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CARTER ADMINISTRATION LOBBYING IN CONGRESS FOR ITS AIRCRAFT SALES

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22 (JTA)--The Carter Administration is lobbying strongly in Congress for its proposed \$4.8 billion aircraft sales to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, has announced that it was cracking down on the sales of civilian aircraft and spare parts to Libya because of that country's aid to international terrorists, and promoted career diplomat Harold Saunders to replace Alfred L. Atherton as Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs. Atherton himself has been promoted to Ambassador-at-large with special responsibility for the Middle East, subject to Senate confirmation.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, appearing yesterday before the House International Relations Committee at the opening of hearings on the Administration's \$14 billion foreign aid program, told the Congressmen that he would "find unacceptable" a "partial rejection" of the aircraft sales proposals and that its "total rejection" would be very damaging.

The Administration plans to sell 60 advanced F-15 fighter planes to Saudi Arabia, 50 shorter range F-5E fighter-bombers to Egypt and 15 F-15s and 75 F-16 fighter-bombers to Israel. It has submitted its proposals to Congress for the first time as a single package.

Warns Against Distorting The Balance

Rep. John Cavanaugh (D.Neb.) asked Vance for his reaction to the possibility that Congress might approve the aircraft sales to Israel but not to Egypt or Saudi Arabia. Vance replied that "our role as a trusted intermediary would suffer most if the package is turned down." He said that if Congress tried to take the package apart, "you would further distort the balance which currently exists in the area."

Supporters of Israel contend that the balance would be upset by the Administration's package that includes the first deliveries by the U.S. of lethal weapons to Egypt. Egypt and the U.S. have been saying that Egypt needs the combat jets to offset Soviet military influence in the horn of Africa.

Meanwhile, the Administration took steps to block the sale of American civilian aircraft and spare parts to Libya. The State Department said it was opposing the export of two Boeing 727 jets to the Libyan Airlines and the further export to that country of spare parts for American-built aircraft there.

It also seeks to discontinue maintenance work by American technicians in Libya on American-built aircraft there, including eight C-130 military transports. The State Department said "These decisions reflect the U.S. growing concern with Libya's continued support for international terrorism."

Saunders, who has been Assistant Secretary of State for Research, is regarded as a specialist in Middle Eastern affairs. Three years ago he provoked a storm of protest when he testified before Congress that the Palestinian question was the primary issue in the Middle East conflict.

The then Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, concurred, saying it was "academic" and promoted Saunders from Deputy Assistant Secretary of State.

DULZIN ELECTED WZO CHAIRMAN

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22 (JTA)--The 29th World Zionist Congress today unanimously elected Leon Dulzin chairman of the World Zionist Organization Executive. His succession to that office was a foregone conclusion. There was no opposition candidate. But a certain amount of suspense prevailed until the last minute over whether the Labor Zionist faction would vote for Dulzin, a member of Likud.

As of last night, the Laborites had not reached a decision. But today, Yigal Allon, chairman of the Labor Zionist Movement, was one of the leaders who seconded Dulzin's nomination. The others were Finance Minister Simcha Ebrlich, Interior Minister Joseph Burg and American Zionist Federation President Faye Schenk. Labor's support of Dulzin is expected to smooth some of the political bumps facing this Congress although a bitter fight still looms over Labor's demand for the post of WZO treasurer vacated by Dulzin.

In his seconding speech, Allon disclosed that he once had been approached by Dulzin to run for WZO chairman after the death of the incumbent Louis Pinçus. He said he declined at the time because he wished to continue as Minister of Absorption in the government of Premier Golda Meir. But he welcomed Dulzin's offer of support. "I am now proud to pay Dulzin back and support him for the same position," Allon said. He expressed the wish that the new WZO Executive will reflect the unity of all Zionist parties.

Premier Menachem Begin paid Dulzin the honor of appearing at the election session. He congratulated the new chairman. But first he had some warm remarks for the outgoing WZO chairman, Laborite Yosef Almogi. He called Almogi one of Israel's best sons, a true pioneer who succeeded in all the tasks he took upon himself.

SCHINDLER SAYS ISRAEL HAS SUFFERED A 'MAJOR SETBACK' IN ITS BATTLE FOR PUBLIC SUPPORT IN THE UNITED STATES

Sees U.S. Move To Impose Mideast Solution
By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22 (JTA)--Warnings that Israel is losing the battle for public support in the United States, that its relations with diaspora Jews have become "more difficult" of late and that Jewish survival now is less certain than at any time since the Holocaust, were sounded before the 29th World Zionist Congress today.

The speakers were Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Philip Klutznick, president of the World Jewish Congress, and former WJC president Dr. Nahum Goldmann.

Addressing the Congress' political committee, Schindler said popular support for Israel has "suffered a major setback" in the United States and suggested that the Carter Administration was preparing the ground to advance a Middle East solution of its own.

"He said that might have been the intent of the White House briefings for Senators and Jewish

leaders that followed Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Washington two weeks ago. In any event, Schindler said, Israel's drop in popularity was amply reflected in recent polls and could be attributed to the settlements issue and Israel's clumsy efforts to explain its actions.

Egypt's Image Improved

Israel's image has become "untruthful, conniving," Schindler said, opening a "credibility gap" in the U.S. On the other hand, he noted, the American public "by and large" accepted Sadat's messages: that Egypt gave much and received almost nothing in return; that Egypt took the "high road to peace" while Israel quibbled over peripheral issues; and that Egypt was on the verge of giving up hope and "chucking in" its entire peace initiative. Schindler said Carter was personally "unnerved by the threat of the interrupted negotiations and the fear that the opportunity for peace is slipping away."

According to Schindler, Israel's sagging image in the U.S. was due partly to the cumulative effect of the State Department's assertions that its settlements in occupied Arab territory were "illegal" and the "double standard" the American news media applied to Israel and the Arabs.

He noted in that connection the criticism engendered by Premier Menachem Begin's sharp lecture to Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Kaamel at a dinner in Jerusalem last month while relatively little notice was taken by the press of Egyptian media attacks on Israel and Begin personally.

Israel And The Diaspora

Klutznick told the Congress delegates that the situation was "critical" since the break-off of Israeli-Egyptian negotiations and Jews around the world are "very, very worried." He stressed that diaspora Jews saw their role as supportive of the negotiating efforts made by the parties themselves.

But he regretted that the "sense of mutuality and faith" between Israel and diaspora leaders proved to be "more difficult to develop than I thought." Klutznick appeared to be referring to rumors spread in Israel that he had suggested to President Carter that the U.S. apply pressure on Israel for greater flexibility in peace negotiations. Klutznick has vigorously denied the allegations.

Problem Of Jewish Survival

Goldmann said the problem of Jewish survival troubled him deeply because, while there was no longer a danger of pogroms or persecution, the younger generation of Jews is being lost to "indifference" and assimilation. He observed that "the position of the Jew has become more dignified but it has not been simplified." He said it was unrealistic to demand that the entire Jewish people should come to Israel. However, Israel should be a spiritual center and example to all of world Jewry, Goldmann said.

He recalled that whenever he visited Israel in the past he had read in the press of the development of the country. This time, however, the biggest story concerned the findings of a special committee that organized crime existed and flourished in Israel. Goldmann, who is 82, said that this was probably the last Zionist Congress he would ever attend. Peace is the precondition for the fulfillment of Zionism, he said. As long as Israel is engaged in wars and expending its energies on its defense, it could not claim to have justified Zionism.

DMC URGES HALT TO NEW SETTLEMENTS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22 (JTA)--The 15-member Knesset faction of the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) urged the government yesterday to refrain from establishing new settlements in the administered territories as long as peace negotiations with Egypt continue. Several members demanded that the DMC pull out of the Likud-led coalition if the government persists in its settlement policies.

But a majority of the faction accepted the position of its leader, Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, to work quietly within the government against new settlements. The faction emphasized that its call for a halt on new settlements was not connected to its stand on settlements in principle.

Yadin told the MKs that the U.S. government could not understand or accept Israel's arguments for retaining its settlements in Sinai once peace was established with Egypt. He said Israel's continued insistence on keeping the settlements was damaging its position in the world. The settlements issue was the subject of sharp debate at a special Cabinet session Monday. It will be continued at the Cabinet's regular weekly session next Sunday.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN HOLLAND

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 22 (JTA)--Anti-Jewish prejudice exists among the Dutch people on all levels. That was brought home in a dramatic way last Saturday during a 90-minute radio program devoted to the problem of anti-Semitism extant in Holland. The program afforded listeners a chance to phone in their reactions, and the results were striking.

Several Jewish mothers of young children reported that pupils in kindergarten and elementary schools had made anti-Semitic remarks such as calling their children "dirty Jew." The mothers noted that such epithets could only indicate that the parents of these pupils must use them at home. In addition, the mothers noted that even in secondary schools very little attention is given to the destruction of six million European Jews, including 100,000 Dutch Jews who were killed by the Nazis.

Rabbi Avraham Soetendorp also told the radio audience that there was what he termed a not inconsiderable degree of anti-Semitism in Holland. He and his late father, Jacob Soetendorp, both Liberal rabbis, were active for many years in promoting greater Jewish-Christian understanding.

The anti-Jewish prejudice is viewed as all the more striking since there are only some 22,000 Jews of a total population of 13.5 million and many of the Jews are assimilated. It is also striking because, in contrast to the pre-war situation, the number of other minority groups such as Turks, Moroccans and Surinamese is about 20 times larger than that of the Jews.

BEGUN RELEASED FROM EXILE CAMP

NEW YORK, Feb. 22 (JTA)--Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Iosif Begun, who was sentenced to two years in exile in Siberia for "parasitism," has been released, it was reported today by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. Begun, an engineer, who had been forced to leave his job when he applied to emigrate, had been working as a Hebrew teacher at the time of his arrest. Begun's release came seven months after his trial in June 1977. He was given over a year's credit for time served for his pre-trial

imprisonment.

In another development, the New York Conference said it learned that Ilya Glezer, a former Prisoner of Conscience, has been promised permission to emigrate to Israel, where he will be rejoining his 20-year-old daughter. Glezer, a biologist, served three years in a labor camp and three years in exile on the trumped up charges of disseminating anti-Soviet propaganda.

ISRAEL RAPS USSR, SYRIA ON JEWISH ISSUE

GENEVA, Feb. 22 (JTA)—Israel charged the Soviet Union with conducting an anti-Semitic campaign and Syria with holding its Jewish residents as hostages. The charges were made yesterday by Israeli Ambassador Yoel Barromi to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights which had earlier passed resolutions condemning Israel.

Barromi said that nearly a quarter million Soviet Jews have taken the "first step in the long and arduous road devised by Soviet authorities" for those seeking to emigrate by asking their relatives in Israel to send them affidavits. "It takes a long time to collect all the necessary papers and to overcome the complicated procedures required before the submission of formal application," Barromi said. He charged the USSR with having "deliberately created an obstacle course for prospective emigrants."

The Israeli Ambassador noted that most people know the names of the "courageous refusniks" who, for years, have been enduring job dismissals, deprivation and harassment for openly demanding to go to Israel. But it is important to realize that this is not a question of a few individuals, and that there are masses of less well-known Jews whose desire to go to Israel has been thwarted by Soviet authorities.

Charges Anti-Semitic Soviet Campaign

Barromi said that only one of four recipients of affidavits from Israel has received an emigration visa and Jewish emigration last year "plummeted" to 14,000. He charged that the Soviet Union is conducting an anti-Semitic campaign in the media and "much of what is written and published now could have been written and published by the reactionary Tsarist Black Hundreds." He presented examples of anti-Semitic cartoons and articles.

As to Syria, Barromi said the 5000 Jews left in Syria "live in ghetto conditions, they are subjected to severe disabilities. They are denied their freedom of movement within Syria and, above all, the right to emigrate abroad. They are kept as hapless hostages of the Middle East conflict. Justice and humanity demand that they be given freedom and dignity."

The Syrian delegate replied that Jews in Syria have full rights and that there were eight synagogues in Damascus. He charged that it was Israel that was persecuting Jews from Arab countries.

YOEL PALGI DEAD AT 60

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22 (JTA)—Yoel Palgi, who during World War II was one of a group of Jewish residents of Palestine who volunteered to parachute behind the German lines, died yesterday of a heart attack. He was 60. Palgi, who was born in Cluj, Hungary, came to Palestine in 1939. In 1944 he was part of a group that included Hanna Senesh that parachuted into Hungary and Yugoslavia in an attempt to save Jews. His book about that period, "The Great Storm Arose," is part of the Israeli

school curriculum.

With the establishment of the State of Israel, Palgi created the paratroop corps and became its first commander. He was one of the founders of El Al and was its deputy director from 1949-60. He had also served as director of civil aviation in the Transport Ministry and served as Ambassador to Tanganyika. Most recently Palgi was director of construction for Kupat Holim, the Histadrut sick-fund.

WOLF PRIZES ANNOUNCED

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22 (JTA)—The Wolf Prizes, dubbed Israel's Nobel Prizes, are to be awarded for the first time this year. They will go to nine scientists from around the world, in the spheres of agriculture, mathematics, chemistry, physics and medicine. The Wolf Foundation was established by a law passed in the Knesset in the summer of 1975. The Foundation's funds of \$10 million were donated by persons wishing to remain anonymous.

The purposes of the Foundation are to promote science and the arts, to grant scholarships to students and loans to universities, and to award prizes to well-known scientists and artists for their achievements on behalf of humanity and on behalf of friendly relations among peoples irrespective of citizenship, race, color, religion, sex or political outlook. The Foundation has a council which is chaired by the Minister of Education and Culture.

The Wolf Foundation prizes will go to: Prof. George F. Sprague, University of Illinois, and Prof. Emeritus John C. Walker, University of Wisconsin, for agriculture; Prof. I. M. Gelfand, Moscow State University and Prof. Emeritus Carl Ludwig Siegel, University of Goettingen, for mathematics; Prof. Carl Djerassi, Stanford University, for chemistry; Prof. Chien-Shung Wu, Columbia University, for physics; and Dr. George D. Snell, Jackson Laboratory (Bar Harbor, Maine), Dr. Jean Dausset, Saint Louis Hospital (Paris), and Dr. J. J. van Rood, University of Leiden, for medicine.

The Wolf Prize in each scientific field totals \$100,000. If a prize is awarded to more than one person, the amount is divided equally among them.

Each scientific field was dealt with by a three-member prize committee, all of them professors of world-wide renown, with one member of each committee being from Israel. The decisions of the prize committees are final and are not open to appeal. The prize-awarding ceremony will take place in the Knesset Building on April 10.

AUSTRIA INTERESTED IN BUYING KFIRS

VIENNA, Feb. 22 (JTA)—Austria is interested in purchasing Kfir interceptor fighters from Israel but the Austrian government is not expected to make a definite decision before 1980, government sources said. The sources said Defense Ministry experts believe that Austria needs 18-24 fighter planes to bolster its air space defense.

Israel has offered Austria 20 Kfir fighters in exchange for industrial and agricultural products. However, some critics here fear that such an arms-for-products deal would jeopardize Austria's trade relations with the Arab world.

JERUSALEM (JTA)—The Cabinet has approved a new draft law enabling women of army age to declare before a judge or a rabbinical judge that their religious conscience prevents them from serving in the army.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**THE GOVERNMENT'S POOR DOMESTIC RECORD**

By Uzi Benziman

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22 (JTA)--Nine months after its establishment the government of Premier Menachem Begin still shows little ability to come to grips with the nation's internal problems.

The negotiations with Egypt temporarily captured the public imagination, diverting attention from economic and social problems. But recently these issues have come to the fore again, reasserting their priority in the public mind. Analyzing its record on the domestic front, observers are left with the uncomfortable feeling that the Begin government resembles in many respects its unhappy predecessor, the government of Premier Yitzhak Rabin.

In the economic arena inflation is still galloping along at the horrendous rate of 40 percent annually. Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich's promises to decrease inflation remain to be fulfilled. Ehrlich is gradually projecting the image of a man who lacks the leadership qualities vital in a strong finance minister at such a juncture. Too often, in recent months, he has shown weakness in standing up to financial demands from his Cabinet colleagues.

The labor front is explosive. Last week the postal workers struck for three days. The strike of merchant seamen has entered its fourth week. All employees of government offices have threatened to strike. The fragile relations between employers and employees in the public services--apart from reflecting the destructive impact of inflation--create a doom-laden atmosphere throughout the economy. The strikes demonstrate that the government has lost at least a part of its popularity in the public mind.

The social gap persists. There are no signs of any improvement in this vexed and vital field. Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, leader of the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC), appointed himself chief coordinator of the government's activity in the social field. But his personal involvement is yet to make itself felt. Yadin's political base, the DMC, won 15 seats in the Knesset under the slogan that the "real battlefield" is the social welfare front.

No Change In Cabinet's Functioning

The Cabinet's functioning is another object of criticism. The Begin Cabinet now consists of 19 members as a result of the recent addition of Likud's Haim Landau and Moshe Nissim, as ministers-without-portfolio. Thus the Begin government is as large as Rabin's was and its organizational structure is almost the same as the previous one.

Likud's platform promised to streamline the government's administrative structure and to implement new methods of running the public administration. But nothing really has been changed. The Likud Cabinet ministers have proven every bit as jealous of their formal authority as were their predecessors.

Cabinet solidarity in the Begin government also resembles Rabin's Cabinet in the personal relations prevailing among its members: Cabinet ministers sharply criticize each other in private conversations. Several ministers publicly express differing views on many issues. There have been several examples recently that clearly illustrated the disintegration of the early solidarity which Begin had sought to establish in his Cabinet.

During the dispute over the "archaeological

mission" at Shiloh on the West Bank, the Defense Ministry, the Agriculture Ministry and the Education Ministry spoke in contradictory voices, accusing each other of creating the complications around the "archaeological" site.

The same happened over the bulldozing operations aimed at increasing the Israeli presence in the Rafah area. The Minister of Agriculture, Ariel Sharon, was accused by some of his Cabinet colleagues of deviating from the Cabinet's decision. Defense Minister Ezer Weizman ordered a halt to all activity in the Rafah area, thus thwarting Sharon's schemes, at least temporarily. Finance Minister Ehrlich refused to release additional funds to finance the "strengthening of the Rafah settlements," as the bulldozing was called.

The cumulative effect of these weaknesses has diminished the Cabinet's credibility. People remember Likud's promises to restrain inflation, to calm labor relations, to bridge social gaps, to improve the government's functioning and to remove the internal conflicts that characterized the previous Cabinet. For the time being, the Begin government has failed to accomplish its promises and consequently its credibility and prestige are in question.

JCRC REPORTS THAT JEWS FOR JESUS WILL TARGET MAJOR CITIES, CAMPUSES

NEW YORK, Feb. 22 (JTA)--According to information just received by the Task Force on Missionary Activity of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCRC), the Jews for Jesus and other Hebrew Christian groups are planning to establish centers in cities where they have active branches for the purpose of providing shelter for "those Jews cast out because of their faith in Jesus."

They acknowledge that this is a departure from former practices and more closely associates them with other missionary groups. They also intend to increase their on-campus presence and activities, the JCRC reported.

JCRC Task Force chairman Seymour Lachman said that the establishment of permanent residences would add an additional dimension that will require appropriate responses from the Jewish community. The Task Force has advocated the establishment of temporary residence centers to which people could come for guidance and assistance. Lachman added that such facilities with appropriate supervision would be especially important as an address to which young people finding themselves drawn to missionary or cult groups can turn.

Jews for Jesus are also utilizing their "Liberated Walling Wall" group to stage evangelistic concerts featuring "Jewish Gospel Music," testimonials and short messages, the JCRC reported. With this, as well as other front groups, they are seeking access to campuses with large Jewish student bodies recognizing that this is likely to lead to confrontations. Recently they appeared at Hofstra, Queens College and other area campuses.

VIENNA (JTA)--The offices of the Jewish Agency here are being closed down and the five shlichim are returning to Israel. Israel Ben Nun, who was head of the Agency for the last five years, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. He said that by closing the offices the Agency would be saving some \$500,000 a year. Ben Nun said the offices included those of the treasury, aliya department, education and information. During his tenure he established a Maccabi and Israel club in Vienna. He said he intends to return to Israel.