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HEAVY FIGHTING IN SOUTH LEBANON BETWEEN CHRISTIANS, TERRORISTS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 21 (JTA)--Heavy fighting erupted over the weekend between Christians and terrorists in southern Lebanon. Seven Lebanese Christians, including Phalangist militiamen and civilians, were admitted to the government hospital at Safad yesterday for treatment of wounds. One Phalangist died and his body was returned to Lebanon through the open fence.

The battle raged around the Christian village of Klea which came under terrorist artillery and mortar fire from two sides. Several shells scored direct hits on the village. The terrorists were entrenched on the bend of the Litani River north of Klea and in Fatahland to the east where they are said to have massed Russian-made artillery. Christians who passed through the open fence Saturday said that many Moslems in Klea had joined in the fight against the terrorists.

Defense Minister Shimon Peres said at yesterday's Cabinet meeting that there was no truth to reports that Syrian forces have returned to southern Lebanon after evacuating Nabatiyeh village a week ago. Meanwhile, the first direct bus line linking Israel with southern Lebanon started service yesterday. It will carry Maronite Christians between Haifa and Klea and will also be available for Lebanese workers employed in Israel.

CONGRESS URGED TO ENACT WILLIAMS- PROXMIRE BILL TO COMBAT BOYCOTT By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 (JTA)--Major American Jewish organizations urged today "swift enactment" by Congress of the Williams-Proxmire bill to combat the Arab boycott of Israel where it involves American companies doing business with that country.

In prepared testimony to the Senate Subcommittee on International Finance which held the first of its three hearings on pending anti-boycott legislation, the Jewish groups said the measure offered by Sens. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) and Harrison A. Williams Jr. (D-NJ) is the one "most capable of shielding the U.S. from devious foreign economic pressures, threats of intimidation and religious discrimination."

The statement was presented by Maxwell E. Greenberg, chairman of the national executive committee of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Associated with the ADL in the testimony are the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress and other constituent agencies of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council.

In addition to the Williams-Proxmire bill, the subcommittee is considering anti-boycott legislation proposed by Sen. Adlai Stevenson (D-Ill.). Stevenson is chairman of the subcommittee and Proxmire is chairman of the Senate Banking Committee of which the subcommittee is a part. Greenberg described both bills as "strong, yet reasoned responses to the boycott's demonstrable intrusion upon America's commercial life." But he said the Williams-Proxmire measure was preferable because of its treatment of certificates

of origin.

Greenberg said the Stevenson bill permits "negative" certificates of origin which require American exporters, banks, freight forwarders and others to certify that goods being shipped to Arab countries are not of Israeli origin. The Williams-Proxmire bill prohibits such certificates. Instead, it allows "positive" certificates of origin "a common foreign trade practice" that calls for an affirmative statement naming the country of origin or manufacture.

Lawmakers State Their Views

Proxmire said at the opening of the hearings that he did not "question the authority of the Arab nations to refuse to do business with Israel" but that he did "object to the Arab nations using their power to dictate the terms of trade to American firms." Williams said "American businessmen must have freedom of choice as to their commercial relationships any place in the world, especially at home."

Stevenson, advocating his proposal, cautioned that "While we seek to protect American sovereignty, we must recognize the sovereignty of others." He urged the U.S. not to "signal ill will to friends or take any action to end the boycott which will perpetuate it or retard the feeble movement toward peace in the Middle East."

Business Execs Oppose Anti-Boycott Bills

A number of business executives appeared to testify against any anti-boycott legislation. William R. Needham, vice-president of Black and Veatch International, who represented the American Consulting Engineers Council, noted that President Carter is making "a major diplomatic effort at this very moment towards a Middle East peace settlement" and that Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, who will testify before the subcommittee Feb. 28, has conveyed invitations from the President to Middle East leaders to visit Washington.

"It would be unfortunate indeed if the U.S. Congress were to pass legislation directed specifically against the Arab nations at a time when the executive branch of the government is seeking to reconcile opposing views," Needham said. He warned that "the anti-boycott legislation which is before this committee would have a chilling effect on American business development in the Middle East and have the practical effect of diverting that business to other nations."

VANCE LEAVES IMPRESSION THAT MONTHS AHEAD WILL BE A PERIOD OF INTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN THE MIDEAST

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 21 (JTA)--Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance headed back to the U.S. today after his one-week, six-nation swing through the Middle East. He left the clear impression here--and apparently also in the Arab states--that the months ahead will be a time of intensive diplomacy aimed at getting Middle East peace talks underway before the end of the year.

The American time-table is beginning to take

shape. Vance came to the Middle East with invitations from President Carter to the heads of state in the region to visit him in Washington during March and April. Premier Yitzhak Rabin, or possibly his successor, is expected to go to the U.S. before the middle of March, to be followed by a succession of Arab leaders. The avowed purpose of these meetings with Carter is to expedite the negotiating process.

Vance spoke here of a "Geneva-type" conferences to convene next fall. Asked what he meant by "Geneva-type," he replied, "You can call it what you want." He appeared to be saying that what matters is the substance of talks, not their form. But observers here believe the Secretary's choice of the phrase "Geneva-type" reflected his strategy for dealing with the single major obstacle in the way of Middle East peace talks--the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

If the meeting is a "Geneva type" gathering rather than a resumption of the Geneva conference that briefly convened in Dec. 1973, Israel may be more amenable to some form of PLO presence, the observers said. In Cairo over the weekend, Vance welcomed President Anwar Sadat's latest remarks favoring a Jordan-PLO link-up before the Geneva talks are resumed as a possible means of bridging the gap between Israel and the Arab states over PLO participation.

Vance is believed to feel that since Israel has always insisted on a West Bank settlement within the framework of negotiations with Jordan, it could not object to Sadat's proposal.

Israeli Reaction Is Ambivalent

Israeli reaction has been ambivalent. On one hand, the involvement of Jordan would appear to negate the Oct. 1974 Arab summit decision at Rabat which designated the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians. At the same time, however, the feeling here is that Vance seems to be ignoring Israel's unqualified opposition to the establishment of a third state between itself and the Hashemite Kingdom.

Israel fears that such a state, even if linked somehow to Jordan, would be an irritant force seeking to expand at the expense of both of its neighbors. Israel would like to see the Palestinian problem settled by the creation of a Jordanian-Palestinian state with which it would establish secure, recognized boundaries.

These differences could become a source of future friction between Israel and the U.S., sources here acknowledged. For the time being, however, Vance reiterated several times during his brief stay in Israel that as long as the PLO refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist and does not accept Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, it cannot be a partner to the peace-making process.

U.S. Will Honor Political Commitments

These matters were discussed at yesterday's Cabinet meeting. Rabin stressed that relations with the U.S. remain firm and unchanged. He said Vance had given him to understand that the Carter Administration would honor all political commitments made to Israel by the Ford Administration.

The Premier played down Carter's reversal last week of President Ford's promise to supply Israel with concussion bombs. He said Israel should not regard that move as a test of relations between the two countries and stressed that con-

tinued understanding on the basic issues was the most important aspect of relations with Washington. American policy continues to regard a strong Israel as a precondition for any settlement, he said, and disclosed that in his talks with Vance he had mentioned the possibility of supplying Israel with an alternative to the concussion bombs.

Similarly, Rabin said U.S. opposition to the sale of Israel-made Kfir jet interceptors to Ecuador did not indicate a hardening of policy toward Israel. He said that and the refusal of concussion bombs reflected the new moral tone in American policy since the Carter Administration took office. Rabin said that Israel had made clear to Vance that it would not give up defensible borders. But at this stage, no maps were drawn.

Foreign Minister Yigal Allon told the Cabinet that Sadat's proposed Jordan-Palestinian linkage was a new step in the right direction. On the other hand, he conceded that Sadat was still speaking in terms of a third state.

However, Allon noted that Israel is supported by the U.S. in its opposition to a third state. He said he learned from Vance's visit that the American intention was to promote an understanding between Israel and the Arab states rather than impose a plan of its own, such as the Rogers Plan. Allon said that Vance promised that the U.S. would continue to maintain Israel's military strength.

SOVIET REFUSNIKS DEMAND TO KNOW WHY THEY ARE BEING REFUSED VISAS

NEW YORK, Feb. 21 (JTA)--More than 60 Soviet Jewish refusniks from cities throughout the Soviet Union converged today on the Presidium in Moscow and peacefully demanded to know, in writing, why they were being refused permission to emigrate and when the ban on their emigration would be lifted. It was reported by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. In addition, 150 demonstrators in 12 other cities held similar protests. Soviet authorities generally rejected the protestors' demands; the two groups reported.

The recent demonstrations, highly courageous acts in the Soviet Union, are reminiscent of protests held last October which were highlighted by KGB-inspired beatings of several activists, mass arrests and interrogations, and the leveling of criminal charges against two individuals which might have brought them five years in prison. Charges against the two--Dr. Ioisif Ahas and Boris Chernobitsky--were dropped following massive protests from the West. As in the fall protests, these demonstrations included many of the most prominent long-term refusniks.

In New York, reaction was immediate, the National Conference and Greater New York Conference reported. Thousands of telegrams supporting the demonstrators were dispatched to Soviet officials. Community groups affiliated with the Greater New York Conference asked every member of the New York Congressional delegation to communicate with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin, the State Department, other American officials, and the Soviet government, the deeply felt concern held by members of Congress for the scores of demonstrators and the thousands of Soviet Jews they represent.

**VANCE'S POSITION ON PLO CRITICIZED
AT BREIRA CONFAB; JEWISH JOURNALIST
SAYS JEWISH PRESS MUTES CONTROVERSY**
By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 (JTA)--The first national conference of Breira over the weekend heard criticism of Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance's position on the Palestine Liberation Organization and was told by an American Jewish journalist that the Jewish press in this country avoids criticism and controversy on matters relating to Israel.

The four-day Breira conference opened Saturday at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Md. and will end tomorrow. A Breira spokesman said 260 persons were in attendance. It was addressed yesterday by Edward Sheehan, a Harvard Research Fellow who has written extensively on the Middle East, and today by Robert Cohn, editor of the St. Louis Jewish Light and president of the American-Jewish Press Association.

Sheehan criticized Vance for calling for a modification of the PLO covenant before the U.S. will recognize that organization as a partner in Middle East peace talks. The PLO covenant calls for the replacement of Israel by a secular democratic state in all of Palestine.

Sheehan claimed that Vance's view "looks like a dictat." He said there was a "rough consensus" among the Arab governments in favor of an agreement with the PLO for a "limited state solution" of the Palestinian problem. He warned that a Palestinian state would be vulnerable "if it were hobbled by restrictions" and "it could be radicalized." He thought that PLO acceptance "by implication" of Security Council Resolution 242 should be sufficient for its participation in Middle East peace talks.

Sheehan described Israeli settlements on the West Bank as an "outrage" and warned that "tensions are building up for Israelis" that "will be impossible to bear." He also reiterated that Arabs should have sovereignty over Jerusalem.

Press Should Deal With Options

Cohn said that "It is not up to the American Jewish community from afar to dictate terms to those who have to face Arab bullets" and Arab propaganda "but there is no reason why the pages of our newspapers as well as our magazines cannot deal with the various options which might be available to Israel as it seeks the long wanted peace with its Arab neighbors."

He stated that "It is hard to imagine, but some of the very same Jewish leaders who express outrage at the controlled press in Moscow or Peking and who defend the rights of publishers in the general press in America, are content with a Jewish press which is even less free to comment on controversy than the Peking Peoples Daily." Cohn said that on the subject of Israel, the American-Jewish press "generally adhered to the policy of after-the-fact endorsement of the decision of the ruling coalition (in Israel) to an even greater extent than the Jerusalem Post."

Cohn said that he believed that the aim of Breira was "to provide a forum for the intelligent discussion of alternatives" for Israel and deplored "the over-reaction of the Jewish establishment to the existence and activities of Breira." Breira has advocated Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation and has frequently criticized policies of the Israeli government and the Zionist establishment.

Cohn said his interpretation of what Breira set out to accomplish was "to provide a forum for the intelligent discussion of alternatives." He said he does "not question either the sincerity or Jewish loyalty" of Breira members and that the "over-reaction of the Jewish establishment to the existence and activities of Breira is akin to using an elephant gun against a flea." This, he added, "has resulted in a needless waste of energy on the part of those attacking Breira and on the part of Breira itself which has to devote too much of its own creative energies these days to defending itself."

The Breira conference was picketed by a group of militant Jewish youths, some of whom entered the lobby of the 4-H Center shouting "There is no Palestine" and "Am Yisroel Chai." Tables were overturned and Breira leaflets were strewn on the floor along with leaflets brought by the demonstrators that included some attributed to the Jewish Defense League. The demonstrators left the building when Montgomery County police arrived but continued outside to picket and shout slogans for about two hours. There were no arrests and no injuries were reported.

**HEW OFFICIAL SAYS FEDERAL FUNDS MAY
HAVE BEEN USED BY BUTZ FOR RESEARCH**

NEW YORK, Feb. 21 (JTA)--The United States Commissioner of Education has been ordered to ascertain whether federal funds were utilized by Prof. Arthur Butz of Northwestern University while doing research for his book exculpating Nazi guilt for the murder of six million Jews. Bernard Backer, president of The Workmen's Circle, was advised by Albert T. Hamlin, acting director of the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW).

In a communication replying to a Jan. 29 request by The Workmen's Circle that HEW Secretary Joseph Califano investigate whether Butz had utilized federal funds, Hamlin informed Backer that he had requested Dr. Ernest Boyer, Commissioner of Education, to probe whether any violations of the civil rights law have been violated. "It is possible that federal funds may have been utilized in the research to which you refer," Hamlin wrote Backer.

ISRAELIS BEAT RUSSIAN HOOPSTERS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 21 (JTA)--Israel went wild after the Tel Aviv Maccabi basketball team's surprise 91-79 victory over the Soviet Union's champion Moscow team. The game was broadcast live from Belgium Feb. 17 during which time the streets of Israel's major cities were almost empty. But as soon as the game ended, shortly before midnight, the streets erupted with people cheering and dancing and the sound of automobile horns. The victory assures Israel of a spot in the European Cup finals.

Premier Yitzhak Rabin led a list of ministers, Knesset members and others who cabled congratulations to the team. MKs Yosef Sarid of Labor and Ehud Ulmer of Likud said the Israeli sports award should go to American-born Tal Brodie, who is the captain of the Israeli team. They noted that Brodie is an example of a new immigrant who remained in Israel after the eighth Maccabiah, married and has built a home here. The Soviet radio broadcast the results of the game but its listeners were told that the Russian team had lost to the Italians.

IMPACT OF REPORT THAT CIA PAID HUSSEIN FOR 20 YEARS BEING ASSESSED

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 (JTA)--The reported Central Intelligence Agency's secret annual payments for 20 years to Jordan's King Hussein raised questions here on the extent of the impact the allegation will have on the multi-national attempts to set Arab-Israeli negotiations in motion. A related question is whether a political motive was behind the leaking of the allegation to The Washington Post so that it would become public last Friday on the very day Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance was to visit Hussein in Amman on his fact-finding tour in the Middle East.

At the White House, presidential news secretary Jody Powell said Friday the Administration policy is not to comment--not to confirm nor to deny--alleged covert stories because if it did the "operation in question no longer would be covert." Neither Vance nor the State Department would discuss the matter at all.

Inasmuch as the Jordanian government immediately denied the allegation that Hussein received millions of dollars from the U.S. to help CIA intelligence activities in his country until President Carter stopped the payments a few days ago, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency asked Powell whether the non-committal U.S. position did not put a cloud over Hussein. Powell said he could not offer an assessment of its impact on the initiatives to bring Israelis and Arabs to a conference table.

Hussein's Role May Be Jeopardized

Some informed sources felt that Hussein will now be inhibited against supporting any U.S.-backed initiative in the Mideast and that no worse result would ensue. Diplomatic sources, however, saw much damage both to the Hussein and Carter Administration in the Mideast that would weaken U.S. efforts towards reaching a negotiating stage.

At the Capitol, Congressional sources feared Hussein's throne may be in jeopardy. They wondered whether the leaking of the information to the Post was not designed to embarrass both the Administration and the King and give the Palestine Liberation Organization an opportunity to challenge Hussein again. "It smells badly," one source said, referring to the timing of the leak and its prominence on the front page.

While Powell would not commit the Administration on the allegation, he pointed out that Hussein is "an outstanding national leader" and that he and his government have "played a constructive role in reducing tensions in the Middle East."

ISRAEL BONDS LAUNCHES 1977 DRIVE

MIAMI BEACH, Feb. 21 (JTA)--Five hundred Jewish leaders from the United States and Canada launched the 1977 Israel Bond Drive Saturday night at the Fontainebleau Hotel here with the enrollment of nearly 100 Prime Minister's Club members after hearing former Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan warn of the danger facing his country and urge continued support from the American Jewish community.

Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, announced individual purchases ranging from \$10,000 to \$500,000 at the dinner dedicated to members of the Israel Prime Minister's Club and the Ambassador's Society of Trustees. Michael Arnon, president of the Israel Bond Organization, said the enrollment was sub-

stantially in excess of what it was last year.

Dayan warned that Israel will have to withstand very heavy pressures to give up territory in any forthcoming negotiations. He said "I think the Arab countries want peace. They have to have peace, but they want to have peace on their own terms. It's a great Jewish victory that after four wars now the Arabs have learned they must make peace with us." He said Israel's leaders must "decide now whether we are going to stay on the Golan Heights, the West Bank, Sharm el-Sheikh."

Referring to the coming elections in Israel, Dayan said the decision must now be made by the young generation of Israelis if they want to give back any territory. He called for the youth of Israel to take the reigns of leadership. He said he was looking forward to the upcoming elections because it would give the Israeli youth the opportunity to take responsibility.

Urging the continued support of the American Jewish community, Dayan said "the leaders of the Jewish community around the world, like you now here in Miami, can help us to be strong as a rock. We must not compromise on the Jewish dream. We didn't go to Israel to establish a state for King Hussein or for Yasser Arafat."

RABBI ISRAEL ALTER DEAD AT 82

JERUSALEM, Feb. 21 (JTA)--Some 50,000 persons attended the funeral service yesterday of the Hasidic Rabbi of Gur, Rabbi Israel Alter, who died here yesterday at the age of 82. The stream of people followed the rabbi's bier from the Orthodox Geula quarter through East Jerusalem to the burial site on the Mount of Olives. At the rabbi's request there were no eulogies.

Alter headed the largest Hasidic sect in Israel, with branches in New York City, London, Antwerp and other cities with Orthodox Jews. His followers, numbering in the tens of thousands, were, however, the decimated remnants of what had been the largest Hasidic movement in pre-Hitler Europe.

The rabbi's first wife, children and grandchildren were killed by the Nazis. Alter, his aged father and some other members of the family managed to escape. The rabbi remarried but had no children with his second wife. Sources close to the Gur establishment said today that no last testament has been found signed by Alter designating a successor.

Alter built an ultra-modern "beit midrash" and home in one of Jerusalem's Orthodox quarters, and this served as the focal point for his bearded, black-clad followers who can be seen in their distinctive garb in all of Israel's main towns. As behind-the-scenes head of the Aguda Party, Alter exercised considerable indirect influence in Israeli politics, though this waned in his later years when he became more secluded and less involved in general affairs.

He was consulted on personal, financial and other problems by Jews of all shades of Orthodoxy and all walks of life. Twice a day he would receive people--and the long queues always represented a cross-section of Israeli society--alongside the "regulars"--the bearded Hasidim. Alter was famed for his razor-sharp wit and penetrating mind. (By David Landau)

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Willy Brandt, West Germany's former Chancellor and Social Democratic leader, arrived Monday at the head of a delegation to the Labor Party conference which opens here Tuesday.