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U.S. SAYS ISRAEL NOT VIOLATING U.S.-ISRAEL AGREEMENT IN PROVIDING LEBANESE CHRISTIANS WITH ARMS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22 (JTA)—The United States said today that Israel's use of American military equipment in defense of Christian villagers in southern Lebanon from the assaults of the Palestine Liberation Organization did not violate any U.S. law or Israeli-American agreements. Israeli Premier Menachem Begin had said Israeli artillery has shelled Palestinian military groupings that were focal points of attacks on Christians near the Israeli border.

State Department spokesman John Tattner said that if Israel supplied the Lebanese Christians with U.S.-made rifles it would constitute a violation of the U.S. agreement with Israel. But there would be no violation if Israel transferred to the Christians weapons not manufactured in the U.S.

"We have concluded that such use of U.S. equipment does not violate any U.S. law or agreement," Tattner said. He added, in response to questions, that under U.S.-Israeli agreements, Israel cannot transfer American-supplied equipment without receiving U.S. government permission. "Israel has assured us that it has not transferred to any party in the Lebanese conflict any U.S.-origin equipment which would fall under such an agreement," Tattner said.

He said Israel has informed the U.S. about its use of equipment but had not consulted with the U.S. about its use. He said he could not be specific to what use the U.S. equipment has been put, or precisely what equipment was used, or when Israel had supplied information about their use to U.S. officials.

Asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency who was supplying the PLO with military equipment to use in the fighting in Lebanon, Tattner said he would try to obtain the information. He was also asked whether the U.S. would countenance Syria and Egypt with reportedly supplying the PLO with weapons while those countries are receiving U.S. economic assistance. He said there were no military aspects in the economic agreement.

Tattner said he had no comment regarding United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim making statements critical of Israel for legalizing Jewish settlements on the West Bank. He also said he was not informed of a report that the French government is seeking a consensus among European Economic Community members to support an anti-Israel resolution in the UN about the settlements on the West Bank.

BRANDT EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT INCREASED NEO-NAZI ACTIVITY IN WEST GERMANY; CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION

By Jon Fedler

BONN, Aug. 22 (JTA)—Former German Chancellor Willy Brandt, currently chairman of West Germany's major coalition party, the Social Democrats (SPD), has written to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt expressing concern at increasing neo-Nazi activities in West Germany and requesting the federal government to tackle the problem.

This is the first time a prominent German poli-

tician has spoken out against the neo-Nazi revival in recent years, and contrasts strongly with a recent report by West German Interior Minister Werner Maihofer (Free Democrat Party) claiming the neo-Nazis' number was small and their activities posed no danger.

Brandt said the SPD Executive was receiving an increasing number of letters complaining about reunions of SS "comrade groups," militant right-wing "fighting groups" and groups which "openly display Nazi symbols and represent that type of thinking, which stir up hatred against individual groups within the population, and call unashamedly to battle against the democratic constitution of the Federal Republic."

The organizers of such activities and the participants were "clearly a minority." But many citizens could not understand—and were concerned—when such activities took place with the permission of the responsible administrative authorities, Brandt declared, while those opposed to (neo-Nazi) activities of this sort "have meetings banned and have to face prosecution."

Brandt said he suspected that local authorities were less vigilant against the dangers "which threaten us from extreme right-wing, neo-Nazi groups" than against anti-democratic attacks by extremists "at the other end of our political spectrum." He added that the state had an adequate arsenal of measures to protect itself from its enemies, and that these should be applied equally to all persons irrespective of their status.

New Threat Of Violence

Meanwhile, the weekly "Allgemeine Juedische Wochenzeitung" reports a new threat of violence in the activities of neo-Nazis in the Frankfurt region following the killing by left-wing extremists earlier this month of a prominent Frankfurt banker, Juergen Ponto. The neo-Nazi groups are "no longer content with the occasional raising of flags with swastikas and the smearing of walls with such slogans as 'Juda verreckt' (Jews perish), but call openly for acts of terror," the weekly stated.

Thus a spate of recent pamphlets called for arson, bomb attacks and violence against persons and property, and for "murder of all Jews and unpopular politicians."

Police in Dusseldorf are investigating the activities of a group of "at least 12" young neo-Nazis suspected of spreading National-Socialist literature and forming a neo-Nazi "Workers Party." The group's activities were exposed by chance when police, who were checking a car, discovered large quantities of extreme right-wing propaganda literature.

DAYAN'S MYSTERY VISIT TO LONDON CUTS LITTLE ICE WITH ISRAELI PRESS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 22 (JTA)—London's evening papers blared their speculation about Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's mystery visit to the British capital today in much bigger type than their Israeli counterparts. Will he meet Jordan's King Hussein? the British press wondered. Here in Israel, that speculation tickled the curiosity of press and public, too. But no one seemed overly exercised about it.

After all, as Dayan himself said in a weekend press interview, published before his plan to visit London was made, Israeli and Jordanian leaders have been holding face-to-face meetings for 10 years now. This was probably the first such authoritative confirmation of a fact that everyone has known for years to be true. Indeed, government officials here scarcely bother to deny anymore reports that former Foreign Minister Abba Eban conferred with Hussein in London at least once and that he and other Israeli leaders met the King somewhere in the Negev, too.

Although it seems at first sight bizarre and even incredible, the best guess regarding the Dayan visit is probably that he is going for precisely the purpose enunciated by official spokesmen here: to brief the leaders of Anglo-Jewry on the situation of Mideast peace-making following the visit by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and in advance of Dayan's own upcoming talks in New York during the United Nations General Assembly session.

The idea, according to the officials here, was Premier Menachem Begin's. He is anxious, they explain, to maintain close links with all the major world Jewish centers, not just the U.S. community. Having briefed last week Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, with a view to his passing on the information and assessments to the Presidents Conference, Begin felt that Anglo-Jewry deserved similarly to be "put in the picture."

"Since there is no equivalent in Britain to the Presidents Conference, and since Britain is a good deal nearer than the U.S., the Premier thought it would be simpler to ask the Foreign Minister to pop over there," one official explained.

(Dayan made a non-scheduled stopover in France today but in going from one airport to another he was careful to avoid entering Paris. There was no indicating why Dayan stopped in France since his plane was to have been non-stop to London.)

PERES SAYS SOLIDARITY OF JEWISH PEOPLE IMPORTANT FOR ISRAEL

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Aug. 22 (JTA)--Shimon Peres, the leader of Israel's opposition Labor Alignment, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here today "the government of Israel and the American Administration are watching very carefully the reaction of American Jewry towards the policies of the Administration in the Middle East."

Peres, who is in Montreal for the launching of the United Jewish Appeal campaign, said: "I do believe that the solidarity of the Jewish people is extremely important for the State of Israel."

Peres said he thinks the government of Premier Menachem Begin "should be given a chance to negotiate its own way. I would not jump to conclusions. By and large, it is a negotiation between responsible countries which are deeply convinced of the necessity of peace. Deep in my heart I'm convinced that Jewish feelings and commitments won't be influenced by the ups and downs of political negotiations."

On the question of President Carter's call for a Palestinian homeland, Peres said "I am encouraged by his decisiveness in favor of peace but I am puzzled and opposed to his position on a Palestinian homeland." But Peres said he remains optimistic that peace can be achieved.

CAREY SAYS OBSTACLE TO MIDEAST PEACE IS THREAT TO ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE

NEW YORK, Aug. 22 (JTA)--Gov. Hugh Carey of New York declared yesterday that the

most serious obstacle to peace in the Middle East today "is the threat to the existence of Israel posed by the rhetoric and terrorism" of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Speaking at the opening session of the 63rd annual convention of Hadassah, Carey denied that the Jewish settlements on the West Bank are an obstacle to peace. "The people of Israel have demonstrated time and time again their willingness to live in peace with their Arab brethren," he said.

The Governor told the 3000 convention delegates that it was wrong to put the onus of accepting the PLO on Israel. "The governments of the Middle East have cynically supported the PLO as an instrument of terror, while failing to adequately feed, house, clothe, educate and employ the Palestinian people," he said. "They have in fact incarcerated them in camps as a kind of captive terrorist army--and the bitter consequences of this policy are plain to see in Lebanon." He said the burden for finding a solution to the needs of the Palestinians should "be laid on the doorsteps of the Arab lands surrounding Israel."

Carey declared that the U.S. must support Israel as a democracy and "a model of peaceful development" and praised Israeli Premier Menachem Begin. Earlier in the day, Mayor Abraham Beame proclaimed Aug. 21-28 Hadassah Week in New York City.

EX-KINDERGARTEN TEACHER WRITES TO HER FORMER PUPIL, MENACHEM BEGIN

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 22 (JTA)--A former Philadelphia resident, a kindergarten teacher 57 years ago in Brest-Litovsk, has exchanged letters with Israeli Premier Menachem Begin whom she remembers affectionately as one of her pupils.

In an exclusive story published this week by the Jewish Exponent, staff writer I.J. Blynn tells of the letter from Eva Pitlik to the Premier and Begin's response. It was shortly after his election that Begin received the following letter:

"Dear Mr. Prime Minister, I am writing to ask if you can still remember being a little boy in my kindergarten class in Poland. I do affectionately remember teaching you and your classmates.

"In 1920," the letter continued, "after the Allies forced the withdrawal of occupying German troops from what was Poland, I was a kindergarten teacher at the Hachiyah school in the middle of the city of Brest-Litovsk. This school was a progressive Hebrew school which taught exclusively in Hebrew.... Menachem was approximately five years of age, a typical, bright, active child, always ready to learn...."

The letter writer is the wife of the late Dr. Samuel Pitlik, for many years, prior to his death in 1975, a professor of Hebrew language and literature at Gratz College. She closed by wishing Begin health and wisdom in guiding the destiny of Israel.

On July 4, the former student from Brest-Litovsk dispatched a letter to Mrs. Pitlik, written in Hebrew on the Prime Minister's letterhead stationery.

Begin Pleased With Letter

"My Dear and Esteemed Teacher, I was greatly moved by your letter. I was very pleased to receive it; your blessing was dear to me. It seems as if it were only yesterday--I remember with love and affection my first teacher. The excellent education and devoted efforts that you invested in your students have guided me through life's path from then until today. I hope that you are well and I thank you once again from the bottom of my heart that you saw fit to give me your blessing."

"A really warm letter," Mrs. Pitlik observed. "It had been 57 years. I wasn't sure that he would remember, but when he was elected I sent him a little note and he sent me this letter. I was very proud."

Mrs. Pitlik came to this country in 1921, traveling to Baltimore to marry her old-country teacher, Samuel Pitlik. In 1929 the couple moved to Philadelphia, where her husband earned his doctorate at Dropsie University and later joined the Gratz faculty. Now, living near one of her two sons in Needham, Mass., Mrs. Pitlik recalls that the future Israeli head of state was "an active little fellow, a nice kid." She had been aware, over the years, of Begin and his career in Israel's Knesset, but only upon his assumption of the Premier's post did she write.

JOINT BEIT DIN SUGGESTED AS WAY TO SOLVE CONTROVERSY OVER CONVERSIONS By Gil Sedar

JERUSALEM, Aug. 22 (JTA)—A proposal that Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis in the United States set up a joint beit din, a religious court, to solve the controversy over conversions has been suggested to four American Conservative and Reform rabbis visiting Israel. The four are seeking to prevent the Knesset from changing the Israeli Law of Return to nullify conversions performed by non-Orthodox rabbis.

Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch, head of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, who lives in Jerusalem, told a press conference here today that Premier Menachem Begin was among those who suggested the beit din.

But a spokesman for the Premier refused to confirm this, saying only that a number of ideas were discussed. The spokesman, however, confirmed that Begin urged the various religious bodies involved to reach an agreement over the question. The Premier has promised Likud's two religious coalition partners, the National Religious Party and the Agudat Israel bloc, to amend the Law of Return to require conversions only according to halacha.

To Provide A 'Jewish Visa'

The purpose of the beit din would be to offer "an internationally recognized Jewish visa to those who were not born Jews," according to Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice-president of the (Conservative) Rabbinical Assembly, a member of the American delegation. He said the non-Orthodox rabbis welcomed the idea on the "stipulation that no rabbi would be excluded as long as he accepts the principles of the agreement reached between the parties concerned."

However, leaders of Agudat Israel have already voiced their opposition to creation of such a beit din, threatening to leave the government coalition if the idea were to materialize.

Asked whether the idea would be discussed with Orthodox leaders in the United States, Kelman said, "I will talk to whoever talks to me." He said that past experience has shown that American Orthodox leaders were willing to cooperate with non-Orthodox Jews. As an example, he noted the existence of a halachic committee which for 20 years has supplied military chaplains from the three branches of Judaism with verdicts acceptable to all.

Kelman, Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz, president of the Rabbinical Assembly; Rabbi Ely Pilchick, president of the (Reform) Central Conference of American Rabbis; and Rabbi Joseph Glaser, CCAR executive vice-president, met with Begin at the end of a visit here initiated by Begin. The Premier invited the four rabbis to Israel after they, as part

of a delegation, met with him in New York last month to express opposition to amending the Law of Return.

Real Issue Cited

There was apparently no substantive outcome of the meeting with Begin, except for the understanding that efforts should be made to reach an agreement. Although Begin indicated that the amendment won't be introduced into the Knesset before the end of the year, he gave no hint that he would drop the measure from the Knesset agenda.

The non-Orthodox rabbis contend that the major issue is not halacha, but the right to interpret halacha. "The real question is not who is a convert and who is a Jew, but who is the converting rabbi," Rabinowitz charged. "Even those non-Orthodox rabbis who convert according to halacha are not permitted to convert, if the amendment is passed."

The four American rabbis, in a statement, declared: "The Orthodox rabbinate is not so much interested in preserving the halacha, as in preserving their control over the halacha. They have consistently exploited the State as an instrument to achieve through political power what they could not achieve through education and moral suasion." Hirsch stressed that no matter what measures are taken American Jews will not turn against Israel. But at the same time he said there are American Jews who will not remain silent if the Law of Return is amended.

PROTESTS AGAINST FRENCH POLICIES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22 (JTA)—Representatives of American Jewish organizations have protested to the French Embassy officials over the government's suspension of a law adopted by the French Parliament last June barring discrimination in Franco-Arab trade on the basis of race, religion or national origin. The French government ruled, in effect, that French businesses could comply with the Arab boycott against Israel despite the legislation.

Max Kamplenon of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, David Brody of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Hyman Bookbinder of the American Jewish Committee and Joel Levy of the American Jewish Congress expressed the Jewish community's concern to the French Embassy charge d'affaires, Pierre Boyer, and the Embassy Counsellor, Claude Erervier. The two French officials said they would convey the views to the government in Paris.

The Jewish representatives, during their 30-minute meeting, also referred to the French government's release last January of Abu Daoud, the Arab terrorist, as another example of the French government's actions which have upset Israel. Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents, also reported that in addition to the meeting in Washington, a Conference delegation has met with Daniel Husson, French deputy-consul in New York.

In a separate action, the ADL has sent a cablegram to French Prime Minister Raymond Barre urging him to reconsider his directive of suspending the anti-boycott measure. "By singling out Israel alone for exclusion from its provisions, a law directed against discrimination now itself becomes discriminatory," said the cable signed by ADL national chairman Burton Joseph.

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Aliza Begin, wife of Premier Menachem Begin, is well again after a bout of pneumonia and she will accompany her husband on his official visit to Rumania beginning Thursday, officials here said.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**UPDATING THE APPROACH TO ALIYA**

By Brian Lipsitz

NEW YORK, Aug. 22 (JTA)—Since assuming his duties in June, as the new director of the Israel Aliya Center, Yeshayahu Tadmor has turned his attention from organizational changes to the task of creating a new atmosphere in which people will regard the notion of aliya as a "legitimate value," or concept, that people will feel comfortable discussing and seriously considering, he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview.

"My major purpose is to encourage aliya by encouraging the philosophy of aliya...and by expanding the option of involvement in Israel through programs in Israel," he said.

So far, Tadmor has been busy helping to settle the new shlichim (emissaries) in their aliya centers, as 15 of the 29 aliya representatives in North America have been replaced. He said the shlichim serve two years with an option for a third year. There are 17 aliya centers throughout the U.S. and Canada, he said, with an individual shaliach often responsible for five or six states. He said the quality he is looking for in his shlichim is the ability to make aliya an active topic of discussion within the community.

Tadmor said he feels the nature of life in America requires a new approach to encouraging aliya. "I can't expect American Jews to move to Israel in the same mood as people at the beginning of the century, fleeing pogroms, did," he said. He added: "People now will go for positive reasons, not negative reasons as in the past."

Aliya As A Process

Thus, "Aliya from the U.S. cannot be as in history... (where) you cut all ties to your past. It is a process and should be a process. And we Israelis should understand this," Tadmor said. "We have to use a different terminology. Some of the terms of historical Zionism are irrelevant to American Jewry."

He said he regards certain older interpretations of Zionism, such as the notion that all Jews should live in Israel, as "naive." "Life is more complicated" than that, he said, adding that "We need a strong Jewish community in America, too." As a result, in America, "We can't find a background of a philosophy with aliya as the top value." He added: "We must encourage aliya not only by numbers and figures (of those who actually move to Israel permanently)."

With this understanding, Tadmor said that even more important in judging the effectiveness of the aliya movement than doubling to about 5000 the number of people who make aliya, would be the participation of 10,000 Americans in different programs that would strengthen ties to Israel. Programs typical of this would be: professors on sabbatical being able to teach in Israel; and inviting nurses to work in Israeli hospitals for a certain length of time.

Programs To Develop Permanent Ties

Although Tadmor encourages family tours of Israel, he said he would like to see more programs whereby families would develop more permanent ties to Israel, whether they be emotional, economic or ideological. "I would like to develop more programs with people coming for three months, six months, a year, or longer," he said. He added that he would like to see more people invest in Israel, or even make money there, by, for example, setting up a branch of their business there. He also said he

would like to see Americans build "second homes" in Israel rather than, for example, Miami.

"This makes aliya because the families and people will get involved. They and their children may want to stay," he said, adding that even if they don't the American Jewish community would gain people more knowledgeable about Israel.

Of great concern to Tadmor is keeping track of people who have been to Israel. "A major defect in our system is that we have no contact with the people who went on programs to Israel," he said. He added that he feels many visitors to Israel develop a "positive conflict" whereby they are struggling within themselves to decide if living in Israel is for them. Asserting that these people are "ignored," he said: "We must follow the people who went to Israel."

KLARMAN REPORTS 18,600 PUPILS IN YOUTH ALIYA THIS YEAR

NEW YORK, Aug. 22 (JTA)—"During the new school year commencing September, 1977, the number of pupils within the framework of Youth Aliya will be 18,600, of whom 16,800 are disadvantaged youth—a peak number in the history of Youth Aliya," said Joseph Klarman, world head of Youth Aliya, in a report to Hadassah's 63rd annual national convention at the New York Hilton Hotel. Some 3000 delegates are attending the parley which ends Wednesday.

He said that since 1971, when he submitted plans to the Jewish Agency for the narrowing of the social gap, more than 12,000 disadvantaged youth were absorbed by Youth Aliya. In the early years, most Youth Aliya students were immigrant, not native-born Israelis. This year, the intake will comprise 6500 new pupils, which means some 4500 will replace those who terminated their schooling this year, and the increase of the additional 2000 youth, according to Klarman.

Since 1972, when Youth Aliya launched its program to serve Israel's disadvantaged youth, it has built 50 dormitories, 17 youth day centers, and opened two new educational institutions for this disadvantaged youth, Klarman reported. Four of the day centers were built by Hadassah, and a fifth is pledged for Herzliya, at a cost of \$1 million. This year, three more youth day centers and two dormitories in children's villages will begin to be constructed. Three mobile culture caravans to service the youth centers have been provided by Hadassah. Klarman said that Youth Aliya's world budget for this year amounts to \$35 million.

He also told the convention that the Youth Aliya movement in Israel will share the \$1 million cost of the day center planned for Herzliya. "The gift is in recognition of Hadassah's 65th anniversary and of the role Hadassah played in the founding and growth of the 44-year-old child rescue movement," Klarman said.

VIENNA (JTA)—Unknown vandals desecrated the Jewish section of the Vienna central cemetery with anti-Semitic slogans Sunday night, a police spokesman said Monday. The criminals defaced about 20 tombstones with the slogan "Judensau" (Jewish pig). They also smeared anti-Semitic slogans on the walls of a downtown synagogue. Police said it was the second anti-Semitic action within a week in Vienna. Last week vandals defaced a monument for Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis, by daubing it with anti-Semitic inscriptions. Police are continuing their search for the vandals, who have still not been identified.