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SYRIA WITHDRAWING FROM NABATIYEH

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13 (JTA)--Israeli sources confirmed today that Syria is pulling its forces out of Nabatiyeh village and its surroundings in southern Lebanon. The Syrian armored battalion consisting of 10 tanks and about 500 soldiers had occupied the region for several weeks. Its advance guard has already left Tibnit village south of Nabatiyeh, the point closest to Israel's border, the sources reported.

The Syrians are expected to re-group at Aisha village, north of Nabatiyeh, within the next two days, about the time U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance arrives in the Middle East, the sources said. Aisha is 18 kilometers from Israel's border. Nabatiyeh is 15 kilometers distant.

The three kilometer difference is negligible in terms of military deployment but represents a pull-back from the "red line," the point beyond which Israel has said it would not permit a non-Lebanese army. Israel's credibility will thus be restored and the Syrian presence around Aisha will be, in effect, with Israel's consent.

Meanwhile, an Israeli patrol came under bazooka fire near the Lebanese border Friday night, a military spokesman disclosed today. The fire was returned. There were no Israeli casualties. The spokesman said the attack originated in Mais-Al-Jabal, a Moslem village in southern Lebanon. The rockets landed between Kibbutz Iftah and Kibbutz Manara.

ISRAEL READY TO SIGN ACCORD WITH LEBANON ON SECURITY PROBLEMS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Yigal Allon said over the weekend that Israel was ready to sign a mutual agreement with Lebanon to settle security problems on both sides of the border. Addressing the closing dinner of the fourth international mission of the Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal, Allon said "We would like to see an independent and free and prosperous Lebanon which must not be included in the confrontation line." He said that southern Lebanon should be cleared of foreign troops.

"I see no reason why Lebanon cannot negotiate mutual security arrangements along both sides of the border," Allon said. "If Egypt and Syria could negotiate and sign an agreement, why cannot Lebanon?" Such an agreement, he said, would prevent misunderstandings in the future. Allon expressed satisfaction that Israel was patiently resorting to diplomatic means with respect to Lebanon rather than to "other means as some schwitzers (hot-heads) advised us to do."

UN GROUP'S CHARGES THAT ISRAEL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEATHS OF ARAB PRISONERS SCORED AS WILD ACCUSATION

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Feb. 13 (JTA)--The United Nations Human Rights Commission, holding its 33rd session here, accused Israel of responsibility for the deaths of Arab detainees due to prison conditions. The Israeli observer on the Commission, Ambassador Theodor Meron, denounced what he called a "wild accusation" and said that within the UN system today "human rights are treated exclusively in the political context."

The charge against Israel was contained in a cable dispatched by the Commission to the Israeli government. The final text, drafted after prolonged deliberation, was adopted by a vote of 22-3 with five abstentions. Only the United States, Canada and Costa Rica cast negative votes. A draft presented by the Palestine Liberation Organization was not accepted.

The cable said: "Mindful of its duty to promote and encourage respect for human rights throughout the world (the commission) is deeply concerned at reports of the deaths of Arab detainees in Israeli prisons which are attributed to the conditions of their imprisonment and calls upon the government of Israel to take urgent measures to ensure conformity with the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention's treatment of detainees."

Meron said, "It is unfortunately a fact that the Commission has ignored most cases of grave violations of human rights for fear of offending influential states, including quite a few that are represented on this Commission and instead turns once more to wild accusations against Israel as the very first item on its agenda." Meron said the so-called evidence against Israel was submitted by a committee "of dubious legality" composed "of representatives of countries that have no diplomatic relations with Israel and vote against Israel on every matter."

ADMINISTRATION, SOLONS IN PENDING CLASH OVER U.S. UNESCO POLICY

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 (JTA)--A clash seems to be shaping up between the Carter Administration and key Senators over U.S. policy towards UNESCO, the United Nations agency that sought to expel Israel and then relented after the U.S. withheld its contributions to it.

In testimony last Thursday before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Aid, Administration officials urged approval of the payment of \$67 million to UNESCO which would wipe out all U.S. indebtedness to UNESCO and meet its dues through 1978.

The fact that the officials of the State Department and Treasury submitted their views to an appropriations panel before they did to an authorization group in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee elicited surprise from Capitol sources. The practice is for the authorization to come first since it is then that the policy is formed.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee sources indicated that the committee is prepared to pay one year of U.S. dues in arrears to maintain U.S. voting rights but to go no further inasmuch as UNESCO has continued to charge Israel with violations on the Jerusalem excavations, provided aid to the PLO for what it claims to be a cultural program, while denying participation in UNESCO of a scientist from Taiwan.

The Foreign Relations Committee sources noted that they are approving payment of a year's dues in view of UNESCO allowing Israel to join the European regional group which UNESCO previously had refused to allow.

WALDHEIM GIVEN ISRAEL'S POSITION ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE, GENEVA TALKS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13 (JTA)--Israeli officials believe the 36-hour visit by UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim which ended Friday was productive inasmuch as Waldheim now knows exactly where Israel stands with respect to the Palestinian issue and the Geneva conference. The Secretary General also must be aware that the UN has little if any role to play in mediating a solution of the Middle East conflict.

Foreign Minister Yigal Allon summed up Israel's position on the Palestinians after he saw Waldheim off at Atarot Airport. He told reporters, "Palestinians yes, PLO no." It was made clear to Waldheim that Israel was ready to discuss the Palestinian issue at Geneva but not with the PLO.

Israeli leaders also reaffirmed, in the course of their conversations with Waldheim, that Israel would participate in the Geneva conference if invited on the basis of the original terms of the conference embodied in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Israel does not recognize and will not accept UN General Assembly resolution of Nov. 24, 1976 demanding Israel's withdrawal from all occupied territories by June, 1977, Waldheim was told. That resolution and earlier ones in the General Assembly calling for PLO participation in any Middle East peace talks deprives the UN, in Israel's view, of any substantive role in the negotiating process.

No Credence To PLO Moderation

Waldheim's talks with Israeli leaders were cordial although they disagreed on a number of points, chiefly the attitude of the PLO. The Secretary General, who had met PLO chief Yasir Arafat in Damascus before coming to Israel, said Arafat told him that the Palestinians were prepared to accept a "mini-state alongside Israel" consisting apparently of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

According to Waldheim, this indicated at least de facto acceptance of Israel by the PLO and a new, moderate approach. "When I raised the question of the recognition of Israel with Arafat he said that the fact that the PLO accepts a Palestinian entity next to the State of Israel is proof that we accept her existence," Waldheim said in an interview in the Jerusalem Post.

But Israel gives no credence to the PLO's alleged moderation. Allon told reporters, "As far as I am concerned there has been no PLO leader yet who has really stated that he has given up the idea of a 'secular bi-national state,' meaning the destruction of Israel."

Allon's position was reinforced while Waldheim was still in Israel when a PLO spokesman in Damascus said it has not dropped its ultimate aim of establishing a "secular democratic state" in all of Palestine. Earlier, reports from Lebanon quoted sources "close to Arafat" as denying that the PLO leader had intimated acceptance of Israel to Waldheim. The Secretary General declined to comment on these reports.

Warns Against Deadlock

Waldheim was warned by Premier Yitzhak Rabin against Arab attempts to by-pass Geneva and refer the Middle East conflict back to the Security Council. Such indications were given by Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy last

week. It would produce only a deadlock, Rabin said. On the other hand, he told Waldheim "If you send us a letter of invitation according to the only acceptable formula, we shall agree to go to Geneva. No domestic or electoral obstacles whatsoever exist here."

Although Waldheim's visit was of little diplomatic importance, especially in view of the arrival here shortly of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, the Secretary General responded favorably on certain matters of special concern to Israel. He promised to take up with Syrian authorities the problem of some 400 unmarried Jewish women in Syria who have applied for exit visas so that they can find husbands abroad. He also promised to contribute his efforts to ease the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union.

Waldheim Denies Mission Failed

(Speaking to reporters in Geneva today at the end of his Mideast tour, Waldheim denied press reports that his mission had been a failure. He said his mission had succeeded in clarifying the positions of all the parties concerned, but added that there might have to be new approaches to Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

(Waldheim stated that the Geneva talks are unlikely to resume by the end of March, as recommended by the UN, but did not exclude the possibility of them reconvening at an unspecified later date. He warned that if there is no breakthrough in the negotiating process "the danger of a new military confrontation is certainly real.")

PERL GIVEN 2-YEAR SUSPENDED SENTENCE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 (JTA)--Dr. William Perl, former director of the Jewish Defense League, was sentenced Friday in a federal district court in Baltimore to two years in prison, fined \$12,000 and put on supervised probation for three years.

Federal Judge Edward S. Northrup, in imposing the sentence, suspended the prison term. He directed Perl that he may not be associated with the JDL during the probationary period to be supervised by a federal court official. Perl is seriously ill with an affliction that causes him hands to tremble.

Perl, 70, who lives in nearby College Park, Maryland, and who had taught psychology at the University of Maryland, told the court, "I am not asking for mercy but understanding." He said that he had assumed that his act would save the lives of Soviet Jews "and I could not have acted differently." He has 10 days in which to appeal the verdict.

Perl, who is a retired U.S. Army Colonel and a Nazi refugee from Austria, had been convicted by a jury on three of four charges filed against him by U.S. authorities. He was convicted of conspiracy of having a gun, of receiving a gun across-state lines, and of conspiracy to shoot at the windows of an apartment in nearby Prince Georges County rented by two Soviet diplomats. He was found innocent of receiving a stolen gun.

The chief witness against him was Reuben Levitov, a former Israeli Embassy chauffeur, with whom he was accused of conspiring. Levitov was supposed to do the shooting at the apartment. No one was reported injured nor any damage reported.

**PELED CLAIMS PLO IS READY TO ACCEPT
ISRAEL: QUAKER GROUP AT WHICH HE
SPOKE DENOUNCED BY JEWISH GROUPS**

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 (JTA)--Retired Israeli Maj. Gen. Mattityahu (Matt) Peled, insisting that the Palestine Liberation Organization has made clear "without ambiguity" its readiness to accept Israel, called on the United States today to introduce a resolution in the UN Security Council to include the PLO as a participant in Middle East peace negotiations on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338.

Peled was the featured speaker on the third day of a four-day conference on "The New Imperative for Israeli-Palestinian Peace" organized by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). One of the stated aims of the conference is to launch a campaign to change the attitude of the Carter Administration and the U.S. Congress toward the PLO.

Peled spoke to a receptive audience of some 400 persons inside the 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Md. while outside more than 300 members of Zionist organizations in Washington and Baltimore demonstrated. About 100 carried placards, some of which read, "What Arab Leader Is Ready for Peace?"; "Israel Cannot Deal With Murderers of Their Children"; and "Peled--Remember Maalot."

Peled, a leader of the Council for Israel-Palestinian Peace, an organization that includes several other prominent Israelis, said "The expressions of recognition of Israel by the PLO have been made clearly, without ambiguity and I have no difficulty accepting these as de facto acceptance of Israel." But he accused the Arab states and, also, by implication, the United States, of failing to encourage the PLO on that course.

He admitted that the PLO expressions of readiness to recognize "Israel as a Zionist state" have been made "in a somewhat indirect manner." But, he said, under the circumstances "the PLO cannot go further" because "for the PLO to make a statement more explicit and (with) no indication such an explicit statement will bring a favorable expression from Israel" would be "an empty gesture."

In connection with Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance's trip to the Middle East, beginning tomorrow, Peled expressed hope that all parties to the conflict would resume talks at Geneva with the PLO participating "as an independent delegation."

Although the AFSC conference was described by its organizers as "even-handed," two long tables in the conference area were laden with pro-PLO, anti-Israel pamphlets, brochures and books, some labeled "free literature" and others for sale.

Basis For Denunciation Of Quaker Group

Meanwhile, Jewish organizations denounced the AFSC for using the conference to pressure Israel to negotiate with the PLO. The Washington and Baltimore districts of the Zionist Organization of America organized a demonstration today opposite the meeting site. Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president of ZOA, called the conference "a one-sided event staged to pressure the United States government into recognizing PLO claims to the land of Israel. It is designed to provide the terrorists with an acceptable public forum."

At a news conference at the National Press Club in Washington Friday, Theodore Bikel,

chairman of the National Governing Council of the American Jewish Congress, charged that the AFSC has been "misled by Arab propaganda" into allowing its good name and humanitarian reputation to be used to pressure Israel to negotiate with the PLO. "The Quakers would never have asked the NAACP to bargain with the Ku Klux Klan," Bikel declared. "Yet they have no hesitancy in demanding that Israel sit down with a gang of murderers."

Bernice S. Tannenbaum, president of Hadasah, in a response to a query from the AFSC why Jewish organizations see the AFSC as "anti-Semitic, anti-Israel, pro-Arab, pro-Palestinian and pro-PLO," said the AFSC has limited its "focus to the needs of Palestinian Arabs while ignoring the Jews who had to flee Arab lands"; that it viewed the Mideast conflict as a territorial dispute when the question is whether Israel should be allowed to survive as a Jewish State; that the AFSC has accepted the PLO which refuses to renounce its objective to destroy Israel or to accept United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Rapped As Anti-Jewish Conspirators

In a scheduled speech at the conference tonight, Dov Fisch, associate director of the Jewish Defense League, strongly denounced the participants of the conference as "anti-Jewish conspirators." The JDL's demand to speak at the conference was granted, but Fisch said this did not mean that it supported the purpose of the conference. He said that on every issue "the Quakers always find themselves on the side opposite" to the Jews, according to an advance text of his speech.

Fisch noted that the Quakers have appealed for the rights of Arabs in Israel. "We have seen such reports and appeals again and again despite the documented facts that Arabs living in the Jewish State enjoy the highest standard of living experienced by any Arab community in the entire Middle East," he declared.

Fisch charged that the AFSC has done nothing "during all the years of Arab race-hate, religion-hate and especially Jew-hate." He said the Quakers have never protested the Arab treatment of minorities, such as the attempt to exterminate the Christians in Lebanon; the repression of four million Coptic Christians in Egypt; the extermination of Kurds in Syria and Iraq; the slaughter of Blacks in the Sudan; the policy of Black slavery in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Yemen, Oman, Qatar and the Sudan; and the plight of Jews in Syria and other Arab countries.

Virtual 'Mouthpiece' For PLO

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith charged that the AFSC is a "virtual U.S. mouthpiece" for the PLO's propaganda line. Maxwell E. Greenberg, chairman of the ADL's executive committee, said the conference this weekend launches the AFSC's political and propaganda drive on the Carter Administration in support of the PLO and an imposed settlement in the Mideast on the terrorist group's terms. Arnold Forster, ADL's general counsel, said the AFSC has "promulgated for many years a one-sided pro-Arab view" of Mideast issues.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--A new moshav, called Netzer Hazani, after the late Welfare Minister Michael Hazani, was inaugurated Thursday in the Gaza Strip.

VANCE TO SEEK OUT THINKING OF MIDEAST LEADERS ON SETTLEMENT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 (JTA)--Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance leaves for Israel tomorrow on the first stop of his six-country Middle East tour to ascertain for himself the thinking among the region's leaders on possibilities of an approach to a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Publicly and privately, Vance has said his week-long journey is exploratory. Nevertheless, his visits to Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Syria are considered at the Capitol and within the Administration to be of the highest importance for their impact on future U.S. policy towards Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization. In addition, the U.S. policy of arms sales will be affected by the trip, some sources stressed.

Before his departure, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed, the Secretary will consult with UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim or his aides on the results of Waldheim's travels during the past week over much of the same ground. The West German and French Foreign Ministers also are active in the area.

No Specific Plan Suggested

In an interview with the New York Times published Friday and reportedly afterwards behind closed doors in a two-hour session with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Vance indicated he has reached no conclusions on how the Administration will proceed. However, he appeared to rule out any idea the U.S. would offer a specific proposal for a settlement. "I think that we should not come up with, or try to come up with, a specific plan," Vance said in the interview. "Our role should be one of facilitating the process of the parties arriving at a settlement."

His opposition to a specific plan appeared to be a response to the suggestion last Thursday in a report by Sens. Abraham Ribicoff (D, Conn.) and Howard Baker (R, Tenn.) that for the U.S. "not to put forward a plan" early in 1977 would be to "ignore a chance for peace." Vance, in his interview, said "I think it is terribly important that progress be made, and that it be made in 1977."

He added, however, that the difficulty in resolving the substantive issues which divide the parties should not be underestimated. There are, he affirmed, "three key elements of any settlement. One is peace, the other is withdrawal and the third is finding a way to meet the legitimate interests of the Palestinian people."

To Study PLO's Views

In its exclusive interview, the Times emphasized that Vance plans to explore "in depth" the possibility that "the Palestinian leadership has moderated its position toward Israel." And that he said: "If there has been a moderation in the Palestinian position, then obviously this would be a helpful step."

The Times interpreted his statement as seemingly "signaling the Palestinian leadership that the U.S. was aware of reports of a shift in the position of the PLO, the overall grouping of Palestinian units, and would welcome moves towards acceptance of Israel as a step toward a Middle East settlement."

State Department sources privately told JTA that while Vance was seeking the options open to

a new Administration, he would want to assure himself whether the PLO's views are accepted by other Arab leaders and whether they meet both their needs and Israel's. Some other U.S. sources said they felt that a PLO shift partially towards acceptance at its plenary session that now seems to be scheduled for March after being listed for late February, may cause some rethinking in Washington with subsequent heavy pressure on Israel.

Despite widespread press reports that Arab leaders, including the PLO, have "moderated" their positions toward Israel, PLO officials, including Yasser Arafat, have publicly reiterated their intention to eliminate Israel.

The "Voice of Palestine" reported that on Feb. 1 Arafat told El Fatah officers at a graduation ceremony, "We must be prepared for our task, which is the struggle against the Zionist foe and against all the enemies of our Arab nation--without and within." The "only way to liberate the land," he said, is to march on, hand in hand to victory, from "the ocean to the gulf."

ZAVUROV CONVICTION UPHELD

NEW YORK, Feb. 13 (JTA)--The National Conference on Soviet-Jewry has learned that Amner Zavurov's three-year conviction for disorderly conduct, being without an internal passport and being without a job has been upheld by a Soviet court meeting in the Uzbek city of Karshi. Zavurov was sentenced to three years in prison Jan. 13.

His sentence has been sharply condemned by Conference chairman and Brooklyn District Attorney Eugene Gold as a "harsh and subjective punishment" for the activist's attempt to emigrate to Israel, a struggle which began in 1974.

The trial and harsh sentence in the provincial town of Shakhriyazb, "was without a defense lawyer though Zavurov's father had secured counsel," Gold said. "The trial was a clear cut violation of Soviet and international law, such as the Helsinki Final Act signed in August, 1975, the same month Zavurov was given permission to emigrate," Gold stated. "Clearly this reverses a hopeful trend, in which Soviet Jewish activists were not sentenced to lengthy prison terms for their wish to emigrate to Israel."

BOMBING INCIDENTS REPORTED

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 13 (JTA)--Dr. Nehe-mias Resnitsky, president of DAIA, reported here that two bombing incidents occurred last month. One, he said, was against a Jewish installation in Buenos Aires, the Nathan Gesang School. The other was a powerful explosion in front of a cinema in Cordoba where "Victory at Entebbe" was being shown. The explosion, which occurred at dawn, caused considerable damage but no one was injured. The attack was attributed to right-wing extremists, Resnitsky said.

He also reported that DAIA has conveyed to the government its concern about the continuing exhibition of Nazi literature on newsstands being spread by "Ediciones Odal," a publishing firm which specializes in Spanish translations of old Nazi literature. This firm is the successor to "Editorial Milicia" which was closed down by the government last September.