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BEGIN WARNS ARABS ABOUT WAR THREATS

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Aug. 31 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin warned Arab leaders that to threaten Israel with war because the Jewish State is capable of defending itself against aggression. "Israel is not interested in war and will never initiate one," he told newsmen upon his return from Rumania. "But if attacked, we shall defend ourselves and sometimes as a result of an attack there is a necessity to counterattack. We cannot be threatened with aggression."

Government sources said today this statement was a clear warning to the Arab states against the threats of war that have been made recently by Arab leaders. The sources said the Premier's remarks are meant to warn the Arabs that if they attack Israel the result might be "quite different" than what they might expect, including the loss of even more territory.

Begin's warning yesterday at Ben Gurion Airport was in response to questions about a statement by Syrian President Hafez Assad in an interview with the New York Times, published Monday, that he was pessimistic because he believed the only alternative to peace was war. "There's no third choice," Assad was quoted as saying. "It's either peace or war. I don't mean today or tomorrow. But eventually Israel will not be able to continue challenging us."

Begin also rejected Assad's suggestion that the Arab League might substitute for the Palestine Liberation Organization in Middle East negotiations. "The Arab League is not a country and, as stipulated by the provisions of the Geneva conference, only countries can be a signatory to a peace agreement," the Israeli Premier declared. "The League's presence at Geneva, therefore, is completely unacceptable."

(In Washington, State Department spokesman Hodding Carter said Assad's idea of substituting the Arab League for the PLO was not new and that a "number of proposals" have been suggested regarding the participants at Geneva.)

RABIN: ARAB-ISRAEL RIFT TOO DEEP TO CONVENE NEW ROUND OF GENEVA TALKS

VIENNA, Aug. 31 (JTA)--Former Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin said here today that the "rift between Israel and the Arab countries is too deep to convene a new round of the Geneva peace conference in the near future."

Rabin, in Vienna as a guest of the Austro-Israeli Society, asserted, "It is nonsense to pretend that everything is well, when every expert knows that an overall solution is not possible at the present time." He recommended a new round of the step-by-step policy to overcome the impasse. "I consider the policy of small steps as the only possible means to improve the situation," Rabin said.

U.S. SALE OF F-15s TO SAUDI ARABIA SAID TO BE MERELY A MATTER OF TIME

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31 (JTA)--The United States has not yet decided on Saudi Arabia's request for F-15 supersonic fighters but it has indicated that the decision in favor of providing the aircraft is merely a matter of time.

Responding to questioners today, State Department spokesman Hodding Carter said that the U.S. has

maintained a "commitment" and "relationship" to help Saudi Arabia with "legitimate self-defense needs." But the U.S. has "not made a decision when the proposal" for the aircraft "will be submitted" to Congress for approval.

Saudi Arabia reportedly would get 60 of the planes. Carter said that some members of Congress have been sounded out on the sale but no formal consultation has taken place. Asked about the balance of power in the Middle East if the deal goes through, he said he was not prepared to enter into the internal discussions at the Pentagon, State Department and other U.S. agencies which are now considering the sale.

JEWISH GROUPS URGE NYC COUNCIL TO APPROVE ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION

NEW YORK, Aug. 31 (JTA)--Jewish leaders urged the New York City Council today to approve a bill to ban the granting of municipal contracts by the city to contractors who participate in the international Arab boycott.

Speaking before the City Council's Committee on Economic Development on behalf of the measure (Intro. 1177) were Jack Elkin, vice-president of the American Jewish Congress and Jewish Community Relations Council chairman; Leonard Marks, vice-president of the American Jewish Committee's New York chapter; and Richard Liskov, president of the recently formed Jewish American Political Action Committee.

Marks said the bill would complement the recently-enacted federal anti-boycott law by extending its effect to transactions with a municipality. He said the measure would prevent firms in violation of the federal law from doing business with the city government at the same time.

Marks also said the bill would not conflict with state and local requirements for competitive bidding but that it would "prevent the use of our tax dollars to support discriminatory practices in the private sector which are contrary to public policy and repugnant to the citizens of this city."

Supplement To Federal Law

Elkin testified that the bill represents an important moral expression by the people and government of the city of New York and that the city should "reward those companies which have the moral fortitude and commitment to refuse to be pressed into such reprehensible--and now illegal--practices."

Elkin said also the bill was a necessary supplement to the federal anti-boycott law because it was the responsibility of the city, not the federal government, to set the city's purchasing and contracting policies. Similar testimony was given by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Organizations joining in a call to the City Council to approve the legislation included the National Council of Jewish Women, the Council of Jewish Organizations in Civil Service, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, the Staten Island Community Council, the New York department of the Jewish War Veterans, the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues and the Labor Zionists of America.

The Jewish groups publicly urged the mayoral

candidates and City Council President candidates to actively support the bill and a number of candidates or their representatives came to endorse the city bill. A number of those candidates present said they would.

Councilman Eugene F. Mastropierei, chairman of the Council's Economic and Industrial Development Committee, who presided at the hearings, is a supporter of the bill. The pending legislation had been previously introduced by Councilmen Leon Katz and Edward Rappaport, both of Brooklyn.

FLATTO-SHARON TRYING TO RESOLVE CHARGES AGAINST HIM IN FRANCE

PARIS, Aug. 31 (JTA)--A personal representative of Israeli Knesset member Samuel Flatto-Sharon has arrived here to try and negotiate with the French Ministry of Finance a settlement of Flatto's fiscal debts. The representative, Shabtai Kalmanowitz, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency he has "good hope" to try and reach an agreement.

Kalmanowitz said Flatto is prepared to pay "a six figure sum" on condition that a settlement will also cover the criminal proceedings launched by the State Attorney General who has charged the former French Jewish financier on 31 counts, from fraud to embezzlement. Finance Ministry sources confirmed to the JTA that a meeting with Kalmanowitz is due to take place this week.

SPECIAL POLICE COMMITTEE SAYS ORGANIZED CRIME DOES NOT EXIST

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Aug. 31 (JTA)--The special police committee appointed to investigate whether organized crime exists in Israel said today it does not. Meanwhile, Inspector General Haim Tavori, who heads the police department, revealed yesterday he has asked Attorney General Aharon Barak to study the possibility of suing Haaretz and its police reporter, Avi Valentin, for libel for the accusation the newspaper has printed against the police.

The police committee, headed by Michael Buchner, chief of the Police Department's special operational unit, was appointed following a public outcry over the issue of organized crime after a series of articles appeared in Haaretz claiming there is a well-organized group which controls all major crimes in Israel, including drugs, prostitution and the protection racket.

Buchner's committee concluded that there are no organized crime bosses operating in Israel similar to the system believed existing in the crime syndicate in the United States. But the committee said there are regional bosses in Israel. Tavori and Interior Minister Yosef Burg are studying the report. But there is already public criticism over how the committee reached its conclusions in less than two weeks.

Tavori revealed that he asked the Attorney General to look into libel charges against Haaretz while testifying before the Knesset Interior Committee. He said the libel suit would be based on a charge by Valentin in Haaretz that police officers have revealed information to the underworld and that there is a "double agent" within the department. Tavori said that an investigation by Moshe Tiomkin, commander of the Tel Aviv Police District, found there was no basis for Haaretz's accusations.

Underworld Informed Of Double Agent

In his article, Valentin wrote that Police Sgt. Maj. Shlomo Vaknin, acting as an undercover operative, had been authorized to pretend to accept an offer from one Yosef Harushka, whom he was

interrogating of suspicion of extortion. The latter allegedly offered him IL 50,000 if he would doctor the testimony so that there would be no basis for charges, and additional large sums if he would cooperate in the future.

Eight senior officers knew about the arrangement made with Vaknin, Valentin wrote and gave their names. A few days later it became clear that one of them had revealed the information to the underworld that Vaknin was an undercover police agent, the Haaretz correspondent wrote.

Tavori told the Knesset committee that Vaknin had reported the offer to two officers, but they did not even consider it worth referring to their superiors, and Vaknin was told to reject the offer. There was nothing the eight senior officers could have known, or revealed to the underworld, he said.

Commenting last night on Israel television about the libel suit, Gideon Samet, deputy editor of Haaretz said that the paper had additional testimony and documents to back up its reports on the "double agent" affair. Asked if Haaretz still claims that there is a senior officer in the police who is a double agent, Samet answered that he does.

IN SURPRISE MOVE, ISRAEL ASKS WALDHEIM TO CIRCULATE PLO STATEMENTS AS OFFICIAL DOCUMENT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 31 (JTA)--In an unprecedented move, Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, requested in a letter to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim today that the UN circulate as a document the statement adopted last week by the Palestine Liberation Organization's Central Council which met in Damascus and the Council's 15-point program adopted last March.

In both documents the terrorist organization took uncompromising positions toward Israel's right to exist. In its latest statement, the PLO again rejected UN Security Council Resolution 242 and called for "increasing our continuous armed struggle against Zionist occupation."

The surprise Israeli move was described by Israeli diplomats here as an attempt to expose and nail down extremist PLO positions. The PLO, according to the diplomats, tries to project a moderate image by playing down its own bellicose resolutions. In his letter, Herzog requested that the PLO statements be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.

DINITZ, HABIB DISCUSS MIDEAST

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31 (JTA)--Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz and Undersecretary of State Philip Habib discussed Middle East issues for two hours at a State Department luncheon today. Informed sources said that one topic was the forthcoming visit to the United States of Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan who is expected to come here to meet President Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance Sept. 19-20. Dayan will be in New York as head of the Israeli delegation to the UN General Assembly.

Meanwhile, Vance's scheduled talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in Vienna for three days beginning Sept. 7, on the Middle East and SALT, have been postponed and now will be held in Washington Sept. 22-23. The State Department indicated that the gathering in Washington next week of Latin American chiefs of state to discuss the U.S.-Panama treaty on the Panama Canal requires Vance to be in Washington.

HUMAN RIGHTS AGENCIES CLARIFY HIGH COURT RULING ON SABBATH OBSERVERS

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Aug. 31 (JTA)--The state and local governmental human rights agencies, whose responsibilities include protection of the employment rights of Sabbath observers, have responded to a mildly restrictive U.S. Supreme Court ruling on that issue by reaffirming those employment rights, the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) reported today.

Sidney Kwestel, COLPA president, said the reaffirmation came in a resolution adopted unanimously by the International Association of Human Rights Agencies, at a convention in Baltimore, on July 12. The association represents human rights agencies at the state, county and municipal levels. Kwestel said several hundred delegates attended.

The Supreme Court ruling, handed down June 16, inferentially sustained for the first time the constitutionality of the federal law protecting job rights of Sabbath observers, Kwestel said. The ruling did somewhat restrict the right of observers to time off for Sabbath observance but, as Kwestel stressed, the ruling was in a "very narrow context" which was generally misunderstood by the public media.

The case involved a Transworld Airlines worker, Larry Hardison, a member of the Worldwide Church of God, whose adherents observe the same Sabbath as Jews. Hardison was fired for refusing to work Saturdays after the International Association of Machinists refused to waive seniority rules for Hardison so he could be off on the Sabbath. Kwestel said the substance of the U.S. Supreme Court June ruling was that an employer cannot be expected to override a seniority agreement with his union to accommodate a Sabbath observer.

Basis For The Case

Hardison sued under a 1972 amendment to the 1964 Civil Rights Act which provides an employer must seek to "reasonably accommodate" the religious practices of an observant employee or prospective employee, unless to do so would result in "undue hardship" for the employer's business. The 1972 amendment was drafted by COLPA.

The importance of the human rights association resolution, Kwestel said, stemmed from the fact that while the Supreme Court decided the Hardison case in the context of a collective bargaining agreement, the decision was widely reported in the media as having virtually gutted the general right to time off for religious observances.

Kwestel said the resolution took note of the limited nature of the Supreme Court June 16 ruling, referred to the dangers arising from erroneous interpretations of the ruling, and committed the human rights agencies to reaffirming the rights of religious workers to equal job opportunity. Kwestel said the resolution also asked affiliated member agencies to urge the cooperation of labor unions to help observers obtain their religious rights.

Kwestel said COLPA hoped the resolution would allay fears of observant workers that they would have to choose between their religion and their job. Equally important, he said, was that the resolution would alert employers to the fact that they remain bound by law to make "reasonable accommodation" to their employees' religious needs.

He said this would be a great help to COLPA in its on-going efforts to educate both observant workers and employers about the legal rights to religious observance in employment, noting that for the past 10 years, COLPA has been the principal non-governmental agency active in seeking en-

forcement of the provisions of federal and state laws protecting religiously observant workers against discrimination in employment.

Kwestel said the resolution was introduced at the Baltimore convention by Commissioner Werner H. Kramarsky of the New York State Division of Human Rights. Kwestel said COLPA had provided officials of the association with supporting memoranda for the resolution.

LONG PRISON TERMS RECOMMENDED FOR 12 MEMBERS OF HANAFI MOSLEM SECT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31 (JTA)--The government has recommended long prison terms for the 12 Hanafi Moslem sect members who seized hostages at the B'nai B'rith headquarters and two other buildings here last March. A six-page memorandum to Judge Nicholas Nunzio of the District of Columbia Superior Court asked that the leader of the Hanafi group, Hamaas Abdul Khaalis, be imprisoned for 123 years for second degree murder and kidnapping during the three-day siege. A Black news reporter was killed during the seizure of the District Building, Washington's City Hall, and a number of people were injured at B'nai B'rith.

Khaalis' codefendants would be given sentences ranging from 45 to 90 years in prison under the government's recommendation. A jury convicted the 12 on multiple charges last month after an eight-week trial. The penalty for second degree murder and kidnapping ranges from five years to life imprisonment. The recommendations were made by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Mark Tuohy and Martin Linsky. Nunzio is to sentence the Hanafis next Tuesday.

MESHEL MEETS WITH MEANY, MONDALE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31 (JTA)--Yeruham Meshel, secretary general of Histadrut, spent three days here this week as guest of the AFL-CIO. Israel's top-ranking labor leader, who was invited to come here by AFL-CIO president George Meany, was told by the American labor leader that he fully agreed with the Histadrut position opposing compulsory arbitration in labor disputes, a step favored by the Likud government. Meany also reportedly told Meshel that if there is a confrontation between the Likud government and Histadrut, "I'll be on your side."

During his visit here, Meshel also met with Vice President Walter Mondale and Labor Secretary Ray Marshall. Mondale assured the Israeli labor leader that the U.S. would continue to aid Israel, and extended good wishes to Histadrut. "I am almost a member of Histadrut myself," he said, after explaining that he had spoken on behalf of the Israel labor federation many times.

Meshel invited Marshall to visit Israel, to see the "unique qualities of Histadrut." Marshall, who has not yet been to Israel, expressed an interest in such a visit, and hailed the work of Histadrut in South America, where Israelis are helping to establish cooperative enterprises for the workers. Meshel elaborated on the role of Histadrut's Afro-Asian Institute, through which it maintained contact with many Third World countries that had no diplomatic relations with Israel. Meshel left tonight for Toronto, where he will address the Executive Council of the United Automobile Workers.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Evidence of massive stone fortifications from the Israelite period (9th-8th Centuries BCE) has been uncovered at Tel Yaqne'am in the western Jezreel Valley by a Hebrew University Institute of Archaeology team in its first season of excavations there.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING ON THE ISSUE OF SOVIET JEWRY

By Brian Lipsitz

NEW YORK, Aug. 31 (JTA)--A representative of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, who recently completed a speaking tour to almost 40 college campuses, mainly in the Midwest and Southeast, reported that students and professors are very much concerned with the plight of Soviet Jews once they are made aware of the problem, but are very often uninformed.

"It's obvious there is a tremendous degree of concern once people know what's going on and a great readiness to engage in activity," said Larry Fetterman of the SSSJ, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "When they heard what they could do, there was a huge amount of enthusiasm," he said.

He added: "One of the things I've learned... is that it can become painfully apparent that the national and regional organizations working on behalf of Soviet Jewry have failed to communicate to Jews in their communities the seriousness of the situation for our people in the Soviet Union and to let them (Jews in America) know that there are things that they can and must do, and how to go about doing them."

Fetterman, 26, spent about 3 1/2 months visiting universities where he attempted to set up Soviet Jewry committees and programs. He would usually spend two days at each campus, meeting with students and faculty. With his contact on campus normally being the Hillel director, several meetings a day would be set up with individual faculty members. There would also be a public lecture directed at students and residents of the town. A "workshop" would be held the second night on each campus and would serve to explain to students what they could do and how to do it.

Making Academics Aware

In his meetings, Fetterman would stress the background of the problem and the development of the efforts to emigrate by Soviet Jews. He would then discuss the "rapid degeneration and repression of the past six months," referring to arrests, harassments, beatings, and anti-Semitic campaigns in the news media.

Fetterman's aim in talking to faculty members was "to talk to them and make them aware of the situation of their counterparts (in the USSR)." He said they are "a very influential group, probably only second to elected government officials," because they can decline to participate in the exchange of scientific and academic information with the Soviets, which he said is of great importance to the USSR.

He added that the academics can, in effect, tell the Soviets: "If you want us to cooperate in the exchange of academic and scientific information, then you must allow academic freedom and the freedom to emigrate."

Fetterman also attempted to inform students about the situation, with the goals of encouraging them to develop contacts with "refuseniks" families (those who have been denied exit visas) and prisoners, and to organize demonstrations and pass out literature.

Most of the students "didn't know what was going on in the USSR and were shocked off their seats," he said, adding that "there was no awareness that there was anything they could do." But beyond showing them how to set up committees for

staging demonstrations and the dissemination of information, Fetterman especially emphasized the importance of letter writing.

Importance Of Letter Writing

According to Fetterman, letters to Soviet Jews are crucial for two main reasons. Firstly, "virtually every letter is read by the KGB (Soviet secret police)," he said. This protects the Soviet Jews from possible harm, he asserted, because the Soviet officials then know that someone in the West is concerned about a certain person.

Knowing that Americans can appeal to their Congressmen and Senators, he said, the Soviets are reluctant to jeopardize trade agreements and the exchange of technological and scientific information. "Through these letters we warn the Soviets that our concern can be translated into U.S. policy regarding the Soviet Union," he said.

Secondly, the letters are often the only contact with the outside free world the refuseniks and prisoners have and therefore bolster their spirits, he said. For the 90 percent of the refuseniks who have been fired from their jobs and who face the threat of further recriminations, the letters "let them know that if they are harmed, they won't disappear into the Gulag. Someone will ask about them and protest," he said.

Starved For Information

Many of the universities Fetterman visited are in small "college towns" virtually isolated from the Jewish communities of larger cities. Thus, the residents and students of these communities are "information-starved" on Jewish issues and there is "such a tremendous hunger for contacts with outside Jews," he said. He added: "We must understand that only a few communities have international papers that carry this information."

To remedy this, Fetterman said he feels representatives should regularly be sent into the relatively isolated Jewish communities and campuses, by the Jewish organizations whose function it is to give them this information. In addition to the national organizations, this includes local Jewish Federations and synagogues. "They are making an effort," he said. "But the problem is not with the population, but with the effectiveness of letting them know what's going on."

SPITZ'S HOME DAUBED WITH-SWASTIKA

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 31 (JTA)--A three-foot high swastika was painted yesterday on the garage door of Mark Spitz, the former Olympic swimming champion, at his West Los Angeles home, police said today. They described the incident as an "act of vandalism with racial overtones." The 27-year-old Spitz, who gained fame as a winner of seven gold medals at the 1972 Munich Olympics, was out of town. According to police, there have been no reports of earlier vandalism at Spitz's home.

URGES ACTION AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

VIENNA, Aug. 31 (JTA)--The Bishop of the Austrian Protestant Church, Oskar Sakrausky, yesterday condemned recent anti-Semitic actions in Vienna. In an appeal to all members of the Protestant Church, the Bishop asked them to join him in condemning anti-Semitism. "We must act to nip any anti-Semitism in the bud before it is too late," Sakrausky said. He referred to recent incidents in which a Jewish cemetery, a synagogue, and a monument for Sigmund Freud were daubed with swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans.