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STATE DEPARTMENT TAKING CALM VIEW OF SYRIAN TROOPS IN SOUTH LEBANON

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- The State Department indicated today that it took a calm view of troop movements in southern Lebanon by what it described as the "Arab deterrent force." But Department spokesman Frederick Z. Brown told reporters that the U.S. is in touch with Syria, Israel and Lebanon through diplomatic channels in connection with these developments.

He was referring to the reported movement by a Syrian armored battalion beyond the so-called red line which Israel has said it will not permit an Arab army to cross. The Syrians were reported at Nabatiyeh, about 10 miles from the Israeli border.

According to Brown, the "Arab deterrent force," which consists mainly of Syrian formations, operates under the orders of Lebanese President Elias Sarkis who is trying to establish central authority and security for the entire country. Brown said, "We believe we could be of use to the governments concerned" to help them "understand each others point of view" in a "sensitive area."

Meanwhile, it was reported today in Israel that the Syrian battalion has stopped short of entering Nabatiyeh, apparently as the result of a warning Israel conveyed to Damascus through the United States. The Syrian force has remained at the northern approaches to Nabatiyeh. The Syrians claim the force is a temporary patrol but Israeli sources said the Syrians planned to establish a base at Nabatiyeh from which they intended to expand their presence in southern Lebanon.

LABOR PARTY PLATFORM PLANK OUTLINES CONCESSIONS TO ARABS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- The Labor Party's subcommittee on political affairs drafted a platform plank today stating that Israel would be ready for territorial compromises with Egypt, Syria and Jordan within the framework of a peace agreement. If adopted in the final platform, it will be the first time that Israel has specifically named the countries with which it would entertain the possibility of territorial concessions.

The plank represented a compromise between those party elements such as Transport Minister Gad Yacobi who wanted to leave Labor's "14 principles" unchanged and others, including Itzhak Navon, who are ready to endorse Mapam's demand for territorial concessions in all sectors. Defense Minister Shimon Peres was present at the drafting and offered no objections. Former Premier Golda Meir stressed that the plank does not speak of any concessions outside the framework of a peace agreement.

The draft states that Israel will continue its political efforts to reach a peace agreement with Syria, Egypt and Jordan within defensible borders and be ready for a territorial compro-

mise with each of them. Israel will also seek a peace agreement with Lebanon based on the existing borders.

The fact that Jordan was mentioned indicated that negotiations on Israel's eastern boundaries would be conducted only with that country. The door is thereby closed to negotiations with any Palestinian factor, even if it recognized Israel and to the creation of a third state between Israel and Jordan.

ABORTION BILL DELAYED

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- The Knesset last night postponed until next week the third and final reading of a bill making abortions legal in Israel. The postponement, which followed a stormy session, was on the grounds that if there are any reservations to any paragraph in a proposed bill the final reading must be delayed one week.

However, some observers saw the postponement as a tactic for reopening talks between the National Religious Party which opposes the bill as making murder lawful and the governing Labor Alignment which allowed its MKs to vote their conscience on the bill.

The new bill would allow a woman to have an abortion if a committee composed of two doctors and a social worker approves. Approval will be based on certain criteria; if there is suspicion that the child may have birth defects, if continuation of the pregnancy might endanger the woman, if the birth might harm the woman or her family, if the family lives under difficult social conditions and if the woman is a minor or over 40.

While the religious parties strongly opposed the bill those who favored it said it did not go far enough and was merely a compromise to change the present situation where abortions are permitted in extreme cases.

Although abortion is illegal in Israel, it is common knowledge that many private doctors do perform abortions for large fees. The argument by those supporting legalized abortions is that those who need it the most cannot now afford it.

CANADA URGED TO DENY TRIFA RIGHT TO ENTER THE COUNTRY

MONTREAL, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Congress today asked the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, Bud Cullen, to deny admission to Archbishop Valerian Trifa who reportedly seeks entry to Canada because he is under investigation in the United States.

Alan Rose, executive director of the CJC, told the Minister that the CJC was concerned about the number of suspected war criminals already allegedly residing in Canada. He urged that Trifa, who was a member of the fascist Iron Guard in Rumania during World War II and held responsible for the massacre of Rumanian Jews, be kept out of Canada.

should he apply. A CJC spokesman said that while the reports were not confirmed, they were firm enough to lead Rose to make his request to Cullen. Trifa, according to the reports, hopes to enter Canada to settle there.

Trifa has been charged by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) with having lied about his membership in the Iron Guard when he applied for U.S. citizenship after World War II. Trifa lives in Grass Lake, Michigan.

Trifa Gives Deposition

It was reported today by the Jewish News in Michigan that Trifa gave a deposition in the case in a private session yesterday before U.S. attorneys in Detroit, his defense attorneys and a federal court stenographer. The deposition, which had been sought since last summer, had been delayed by the illness of Trifa's attorney and a report that Trifa had suffered a slight stroke.

U.S. Assistant Attorney Frederick van Tiem said he was now compiling a list of witnesses, including one in Israel, that he wants to query. He could not estimate the time needed to query the witnesses, although he recently predicted that it would take more than a year before the case would come to trial.

After the depositions are gathered, van Tiem will present the evidence to U.S. District Judge Cornelia Kennedy who will decide if the case should be tried. The charges were filed in 1974 after a 25-year battle to have INS press charges against Trifa.

ANTI-TERRORIST ACTION DUE

GENEVA, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- The Swiss federal government will ratify tomorrow the European convention on the repression of terrorism. This convention is the result of joint efforts by the 19 European Council nations in combatting terrorism. The convention deals with means to be taken against civil aviation hijacking, and the kidnapping and the taking of hostages. The countries that signed the convention pledged to extradite terrorists who are not placed on trial in their countries of origin and to refuse them political asylum. Switzerland has already ratified The Hague convention of 1970 against terrorism and the 1971 Montreal convention dealing with civil aviation security.

OPTIMISM EXPRESSED ABOUT CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S PLEDGES TO ISRAEL

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Two Jewish community relations specialists expressed optimism about the new Carter Administration's promises to maintain Israel's secure survival, to favor direct Arab-Israel negotiations, to oppose any imposed solution, to refrain from using aid to Israel in a "carrot and stick" manner, to resist Arab blackmail and to support legislation to end the Arab boycott, in talks to the Plenary Session of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) here this week.

The specialists, Dr. George Gruen, director of the foreign affairs department of the American Jewish Committee, and Daniel Mann, executive director of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, advised the delegates representing nine national agencies and 101 com-

munity groups comprising the NJCRAC to be "vigilant" in making sure those promises are kept.

Suggests U.S. Policies Toward Israel

Gruen stressed that an indicator of Carter's support for Israel will be the extent to which he restores funds cut by the Ford Administration. He listed the principles that should guide American policies toward Israel:

"The U.S. must remain firm in support of the principle underlying UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 that further withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied territory is inextricably linked to the ending of Arab belligerency and the establishment of secure and mutually recognized borders.

"While the United States may initially facilitate the negotiating process, it cannot serve as a surrogate for the fundamental commitments which the parties must make to one another.

"Instead of rushing to go to Geneva as the Arabs urge, the emphasis should be on determining whether or not the Arabs are ready for a genuine peace of reconciliation with Israel." Jewish groups have to be alert to the details and nuances of the Arab moderation tactic," especially in the United Nations, so that they can counter Arab propaganda, Gruen stressed.

Mann said: "Something should be said about the attitude of American Jews to the emerging PLO presence in the United States. If the sovereignty of Israel means anything in international relations, it surely includes Israel's right to limit the process of negotiations to other sovereign nations who are parties to the conflict without diversionary diplomacy by the ambassadors of the organized American Jewish community."

CRIF SAYS IT WILL NOT PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN FORTHCOMING FRENCH ELECTIONS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- The representative Council of French Jewish Organizations (CRIF) announced here today that it will take no active political role in the forthcoming French elections. CRIF released a document defining the role of the Jewish community within the "political commonwealth" which stresses the right of individual Jews to fight their political battles but stresses that "no one has the right to claim the backing of the organized Jewish community."

This document was released six weeks before the forthcoming municipal elections and several months before the parliamentary ones. It was released, CRIF sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, to prevent an open split between pro-government CRIF members and those favoring the Socialist-Communist coalition. The CRIF committee apparently decided to halt the debate by making it known that it will not commit the Jewish community to either side.

The CRIF document recalls the community's attachment to Israel and warns that "any threat to the existence of Israel will be regarded by the French Jewish community as an attack on its integrity, its collective spirit, its faith, hope and dignity." The document also calls on "the present government and all future governments to remain faithful to France's moral vocation

which should not be sacrificed for the sake of immediate material advantages and interests."

EBAN, PERES DISAGREE ON MANY ISSUES BUT AGREE ON NEED FOR MAJOR REFORMS IN ISRAELI SOCIETY

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- There is a wide gap in the political views of former Foreign Minister Abba Eban and Defense Minister Shimon Peres. But the two men, each of whom hopes to replace Premier Yitzhak Rabin as head of the Labor Party, agree that major reforms in Israeli government and society are long overdue. Both are on the campaign trail to let the public know what changes could be expected should one or the other attain the Premiership after the May 17 elections.

Eban, a scholar and probably the most eloquent diplomat Israel has produced, has no illusions about his chances. He lacks a constituency within the Labor Party whereas both Rabin and Peres enjoy support from powerful factions within Labor. Most political analysts believe -- and Eban probably concedes it -- that the Party would turn to him for leadership only if Rabin and Peres became hopelessly deadlocked.

Yet Eban appears to enjoy the campaign dialogue. At a press conference at Sokolow House here yesterday he stressed not his doveish views on foreign policy but the reforms he would institute during his first year in office if elected Premier.

Changes Suggested By Eban

He suggested that a member of the Cabinet should become the leader of the Knesset, a role now nominally held by the Speaker, so that the government and parliament could work more closely. He would introduce the Canadian system whereby Knesset members would twice monthly scrutinize the activities of Cabinet ministers. He would eliminate Minister-Without-Portfolio posts which he says adds nothing to the smooth functioning of government.

But he would appoint a minister for social distress who would be in charge of relieving hardships in various sectors of Israeli society. Eban also proposed a ministry of immigration and absorption that would take over both those functions from the Jewish Agency.

Eban is especially interested in the problems of Israel's relations with world Jewry. He said he would want a special Knesset committee set up to maintain constant contact with overseas Jews. Asked if he would support either Rabin or Peres for the Premiership, Eban would say only that there must be a change because the present situation cannot continue.

Peres Views The Future

Peres has also taken to the hustings. He is speaking and answering questions all over the country. He recently spent several hours with student groups discussing his own plans for internal reform. He said he would eliminate or reshuffle at least six ministers -- he did not name them -- and declared that he wanted at least one woman in the Cabinet, a statement that drew applause from the women students. He also said that a Peres Cabinet would include

a representative of the new immigrant townships and that he would have a ministerial post for Eban.

Peres insisted that a Labor team under his leadership would garner more votes than one led by Rabin. On the sensitive issue of the Gush Emunim whose illegal settlement attempts he has appeared to support, Peres said there could be no generalization.

He said there are responsible elements who have settled on the Golan Heights. But there are those like the militant Rabbi Moshe Levinger, leader of the Kiryat Arba township near Hebron, who he does not accept. Peres said he supported Jewish settlements on the western slopes of Samaria and Judea but did not favor them in the Jordan Valley.

JAABARI WANTS TO BE 'DOVE OF PEACE'

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Sheikh Mohammed Ali el-Jaabari met with Premier Yitzhak Rabin today to report on his recent visit to Jordan. The former Mayor of Hebron reportedly told Rabin that he would like to serve as a "dove of peace between Israel and Jordan" when the time came. But he denied to reporters later that he had brought any message from King Hussein of Jordan to the Israeli leader.

In their conversation, Rabin and Jaabari reportedly agreed that the West Bank population should be represented at a reconvened Geneva peace conference as members of the Jordanian delegation. But both excluded the PLO from such a role. Jaabari, who had received a royal welcome when he was in Amman, met with Defense Minister Shimon Peres earlier in the week.

DEFENSE FUND GETS BOOST

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Former Premier Golda Meir donated IL 2,000 to the Israel Voluntary Defense Fund and called on every Israeli to donate a share to the fund. Moshe Gilboa, the Atlanta, Georgia-based Israel Consul General for the southeast United States who is now assigned to head the fund at the Defense Ministry here, reported that a new round of donations and contributions are arriving at the fund's office.

A radio auction held here this week netted some IL 60,000. A 400-year-old mezuzah went for IL 4,000. The original order of the day issued by Gen. Arik Sharon on his last day of service also netted IL 4,000. The fund was founded last year after President Ford cut the transitional quarter allocation to Israel and Israeli Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz slashed the defense budget by IL 500 million.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- The U.S. Senate, in what amounted to a unanimous action, condemned France today for releasing Palestinian terrorist Abu Daoud and urged the Carter Administration to "consult promptly with France and other friendly nations" to prevent the recurrence of such an episode. The sense-of-the-Senate resolution was supported by 93 Senators, seven short of the chamber's full membership. The other members were absent. There was no dissenting voice.

ZIONISM IN ACTION MISSION POSSIBLE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Mordechai Bar On, for almost nine years the head of the World Zionist Organization's Youth and Hechalutz Department, is concerned that too few American Jews visit Israel, especially young Americans. He believes strongly that extended visits to Israel by American Jewish youth will benefit the Jewish community in the U.S. by strengthening their Jewish identification and benefit Israel because a certain percentage would remain or return as olim.

Bar On left for the U.S. last week -- his second visit there since November -- to discuss his objectives with leaders of American Jewish organizations and communities and to seek means to achieve them. There are presently only 4,000 young American Jews in Israel on stays ranging from six months to a year. "If by next year there are fewer than 8,000 American youth here for a stay of a half-year to a year, I shall regard it as a failure of my mission," Bar On told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview before his departure.

He said he told WZO Executive Chairman Yosef Almagi that he wanted "no powers and no budget" for this mission but a carte blanche to make whatever arrangements were necessary to achieve fast results. He said one of his intentions was to "give a push" to Israel programs for American Jewish youth in cooperation with such organizations as Hadassah and B'nai B'rith which have Israel program departments.

Western Aliya Disappointing

Bar On was disappointed at the low rate of Western aliya. He noted that only 3,000 American immigrants came to Israel in 1976 out of a total aliya of 20,000. He said that considering that there are 5.5 million Jews in the U.S., that figure was deplorable. "But it is not in that respect only that American Jewry has let us down," Bar On said.

"Aliya is a personal matter and it depends to a large extent on the way we absorb immigrants here," Bar On noted. "This is not an American failure." The failure lies, he said, in the fact that American Jewry ignores the potential benefits of extended stays in Israel and thereby does itself an injustice.

"American Jewry is worried about its creative survival," the WZO official noted. "It is quite obvious that Jewish education in the U.S. does not answer the educational needs. Integral Jewish education and Sunday schools show very little achievements." But when a young Jew comes to Israel for a limited period it enriches his identity.

"Thus, both American Jewry and Israel gain. Some 80 percent of those who come to Israel for six months to one year go back to the U.S. and deepen their Jewishness. The other 20 percent stays here which is Israel's dividend," Bar On said.

He said he would try to secure the cooperation of American Jewish leaders to promote the idea that a visit to Israel is as much a part of Jewish life as the circumcision ceremony or bar mitzvah. "I do not see any reason why within two years we should not have here some 20-30,000 Jews for an extended stay," Bar On

said. Every American Jew should come to Israel at least once in his life time. "Otherwise, under the present rate of extended visits, only four percent of American Jews will be able to say 'I was in Israel,'" Bar On said.

Targets In The U.S.

He stressed that he was not going to the U.S. to "show the light." He said his targets could be reached only if the American Jewish community is actively involved in the project. "I don't have a specific plan how to achieve this target. I simply think that it is not good to sit in Jerusalem and come to the U.S. with a 'blue-print,'" he said. He said he discussed his plans with American Jewish leaders in November and got the impression that there was a basic readiness to go ahead. "I feel as if the Americans told me, 'come over and let's work together,'" Bar On said.

He maintained that there are not too many shlichim (emissaries) in the U.S. but too few. The 150 aliya and youth emissaries there now are insufficient, he said because each Jewish community needs an Israeli presence. What has to be changed is the nature of the shlichim he said. Rather than have them come as strangers to the community they should be invited and work under the community's direct supervision.

"We must find a way to make Zionist missions a function of the community. It is in the community that the financial resources and the prestige lie. It is this body that deals with the Jewish community on a daily basis and can help us sort out those Jews who may be interested in Israel, whether for aliya or a long term visit," he said.

According to Bar On, the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds has agreed in principle to investigate the possibility of establishing departments for Israel programs and aliya. In addition to this and other organizations that run Israel programs, there are Zionist organizations, youth movements and the relatively large numbers of unaffiliated Jews. These are sources to be tapped, Bar On said.

LABOR PARTY AGREES ON AGENDA

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- The Labor Party has agreed on the agenda of its convention to be held Feb. 22 - 24 with the participation of 3,000 delegates. The convention will determine the party's future course and future leadership but the manner of electing a new leader -- be it Premier Yitzhak Rabin, Defense Minister Shimon Peres or someone else -- is still a matter of hot debate in party circles.

Peres wants the convention as a whole to decide who will head the Labor Party list in the May 17 elections. Rabin is not opposed to this but the subcommittee on party affairs would prefer the nomination to be made by the newly elected Central Committee. The election of a new Central Committee of 106 members is a major item on the convention agenda. The nominations question is expected to be raised in the convention preparatory committee which meets next week.