

## **BEGIN: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE U.S. ARE ONLY TEMPORARY**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 17 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin found himself on the defensive in the Knesset today, trying to ward off attacks by the opposition Labor Alignment which holds him government responsible for an "all time low" in Israeli-American relations manifested by the Senate's endorsement of warplanes sales to Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Begin sought to reassure Israelis on one hand that the differences with Washington were only temporary while at the same time communicating to Israel's friends overseas, especially American Jews, that Israel was angry and alarmed by the planes sales package. The Premier spoke in reply to an urgent agenda motion submitted by the Labor Alignment's Knesset Whip Moshe Shahal.

The Alignment's contention is that Begin's government had allowed relations with the U.S. to deteriorate to a point where Israel was unable to prevent the unprecedented linkage of advanced combat aircraft to Arab states with the supply of planes to Israel.

Begin retorted by claiming that arms sales to Israel were linked with sales to Arab countries in the past, implying that the same had occurred when Labor governments were in office. "The difference between the Labor and Likud governments was that Labor never made a public issue of the sales," Begin said.

He promised to disclose the details of those earlier deals to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. He said that in the past the U.S. sold more than 100 planes to Saudi Arabia and about 70 to Jordan. Labor MK Haim Barlev, a former Chief of Staff, indicated that the Premier was confusing the issue. He said that previous arms sales to the Arabs never included "the last word in American technology."

### **Situation With U.S. Not Hopeless**

Begin reiterated that the Americans had reneged on commitments made to Israel more than two years ago to provide it with advanced aircraft independent of any deals with the Arab countries. But, he said, these differences can be cleared up, the situation with Washington is not hopeless and the opposition should not try to create that impression.

The Premier dismissed American public opinion polls indicating that his popularity in the U.S. was lagging behind that of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt. He said the only polls that counted were those in Israel which, he claimed, showed a majority of the people supported his government.

### **Says Israel Acted Indecisively**

Shahal accused the government of acting indecisively in its relations with the U.S. "The government needed only eight months to use up its political credit in the U.S.," he said. The erosion of support for Israel in the American Administration, the Senate and public opinion was unprecedented, Shahal claimed. "In the past there had been tension between Israel and the

U.S. but Israel could always rely on the support of the Senate and the American people," he said.

Shahal stressed the dangers to Israel posed by sophisticated F-15 jets to Saudi Arabia which, he said, make that country a confrontation state. "Yet despite the seriousness of the issue, Begin did not even raise it with President Carter" when he was in Washington two weeks ago, the Labor MK said. "Israel's position was so confused that even her best friends in Washington were not sure what Israel wanted."

### **Need To Deal With New Situation**

Defense Minister Ezer Weizman took a more philosophical view of the situation in a speech to the National Religious Party convention in Ramat Gan last night. "The aircraft deal is behind us and now we have to consider what it means in military terms," he said. He observed that Israel's duty now is not to argue over what might have been but to devote its energies to deal with the new situation that has developed in the Middle East. "One can cope with the 60 F-15s (to Saudi Arabia), nothing is impossible," the Defense Minister said, "but we have to think and plan and prepare."

He said he was not trying to play down the seriousness of the situation but it is not all black. "I recommend that we see it as one stage in which we did not succeed." Weizman attributed the American Administration's desire to sell warplanes to Saudi Arabia to U.S.-Soviet competition. He said that when the Soviets were ousted from some Middle Eastern countries, it was inevitable that the U.S. would seek to replace them as a military supplier.

Referring to the military situation, Weizman said that Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt now possess between 6000-7000 tanks between them. With Saudi Arabia scheduled to receive F-15 planes, the Saudi air force will become a factor in Israel's military planning that did not previously exist.

### **SCHINDLER: ADMINISTRATION, JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS NOT IRREPARABLE**

**Wants That Administration Move To Impose Settlement On Israel Would Cause Total Break**  
By David Friedman

NEW YORK, May 17 (JTA)--Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, stressed today that the differences between the American Jewish community and the Carter Administration are not irreparable despite the Administration's sale of sophisticated jet planes to Saudi Arabia and Egypt. But he warned that if the Administration was to attempt now to impose a peace settlement on Israel it would result in an "irreversible break."

Speaking at a press conference at the Presidents Conference's headquarters, Schindler repeated his statement made yesterday that President Carter now has the "moral obligation" to see that Egypt returns to the negotiating table and to persuade the Saudis to give their "full-hearted backing to bilateral negotiations" between Israel and Egypt.

Schindler confirmed that after the Senate voted 54-44 against rejecting the sale of planes to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, top White House officials called him and other Jewish leaders and non-Jewish supporters of Israel throughout the country Monday night and yesterday in an attempt to assure them

that the Carter Administration still supports the need for a secure Israel. He refused to reveal who had called him.

Asked if he believed such assurances from the White House, Schindler said he is a "pragmatist" and "I measure true belief by deeds." He explained that when words are substantiated by action then "I believe it." He added that Jewish history has taught him this since Jews have been betrayed so often.

Schindler noted that President Carter stressed that the U.S. was providing 60 F-15s to Saudi Arabia because of a promise made to the kingdom by the Ford Administration. "If America has to keep our promises to Saudi Arabia it has to keep our promises to Israel as well," he declared. He pointed out that Israel was promised as part of the 1975 Sinai agreement, planes and other weapons.

#### Rejects 'Watershed' View

At the outset, Schindler stressed that the Senate vote was not a "watershed" in American-Israel relations. He said he was "outraged" by those who called the Senate vote a defeat for the "Jewish lobby." He noted that while it was "proper" to call the supporters of Israel a pro-Israel lobby, it was improper to call them a "Jewish lobby" since it included Jews and non-Jews.

He said Israel could never have received U.S. backing if its supporters were only Jews, a small minority in this country. He said he was particularly "outraged" by the remarks of Sen. Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) who said the Senate vote would prove to be "the watershed year of Jewish influence in this country."

Schindler maintained that if Carter had submitted the three sales separately the outcome might have been the same but because he put the proposal up as a "package" there was a great deal of "confusion" by those who voted on both sides. Asked about the support for the package by Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D-Conn.), Schindler said he was "unhappy" with the Senator's vote but Ribicoff was not elected as a representative of the Jewish people but of the people of Connecticut and had a right to "vote his conscience."

#### Hits Lack Of Long Range Planning

The Presidents Conference chairman was especially critical of the Administration for what he called a lack of long-range "geo-political" planning in providing the F-15s to Saudi Arabia. He pointed to the instability of the area and noted there was no guarantee that the present Saudi regime would remain in power and that would leave the planes in the hands of some radical group. He said the recent coup d'etat in Afghanistan was an example.

Schindler said the only stable regime in the area was Israel and Israel was the only nation that could meet a threat to the region from the "north" a reference to the Soviet Union and protect the U.S.'s future oil sources. He maintained that the sale to the Saudis was not based on defense needs as the Administration has claimed, but for economic reasons—oil prices, protection of the dollar, and the redistribution of petrodollars.

Schindler announced that Rep. Benjamin Rosenthal (D-NY), a member of the House International Relations Committee, will brief the Presidents Conference Friday at a closed session on the meaning of the package sale. He said professional staff members of the constituent members of the Presidents Conference will meet Monday for a postmortem to discuss tactics and improved coordi-

ation between the various groups.

#### SPECIAL TO THE JTA—ISRAELI-ECUADORIAN AID PROJECTS INCREASE

By Jim Reibel

QUITO, May 17 (JTA)—Beginning early this year traditionally close Israeli-Ecuadorian economic relations have intensified greatly. A growing number of Israeli technical aid missions have been sent to this small South American ally. Ecuador, an OPEC nation, in turn has sent many of its leading administrators from such diverse fields as the military, transportation, health, agriculture, government infrastructure and internal development to Israel to study advanced techniques in their respective professions.

Last week three Israeli transportation experts concluded a three-week training course they had offered in Quito under the auspices of the Israeli Division of International Cooperation (IDIC), the Ecuadorian Ministry of Public Works and Communications and the Federation of Professional Drivers of Ecuador. Gershon Had, Yuval Gur and Issachar Shefi, on loan from Egged, the national Israeli bus carrier, to the IDIC, lectured on cooperative, labor and transit legislation, traffic organization and administration, maintenance and business economy.

Coincidentally, as they arrived in the country the Ecuadorian government raised by 40 percent the fare paid on the cooperative buses that serve Quito and Guayaquil. Rioting broke out in Quito. Barricades were thrown up, buses were burned and stoned and hundreds of demonstrators, primarily students, were arrested by the police. When they were unable to control the situation after a week of rioting the army was called out and issued with orders to return the city to normal.

Informed sources revealed these orders were meant to be interpreted as "shoot on sight, if provoked." Official figures fix the number of dead rioters and policemen at more than 10 but it is widely believed that at least three times that many died.

#### Wide Range Of Projects

The other important area of Israeli technical aid has been in irrigation. Irrigation Engineer Moshe Marcus arrived in the country in February to work in the province of Azuay in a program jointly administered by the Organization of American States and the Junta Nacional de Planificación, the Ecuadorian national planning agency.

In the beginning of April the Ecuadorian Minister of Health, Dr. Asdrubal de la Torre, announced the collaboration of the Israeli government in establishing a water desalinization plant in the Galapagos. Additionally, several years ago two Israeli irrigation experts worked on a consulting basis with PREDESUR, an ambitious Ecuadorian development project that encompasses the whole southern part of the country.

On April 8, the director of the Israeli Center of Labor and Cooperative Studies, Avraham Hatzan, held a conference at the Ecuadorian Institute of Social Security on different aspects of the social security system in Israel. On the same trip he chose among candidates proposed by the Ecuadorian Institute of Scholarships and Educational Credit for a course to be held shortly in Israel for youth instructors from all over the world.

On April 30, five engineers working in the Ecuadorian Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the National Institute of Agricultural Investigation (INIAP), the Ecuadorian Institute of Agrarian

Reform and Colonization (IERAC) and PREDESUR left for a course in fertilization to be given at Kibbutz Sheifan. They were among 30 Latin American agricultural engineers who received scholarships to attend the course.

These comings and goings represent an increasing Israeli-Ecuadorian technical and educational interchange. Over the remainder of 1978 a greater collaboration is expected between these two small and distant friendly countries.

#### 1200 PEOPLE RALLY AGAINST PLANES SALE

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, May 17 (JTA)—About 1200 people, mostly high school and college students from New York, demonstrated on the Capitol steps today to protest the sale of advanced combat aircraft to Saudi Arabia and Egypt which was ratified by the Senate Monday. They were joined by some 100 local people and addressed by four members of Congress who share their bitter opposition to the planes sales package and the Carter Administration's Middle East policies generally.

The youngsters arrived in Washington in a chartered train and marched the four blocks from Union Station to the Capitol chanting slogans and singing Hebrew songs. They carried signs which read "Don't Sell Blood For Oil," "Democracies Must Stand Together" and "For Sale—Israel. Price Negotiable. Petrodollars Accepted. Agent: Jimmy Carter."

They deposited mock coffins at the Capitol portico which, they said, symbolized "the death of the credibility of the U.S. government and its relationship with Israel." Some of the demonstrators wore Halloween masks with a likeness of President Carter wearing an Arab headdress.

The sympathetic Congressmen who greeted them were Reps. Robert F. Drinan (D. Mass.), Stephen Solarz (D. N.Y.), S. William Green (R. N.Y.) and Sen. Lowell Weicker (R. Conn.). Drinan told the groups: "Sadat gloated that the Arab nations surmounted the special relationship between the U.S. and Israel. We meet here today to proclaim to Mr. Sadat, to the leaders of other Arab states and to all the world that the special relationship between America and Israel is alive and well and we intend to keep it that way."

Green, referring to Carter's promises of unwavering support for Israel, said "the burden is now on the President to show that his promises will be kept and up to us to show that we are watching him so that they will in fact become realities."

The demonstration, described as a "Mobilization for Israel," failed to produce the "thousands" from New York, New England, the South and Midwest that its organizers had predicted. The gathering at the Capitol was followed by a march to Lafayette Park where the demonstration was continued within view of the White House. David Mann, president of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, N.Y., coordinated the Mobilization.

#### ANTI-BOYCOTT LAWS SEEN AS EFFECTIVE IN THE U.S., FRANCE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 17 (JTA)—Legislation introduced in recent years to fight the Arab boycott in the U.S. and in France is beginning to "bite," according to Israeli officials who monitor the anti-boycott efforts around the world. At the same time, there has been a noticeable drop in the zeal with which some Arab countries, especially Egypt, are applying the boycott.

A boycott council meeting scheduled by the

Arab League eight months ago has still not taken place, and the belief here is that the repeated postponements reflect a fear of feuding between the Arab member-states.

For the first time ever, an Israeli official, Dan Halpern of the Treasury, has been asked to give evidence before a select committee of the British House of Lords which is examining anti-boycott draft legislation submitted by Liberal Peer Lord Byers. Halpern, a deputy director-general of the Treasury, heads a team which monitors the effects of the boycott worldwide, and the efforts in various countries to fight against it. A Parliamentary commission in Holland has also been set up to study possible anti-boycott legislation.

In the U.S., say Israeli monitors, anti-boycott laws are now fully functioning and the Department of Commerce has a department of some 70 people charged with enforcing them. The tax authorities have also channeled manpower into supervising those aspects of the legislation which pertain to tax benefits (one main sanction against companies which infringe the anti-boycott laws is the loss of overseas tax benefits.)

One recent regulation went as far as to forbid commercial concerns from declaring that they have no relationship (of parent or partner of subsidiary) with any other company that is on the Arab boycott blacklist.

In France, too, the Israeli monitors say, the anti-boycott laws are largely effective—save for the controversial exemption which the government gave to its concern which insures overseas trade ventures exemption. An appeal against this exemption is shortly to be heard before the French Supreme Court.

A number of European statesmen have indicated that they would like to see action on the European Economic Community (EEC) level against the boycott. EEC agreements with Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and other Arab countries contain specific anti-boycott provisions and in the Israeli view an infringement, if and when one occurred and was reported, ought to force the EEC Commission to take action.

#### Arguments And Counter-Arguments

The Israeli officials say that they and other anti-boycott forces around the world have successfully countered the arguments often voiced in world chanceries that action against the boycott should be part of overall Mideast diplomacy and that an end to the boycott must in practice await a Mideast settlement.

The counter-argument is that while this might apply to "primary boycotts"—by Arab states of Israel directly—it can hardly apply to the "secondary and tertiary boycotts" which discriminate against companies and individuals not otherwise involved in the Mideast and not otherwise identified with Israel. The basis of action against the boycott, through legislation and otherwise, the Israeli officials say, has been a realization in many Western countries that this is an internal and commercial issue—not an external political one.

TEL AVIV (JTA)—The Women's Liberation Movement can look with pride at the Israeli army. It has produced the first group of women soldiers who can drive a tank, be a tank commander or a tank gunner. However, the women will not be allowed on the tanks in times of war. They were chosen to become instructors for soldiers training as tank gunners, tank drivers or tank commanders. Their service will release many men soldiers for active service in field units.

## THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS WHETHER HOLOCAUST LESSONS HAVE BEEN LEARNED

NEW YORK, May 17 (JTA)—A noted Christian theologian today questioned whether churches and universities had learned the lessons of the Holocaust—the extermination of six million Jews by the Nazis.

Dr. Franklin H. Littell, chairman of the Department of Religion at Temple University and director of the National Institute on Holocaust Studies, speaking at a meeting of the American Jewish Committee's Interreligious Affairs Commission, asked if Christian churches had "corrected the centuries-long teaching of contempt for the Jews which prepared the soil for the Holocaust."

Further, he asked, have our universities changed their teaching and community style so as to produce graduates who are both technically trained and wise? The Commission meeting, held here at the Waldorf-Astoria, was one of a series of preliminary functions preceding the four-day 72nd annual meeting of the AJCommittee, which begins tomorrow and continues through Sunday.

In his address, Littell said that Christians faced a credibility crisis in searching for the origins of the Holocaust. They must seek the answer, he declared, to the question: "How could it happen that six million Jews were murdered by baptized Christians in the heart of Christendom, with the leaders of the so-called Christian nations either perpetrators or spectators?"

Both Christians and Jews, he continued, must ask themselves whether modern education, especially the universities, are still graduating "persons long on technology and short on wisdom—technically competent barbarians."

### Civilized People Built Death Camps

Littell, who has held numerous academic posts and was formerly president of Iowa Wesleyan College, pointed out that the Nazi "death camps were not built and operated by ignorant, superstitious savages somewhere off in the bush; they were planned, built and operated by well-trained products of one of the best university systems in the world. Himmler was proud of the number of Ph.D.'s in the officer corps of the SS (the Nazi Elite Guard). The death camps were, so to speak, planned by professors and operated at the strategic level by Ph.D.s."

Turning to the theological issues involved in Jewish survival and the creation of Israel, Littell pointed out that many Christian theologians and agencies "still break their teeth" on "the truth of Jewish survival. Jewish survival goes contrary to the superseding myth which Christian teachers have been perpetuating since the time of the gentle Church Fathers. The founding of Israel and the reunification of Jerusalem are hard for some Christians to come to terms with, precisely because they are proof positive that Jewry will survive."

### Holocaust Lessons In Schools

In another address at the session, Dr. Perry Davis, senior special assistant to the president of the New York City Board of Education, reported that the recent publication of a 500-page curricular guide on the Holocaust by the Board and efforts to introduce lessons on the Holocaust in high school history courses were motivated by the feeling of community leaders and educators of all faiths that the Holocaust had been severely neglected by most high school history textbooks; the growth of "the Holocaust is a hoax" doctrine, "garbed in

pseudo-academic verbiage"; and the need to add morality and a stress on basic human values to the curriculum and to the "back to basics movement in education."

Pointing out that the New York City public school system was 70 percent non-white in its student makeup, Davis declared that "the Holocaust must be portrayed for what it really was—an attempt to annihilate the Jews as a people, but at the same time, the ultimate act of racism directed at all of humanity."

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national interreligious affairs director of the AJCommittee who served as consultant to NBC's recent production of "Holocaust," told the meeting that "based on reports from communities throughout the United States, it is evident that the program, which reached 120,000,000 Americans, the vast majority of whom were Christian, constituted an unprecedented breakthrough of the barrier of ignorance, amnesia, or willful repression or escapism from facing the central moral challenge that the Nazi genocide of six million Jews represents to Western Christian civilization."

The AJCommittee's Mass Media Award was presented to Herbert S. Schlosser, president of NBC, for the network's "historic contribution" in carrying the four-part Holocaust series "which increased understanding of the meaning of the Holocaust for all people" and to Titus Productions, which produced the series, for "their commitment to human dignity and their artistic achievement." Maynard I. Wisner of Chicago, chairman of the AJCommittee's Board of Governors, presented the award.

### REPORT PERES GOING TO MOSCOW

JERUSALEM, May 17 (JTA)—Labor Party leader Shimon Peres is to visit Moscow soon, according to Yediot Achronot. He will be a member of a Socialist International delegation to be headed by Willy Brandt of Germany which will look into problems of disarmament in both Moscow and Washington, the paper said yesterday. Peres returned this week from a Socialist International meeting in Dakar, Senegal, where he held private talks on the Middle East situation with President Leopold Senghor.

Peres reported to his party faction Monday that Senghor's Socialist Party intends to establish on-going relations with Israel's Labor Party. The first move in this direction, Peres predicted, would be the participation of a Senegalese representative at the forthcoming Hapoel Games. (Senegal cut its diplomatic ties with Israel along with almost all of Black Africa in 1973.)

### ANNIVERSARY FETE IN SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG, May 17 (JTA)—More than 6000 people jammed the Film Trust Arena here for an evening of music and dancing to commemorate Israel's 30th anniversary. The festivities were highlighted by slide presentations tracing the history of the Jewish State and by a theatrical production depicting the economic, political and social development of the people of Israel.

Outside, on the arena's parking lot, thousands of young people took part in an Israel anniversary youth rally organized by the Johannesburg Jewish Youth Council. Members of various youth movements replete with musical instruments and a dance troupe staged a performance. At one point, members of the audience joined in the festive ceremony, dancing and singing, which concluded with the lighting of signs and the singing of Hatikva.