. They have been mentioned as front-runners for Secretary of State and the President's Assistant for National Security, respectively.

Asked about Carter's reference to Kissinger at their meeting Saturday in Plains, Georgia as his good and old friend and his hope for a long relationship with him, Jordan said there is a tradition of former Secretaries of State being available to the President and their successors for advice and counsel.

"I am certain that President-elect Carter when he is President would want to have that kind of relationship with Secretary Kissinger," Jordan said. "No specific role has been discussed. That would be inappropriate before Governor Carter decided who he wanted to be his own Secretary of State. So that's premature at this point."

Saying it is also "premature for us" to discuss suggestions that Kissinger serve as a special envoy to the Middle East, Jordan said that in the interim period before Carter is inaugurated Jan. 20, the "main thing" is for Carter and Vice-President-elect Walter Mondale "to have a close relationship in the exchange of information" between them and President Ford and Kissinger.

The suggestion that Kissinger serve as special Mideast envoy was floated by Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D.Conn.) at a press conference in Jerusalem Nov. 10 at the end of a four-day visit by 13 U.S. Senators who were in Israel in connection with the projected sale of a U.S. nuclear power plant.

FIVE-DAY CASH DRIVE FOR ISRAEL BONDS TO BEGIN NOVEMBER 29

NEW YORK, Nov. 22 (JTA)--Jews in the Greater New York metropolitan area will conduct an intensive five-day cash drive for Israel Bonds Nov. 29 through Dec. 2. Hundreds of volunteer phone callers in New York City, Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk Counties will participate in the "Dial-for-Israel" campaign.

Last week, more than 1000 American businessmen participated in an Israel Bond dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel which paid tribute to Francis C. Rooney Jr., president and chief executive officer of the Melville Corp. Former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban presented the Prime Minister's Medal to Rooney at the dinner which produced more than \$4 million for the Israel Bond program.

Reporting on his recent trip to Israel where he met with Premier Yitzhak Rabin, Rooney said, "We returned home convinced that this thriving democracy which has made so many contributions to the cause of freedom since its birth just 28 years ago will survive no matter how overwhelming the odds; that it is a creative and vital society which is using its resources well, and that it is a

nation which deserves the help of all Americans who value freedom and dignity."

Herzog Calls For Greater Efforts

Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, told the National Campaign Cabinet that he deplored the lack of vigorous reaction by Jewish communities to the anti-Semitic campaign being conducted at the UN. He expressed the hope that the Jewish communities would respond not only by active protests, but by increasing their support of Israel through the purchase of Israel Bonds.

"In all these anti-Semitic attacks it is inconceivable that the Jewish people, as reflected in you and in all the other Jewish organizations, should not be turning the place upside down and not be hitting back hard," Herzog declared. "You can hit back by just increasing the number of Israel Bonds you buy, by increasing your whole involvement because that is what really makes an effect upon them."

Reports on the progress of the 1976 Israel Bond campaign and the plans for intensified cash activity in the United States and Canada were presented by Michael Arnon, president of the Israel Bond Organization, and Leonard Goldfine, national campaign co-chairman. The cash program will be carried on under the chairmanship of Julian B. Venezky, national chairman for community leadership.

ALITALIA BROCHURE ON MIDEAST RAPPED

NEW YORK, Nov. 22 (JTA)--In response to a protest by the American Jewish Congress, Alitalia Airlines has agreed to discontinue a brochure promoting its Middle East tour program that conspicuously avoids mention of Israel. The airline acted after AJCongress had charged that the brochure was "offensive" and that the omission of any reference to Israel was "deliberate."

In a letter to Alitalia, associate executive director Phil Baum wrote: "To underscore the deliberate nature of this offensive omission, the brochure includes a map naming all of the countries surrounding the Mediterranean--Italy, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt. And yet we are given to understand by your map that Jerusalem and Haifa are situated in an entity called 'Holyland.'"

Continuing, Baum noted that the brochure "describes Cairo as the capital of Egypt, Damascus as the capital of Syria and Amman as the capital of Jordan. Equally carefully it omits any reference to Jerusalem as the capital of Israel."

In reply, Alitalia's U.S. marketing manager acknowledged the omission but disclaimed responsibility for it, asserting that the brochure had been prepared and distributed by a travel agency (Nawas International) which uses Alitalia as the airline for its Middle East tours. He wrote:

"We have contacted Nawas International, and its managing director has taken due note of your remarks and has committed himself to see that... the anomalies mentioned in your letter will be corrected to avoid the 'historical and geographical distortions' you are referring to."

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Mekorot, Israel's water company, has discovered an underground water reservoir near the Dead Sea capable of yielding one million gallons of sweet water an hour. The discovery opens new possibilities for irrigating the Negev and for increasing the number of settlements there as well as expanding existing ones.