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ISRAELI AFFIRM THAT NO SYRIAN FORCES ARE INVOLVED IN BATTLES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

By Gil Sedar

JERUSALEM, April 6 (JTA)--Well informed Israeli sources affirmed today that no Syrian forces are involved in the current fighting between Palestinian Moslems and right-wing Christians in southern Lebanon. They said the offensive against Christian strongholds was being carried out by units of El Fatah recruited for the purpose by the Palestinians.

Yesterday they recaptured Taibe village which had been taken earlier by the Christians in a move that threatened Moslem positions at Bint' Jebel. Fighting continued today in the Taibe region and the Palestinians seem determined to destroy Christian strength once and for all in southern Lebanon, the Israeli sources said. Christian sources admitted that their situation was deteriorating.

The intensity of the fighting was evident at the open fence along the Israeli-Lebanese border. Most Lebanese workers did not show up at their jobs in Israel today and traffic through the fence gap was minimal. Two wounded Maronite Christian soldiers died at an Israeli hospital yesterday and their remains were returned to Lebanon today through the open fence.

Israeli sources said that while the Syrians presently support the Palestinians against whom they fought bitterly only a few months ago, they are keeping a low profile in the present fighting in order to avoid a confrontation with Israel. The Syrians have refrained so far from sending Al Saïqa, a terrorist organization controlled by Damascus, into battle against the Christians. One reason, the Israeli sources said, is the success the Palestinians have achieved so far on their own.

LEGAL MOVE TO PRECLUDE WAR CRIMINAL'S EXTRADITION TO ISRAEL

AMSTERDAM, April 6 (JTA)--Lawyers for convicted Nazi war criminal Lambertus Johannes Loyaen may withdraw their appeal to the Supreme Court to void the life sentence recently pronounced on Loyaen for crimes committed in the Bobruisk concentration camp for Jews in White Russia in 1942. The reversal of the defense tactics is under consideration in order to preclude Loyaen's extradition to Israel, sources here said.

The appeal asked the Supreme Court to declare the Roermond District Court where Loyaen was convicted incompetent. It was based on the fact that Loyaen lost his Dutch citizenship by serving in the Nazi SS. His lawyers fear that if their appeal is upheld, Loyaen, no longer a citizen, could be extradited. Israel had requested extradition before the trial began.

Pieter Menten, the millionaire art dealer now on trial for alleged war crimes committed when he served with an SS unit in Poland during World War II, also claims that he is no longer a Dutch citizen. But the Swiss government, which returned him to Holland after he fled to avoid arrest last December, did so on the promise of Dutch authorities not to extradite Menten to another country.

SADAT SAYS HE 'ACCEPTED' STATE OF ISRAEL, NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS, BUT HEDGES ON IMPLEMENTATION Insists On Palestinian State, Inclusion Of Palestinians In Geneva Conference By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 6 (JTA)--Egyptian President Anwar Sadat said today he "accepted" the State of Israel and "normalization" of relations between Egypt and Israel, but he hedged these remarks by saying he will not trade with Israel nor start cultural relations by allowing Israeli and Egyptian journalists to visit each other's country.

Sadat also emphasized at a news conference that the Palestinians must be included in the peace process at Geneva. He said "a Palestinian state" must be founded. The Palestinian state, he said, is to consist of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and a "corridor through Israel" between them.

Sadat, who ruled out step-by-step diplomacy in favor of an overall settlement, said he has asked President Carter "to put some pressure on the Israelis" towards "establishing permanent peace." When he was asked if he had the impression Carter was ready to begin a dialogue with the Palestinians, the Egyptian President replied: "I really felt President Carter and his Administration are giving the utmost importance for solving--giving priority to this problem and convening Geneva this year."

This comment appeared to conflict with the report over Cairo radio that Carter had agreed to a separate state for the Palestinians and that they must be represented in Geneva. Cairo radio attributed the report to an Egyptian correspondent travelling with Sadat.

The news conference held at Blair House was the final highlight of Sadat's three-day visit to Washington. Unlike the news conference he held 18 months ago at the Blair House, the guest house for visitors to the President, this conference was open to all correspondents. The Israeli and American Jewish press were admitted and raised questions.

U.S.-Palestinian Dialogue Important

Sadat said that he had the impression "especially (after Carter) having declared a homeland" for the Palestinians that a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue "will be of great importance for Carter when he starts formulating his policy" following his talks with other Arab leaders. Sadat was the first of the heads of five Arab countries with which Carter is to meet over the next eight weeks. Leaders of Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia also will be conferring with the President.

The Egyptian said that meanwhile "preparations" should start for the "certain activities" that he said will take place after Carter's meetings with the other Arab leaders. "The most important thing," he said, "is that I have full confidence in Carter" and that "the main party" for such "fruitful preparation" is the United States.

Sadat said that he and Carter discussed the question of Israel's borders, including "recipro-

cal" exchanges. But he rejected Carter's proposal of possible Israeli defense points beyond her borders. He said "we can't have two borders, there can be only one border." Sadat acknowledged that he and Carter "agreed on certain points" and differed on certain points but did not identify them.

Attitude Toward Israel Explained

An Israeli correspondent asked what has caused Egypt to be willing to make peace with Israel now. Sadat replied that he has been doing this since Feb. 4, 1971 and said "I was the first Arab leader to do this" and "I am ready for a peace agreement." The correspondent asked, however, why Sadat has changed his attitude and is willing now to accept Israel. Sadat replied that "when we accepted (Security Council) Resolution 242 in 1967 we accepted Israel."

Another Israeli correspondent asked that since Sadat was ready to accept Israel would it not be a good idea for an exchange of visits by Israeli and Egyptian journalists. Sadat's reply was that "part of the conflict is psychological. I myself have no objection. But believe me, our people are not ready after 29 years of war, hatred and bitterness. We must do it gradually. Whenever we end the state of belligerence all this will be reached."

With regard to his statement on "normalization" Sadat said, "for sure there will be normalization" in relations with Israel. "You should not put in the agreement for us to make trade with Israel when they are in a (economic) mess, like me."

Asked whether he had a message from the Palestinians for the U.S. government, Sadat replied he did not bring any written message. He said he had met with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat shortly before leaving Cairo and prior to that he had talked to Arab leaders at the summit meeting in Cairo. He said that on every occasion "since we started the peace process in 1970" he had stated that the Palestinian question was the core of the problem.

Encouraged On Arms Request

Asked whether he would agree to a buffer zone, Sadat raised the question of under whose sovereignty it would be. On aid to Egypt, Sadat said that the United States has "a moral obligation to help me—not soldiers, but by other means." Sadat made this statement in response to his views on Soviet penetration in Africa. He also said "I didn't submit anything official" for arms from the U.S. "The issue is still open. I did not insist on so and so. I did not submit a shopping list."

Asked if he was encouraged by Carter on his arms request which reportedly includes 250 missile-carrying warplanes, he indicated he was encouraged but did not elaborate. On economic assistance, Sadat told Senators he expects \$1 billion annually which is approximately what Egypt is getting this year and received last year.

CONGRESS URGED TO OBJECT TO PLANNED U.S. ARMS SALE TO EGYPT

NEW YORK, April 6 (JTA)—Despite public statements from President Carter that he would consult with Congress before making any decision about the sale of arms to Egypt and the reticence of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat on the specifics of his military requests, the Zionist Organization of America, quoting Congressional

sources, charged the Administration with planning a serious departure from previous policy through the sale to Egypt of jet fighters and sophisticated electronic weapons. The Ford Administration got Congress to allow the sale of six C-130 military transport planes to Egypt last year but was blocked from more significant sales.

Rabbi Joseph P. Sternstein, president of the ZOA, urged Congress to object to the proposed sale and charged Sadat with ignoring the economic needs of his people and preparing for war with Israel.

"Only recently," he said, "the Egyptians rioted over food prices and yet it seems that it is just a matter of time before Sadat will turn to war again. Egypt does not need these arms, as no one threatens her. She is obviously amassing arms for a new attack on Israel. This time, they would be using American arms to kill Israelis." Sternstein dismissed claims that Sadat seeks peace with Israel. "As recently as last week," he said, "Sadat rejected diplomatic relations and trade as a component of any settlement with Israel. His often stated desire for peace is clearly bogus."

Protest Against Carter's Policy

In a related development, 75 members of Jewish Activists for Peace Through Strength, an umbrella group which a spokesman said includes the Jewish Defense League, Betar and Save Our Israel, demonstrated yesterday for two hours at the Egyptian Mission to the UN.

The demonstrators, who carried placards and chanted "No arms for Arab aggressors," "Sadat go home," and "Dump Carter before he dumps Israel," said they were protesting against U.S. pressure on Israel "to retreat to the suicidal 1967 borders and against the Carter Administration's anticipated sale of 200 fighter-jets to Egypt."

Bonnie Pechter, JDL national director, said the demonstration was "the first in a long series of protests against both Carter's pro-Arab policies and the Jewish establishment's deafening silence while Israel is threatened. While Israel is facing danger, the establishment groups continue with business-as-usual, holding luncheons, Sisterhood meetings and Sunday bazaars."

YADIN NOT PLANNING U.S. VISIT

JERUSALEM, April 6 (JTA)—Prof. Yigal Yadin, founder of the new Democratic Movement for Change, denied that he was planning to visit the United States before the May 17 elections after reports of such a visit appeared in Maariv Monday. According to the paper, Yadin, an internationally famous archaeologist, may be invited by a "private organization" in America to lecture on archaeology.

The organization contacted officials in Washington who said they would be glad to meet him if he was in the country, Maariv said. The report added that the U.S. Administration regarded Yadin as a possible member of the next Israeli government even if his party is not one of the major winners in the elections. It said that Yadin was not likely to leave Israel in the heat of the election campaign unless a visit to the U.S. was worthwhile politically.

Questioned by reporters, Yadin said "So far I was not invited to the U.S. by any organization, but it is possible that someone is trying to organize such a visit and trying to interest Ameri-

can officials in the visit." He said he has no specific plans to go to the U.S.

SOVIET MOVE SEEN AS HOPEFUL SIGN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 6 (JTA)--A Soviet diplomat delivered the text of Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev's recent comments on the Mideast to the Israeli Embassy in Washington last week, it was disclosed here today. Prof. Shlomo Avineri, Director General of the Foreign Ministry, who revealed the incident, said it could be a deliberate gesture on the Soviet's part. "After all, they know we'd read Brezhnev's statement which was widely reported in the press," he said.

Avineri would not divulge the rank of the diplomat who delivered the text, nor would he say to whom it was addressed. Brezhnev, addressing the Soviet Trade Union Congress in Moscow two weeks ago, urged phased Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 lines. He dwelt on Israel's right to free passage through international waterways. Observers here noted that he did not say much about the Palestinians, and did not mention the PLO.

Since there are no diplomatic ties between Jerusalem and Moscow, the direct and personal delivery of the text to the Embassy can be interpreted as a meaningful sign from the Soviets that they want to keep some channels open. There have been similar gestures in the past when official Soviet texts pertaining to the Mideast were handed over to the Washington Embassy or Israel's UN Mission in New York.

U.S. DENIES CAIRO REPORTS THAT CARTER, SADAT AGREE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 6 (JTA)--The State Department flatly denied reports from Cairo today that President Carter and President Anwar Sadat had agreed on the establishment of a "Palestinian state" during their two days of talks just ended. State Department chief spokesman Hodding Carter cited Sadat's remarks at his press conference this morning and White House comments yesterday to stress that "there was absolutely no reference to anything of the sort."

(Officials in Jerusalem said today that they heard nothing from any other source to support the Cairo report based on a story in the semi-official Egyptian daily Al Ahram. The officials described Al Ahram as not necessarily reliable and without bias. There was no comment in Jerusalem on reports that the U.S. agreed to provide Egypt with arms.)

Replying to reporters' questions, the State Department spokesman said "Our basic position on the PLO is unchanged" and that he had no information on Sadat's request to President Carter to enter a dialogue with the Palestinians. Asked to distinguish between the PLO and the Palestinians, Carter said "Our position on the question of the Palestinian matter--PLO and Palestinians--remains the same as in our latest formulation."

Officially stated U.S. policy is that the PLO must modify its charter calling for the elimination of Israel and accept UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 before the U.S. will have any contacts with it.

Carter also said that "We have no reason to change our position" with respect to the renewed fighting between Christians and Moslems in southern Lebanon. He said "We believe a number of

parties in the area believe in stabilizing the situation" and that "we believe the Syrian effort has been positive."

COSTA RICAN FM SAYS RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL ARE 'CLOSER THAN EVER'

JERUSALEM, April 6 (JTA)--Visiting Costa Rican Foreign Minister Gonzalo Facio planted trees yesterday in the Jewish National Fund "Peace Forest" outside Jerusalem. Before leaving for Israel, Facio had been inscribed in the JNF's "Golden Book" by Israeli Ambassador Hanan Olami and local Jewish leaders.

In an arrival statement Monday night, the Costa Rican leader said relations between his country and Israel were "closer than ever." While other erstwhile friends of Israel had surrendered to the numerical superiority of her foes at the United Nations, he said, his own country's friendship remained fast and firm.

During a 10-day visit, Facio is to tour Christian holy sites on both sides of the Green Line. Yesterday he called on Premier Yitzhak Rabin and President Ephraim Katzir, and today he held a working session with his host, Foreign Minister Yigal Allon and aides at the Foreign Ministry here.

"At a state dinner last night, Facio expressed his support for Jerusalem remaining united and the capital of Israel. He was sure that no Israeli government which abandoned Jerusalem could remain in office.

COURT DECLINES TO ACT ON RAPHAEL'S OUSTER FROM NRP KNESSET LIST

JERUSALEM, April 6 (JTA)--Yitzhak Raphael, former leader of the National Religious

Party and Minister of Religion, failed yesterday in an attempt to have the courts challenge the NRP's decision to oust him from the Knesset list. A Tel Aviv judge ruled that the court's jurisdiction in the affairs of political parties, which are voluntary bodies, was severely limited and he would not, therefore, interfere in the NRP's electoral process.

Raphael was ousted two weeks ago after two of his erstwhile lieutenants, Knesset member Aharon Abu-Hatzera and David Glass, the former director general of the Religious Ministry, lined up with his foes from other factions to topple him. The party majority amended the voting rules deliberately so as to facilitate his removal, but the judge refused to challenge the action. Raphael and his remaining supporters are now reportedly setting up their own independent faction to fight at the election.

If they decide to do so they will demand a share of the NRP's government financing for the election campaign, a demand likely to be opposed by Abu-Hatzera and Glass who contend they are the rightful and acknowledged leaders now of the "Likud Utemura" (Unity and Change) faction which Raphael led.

RECORD NUMBER OF TOURISTS

JERUSALEM, April 6 (JTA)--The number of tourists arriving in Israel in the first three months of this year reached a record of 190,000 --30 percent more than in the corresponding period of last year. These figures were released today by the Tourism Ministry. Foreign currency income from tourists increased in 1976 by 25 percent compared to the previous year.

FORMER SOVIET REFUSNIK LEADER SAYS SHARANSKY'S ARREST INDICATES MOVE TO DISCREDIT HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT

CHICAGO, April 6 (JTA)--The arrest of Soviet Jewish refusnik Anatoly Sharansky on charges of spying for the Central Intelligence Agency indicates a Soviet move to discredit the entire human rights movement in the USSR by linking it to the activities of Jews, who have been vilified in a recent government propaganda campaign, a former refusnik leader said yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference in the Jewish Federation building, Mikhail Steiglitz said that the charges against Sharansky are the first charges of treason leveled at an individual since the death of Stalin in 1953 and may spark mass trials and executions of Jews similar to those of the early 1950s.

Steiglitz is currently touring American cities to garner support for Sharansky with his sister Avital, who was expelled from the Soviet Union the day after she married Sharansky. Following the press conference, they addressed the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) of the Jewish United Fund, where they were introduced by Raymond Epstein, PAC chairman. Later they met with the Acting Mayor of Chicago, Michael A. Bilandic.

At the press conference, Steiglitz said the Soviets seek to establish a "false linkage between alleged Jewish spies and the human rights movement, because they cannot safely attack human rights leaders like Nobel Laureate Andrei Sakharov, who have too much credibility among the Russian people."

The press conference was moderated by Joel J. Sprayregen, chairman of the PAC's subcommittee on Soviet Jewry and vice-chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Fears Mass Trials, Bloodshed

Steiglitz, who resettled in Israel in 1973, called it "very urgent" that massive support for Sharansky be mobilized before his trial. He said he fears a conviction against Sharansky would lead to mass trials and bloodshed because "it is most dangerous for the Soviet government to change its mind once it begins a course of action."

"Therefore there is great danger to Vladimir Slepak, Prof. Alexander Lerner, and the thousands of other Soviet Jews who have been refused the right to emigrate, although that right is expressly granted in Soviet law and the Helsinki accord," Steiglitz said.

The reports from the USSR indicate that the current anti-Semitic campaign "has put every Jew in the USSR in danger," Steiglitz said. He cited numerous instances of Jewish youngsters being beaten by their schoolmates because of the propaganda campaign and a fear among Jewish adults about leaving their homes. "It is an atmosphere of pogrom," Steiglitz said. He praised President Carter's stand for human rights in the USSR and Congressional declarations against the anti-Semitic campaign of the Soviet Union.

Soviet Jews recognize that official Soviet reaction to Carter's position may generate some short-term dangers, he said. However, he added, they fully expect the President's concern to achieve good long-term results. Mrs. Sharansky, who lives in Israel and helps Soviet migrants adapt to Israeli life, said she had been unable to contact her husband since his arrest on March 15. Sharansky is being held by the KGB in Moscow's Lefortovo prison.

JEWISH ARTISTS TO HOLD EXHIBITION IN RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL SOVIET ART EXHIBITION AT METROPOLITAN MUSEUM

NEW YORK, April 6 (JTA)--In response to the opening one block away in the Metropolitan Museum of Art of Russian and Soviet paintings, a "counter-exhibition" entitled "The Art of Freedom" and featuring works by Jewish artists who left the USSR after rebelling against officially-sanctioned Socialist Realism will be presented by the American Jewish Congress beginning April 13 at Stephen Wise Congress House.

Among the artists who will be represented in "The Art of Freedom" is Ernst Neizvestny, a Soviet Jewish emigre who is regarded as the most important artistic figure to quit the Soviet Union since Kandinsky and Chagall.

Neizvestny, who emigrated from Moscow in 1976 after years of harassment and now has a studio in the Soho section of New York City, will show a series of 10 recent paintings and drawings on the theme of "Yiskor," which he has described as "expressing the anguish of the Jewish people for their martyrs through the ages." These are new works that could not be shown in the USSR, which prohibits the display of religious expression on canvas. The exhibit marks his first showing since he arrived in the United States.

Three other Jewish artists will also show their paintings at the exhibition. They are: Igor Galtin, formerly of Moscow, and Ilya Shenko and Alexander Richter, both from Odessa. "The Art of Freedom" will continue daily (except Saturday) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through April 17. Admission is free. "Russian and Soviet Paintings" at the Metropolitan Museum of Art opens April 16 and continues through June 26.

"None of the modern Russian paintings at the Metropolitan reflects Jewish life or the life of any religious group in the USSR," according to Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress. He added: "The American Jewish Congress is proud to sponsor this 'counter-exhibition' in solidarity with Russian Jews still living under oppression, in sympathy with Jewish artists who live in a state that prohibits the display of religious expression on canvas and in honor of the courage and determination of the handful of Russian Jewish artists who have won their struggle to be free and to express their Jewish identity."

A graphicist and sculptor, Neizvestny said he left the USSR because "the Soviet authorities did not permit the exhibition of my works that are based on the Bible and Jewish history."

BUTZ DID NOT GET FEDERAL FUNDING

NEW YORK, April 6 (JTA)--The Workmen's Circle announced today that it has received assurances from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare that no federal funds were used in the "research and publication" of "The Fabrication of a Hoax," by Prof. Arthur R. Butz of Northwestern University. The book raised a storm of public protest for its thesis that the liquidation of six million Jews during World War II is a myth. The assurances were contained in a letter from K.M. Coggeshall of the HEW in response to a letter by William Stern, Workmen's Circle president, which had asked if Butz had received any federally-funded research grants through the university.