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EGYPT ASKING U.S. TO DELIVER 250 WARPLANES OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 29 (JTA)--The Egyptian government is asking the United States for 250 F-5 E planes for delivery over the next five years, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed today by Capitol Hill sources. In addition Egypt seeks 12 Hercules transport aircraft, ground-to-air missiles and electronic equipment on the basis that she needs "defensive" strength from the U.S. to offset the break in the arms pipeline from the Soviet Union.

According to these sources, Saudi Arabia would pay the U.S. for the warplanes that are estimated as valued at about \$10 million each, which would make the total cost approximately \$2.5 billion, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat has said at least three times to American correspondents in the past few days that he will seek "defensive" equipment from the U.S. when he visits President Carter here April 4-5.

The Capitol sources pointed out that the five planes sold to Saudi Arabia have been redesigned to fire Maverick missiles which makes the plane an offensive aircraft. The question that is being posed is whether the U.S. will do the same for Egypt. It is felt that Egypt will get military equipment from the U.S. following Sadat's visit.

Seeking Economic Support

Sadat has also said he will seek economic support of \$5-10 billion in U.S. credits. That the U.S. will also help Egypt economically is indicated by the supplemental appropriation approved by the House of Representatives for the State Department to build during this fiscal year three apartment buildings in Cairo, each with 36 units, for personnel of the Department and the Agency for International Development (AID). Housing is short in Cairo and apartments are needed for the U.S. personnel who will be engaged in the growing American economic programs in Egypt.

The cost for the land design and construction of the buildings is estimated at \$24 million. This money will come from the \$280 million in Egyptian currency which the U.S. has accumulated in Cairo under the Food for Peace program. Agreements under this program call for the U.S. to supply agricultural commodities to Egypt at concessional rates and Egypt in turn pays for them in Egyptian funds for use on projects in Egypt.

Meanwhile the White House disclosed that it has cleared more than \$2 billion in U.S. military sales. Most of this, the State Department later reported, is primarily for military construction projects. Saudi Arabia is engaged in a vast program of military construction including air fields, deep water ports, and military housing.

In addition, the State Department said, the White House is considering \$1.6 billion in other military sales which will be announced shortly. Specific details on both categories were not made public.

BALL WARNS THAT WITHOUT DECISIVE U.S. INITIATIVE IN MIDEAST CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES LOOM

By William Saphire

NEW YORK, March 29 (JTA)--George W. Ball, who served as U.S. Undersecretary of State from 1961-1966 and Ambassador to the United Nations in 1968, has warned that without "a decisive American initiative" that will set forth the framework, if not the details, of a peace settlement, the Middle East impasse will not be broken and the Geneva Conference will "disintegrate" with catastrophic consequences for all nations in the Middle East and probably for the entire world.

Ball stated his views in a lengthy article titled "How To Save Israel In Spite Of Himself" published in the April edition of Foreign Affairs Quarterly. "The question," he wrote, "is no longer whether the United States should contribute to assuring Israel's survival and prosperity; that goes without saying. It is rather how we Americans, in approaching the problems of the Middle East, can best fulfill our responsibilities, not only to Israel and to ourselves, but also to peoples all over the world whose well-being could be seriously endangered by further conflict" in the Middle East.

Ball envisioned an American initiative grounded in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He stated his belief that the final settlement must contain Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories it captured in 1967 in exchange for full recognition and normal relations with its neighbors. He saw the creation of a West Bank Palestinian state and a negotiated solution of the conflict over Jerusalem as essentials of a final settlement.

Ball viewed the Geneva Conference as the most likely instrumentality for achieving a full peace settlement. He warned, however, that "The parties will never come anywhere near agreement by the traditional processes of diplomatic haggling unless the United States first defines the terms of that agreement, relates them to established international principles, and makes clear that America's continued involvement in the area depends upon acceptance by both sides of the terms it prescribes."

According to Ball "assertive United States diplomacy" is required because "The relatively impotent governments in the key Arab countries and in Israel will never by themselves be able to devise a compromise solution" and because "there is by no means a unanimous desire for peace on either the Arab or Israeli side."

Difficulties U.S. Faces

The former diplomat acknowledged the serious domestic political difficulties the U.S. government would face if it took initiatives that were unpalatable to many on both sides of the Middle East conflict. "Because many articulate Americans are passionately committed to Israel, the slightest challenge to any aspect of current Israeli policy is likely to provoke a shrill ad hominem response," he wrote.

"To suggest that America should take a stronger and more assertive line in the search for Middle East peace is to risk being attacked as a servant of either Arab interests or of the oil companies, or

being denounced as anti-Israel, or, by a careless confusion of language, even condemned as anti-Semitic."

Nevertheless, he asserted, "Our President must take the political heat from powerful and articulate pro-Israel domestic groups. It means that as a nation we must be prepared to accept abuse and blame from both sides, permitting local politicians to save their own skins by attacking American arrogance and imperialism."

Israel's Requirements Stated

Ball acknowledged that "For her own security, Israel can accept nothing less than an unequivocal Arab commitment to peace and full recognition together with adequate safeguards; yet in view of the primacy of the issue in Arab politics, leaders of the key Arab nations can give no such commitments without the assurance of an Israeli withdrawal from the territories she seized in 1967."

In that connection, Ball wrote, "Our country must make crystal clear to the more moderate Arab states — Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt and Jordan — that it will use its leverage in the search for peace but not unless those states make clear their acceptance of Israel's sovereignty. At the same time, Israel must be made to understand that a continuance of the present state-mate is more dangerous than the concessions required for peace."

The writer was critical of "some" Israeli politicians who "wish to avoid any negotiation in the wishful hope that Israel will be able to hang on permanently to the territories she seized in 1967, consolidating her hold by establishing permanent settlements — or as it is cynically put, 'creating new facts' and other politicians 'who shun a negotiation that would require them to take unpopular decisions.'"

U.S., Israeli Stakes

According to Ball, "The national decision Americans must make is quite clear: It is not whether we should try to force an unpalatable peace on the Israeli people, but rather how much longer we should continue to pour assistance into Israel to support policies that impede progress toward peace and thus accentuate the possibility of war, with all the dangers that that holds not only for Israel but for the United States and the other industrialized democracies of Western Europe and Japan."

"The unhappy dilemma of Israel is that, so long as she refuses to give up the territorial gains from her 1967 conquest and thus prevents possible progress toward peace, she must continue to remain a ward of the United States. With her economy already overstretched, Israel could not maintain anything like her present level of military capability without the continued infusion of something approaching \$2 billion a year from the American treasury, to say nothing of the generosity of the American Jewish community under provisions in the American tax laws and regulations that facilitate such contributions," Ball wrote.

He rejected the argument by some Israelis that only Israelis are competent to judge what they require for their own security. The premise is faulty, he said "since it assumes that the Arab-Israeli conflict is merely a parochial affair engaging the interests of only the direct participants — as though, in other words — the area were hermetically sealed off from the rest of the world."

Rejects Gunboat Peace

Ball denied that he was "proposing to impose peace with gunboats." He wrote "What I am proposing is not that the United States lay down arbitrary terms of peace but that it insist that both sides carry out the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 (affirmed in Resolution 338) which so far neither side has been willing to do."

His formula included explicit recognition of 'Israel as a sovereign Jewish State by her neighbors; freedom of navigation for Israeli ships through all international waterways, secured by a continued Israeli presence at Sharm el-Sheikh at the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba; demilitarization of the Golan Heights after Israeli withdrawal; buffer zones policed by neutral forces; the creation of a Palestinian state on the West Bank with an Arab commitment to discourage acts of violence or terrorism against Israel.

"The principal powers supporting the proposal — the United States, Great Britain, France and, one may hope, the Soviet Union — would guarantee to both sides the inviolability of the boundaries as finally determined," Ball wrote. "In addition, we should seek agreement with the guaranteeing powers to limit the flow of arms to both sides."

With respect to the administrative control of Jerusalem, "a subject which both sides wrap in abstractions such as sovereignty and contend is non-negotiable," Ball saw "many possible solutions ranging from internationalization to a condominium, to various Vatican and cantonal-type solutions; yet I see no way in which the parties can ever by themselves agree to select one or another unless the United States first incorporates a specific proposal in a plan that is part of an entire package," he wrote. Ball is currently a partner in Lehman Brothers in New York.

CANADIAN GROUPS TO HELP WITH ALIYA, ABSORPTION IN ISRAEL

MONTREAL, March 29 (JTA)—The Hadassah-WIZO Organization of Canada is setting up an aliya and kllita desk in Israel in conjunction with the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel to help the absorption of Canadian olim. Mrs. Charles Balinsky, national president of Hadassah-WIZO, in announcing the new program at the Canadian group's recent National Executive meeting, said a similar desk will be set up in Canada in conjunction with the Canadian Zionist Federation to provide information for Hadassah-WIZO members considering aliya.

Mrs. Balinsky stressed the priority that must be given to aliya. "There are simply not enough people in Israel to do what must be done," she said. "Only greater aliya can ensure the future." She also announced that the Canadian Hadassah-WIZO plans to open a community center in Jaffa in memory of the late Rose Kanee and a day care center at the Asaf Harofe Hospital near Tel Aviv to serve the children of nurses, social workers and others on the hospital staff.

Mordechai Shalev, Israel's Ambassador to Canada, told the meeting that Israel is willing to take any road to peace as long as it will not compromise her existence. He said peace negotiations have been stalled since the last Sinai agreement but now all the parties in the Middle East conflict are preparing for renewed negotiations. However, he pointed out that the Arabs are trying to create an impression that they are moderate and he found it amazing that the world is ready to believe this claim.

CITRUS GROWERS SEEKING \$12 MILLION IN DAMAGES FOR LOSSES INCURRED BY A WEEK OF STRIKES, SLOWDOWNS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 29 (JTA)--The citrus growers said today that they hold the government responsible for the losses incurred by a week of strikes and work slowdowns at Israel's three sea-ports which ended yesterday and would demand compensation in the amount of \$12 million for damaged citrus exports.

Although the dockworkers at Haifa, Ashdod and Eilat have resumed full productivity, the government has come under severe criticism for agreeing to a wage hike of 4-5 percent. The amount is only one-third of what the strikers demanded but it will be granted to all industrial workers and economists here are warning that the cure may prove to be worse than the illness. Even Treasury officials, who say the increase will not fuel inflation, are concerned that it will lead to a growing rate of unemployment because many plants will not be able to pay the higher wages.

The Israel Manufacturers Association was angered by the settlement because it granted the dockworkers a raise only five months after they had signed new wage agreements. Avraham Shavit, president of the Association, declared today that it will not countenance any changes in existing contracts. He assailed the government for indecisiveness and called on the public to "take matters into their hands to prevent the destruction of the State by incompetent handling of the economy."

The port workers will not be paid for the period they were idle or semi-idle. But they are likely to make up that loss through overtime and an enlarged work force. The Haifa Port Authority assigned extra gangs to work the docks in order to clear the backlog of cargoes before the Passover holidays which start April 2. The Ashdod Port Authority put 23 gangs to work, 16 of them loading citrus. Workers at Eilat have been back on the job since Sunday.

PASSOVER IN RUMANIA

BUCHAREST, March 29 (JTA)--Passover will be a sad event for the 700 Jewish families in this city whose homes were damaged by the March 4 earthquake. The Jewish community is mourning more than 100 dead. Many hundreds more are homeless and living temporarily with friends and relatives under precarious conditions. But there will be seders.

The Federation of Rumanian Jewish Communities, led by Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen, together with the American Joint Distribution Committee are determined to do everything possible to enable every Rumanian Jew to celebrate Passover. It was reported by a JDC spokesman here. As early as January the community received 150 tons of matzoh as well as Passover wine from Israel, sent by JDC as a gift, financed with United Jewish Appeal funds.

Part of the matzoh and wine were stored in Bucharest's Fortuna and Mamulari Synagogues. They are no longer functioning as synagogues. Both were severely damaged by the earthquake. On the morning after the disaster, the staff of the Bucharest Jewish community organization moved their Passover supplies to safe premises. Fortunately, a major part of the matzoh and wine were saved, the JDC reported.

Two of the basement rooms of the Negru Voda Nursing Home which was badly damaged, had also been used for storing matzoh. These were

quickly moved elsewhere and the two rooms were hastily converted into an emergency nursing ward for the patients from the third floor, which was unsafe and had to be evacuated.

This year as in previous years, the Rumanian Jewish Federation will distribute matzoh and Passover food parcels to over 12,000 needy Jews throughout the country. There will be communal seders for more than 1,200 persons in Bucharest and in 20 towns in the provinces. Some of the synagogues where the communal seders are usually held have been so badly damaged that they cannot be used. Makeshift premises are being readied for the purpose.

NOW, DIG THIS

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 29 (JTA)--Western interest in the archeological excavations at Tel Mardikh, northern Syria, is part of a sinister Zionist plot against the Arabs of Palestine, according to a Moscow Radio broadcast monitored here. The radio's Arabic service criticized Western newspapers for suggesting that the newly-found city of Ebla, with its archive of 15,000 cuneiform tablets, had been "since the pre-Talmud era the center of a vast Jewish empire and that the Arab states began to emerge only after that empire had declined."

The broadcast was described as a paper presented to the Palestinian-Russian society at the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Moscow by a young scientist, Valery Yemelyanov. It accused the "guardians of international Zionism" of using archaeology to show "the inevitability of the establishment of the State of Israel and the swallowing up of Palestine."

It repeated one of the hoariest myths of Arab propaganda, that the Israeli Knesset bears an inscription from the Old Testament which says "This is your land O Israel, from the great Egyptian river to the great Euphrates". However, the land of Palestine itself "even in its most ancient strata, indicates that it was not the historic homeland of the Jews," the paper said.

That was why the leaders of international Zionism were now trying to prevent the publication of the true contents of the Ebla secrets, Moscow Radio said. They had even bought the exclusive rights to publish the text which the Italian scholars had previously read in order to "falsify the information as they wish."

Continuing, the broadcast report noted that "Soviet scientists specializing in Palestinian studies were able to discover evidence which allows for the establishment of the Arab Bedouin origin of the language of Ebla..." These scientists considered it their duty "to participate actively in the struggle against Zionist falsification of scientific data, and in exposing the base ambitions of International Zionism in the Arabs' land of origin," Moscow Radio said.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Sara Hari, sister of the jailed former Kupat Holim chief Asher Yadlin, was given a six month suspended sentence and fined IL5000 Tuesday after she pleaded guilty to paying a bribe. Hari admitted that she bribed a Kupat Holim accountant, Meir Kimhi, to assign the Histadrut sick-fund's insurance to her company. Kimhi, who solicited the bribe, goes on trial in two weeks. Hari had faced up to seven years in jail but the prosecutor reduced the charges against her in view of her cooperation.

SOVIETS PRESSURE 2 VILNA ACTIVISTS TO TESTIFY AGAINST NAUM SALENSKY

NEW YORK, March 29 (JTA)--Soviet authorities are pressing two Vilna activists to testify against Naum Salensky, leader of the city's Jewish activists who may soon be brought to trial on serious criminal charges, the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry reported today.

The Lithuanian KGB accused Vladimir Drot and Vladimir Raiz, of "anti-social and anti-Soviet activities" in connection with their Jewish cultural activities and their agitation to emigrate Drot, an acoustical engineer, was accused by a KGB agent of "unlawful management of an Ulpian for Jewish history and literature". Raiz, a research biologist, was accused of "illegal management of scientific seminars". The KGB threatened the two activists with imprisonment if they refuse to testify against Salensky.

Soviet Jews have organized a series of seminars in several cities to teach themselves about Jewish life and to keep them abreast of developments in their professional fields, the Conference said. Salensky, a 45-year-old physicist with a wife and child, has been leading Vilna's key Jewish seminar in his home for several months. He is being investigated on charges of "defaming the internal policies of the USSR," which could mean three years imprisonment.

In a related development, the two activists' pregnant wives asked for permission to emigrate even if they have to leave without their husbands. Carmela Raiz and Raiza Drot made their appeals to the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Communist Party and the Lithuanian-Red Cross, according to information received by the Conference. Bronx Borough President Robert Abrams, Conference chairman, announced that some 200,000 New Yorkers are expected to march from City Hall to Battery Park on May 1 beginning 12 noon in a massive solidarity demonstration for Soviet Jewry.

PUBLIC BEACH WILL HAVE SEPARATE SECTIONS FOR MEN AND WOMEN

By Ben Gallob

LONG BEACH, N.Y., March 29 (JTA)--The only public beach with separate sections for men and women for religious reasons in the New York metropolitan area and the second in the United States has been approved by the Long Beach City Council at the request of an Orthodox rabbi and will begin functioning in May when the bathing season starts.

Rabbi Lazar Kahanow, spiritual leader of the Young Israel of Long Beach, the principal Orthodox synagogue in the area, said he had asked for such an arrangement when many Jewish residents refused to use the beaches because of mixed bathing by scantily clad men and women. He noted that such co-mingling contravened Jewish tradition.

Kahanow told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that 30,000 of Long Beach's 35,000 residents are Jews. He said four of the five members of the City Council, two of whom are Jews, voted for the special beaches on a section of the three-and-a-half miles of oceanfront.

Mode Of Separation

Kahanow said "a few hundred feet" of the oceanfront is being set aside for the two special beaches, which will be marked. Plans call for creation of sand dunes to separate the two

beaches and that, if this method does not work, a wall will be erected. He said the Long Beach Orthodox Jewish community would cover any costs involved.

City Manager Laurence Farbstein said the City Council had agreed to Kahanow's proposal because "there are groups" of Long Beach residents who are "de facto disenfranchised" from using the beaches for religious reasons, including Catholic residents.

Kahanow said he doubted that policing would be necessary. He said it was expected the signs designating the separate beaches would be heeded and that if any bather missed them and headed for the wrong section, the lifeguard could warn such a bather. Farbstein said the arrangement was informal rather than by ordinance to avoid any possible lawsuit on its constitutionality.

Kahanow said the first such separated beaches arrangement was established in Boston 40 years ago by the late Richard Cardinal Cushing. He added that Boston rabbis, including Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, one of the world's leading Orthodox scholars, had endorsed the Boston arrangement.

IMF ALARMED OVER ISRAEL'S ECONOMY

JERUSALEM, March 29 (JTA)--The International Monetary Fund (IMF) which makes loans to debtor nations has reportedly expressed alarm over the state of Israel's economy. An IMF mission that visited the country recently is expected to publish a report that will note a rising rate of inflation, an increase in private consumption and a decline of savings. The report is expected to predict that if government expenditures and the general wage level are not reduced, Israel's economy will worsen.

The Bank of Israel and Treasury officials promised the IMF mission that the necessary policies would be implemented by the new government to be elected May 17. The mission complimented the government for the success of its creeping devaluation program and the restraining monetary measures taken by the Bank of Israel. But no agreement was reached on exactly what economic programs should be adopted. Israel is anxious for a favorable report by the IMF because of its dependence on the Fund's loans.

CHAIM DAVID REGENSBURG DEAD AT 84

JERUSALEM, March 29 (JTA)--Rabbi Chaim David Regensberg, one of the world's leading Talmudic scholars, died here yesterday at the age of 84. He was born in Poland and studied at the yeshivas in Rodin, Slobotka and Lomza. After World War I he studied at the University of Giessen in Germany. Regensberg came to the United States in 1922 where he joined the staff of the Hebrew Theological College in Chicago and headed its rabbinical department. He is believed to have ordained more than 1000 rabbis. He spent almost 50 years in the U.S. before retiring in Jerusalem. He continued to conduct Talmud lessons twice a week until his death.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--A 20,000-tree forest has been dedicated near the Etzion bloc of religious settlements in memory of the late National Religious Party Welfare Minister Michael Hazani. NRP leader Yosef Burg and Jewish National Fund director general Shimon Ben-Shemesh recalled Hazani's role in developing the Etzion settlements, on the road from Jerusalem to Hebron. Hazani died in 1974. His widow unveiled the plaque and received the scroll of dedication from Ben-Shemesh.