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ALLON HOPES U.S. WILL REVERSE DECISION TO BLOCK Kfir SALE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Yigal Allon expressed the hope yesterday that the United States will reverse its decision blocking the sale of 24 Israeli-made Kfir jet interceptors to Ecuador. His statement came as the State Department announced in Washington that it had blocked the sale because of "long-standing policy" not to supply sophisticated weapons to Latin American countries. U.S. approval is required because the Kfir is powered by a General Electric J-79 engine.

(A statement issued by the Department yesterday said "Approval of this particular sale would run contrary to our policy of not providing advanced and sophisticated aircraft to Latin America. This is a long standing policy going back at least 15 years."

(Asked if this meant that the U.S. was prepared to see Ecuador buy its planes from France or even the Soviet Union, Department spokesman Frederick Z. Brown reiterated that the U.S. is doing whatever it can to restrict the introduction of sophisticated weaponry to Latin America. He said that "every sale is based on a case-by-case basis on its own merits.")

Cites Loss Of Market, Sale

Allon, expressing regret that the proposed sale to Ecuador had been made public, charged that those who revealed it had done great harm to Israel. Sources said the sale's loss would be a severe blow to Israel Aircraft Industries, manufacturer of the Kfir, and to Israel's chances of penetrating the Latin American arms market.

Defense Minister Shimon Peres said if the 24 jets do not go to Ecuador they will have to be absorbed by the Israel Air Force. This would make up at least part of the loss of the \$150 million sale by IAI. Peres stressed that Israel must continue to develop its arms industry, even if it loses sales abroad, because it cannot become totally dependent on the import of defense items.

The Defense Minister disclosed that the Kfir was selected by Ecuador over competing American and French aircraft. The Kfir is reported to be at least the equivalent of the F-4 Phantom fighter bomber.

Other Sales May Be Stymied

Israeli sources expected that if Ecuador bought the Kfir it would also buy the Shafir air-to-air missile with which the Kfir is armed. The sale of the Israeli-designed and built combat plane was also expected to open the way for the sale of other Israeli-made weaponry to Ecuador and other Latin American countries. The IAI spent a substantial sum translating the technical data into Spanish and preparing a training cadre to instruct the Ecuadorians in operating the plane.

American approval had expected to be pro forma. The IAI pointed out that the Kfir is a first generation aircraft and the American technology it embodies is no longer classified. Reports from foreign sources said the U.S. may offer its F-5 jet interceptor to Ecuador although its

price is double that of the Kfir and, according to the Israelis, is inferior in performance. Some Israeli sources believe the U.S. decision was influenced by American arms manufacturers who want to block Israeli competition in the international weapons market.

ISRAEL SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH EEC

By Renee Goldstuck

BRUSSELS, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon asked the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community (EEC) to preserve a political balance and neutrality in its negotiations with the Arab countries.

Allon, who earlier signed Israel's financial agreement with the nine-member states organization, warned the Council that the "Euro-Arab dialogue" is taking a political turn. He said the dialogue which started as an economic and cultural exchange of views is now rapidly becoming a political forum.

Allon signed the new agreements in the EEC official headquarters of Val Duchesse, an 18th Century castle. British Foreign Secretary Anthony Crosland, the current president of the Council, and Claude Cheysson, the Common Market's Foreign Minister, signed on behalf of the EEC.

Could Lead To Mideast Cooperation

The Israeli Minister said in his speech that the new agreement could evolve into a Middle-East cooperation project. He stressed that the EEC has signed similar agreements with Israel and the Arab states and said this could eventually enable the two sides to cooperate among themselves. He said Israel is prepared to make available to its neighbors its work and experience in the fields of solar energy, desalination, the development of arid zones and harbor management.

Allon stressed also that Israel is not satisfied with the new agreements and will continue to press for the status of Associate Member which would enable it to cooperate more fully with the European community.

Earlier, Allon conferred with the West German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher who is due to visit Israel next month. Genscher, who plans a fact finding tour of the Middle East, will arrive in Israel March 16. Allon is also due to meet later today with French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud.

U.S. BARS RE-ENTRY OF JIRYS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The government today barred the re-entry into the U.S. of Sabri Jirys, an official of the Palestine Liberation Organization, on grounds that the PLO is a proscribed group under American law and because on a previous occasion, Jirys had falsified information in applying for a U.S. visa. (See related story, on P. 4.)

State Department spokesman Frederick Z. Brown said "We have decided not to seek waivers for Jirys to come to the U.S. to attend a Quaker conference this weekend." Brown said

"We have occasionally allowed a PLO representative or people affiliated with the PLO to come to the U.S. but not for political activity. In the case of Jiryis, if he were to give a speech at this Quaker meeting, that would be reasonably construed as a political activity. For that reason our recommendation was not in favor of the waiver."

Brown acknowledged, under questioning, that Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance's visit to the Middle East later this month in pursuit of progress toward an Arab-Israeli settlement "is one of the factors taken into account" in the government's decision.

U.S. Position Explained

Brown explained that for Jiryis to re-enter the U.S. he would require two waivers. One involved his membership in an organization proscribed under the Immigration and Nationalities Act of 1953. He said that was a Justice Department determination but the Justice Department would require a favorable recommendation from the State Department before it would issue a waiver.

Jiryis would also need a waiver for the false information on his earlier visa application. On that application he stated that he was born in Sudan when actually he was born in Israel. While in the U.S. last fall he met privately with individual Jews in New York and Washington before he was ordered to leave the country by Nov. 30. Brown said that Jiryis provided "accurate information" on his second visa application. He said he had no information as to Jiryis' title but he is "considered to be a representative of the PLO."

When asked if the American Friends Service Committee, which invited Jiryis, could invite people from the PLO's observer mission at the United Nations in New York, Brown noted that they would need permission to travel beyond a 25-mile radius of New York and would have to get a waiver for that purpose. He said this was granted sometimes for family and compassionate reasons. On two occasions in the past the State Department had to reprimand PLO representatives for abusing that privilege.

STRIKES, SLOWDOWNS HIT ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8 (JTA)--About 200,000 Israeli workers in various branches of public service were involved today in a new wave of labor strife ranging from actual strikes, threatened strikes to damaging work slowdowns. Avraham Shavit, president of the Manufacturers Association, described the situation as verging on "national suicide."

A three-day strike by postal employes which paralyzed mail collection and deliveries and shut down all communications except telex is due to end tonight. But the workers warned they would call a strike of indefinite duration unless their demands are met within 10 days.

Air traffic controllers said today that they would ignore back-to-work orders issued by the courts at the time of their last strike. They said they would walk off the job en-masse to seek medical treatment for what they said was the emotional tension of having to work under a court order.

Customs inspectors at Haifa port started a work slowdown. Their output is about one-fifth of normal. So far citrus exports, the port's main activity at this time of year, have not been affected

but that activity is expected to feel the pinch if the slowdown continues. Meanwhile, the mandatory 14-day strike notice will soon expire for thousands of public employes including teachers, scientists, psychologists and physicians. If these groups carry out their strike threats, the country's public services will be paralyzed.

Shavit decried what he called a state of anarchy. "It seems that somebody consciously began the process of national suicide," he said at an emergency meeting of the Manufacturers Association's executive. "What is happening now in the economy is real sabotage and self-damage without precedent," Shavit declared. He denounced workers who shut down public services as enemies of the State and warned that "if we want to avoid calamity we must return to our right mind. One cannot destroy a whole country just because somebody wants something," he said.

SEPHARDI LEADER CHARGES BIAS AGAINST SEPHARDIM IN ISRAEL

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Nessim Gaon, president of the World Sephardi Federation, accused the government and the Zionist establishment last night of perpetuating the social gap between Ashkenazim and Israelis of Oriental background and depriving the Sephardi community of its rightful representation on leadership bodies. He demanded the creation of a new Cabinet ministry to deal directly with the social gap.

Gaon's statement at the convention of the World Sephardi Federation's presidium here drew some strong criticism, especially his implied warning that Sephardic Jews may be tempted to leave Israel and even return to the Arab countries of their origin. He said that Sephardim have not yet been tempted "by recent invitations from Arab governments to return to their countries of origin," adding, "Imagine what would become of Israel if and when they should emigrate en-masse."

Gaon cited statistics on poor housing and inadequate education for thousands of Oriental Jews. He charged that the authorities have forgotten that the creation of families by young Israelis who marry comprises an "internal immigration" that is greater than immigration from the outside. Yet new flats remain "empty for months waiting for olim," he said.

Gaon accused the World Zionist Organization of "keeping the representation (of Sephardim) on decision-making bodies at a minimum." He noted that of the 42 members of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors, only one is a Sephardi. Despite their criticism, the convention delegates endorsed Gaon's demands for adequate representation in the Knesset and government, improved living standards for disadvantaged families and better housing for large families. The convention called on the government to give the social gap issue the same priority as defense.

Addressing the opening session of the three-day convention, Police Minister Shlomo Hillel stressed the urgency of improving the education of disadvantaged children and integrating Sephardim into the country's social and political life. The convention is being attended by 39 Sephardi leaders from 39 countries abroad and 35 Israeli representatives.

CARTER TO DECIDE IN A WEEK WHETHER U.S. WILL SELL CONCUSSION BOMB

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (JTA)--President Carter said today that he would decide within a week on whether the U.S. will go ahead with the sale of concussion bombs. The President was obviously referring to one of the four categories of sophisticated weapons that President Ford had promised to sell to Israel last Oct. 8. But in his statement at a White House press conference he did not specifically mention Israel or Ford's pledge.

Asked if he would block the sale of the weapon which can devastate a wide area, Carter said "The sale of the concussion bomb is an item that concerns me very much" and that blocking the sale "is one of the options I have." He said he has asked the State and Defense Departments to analyze the "political and military consequences of the sale."

Carter also noted that the previous announcement concerning the sale had not been cleared by either of the two departments. He was apparently referring to the announcement of Ford's promise to Israel last year. Ford never submitted the matter to Congress for approval as required by law.

Reaffirms Dedication To Human Rights

In response to reporters' questions about the imprisonment of Alexander Ginzburg, the Soviet dissident author and poet, Carter reiterated his dedication to human rights in the Soviet Union and elsewhere. "I reserve the right to speak out forcefully on human rights," the President declared. He added that this was "not intended as a public relations attack on the Soviet Union."

Carter said, "I regret the fact" that the Soviet Union has "incarcerated" Ginzburg. But he observed that there has been "progress" in the Soviet Union and elsewhere on human rights. He said an example was that "the number of Jews permitted to emigrate (from the Soviet Union) in the last few months has increased."

But the President stressed, "We've got to be firm and forceful" and not "timid" on human rights. "I don't want to mislead the American people" and have them "expect overnight success" since it will be a "tedious" process, Carter added.

He said he opposed the concept of "linkage" of human rights with other issues between the U.S. and the USSR. He said that human rights "can be separated from atomic weapons and the reduction of forces in Europe." He noted that an invitation to Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the exiled Russian writer, would not have affected U.S. arms discussions with the Soviet Union. "We can come out better if I am consistently and completely dedicated to human rights," he said.

ISRAEL PRESSING U.S. ON SITUATION OF SYRIAN TROOPS IN SOUTH LEBANON

By Yitzhak Shargil and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Israel is continuing to press the United States to obtain a reply from Damascus to its demand that Syrian forces be pulled out of southern Lebanon. The demand was conveyed through Washington some time ago and tension is now increasing, not over the military situation which remains static but because of the lack of results from Israel's contacts with the U.S.

Defense Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday that the situation in southern Lebanon does not concern only the Syrians and Lebanese but also Israel's relations with the new American Administration. He said he would not like to see those relations get off on the wrong foot.

Israeli circles view the presence of Syrian forces in Nabatiyah, less than 10 miles from Israel's border, not as an immediate military threat but as a threat to Israel's credibility. Israel has stated repeatedly that it would not tolerate the presence of a foreign Arab army in proximity to its border with Lebanon. Some sources indicated that Israel may revert to military action if the U.S. does not succeed in persuading the Syrians to pull back.

But Premier Yitzhak Rabin said at Sunday's Cabinet meeting that Israel was still "in the process of settling the issue by diplomatic means." The Cabinet was convened in closed session as a ministerial security committee to hear briefings on the situation in southern Lebanon and its diplomatic and military ramifications from Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, Peres and the chief of military intelligence. A Cabinet communique issued later said no new decisions were taken.

Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur, addressing 300 members of the Keren Hayesod mission here last night, said he hoped the interested parties would be able to solve the crisis over Nabatiyah in a political way but that in any event, Israel's army could protect the country's security. He said decisions have been made and more were in the making but would not elaborate.

Some observers expect the Syrians to withdraw from Nabatiyah next week as a gesture of good will to coincide with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance's arrival in the Middle East. That expectation was based on reports from Christian sources in Beirut that Lebanese troops would soon replace the Syrians in Nabatiyah.

Israel has stated that it has no objections to a Lebanese army presence in southern Lebanon which would be a normal internal matter. Some sources believe the problem could be solved if Israel made a more precise definition of the "red line," the point beyond which Israel will not permit an Arab force. Such a definition could avoid future misunderstandings, the sources said.

BONN (JTA)--German television and movie companies are shooting a full-length feature movie about Auschwitz with the former death camp as the actual setting. The movie will be based on "Kommandant in Auschwitz," the biography of the last commander of the camp, Rudolf Hess who was sentenced to death by the Poles and executed by hanging at Auschwitz in 1946. The film will be a co-production of two German companies, the Munich-based "Iduna," and the Westdeutsche Rundfunk, a regional, state-supervised television and broadcast authority in Cologne.

LONDON (JTA)--Amnesty International has urged the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to study gross violations of human rights in Uganda since the military coup of Gen. Idi Amin on Jan. 25, 1971. A 1500-word report by Amnesty International says that estimates of people murdered since 1971 range between 50,000 and 300,000. Torture is almost routine practice and victims are killed under torture or shot.

ISRAEL URGES U.S. TO REFUSE VISA TO JIRYIS TO ADDRESS QUAKER CONFAB

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The Israeli government has urged the United States not to grant a visa for a Palestine Liberation Organization representative Sabri Jiryis to re-enter the United States for the purpose of addressing a conference here this weekend.

The State Department is considering the application of Jiryis who is scheduled to make two speeches at the conference of the American Friends Service Committee in a program designed to influence the Carter Administration to recognize the terrorist organization.

The Israeli government's position was conveyed yesterday to Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance by Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz during a 30-minute meeting at the State Department. The meeting was in preparation for Vance's trip to the Middle East beginning Feb. 15. He is scheduled to go to Israel and five Arab countries.

Dinitz was asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency what he thought about the possibility of the return of Jiryis who was directed to leave the country last November because of fraudulent information on his visa application. "I have conveyed our position to the Administration that we are not in favor of representatives of the PLO getting permission to attend this conference," he replied. (See related story P. 1.)

Other Issues Discussed

Regarding the presence of Syrian troops in Lebanon within 10 miles of the Israeli border, Dinitz said that Israel is in constant touch with the United States and the U.S. is in constant touch with Syria and Lebanon on this matter. He said he was "reasonably sure" these contacts will continue.

On the report here from Israel that the U.S. will provide Israel an additional \$300 million in economic aid for fiscal 1978, Dinitz said he understands the U.S. is still preparing the aid program and that it will be going to Congress "very shortly."

In regard to the four categories of sophisticated arms which President Ford promised Israel but which the Carter Administration is still studying, Dinitz emphasized that no position has been taken by the U.S. and press reports that some of the arms will not be delivered do not reflect any U.S. official decision. The weapons involved are M-60 tanks, 155-mm self-propelled howitzers, a night-vision system and concussion bombs.

COURT UPHOLDS RULING

MADISON, Wis., Feb. 8 (JTA)--The State Supreme Court has sustained the dismissal by a lower court of a damage suit by a Milwaukee disc jockey against the regional office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith which the radio performer blamed for loss of his job, according to a report in the latest issue of The Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle.

Allan E. Augustine was fired by Ralph Barnes, general manager of station WOKY, in 1974 following a talk show which featured members of the National Socialist White People's Party, a local Nazi group. Augustine sued the ADL for \$150,000. Barnes also was named in the lawsuit, the Chronicle reported.

The court record indicated that, during the radio show, the Nazis used "various epithets"

about Jews and Blacks and that Augustine failed to push the button which would have deleted such material. Augustine also failed to use a standard disclaimer tape to the effect that the views expressed were those of the guests and not of the station.

In upholding the ruling of the Milwaukee County Circuit Court which rejected Augustine's claims of damage, the Supreme Court held that "the right of free speech as guaranteed by the Constitution is a privilege which has been asserted (as such) and correctly so by the ADL."

Saul Sorrin, Wisconsin regional ADL director, said the Supreme Court decision had "affirmed the right of organizations and individuals to protest material put on the air which they believe to be contrary to the interests of the community."

U.S. EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER SOVIET TREATMENT OF GINZBURG

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The United States declared yesterday that it is concerned over the Soviet government's treatment of Soviet poet Alexander Ginzburg in the struggle for human rights in the Soviet Union.

In a statement read to newsmen, the State Department said: "We are watching with concern the treatment of Alexander Ginzburg and we have made the Soviet government aware of our feeling. Wherever it may occur, the harassment of individuals who are pursuing the principles set forth in the UN Declaration of Human Rights or working for the implementation of the Helsinki conference is a matter of profound concern for all Americans."

Department spokesman Frederick Z. Brown, responding to questions, said that Ginzburg, who was reported arrested last week without warning, "seems specially singled out for specially harsh treatment." He said President Carter is aware of the Department's statement and that it was approved by Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance.

PAPER SUSPENDS PUBLICATION

NEW YORK, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Israel Express, the Hebrew-language daily newspaper that started publishing here Dec. 10, 1976, suspended publication today. But Yaakov Nachman, the paper's general director, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the suspension is temporary "due to technical and editorial changes." He added, however, that the paper had to close due to financial difficulties and that he hoped to resume publication in two weeks after new investors are found.

The JTA learned that the paper has been facing financial hardship almost from the start when hopes for a large circulation and revenues from advertisements failed to materialize. Editorial staff members and printers told the JTA that they have not received their salaries in the last three weeks and a number of workers who came here from Israel have been left with no means of livelihood and with no money to return to Israel. They are reportedly now seeking help from Israeli and Jewish institutions here.

Nachman confirmed to the JTA that salaries have been withheld and that a number of workers are returning to Israel. The paper published five days a week, Monday to Friday and sold for 30 cents a copy. (By Yitzhak Rabi)