

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS

FRANCO-ISRAEL RELATIONS ARE NORMAL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 31 (JTA)--French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud, who was conducting a round of talks with Israeli leaders here today, said that relations between Paris and Jerusalem had become "normal." De Guiringaud extended an invitation to Premier Yitzhak Rabin from French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing to visit France, hopefully before the French national holiday on July 14. Rabin accepted the invitation but no date was set.

Defense Minister Shimon Peres, after meeting with the French diplomat, said de Guiringaud told him France did not want to be a mediator in the Middle East, but like the rest of Europe was deeply interested in developments in the region. Peres said France has gotten over its enthusiasm for the Arab world which has bordered on support for the Palestine Liberation Organization and was now taking a more "guarded approach" to the Mideast.

Giscard Praises Israel

In a letter to President Ephraim Katzir, delivered today by de Guiringaud, Giscard expressed "both admiration and hope" to the people of Israel. "France knows all that Israel symbolizes in world history and culture, she knows of the courage which Israel's people demonstrated in times of trial and of their efforts invested in securing their future. My own people is full of hope that Israel will be able to flourish, together with the other peoples of the area, in security and peace."

Continuing, Giscard stated, "Circumstances did not facilitate a meeting between us at the beginning of last year." This was an apparent reference to the incident when Katzir cancelled an intended stopover in Paris because the French President refused to receive him at the Elysee.

"I want to take this opportunity to inform you that I would take pleasure in receiving you at the Elysee Palace if, in the course of your travels, you should again pass through Paris." The French leader referred to differences of outlook on the Mideast question between his government and Israel, and said that these differences made de Guiringaud's current visit all the more important.

U.S., USSR AGREE ON MIDEAST NEEDS

WASHINGTON, March 31 (JTA)--A U.S.-Soviet joint communique released in Moscow today said that "Special attention was given to the situation in the Middle East" during the three days of talks between U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Soviet leaders and that "the sides have agreed that cooperation between the U.S. and the USSR, as co-chairmen of the Geneva conference, is essential in bringing about a just and lasting peace in the area."

The communique disclosed that "An understanding was reached to hold, in the first half of May, 1977, in Geneva, a meeting between the Secretary of State of the U.S. and the Minister of For-

eign Affairs of the USSR for a thorough exchange of views on the Middle East problem, including the question of resuming the work of the Geneva conference."

WEST GERMANY PROTESTS TO ISRAEL FOR HOLDING 2 GERMAN TERRORISTS

BONN, March 31 (JTA)--The West German government lodged an official protest with Israel yesterday for failing to inform Bonn authorities that it was holding two suspected German terrorists in jail until more than a year after they were arrested. The alleged terrorists, identified as Thomas Reuter, 24, and Brigitte Schulz, 23, were captured in Nairobi, Kenya in January, 1976 in connection with a plot to blow up an El Al plane at Nairobi airport. Three Arabs are also being held by Israeli authorities on the same charges.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday that his government was not informed by Israel of the arrests of the two German nationals until March 15, two weeks ago. He said an "emphatic protest" was delivered to the Israeli Foreign Ministry following an announcement in Jerusalem yesterday that the suspects would be tried by a military court. A government spokesman said West Germany reserved the right to "take the necessary steps" in connection with the arrests, but he did not elaborate.

Israel Firm On Trying Terrorists

(The Israeli Foreign Ministry issued a statement in Jerusalem declaring that Israel stands firm on its decision to try the terrorists who are charged with planning an attack on an Israeli airliner in Nairobi "with more than 100 innocent passengers aboard." The statement acknowledged receipt of the West German protest and said, "Israel notes with regret that the international community has till now failed to find a satisfactory way to fight against Palestinian terrorist organizations and those who help them." It added that "Israel stands in the front line in this anti-terror war and will continue to defend its air routes as it has in the past.")

HOUSE ADOPTS COMPROMISE BOYCOTT LEGISLATION DESIGNED TO SOFTEN ITS IMPACT ON BOYCOTTING NATIONS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 31 (JTA)--The House International Relations Committee today adopted by a voice vote "compromise" legislation related to the Arab boycott that includes a "unilateral selection" clause designed to soften its impact on the boycotting countries and American companies doing business with them.

The clause, sought by business interests and endorsed by the White House, allows a boycotting country to select goods and components of products and subcontractors that make them for any reason as long as it does not say that selection has a boycott purpose.

The Senate Banking Committee yesterday postponed its decision on the nature of a "unilateral selection" clause after Sen. Paul Sarbanes

(D.Md.) declared that if an amendment proposed by Sen. Harrison Schmitt (R.N.M.) were adopted, "you might as well tear up this bill."

The House version places the burden on the company to determine whether the boycotting company's selection constitutes a boycotting purpose. The Senate version as presented by Sen. Adlai Stevenson (D.Ill.) provides for the boycotting company to select specific products such as tires on a tractor but not unidentified components inherently in the product such as the tractor's valves. The Schmitt amendment would allow a company in an Arab land to make its own selection of products.

Elements Of House Measure

The House legislation permits "negative" certificates of origin to continue for one year after enactment of the measure which is part of the Export Administration Act. After that it will be outlawed. The Administration reportedly wanted the negative certificates to continue on the grounds that the Arab states themselves are moving towards the "positive" certificates.

The differences are principally psychological, Congressional specialists said. The practical result is the same. Negative certificates, they said, were the most commonly visible instrument of the Arab boycott since a company had to specify that an article was not made in Israel. Under the positive certificate, a company specifies only where it is made.

In presenting the substitute language for the informal group of five Congressmen who worked on the compromise, Rep. Lee Hamilton (D.Ind.), chairman of the committee's Middle East subcommittee, said it is a "workable compromise" that resulted from intensive discussions with the White House and State and Commerce Departments.

"It tries to minimize confrontations at home and abroad," Hamilton said. He acknowledged "competing interests will prevent many groups from not fully endorsing a reasonable accommodation among groups with conflicting interests." He pointed out the bill "categorically prohibits any American person from discriminating" against persons or firms on the basis of race, religion or national origin.

It also prohibits general boycotts by U.S. firms of "friendly countries and blacklisted persons," Hamilton said. In the latter connection, he noted that a "disturbing feature of the Arab boycott is the attempt to force U.S. companies to direct their business away from Israel and blacklisted firms."

Other Conditions Cited

With Hamilton in the informal group were Reps. Benjamin Rosenthal, Jonathan Bingham and Stephen Solarz, all Democrats of New York, and Charles Whalen (R.Ohio). In his presentation to the committee, Whalen said the unilateral selection provision prohibits "the use of such selection in an instance where the U.S. person has actual knowledge that the sole purpose of the selection was to implement a boycott."

Whalen also pointed out a second provision is "a broadening of Presidential authority to grant exemptions from the anti-boycott statute's prohibition so as to include permission to comply with laws of boycotting countries." He said the latter provision is aimed "at avoiding the imposition of U.S. legal requirements on U.S. residents abroad resulting in those residents contra-

vening local laws and being kicked out or punished."

After the House vote, the Congressional specialists pointed out to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the original legislation last autumn did not permit unilateral selection of components or the naming of subcontractors by boycotting countries. The present bill, one said, represents a "considerable watering down." Another said the unilateral selection "constitutes in effect a fairly substantial loophole" for the Arab countries.

HERZOG SAYS JEWS FROM ARAB LANDS ARE PART OF MIDEAST REFUGEE PROBLEM

UNITED NATIONS, March 31 (JTA)--Ambassador Chaim Herzog of Israel submitted a letter today about the rights of Jewish refugees from Arab lands to U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young. He attached a letter from Mordecai Ben-Porat, a member of Israel's Knesset and the chairman of the World Organization of Jews from Arab Countries, who have organized themselves world-wide to press their claim against Arab governments.

Ben-Porat pointed out that Security Council Resolution 242, "put all Middle East refugees on an equal footing, and recognized that the rights of the Jewish refugees from Arab countries are in no way inferior to those of other refugees in the region."

In submitting the letter to Young, Herzog emphasized that Israel "will not at any stage consider valid any discussion of the refugee problem in the Middle East if half of that problem, the Jewish refugee problem, is ignored." He stressed that "Israel intends to press for the rights and property of our brethren who have left Arab lands. We will not agree to bias or discrimination."

ISRAELI CHILDREN'S HOPES FOR PEACE BECOME THE THEME OF STAMP SET

NEW YORK, March 31 (JTA)--The hopes of three Israeli youngsters for world peace and for the day when Arab and Israeli children will play together are the subject of three stamps just released in Israel, it was announced here by the Israel Philatelic Society. The set, entitled "Children's Drawings on Peace," shows Arab and Israeli children holding hands against the backdrop of flowers and doves. The drawings for the stamps were created by Dorit Assayahu, 13, Orit Assayahu, 11, and Tova Weisler, 13.

When the stamps were issued, the three artists signed letters written for them by the editors of "Ha'aretz Shelanu" junior newspaper and addressed to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, President Carter, Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev, King Hussein of Jordan, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Syrian President Hafez Assad. The letters, which included a set of the stamps, stated in part:

"We have worked especially hard to create these stamps to show you the great effort, or rather our great effort in Israel to bring forth peace; and bring together the Arabic and Israel people through understanding. We close with the fervent hope that the prophecy of Isaiah will come to pass: 'Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn any more....'"

NEW FACES ON HERUT KNESSET SLATE

JERUSALEM, March 31 (JTA)--The Herut faction of Likud held its internal elections this week and produced eight "new faces" to stand for election to the Knesset on May 17. At the same time, a number of Herut veterans are retiring from the Knesset of their own accord. The newcomers, who never sat in the Knesset before, are among the first 17 names on the election list. If Likud wins 40 seats--it has 39 in the outgoing Knesset--all of them are assured of election.

The best known newcomer is former Air Force Commander Gen. Ezer Weizman who was assigned the number-two spot after Herut leader Menachem Begin. Weizman served briefly as Minister of Transport in former Premier Golda Meir's "wall-to-wall" coalition government following the 1967 Six-Day War.

Other new Herut candidates include economist Yigal Cohen; Prof. Yosef Rom; former Col. Mordechai Zippori; and Ronnie Milo, a lawyer. They were assigned places between 10th and 17th on the Herut list. Haim Landau, a long-time lieutenant of Begin and Deputy Knesset Speaker Ben Zion Keshet, decided not to stand for re-election. Others, including Sephardic MK Menahem Yedid and MK Yosef Kremerman, an industrialist, were not elected by the faction's 600-member Central Committee.

It was learned, meanwhile, that Begin may not be able to participate fully in the campaign because of a heart ailment for which he was hospitalized following a tour abroad. Doctors at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv said that Begin would be discharged in about a week. But party campaign organizers said he would have to cut back on his schedule of public appearances and may not be able to speak at outdoor rallies.

Gen. (Res.) Ariel Sharon, the Yom Kippur War hero who quit Likud recently to form his own Shlomzion faction, announced that he would try to organize a new coalition embracing all political forces that oppose any Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank. But he said he would hold off until Begin leaves the hospital. Sharon is likely to try to recruit former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan who announced last week that he would not stand for re-election on the Labor Alignment ticket because of its policies on withdrawal from the West Bank.

AFTERMATH OF 'LAND DAY'

JERUSALEM, March 31 (JTA)--Israeli authorities expressed relief and satisfaction that "Land Day" passed yesterday with a minimum of trouble in Israel and relatively few serious clashes on the West Bank despite attempts by Arab activists to whip up mass sentiment against Israel. But the day was not altogether without friction.

The town council and local dignitaries of the Arab village of Baka el-Gharbiye near Hadera are demanding an investigation of alleged police brutality and five youths from the neighboring village of Jatt were arrested yesterday and will be charged with preparing explosives for sabotage purposes.

"Land Day" marked the first anniversary of Arab riots in Galilee to protest the government's expropriation of Arab lands there and to commemorate the deaths of six Israeli Arabs killed in the rioting last March 30.

Town Council Demands Action

The incident at Baka el-Gharbiye appears to have been more serious than first reported and

may have future repercussions. Police used force there to remove a roadblock of burning tires erected by local Arab youths. The town council claimed today that police entered the village without provocation and precipitated clashes with the local population in which several Arabs were injured. The communique did not mention the tire-burning incident on the village's main street.

Eye-witnesses told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the charges against the police were exaggerated. But they admitted that some policemen used force indiscriminately and several villagers were treated for injuries but none required hospitalization. Four villagers were detained for questioning.

The town council demanded their immediate release. It said it would call for a meeting of the National Committee for the Defense of the Arab Lands, a body formed last year in connection with the expropriations. It also declared a general strike for Sunday, April 17, to protest the police action. A general protest meeting of Israeli Arabs was held yesterday in Arrabe village, not Baka el-Gharbiye as reported.

RABIN CONGRATULATES DESAI

JERUSALEM, March 31 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin today congratulated India's new Prime Minister, Morarji Desai, on his election. "Sincere congratulations and best wishes," Rabin wrote in a cable. "I look forward to deepened and more meaningful relations between our two countries."

Meanwhile, news agency reports from Delhi quote India's new Foreign Minister predicting no change in his country's stance on the Mideast conflict. At the press conference, the Minister reportedly upheld the Indira Gandhi administration's adherence to United Nations General Assembly resolutions and urged total Israeli withdrawal and granting the Palestinians their "legitimate rights."

Observers in Jerusalem do not believe the elections in India will lead to any marked change in the coolness between the two countries. There have never been full diplomatic relations, and India has no representation whatever in Israel. Israel has a consulate in Bombay, which generally keeps a low profile.

IRVING RHODES DEAD AT 76

MILWAUKEE, March 31 (JTA)--Funeral services were held here today for Irving Rhodes, co-founder of the Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle, who died Tuesday of an apparent heart attack. The services were held at Congregation Emanu-El B'nai Jeshurun. He was 76. Rhodes, who came to the United States from Poland as a youth, founded the Jewish weekly with his friend, the late Nathan Gould, with whom Rhodes was co-publisher until Gould died in 1945. Rhodes was co-publisher and publisher for more than 50 years. In 1973, he sold the weekly to the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. He was a founder of the American Jewish Press Association.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the UN received this week a greeting card from the Lebanese Christian community in the U.S., wishing him a happy Passover and expressing their gratitude for being "the only delegate" to present their cause at the UN during the civil war in Lebanon.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW**LEARNING HEBREW FROM AFAR**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 31 (JTA)--The Hebrew Language Division of the World Zionist Organization conducts correspondence courses with thousands of persons all over the world who are interested in learning Hebrew at the conversational level or to gain admission to institutions of higher learning in Israel. According to Ben-Zion Fischler, director of the division, a large number of correspondents are non-Jews.

Fischler told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he recently received a letter from Marco Esquivel Dias, a high school student in La Laguna Canary Islands, who wanted to study Hebrew. "I don't have money but I offer you my friendship," the youngster wrote. Fischler replied immediately and directed him to appropriate books for beginners. He said he has received similar letters recently from an Eskimo teacher, a Navy chaplain in Hong Kong and an inmate in a U.S. prison.

Fischler said that religious interests often motivate non-Jews to learn Hebrew. In some cases the student is interested in Semitic languages or in the Middle East generally. But most often, the reason given is admiration for Israel, Fischler said.

For those who can afford the moderate cost, the WZO offers the Ktav-Kol system of written lessons and tape cassettes prepared by the Hebrew Language Division. They are available at \$65 and should be sent for in care of POB 92, Jerusalem. According to Fischler, a student who spends a few hours a week on the lessons can achieve a conversational level in Hebrew within five months.

Preparing For 'Jerusalem Examination'

There is a more elaborate and somewhat more expensive text-and-cassette system called the "floating cassette," Fischler explained that this enables the student to communicate with his tutor in Jerusalem to ask questions and receive answers. The cassettes are exchanged through the mails. The course consists of 20 recorded hours featuring as many as 1000 words, conversations, grammar and literary texts.

On the highest level, the Hebrew Language Division offers a correspondence course aimed at preparing the student for the "Jerusalem Examination." Those who pass the examination are eligible for admission to any of Israel's universities without taking a Hebrew entrance examination, provided that their other qualifications meet university standards.

The course was developed in conjunction with the Hebrew University's Center for Jewish Education in Diaspora and consists of written texts only. It covers the Hebrew language, Israeli culture and Judaism and the student may choose between secular and religious-oriented courses.

Fischler said it required about two years for a diligent student to achieve the proficiency needed to pass the Jerusalem Examination. He noted that this examination is becoming the recognized certificate of mastery of the Hebrew language and as a consequence, the WZO's Hebrew Language Division is becoming the world-wide center for Hebrew studies abroad. Every application arriving in Israel for Hebrew study material is referred to the division, he said.

Fischler recently completed a booklet listing

about 500 universities all over the world that have Hebrew language departments. They are located in, among other places, Warsaw, Hungary, East Berlin, Niger, South Korea, Hong Kong, Zaire, and Sierra Leone. Fischler said that to date no Hebrew courses are known to be given at any Soviet university, or, at least no Soviet university has had any contact with the Hebrew Language Division in Jerusalem.

Apart from offering correspondence courses and advice, the division is helpful in sending Hebrew teachers abroad. The division also arranges special courses in Israel for foreign teachers of Hebrew who want to improve their methods of instruction or their knowledge of the language. Often Hebrew teachers abroad can speak Biblical Hebrew but know nothing of modern Hebrew, Fischler said. He recalled that on a visit to South Africa, a Hebrew teacher greeted him with the words, "Yom Tov Mar Fischler" (Good Day, Mr. Fischler), apparently unaware that the common greeting in Israel is "Shalom."

JERUSALEM PAINTING CONTEST

WASHINGTON, March 31 (JTA)--The "American Teacher," the official publication of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, prominently displays in its current issue an announcement that children aged 7 to 14 from all countries have been invited to submit paintings that portray their image of Jerusalem.

The painting competition, the American Teacher noted, is in celebration of the 10th anniversary of Jerusalem's reunification and is under the patronage of Jerusalem's Mayor, Teddy Kollek, and in cooperation with various organizations and ministries in Israel.

Entries from the United States, the item said, may be sent to the Israel Ministry of Tourism, Bank Leumi, or El Al offices. The deadline is April 7. Six winners will be awarded a flight to Israel for one child for one week. Other awards also will be distributed, the American Teacher said.

YOM HAATZMAUT FETE WILL BE APRIL 20

NEW YORK, March 31 (JTA)--American Jewry will launch its celebration of Israel's 29th Independence Day with an official Yom Haatzmaut gathering at New York's Avery Fisher Hall April 20. At that time, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Simcha Dinitz, will deliver a special message to the American community. This was announced jointly by Mrs. Faye Schenk, president of the American Zionist Federation, and Mrs. Sarah Shane, president of American Mizrahi Women and chairperson of the AZF Israel Independence Day Committee.

The celebration will also feature "Anachnu Kan" (We Are Here) in a program of song and dance by some 100 Soviet Jewish artists who have emigrated to Israel in recent years. "The program choice," according to Mrs. Shane, "is designed to underscore the achievements of Russian Jews and others who have made aliya and who have been integrated into the mainstream of Israel's cultural life."

In addition to sponsoring an official celebration, the American Zionist Federation has this year issued a call to Jewish organizations, schools and synagogues to note Israel's Independence Day through special observances.