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CHURCH: SENATE GROUP WILL REJECT PLANE DEAL UNLESS ADMINISTRATION ASSURES CONGRESS IT WILL REDUCE PLANES TO SAUDIS OR INCREASE ISRAEL'S

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA)--Sen. Frank Church (D. Idaho) predicted today the Senate Foreign Relations Committee would reject the entire proposed \$4.8 billion sale of jet war-planes to Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt unless the Carter Administration provided Congress with "assurances," including either a reduction in the number of planes going to Saudi Arabia or an increase in those being sold to Israel.

Church, the second ranking Democrat on the committee, also urged the Administration to avoid a "showdown" in Congress that would be harmful both to the American national interests and to the Middle East peace hopes.

Appearing on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation," Church noted that Israel, which is to get 15 F-15 fighters and 75 F-16 fighter-bombers under the Administration's proposal, could be given more planes as originally recommended by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "I would prefer a reduction" in the number of F-15s going to Saudi Arabia, he said.

Church said there were several other assurances needed. One of them was that the Administration would only supply defensive ordnance to the Saudis such as air-to-air missiles but no air-to-ground missiles, he said.

The Saudis must also promise not to deploy the F-15s at Tabuk, the new Saudi airbase within range of Israel, or even make the base suitable for F-15s, Church said. He said the planes should be stationed only in south and central Saudi Arabia which would be sufficient to protect the Moslem holy cities and the oil fields.

Seeks A Promise From Saudis

Another promise Church said he wanted from the Saudis is that if they get the F-15s they do not then also buy Mirages from France or planes from other countries. Saudi Arabia "is the richest country in the world," Church noted, and they can buy all the planes they want and pay for the pilots to fly them. He said Israel does not have this unlimited supply of money.

When asked about the recent comment by Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D. W. Va.) that there is "ample support" in the full Senate to prevent the Administration's plane proposal from being rejected, Church said he did not know if this was true. He said the vote would be close. But he urged the Administration to compromise rather than face a "showdown."

"How can it serve the national interest to force this to a showdown in the Congress?" he asked. "A debate will be bruising on Saudi sensitivities; it will arouse new suspicions on the side of the Israelis; it will be an impediment to peace in the Middle East."

Church reiterated his position that the proposed sales should be postponed until Egyptian-Israeli peace negotiations are given an opportunity to succeed. "Why don't we give peace a chance?" he asked. "We should not be selling

\$5 billion worth of weapons in the Middle East at this time." He said if the negotiations were to succeed then there might be no need for the plane sales.

Major Cause Of Concern

Church explained earlier that a major cause of concern for Congress was the linkage of the sale to Egypt and Saudi Arabia to the sale to Israel. He stressed that Congress supports Israel not only because it admires the Jewish State but because "a democratic, strong" Israel in the Middle East is "a bulwark against Russian penetration in this area."

Appearing on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press" later today, Israeli Premier Menachem Begin reiterated that Israel considered the sale of planes to Egypt and Saudi Arabia "very dangerous" to its security. He said that even if Israel were to get more planes than now proposed he still would be opposed to the sale to the two Arab countries. Begin noted that Israel had been promised more planes than the Administration is now willing to sell it.

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS GREET ISRAEL

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA)--An estimated 200,000 marchers and spectators participated today in Israel's 30th anniversary celebrations along Fifth Avenue and in Central Park. Three generations of Jews were buttoned with slogans such as "Peace and Shalom" and "I am a Zionist." Premier Menachem Begin of Israel reviewed the parade and later spoke at the Central Park Mall. (See full story P. 3.)

BEGIN CALLS ON SADAT TO REVIVE SPIRIT OF JERUSALEM AND ISMAILIA

By Yitzhak Rabi and David Friedman

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA)--Israeli Premier Menachem Begin called on Egyptian President Anwar Sadat today to "renew the spirit of Jerusalem and Ismailia." Appearing on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press," Begin said this spirit was important to the Middle East peace process.

The Israeli Premier explained that at his meetings with Sadat in Jerusalem and Ismailia there were discussions despite "differences" between the two. He said there should be negotiations without ultimatums. He noted that Israel has proposed a peace plan and it was ready to discuss any counter proposals offered by Egypt.

Begin said he has "hope" that the peace talks will be resumed. "The specific reason for hope is that there is always hope," he said when asked on what he based his hope. "Both of us need peace."

The Premier said the United States now agrees to the necessity for Israel to keep its troops on the West Bank during the five-year proposed self-rule plan by Israel for the West Bank and Gaza would be in effect. He said the U.S. understands the troops must be there for Israel's "serious security problem." Begin said he did not know what the status of the troops would be after the five years since that would have to be decided then.

Appeals To American Fairness

In other major appearances in New York over the past three days, Begin told some 1900 guests at a dinner sponsored by the Economic Club that the Carter Administration's proposal to sell war planes

to Saudi Arabia, in a sales linkage to Israel and Egypt, would imperil Israel's security. He appealed "to American fairness, as a small country. Let American hands not aggravate the danger to that small country which is called Israel, a faithful ally to the United States."

The highlight of the evening, however, came during the question and answer period when Begin became involved in an impromptu debate with former Undersecretary of State George Ball who supports the sale of planes to Saudi Arabia, and who has urged greater concessions by Israel for peace.

Ball, questioning Israel's opposition to the sale of planes to Saudi Arabia, said rejection of the sale would undermine the United States' value as an honest broker "who can bring the contesting parties together." He also contended that the U.S. could be of value to Israel only if it had the confidence of the Saudis, "a moderate, anti-Communist nation."

Dealing with this issue, Begin said it would make Saudi Arabia a confrontation state with a strike force of sophisticated weaponry less than a half hour flying time to Tel Aviv. He also recalled that the Saudis have said repeatedly their forces will be at the disposal of other Arab states in the event of a new war.

Sees An Erosion Of Support

Addressing a closed meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and answering questions, the Premier said he had heard reports of erosion in American Jewish support but that he had found in Los Angeles, Chicago and New York a genuine devotion to Israel on the part of the Jewish people and also a deep sentiment for the security of Israel among Christians leaders he had met.

Asked whether Jewish dissent from Israel's policies could be equated to treason to the Jewish cause, Begin responded that all Jews have a right to their opinions and to express them. But he said that he would ask the dissenters to look to their consciences and ask themselves whether what they said in public would strengthen or weaken those who negotiate for Israel. Begin also reiterated that he found no erosion in the U.S. of public support for his policies.

The Premier struck the same theme in his address to 1000 Jewish community leaders at an Israel 30th anniversary celebration sponsored by the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies Joint Campaign. He said there was "no doubt the friendship of the peoples of America and Israel is everlasting." He reiterated that Israel wants peace but will not sacrifice its security. Begin also appealed to the Soviet Union to ease its emigration policies for Jews who want to go to Israel. Robert H. Arnow, UJA-Federation campaign chairman, presided at the meeting.

INFLUENTIAL CONGRESSIONAL GROUP HITS PROPOSED SALE OF PLANES TO SAUDIS By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, May 7 (JTA)--The Coalition for a Democratic Majority released a statement today denouncing the Carter Administration's proposed sale of F-15 jets to Saudi Arabia as evidence of "accommodation and retreat" in face of "open threats to U.S. energy and monetary interests."

The group, of which Sens. Henry M. Jackson of Washington and Daniel P. Moynihan of New York are honorary co-chairmen, claimed that the supply of the advanced aircraft to Saudi Arabia

would place that country in the ranks of the confrontation states and possibly prompt a preventive strike by Israel because of the dire threat to its security represented by F-15s in Arab hands.

Similar arguments against the aircraft sales were offered in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last Friday by Morris J. Amitay who appeared on behalf of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee of which he is chairman, and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Amitay charged that the Administration's proposal "constitutes more of a political payoff than a reasoned military judgement."

Consequences Of Sale Cited

The three-page statement by the Coalition for a Democratic Majority rejected the Administration's contention that the Saudis needed the F-15s for their own defense and would not deploy them against Israel. It warned that the balance of power in the Middle East would be altered to Israel's detriment and that current peace efforts would be compromised by the aircraft deal.

"The sale will institutionalize the Israeli-Saudi conflict by making a de facto 'front line' state," it said. "If the Saudis have the F-15, there will be great pressure on Saudi Arabia in the event of another war, to employ the one weapon which alone could challenge Israeli air supremacy and which they, alone of all the Arabs, would possess. It is hard to imagine that Saudi Arabia would stand aside and allow the Arabs to suffer another defeat without employing this potentially critical asset," the statement said.

"A corollary," it continued, "is that should another war seem likely, it would be difficult for Israel to wait to see what Saudi Arabia would decide to do with its planes. Prudent defense planning would impel Israel to attack Saudi airfields preemptively in such a situation."

The statement found "the timing of the sale" to be "an enormous impediment to the current effort to achieve a peace settlement between Egypt and Israel." It also accused the Carter Administration of exerting "enormous leverage over Israel" while "little pressure has been brought on the Arabs who must make concessions beyond the elementary step of acknowledging that Israel has a right to exist if the negotiations are to succeed."

WAITING FOR WORD FROM CAIRO

TEL AVIV, May 7 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan left for Britain and the Scandinavian countries this morning to participate in Israeli 30th anniversary celebrations. He said, prior to his departure, that there were several ways and forms in which peace talks with Egypt can be resumed but stressed that the decision now lies with Egypt and so far there has been no word from Cairo.

Dayan reiterated that the U.S. agreed with his proposal that any renewed talks between Israel and Egypt concentrate on substantive issues rather than a declaration of principles which, he observed, was only a phrasing of words. He said, however, that Premier Menachem Begin's letter to President Anwar Sadat of Egypt last month in which he proposed a resumption of talks in any form Sadat would suggest is still unanswered.

Dayan said the talks can be resumed by reviving the joint Israeli-Egyptian political and military committees or in any other framework. He said the Egyptians can discuss our proposals or present counter-proposals of their own. But Israel cannot resume the talks if the Egyptians do not want to, he said.

SOME 200,000 PEOPLE CELEBRATE ISRAEL'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA)--A festive, jubilant crowd estimated at some 200,000 marchers and spectators celebrated Israel's 30th anniversary here today with the annual Salute to Israel Parade on Fifth Avenue, followed by a massive gathering on Central Park's Sheep's Meadow where they were addressed by Premier Menachem Begin and treated to a carnival of Israeli entertainment and Israeli foods, ranging from gourmet dishes to the ubiquitous falafel, music, song and arts and crafts displays.

The parade, which started at 11 a.m., drew a mammoth crowd despite cloudy skies and intermittent rain this morning. Families carried American and Israeli flags and balloons proclaiming Israel's 30th birthday. Youngsters and adults wore buttons with slogans such as "Peace and Shalom," "Long Live Israel" and "I am a Zionist." Other buttons supported a variety of Israeli causes from "aliya" to "Freedom for Soviet Jewry" and financial aid to Israel.

Many spectators wore T shirts inscribed with the words "I am a Zionist Hoodlum," a reference to the remark by actress Vanessa Redgrave at the recent Oscar Awards ceremony.

The parade, sponsored by the American Zionist Youth Foundation, extended two miles from its starting point at 57th Street. At least 100,000 marchers took part. In addition to contingents from Jewish organizations and scores of Hebrew schools in the metropolitan area, they included battalions of New York City police and firemen, dozens of bands, high-stepping drum majorettes and scores of floats. One group, dressed in space-age costumes, paraded to music from the science fiction film "Star Wars" under signs proclaiming, "It's Great to Be Free After 2000 Years."

Tightest Security Measures

Security measures were the tightest ever seen at an Israel Independence Day Parade. Thousands of police locked arms to keep the crowds back along the line of march. Israeli and American security and secret service men were everywhere. Police helicopters hovered just above rooftop level. All streets adjacent to the reviewing stand at 69th Street were closed to traffic and pedestrians.

Begin, smiling, acknowledged the cheers of the crowd with a wave, and declared, "The State of Israel lives and will live forever." The Premier was flanked by dignitaries, including Gov. Hugh Carey, Mayor Edward Koch and New York's two Senators, Jacob K. Javits and Daniel P. Moynihan.

About a mile away, on the fringes of the parade area, about 100 members of the Palestine Action Coalition demonstrated against Israel with signs reading "Begin, Murderer." Police kept them well away from the celebrants and no incidents occurred.

Another group, consisting of several dozen persons who called themselves the Coalition of Concerned Progressive Jews, demonstrated against Begin's policy of retaining Arab territory. After the parade, some of them mingled with the throngs at Sheep's Meadow carrying signs that said "Peace Now" and "Peace in the Land is More Important than Pieces of Land."

Festive Mood Prevails

The Meadow was a sea of people whose happy mood was greeted by bright sunshine that emerged

from the clouds in the afternoon. If anything, security was even heavier on the grassy meadow. Police and plainclothesmen with walkie-talkie radios were everywhere. The area behind the stage where Begin was to speak was cleared of all spectators and patrolled by guards. Helicopters circled overhead continuously.

While waiting for Begin's arrival, the crowds visited various stages labeled Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem and other Israeli-named cities. They sampled Israeli wines and dishes—a huge falafel stand was the busiest—and watched Israeli performers and inspected Israeli handicrafts and art objects.

Begin's appearance at Sheep's Meadow evoked tumultuous applause and cheers. He shook hands with people in the crowd and seemed unconcerned with security precautions. The highlight of his short speech, with dealt with the history of the Jewish people, was when he asked the Arabs to give up their designs to destroy Israel. "I say Israel will never be destroyed," Begin was scheduled to leave tonight for Israel.

1800 Celebrate In Washington

Meanwhile, in Washington 1800 persons celebrated Israel's 30th anniversary by walking 10 miles to raise money for the Israel Emergency Fund. Some 180 similar United Jewish Appeal-sponsored walk-a-thons were being held across the country.

The Washington walk which raised \$70,000 ended on the Ellipse where Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D.Md.) said a strong Israel "represents an element of order and stability and provides our best assurance against miscalculations on the part of Israel's hostile neighbors that would have devastating consequences not only for their people but for the whole world." Sarbanes stressed that "peace can be achieved only through negotiations between all the parties concerned and negotiations are possible only if Israel is strong."

120,000 PEOPLE IN PARIS SALUTE ISRAEL

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 7 (JTA)--Over 120,000 people gathered here today to celebrate Israel's 30th anniversary in an unprecedented display of political and popular support for the Jewish State. President Giscard d'Estaing sent a message of friendship and goodwill and the government was officially represented by Health Minister Simone Veil. Practically all of France's political parties, government and opposition alike, participated in the mass rally.

Among the dozens of political figures who attended the meeting was the leader of the Socialist opposition, Francois Mitterand; former Premier Maurice Couve de Murville; and the leader of the Gaullist Parliamentary faction, Robert Chirac. Knesset speaker Yitzhak Shamir and Labor Alignment opposition leader Shimon Peres represented the State of Israel.

A message from Premier Menachem Begin was read, but the ceremony highlight was the reading of Israel's independence proclamation. As the last words, "and hereby we proclaim the State of Israel," was said by actor Daniel Gelin, the crowd went wild. People started kissing, singing and rejoicing.

The throng which attended the rally and the fervor of the participants clearly showed the popular sympathy which Israel continues to enjoy in France. A government deputy told the JTA "It is obvious that we shall have to take into consideration the wishes and sympathies of such a large segment of our population."

NIXON DISCUSSES MIDEAST CRISES DURING HIS TERM OF OFFICE AND HIS RESPONSES

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA)--In the sixth of seven daily excerpts from the soon-to-be-released "RN: The Memoirs of Richard Nixon," in Friday's New York Times, the former President discussed some of the Middle East crises of his presidency and his responses.

When a full-scale crisis erupted in Jordan in September, 1970, when terrorists attacked the Hussein regime, Nixon told National Security Advisor Henry A. Kissinger to tell Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin--after Syrian tanks crossed into Jordan--that the U.S. would support fully Israeli air strikes on Syrian forces in Jordan if this became necessary to avoid a Jordanian defeat.

"I decided to put 20,000 American troops on the alert and moved additional naval forces into the Mediterranean," Nixon wrote. "In the end, Jordan under Hussein's courageous leadership saved itself. Rabin ascribed Hussein's victory to the tough American position, the Israeli threat, and the superb fighting by Hussein's troops."

The Yom Kippur War

Discussing the Yom Kippur War, Nixon wrote:

"On Saturday, Oct. 6, 1973, we received a cable from Ken Keating, our ambassador in Tel Aviv, reporting that (Premier) Golda Meir had just told him that Syria and Egypt were in a final count down for war. The news of the imminent attack on Israel took us completely by surprise. As recently as the day before, the C.I.A. had reported that war in the Middle East was unlikely."

"I was disappointed by our own intelligence shortcomings, and I was stunned by the failure of Israeli intelligence. They were among the best in the world, and they, too, had been caught off guard...."

"In the last few hours before the fighting actually began, Kissinger contacted the Israelis, the Egyptians and the Soviets to see if war could be prevented. But it was too late. At 8 o'clock that morning, the Syrians attacked Israel from the north and the Egyptians attacked from the south."

Nixon also reported that the Israelis were over-confident and initially suffered a huge loss of 1000 men and a third of their tanks by the third day of fighting. Nixon wrote he ordered immediate military supplies flown to Israel and by Oct. 16, the U.S. was airlifting 1000 tons a day of supplies to Israel.

Brezhnev And Mrs. Meir

He wrote that acrimonious exchanges took place between him and Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev and that seven Soviet airborne divisions had been put on alert. The U.S. response was to put American forces throughout the world on conventional and nuclear alert.

Nixon wrote that he did not consider Soviet obstreperousness as an example of a failure of detente but as an illustration of detente's limitations. He said Mrs. Meir visited Washington at the beginning of November and told Nixon: "There were days and hours when we needed a friend and you came right in. You don't know what your airlift means to us."

Nixon said he urged on Mrs. Meir a policy of "sensible restraint," telling her that "the problem that Israel must now consider is whether the policy you are following can succeed. Lacking a settlement, the only policy is constantly being

prepared for war. But that really is no policy at all." Nixon then described Kissinger's "enormous stamina, his incisive intellect" and his "great personal charm" in his successful negotiations to arrange a separation of forces in the Sinai.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA BOLIVIA MARKS ISRAEL'S ANNIVERSARY

LA PAZ, May 7 (JTA)--Israel's 30th anniversary celebrations in Bolivia were officially inaugurated last week with the opening of an exhibition of paintings by the Israeli artist and professor of fine arts, Alexander Plutzer. The exhibition is being held in the National Museum of Art situated at the central square of Bolivia's capital, La Paz, next to the Presidential palace and the Metropolitan Cathedral. The exhibition is under the auspices of the Bolivian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Israeli Embassy.

The opening of the exhibit was a major social-cultural event of the season. Hundreds of guests were present, including Cabinet ministers, ambassadors, intellectuals and artists.

Plutzer, '88, an Impressionist, was born in Poland. He was a well-known figure in artistic circles of pre-World War II Europe. Since 1943 he has lived in Tel Aviv.

The critics of all Bolivian papers unanimously praised Plutzer's art and some of them dedicated entire pages to their remarks. Special attention was attracted by the monumental painting, "Rescue of Torah Scrolls from a Burning Ghetto Synagogue," which for years hung at the Yad Vashem Museum in Jerusalem and is considered a national treasure. The painting shows rabbis and a crowd of praying Jews flee from a burning synagogue rescuing burning scrolls.

2000 PEOPLE RALLY IN BUENOS AIRES

BUENOS AIRES, May 7 (JTA)--Some 2000 people jammed the Hebraica Theater commemorating the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, under the slogans "Never Again Nazism" and "Solidarity with Israel and Zionism." Israel Ambassador Ram Nirgad declared that "Jewish blood will not be spilled with impunity any more." DAIA president Nehamias Resnizky denounced the resurgence of neo-Nazism, pointing out that many governments which fight terrorism in their own countries condone the PLO. A survivor of Auschwitz described the sufferings of the camp inmates and a representative Jewish youth called for permanent solidarity with Soviet Jewry. A special film about the Holocaust was shown.

KATYUSHA SHELLS HIT JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, May 7 (JTA)--Security forces combed the hills surrounding Jerusalem today in a vain effort to find the Katyusha rocket launcher that fired shells into the city last night. A rocket exploded in the courtyard of a house on Tchernichovsky St., a five-minute walk from the Hebrew University campus, the Knesset and the President's residence. There were no casualties and only minor damage.

Police said the retaining wall of a terrace garden absorbed the main impact of the blast. But shrapnel was scattered over a wide area and smashed the windows in a number of nearby buildings. So far, the massive search has yielded no clues as to the identity of the perpetrators and no arrests have been made. Residents who heard the explosion seemed undisturbed. Several youths watching a re-run of the NBC-TV series "Columbo" thought the blast was part of the show.