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LARGEST GROUP OF OLIM FROM RUMANIA ARRIVES IN ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 24 (JTA)--A group of more than 50 immigrants arrived from Rumania yesterday, the largest group to come from that East European country in months. In recent months immigrants from Rumania have arrived either alone, in couples or occasionally in groups of no more than 10-15. Rumanian Chief Rabbi Moshe Rosen, who was in Israel earlier this week for the meeting of the governing board of the World Jewish Congress, said that Rumanian officials have placed no limitations on the number of exit visas to Israel.

Meanwhile, Absorption Ministry officials expect an increase in the number of immigrants from the Soviet Union, with as many as 1000 arrivals a month as compared to the 600-700 who have been arriving in recent months. Among the expected arrivals is Prof. Arkadi Tsinober, a Riga activist, who is a highly-respected scientist in the field of magnetic hydrodynamics. Tsinober, 41, conducted a seminar on Jewish culture at his Riga home and published two illegal issues of a periodical on Jewish thought.

AMENDMENT TO FOOD ACT PROHIBITS U.S. DEVELOPMENT AID FROM ASSISTING-PLO

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, May 24 (JTA)--The House of Representatives recently passed an amendment to the International Development and Food Assistance Act of 1978 to prohibit the use of any U.S. development aid from directly or indirectly assisting the Palestine Liberation Organization. This legislation was passed May 12 without fanfare because public interest was focussed on the debate over the controversial Middle East planes sales package.

The author of the amendment, Rep. Lester Wolff (D-NY), said that this was a necessary measure because some of the funds allocated to the Middle East within the bill have not been earmarked for specific projects. The stated purpose of the 1978 act is to "increase understanding between the Arab countries and Israel by assisting the nations in the region in their efforts to achieve economic progress and political stability."

Wolff said that "PLO activities are clearly counterproductive to an increased understanding between Israel and the Arab countries. In keeping with the spirit of U.S. policies, this amendment demonstrates our unwillingness to accept any inhumane violations of human rights and serves as a message to other terrorist groups that the U.S. does not condone such tactics."

Wolff also stated that "stability and security in the Middle East has been threatened by the PLO group and we must act to remove any doubts as to our firm commitment to preserve and protect a peaceful settlement in that region."

He added that "as the only democracy in the Middle East, Israel needs meaningful indications of our continued support. The rather tenuous situation in the Mideast demands U.S. actions that are 'reinforcing' of our desire to protect Israel's right to live in peace.... Our responsibility

is to condemn terrorism and protect nations that adhere to the very traditions that built the U.S."

MAJOR STUDY SAYS DANGER OF NEW MIDEAST WAR HAS RECEDED. MILITARY BALANCE IS ON ISRAEL'S SIDE, AND ROLE OF U.S. MEDIATION IN THE MIDEAST IS DECLINING

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, May 24 (JTA)--A major study of the world strategic balance published here today asserted that the danger of another war in the Middle East has receded and that even if peace negotiations fail, a new war threat will be most unlikely for the next two or three years.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies pointed out that the Egyptian armed forces need rebuilding and that the Syrian forces are heavily committed in Lebanon, even though the Soviet Union has begun to supply Syria with advanced weapons. The report, titled the "Strategic Survey, 1977," added: "Israel has nothing to gain and much to lose, from another war. In these circumstances, it is for the time being improbable that the only alternative to peace is war."

On the political level, though, the survey said that American mediation is a factor of declining power, at least in the short term.

"Israel is now so strong militarily compared with her neighbors that there is no immediate need for American support or supplies in the event of another violent conflict," the report stated. "Second, the economic gamble Israel has taken, if it is successful, means that in the not too distant future she will rely much less on Western and American subventions than hereto." Thirdly, the psychology of the Likud government precludes a ready subservience to American demands, the report said.

Long-Range Warnings To Israel

However, the survey posed long-range warnings to Israel, noting that another war, even with Israel's victorious, would raise the specter of a tremendous loss of life, and could "divide the national from the religious sentiment, even in breasts which contain them both."

"Also, the knowledge that the strength of Israeli forces can only buy one temporary respite after another, and probably at increasing cost, is a powerful argument for those members of Israeli society who maintain that peace is a long-term necessity, even more important than the short-term necessity of maximum security."

Role Of Sadat's Peace Initiative

Analyzing President Anwar Sadat's peace initiative, the survey said the Egyptian leader displayed the rare courage of political logic. "If the deadlock could not be broken from outside the region, it would be best to break it from inside. By his unambiguous acceptance of Israel's legitimacy, he put the onus on her to respond with the substantive concessions on territory that are essential for any durable solution of the conflict."

However, the main stumbling block remained the difficulty of reconciling the notion of security held by Israel with the notion of sovereignty held by her neighbors, the report stated.

"The maintenance of existing, and the establishment of new, Jewish settlements on Arab lands

seemed to the Begin government a legitimate demand and a precondition for the return of occupied territories to Arab sovereignty; but to its neighbors it was an unacceptable infringement of their sovereignty." While claiming that Israeli Premier Menachem Begin did not meet Sadat half-way, the survey added that the Arabs, too, split angrily over the initiative.

Views Saudi Arabia As A Front-Line State

On Saudi Arabia, the survey said that the kingdom must now be regarded as one of the Arab "front-line" states. But this is not because her territory adjoins southern Israel or even because of the acquisition of new aircraft which can reach Israeli cities. "It is also because Saudi Arabia is an essential link in any common Arab strategy towards Israel," the survey observed.

While noting Saudi Arabia's regional, international and economic influence, the survey added that the limits of Saudi financial diplomacy had also been shown when President Sadat took his November initiative without the Saudis' agreement and even to their annoyance. "To withdraw financial support would only have either hardened Egypt's resolve or endangered Sadat's internal position. Neither outcome would have been in the Saudi interest," the survey said.

The Consequence Of Begin's Victory

Summing up the end of Labor Party rule in Israel and the election victory of Begin, the survey said that these events were the start of "a second Israeli republic," (a reference to similar major political transitions in modern France.)

In conclusion, the survey said Israel has produced a government which in the short term is bound to take a tough and independent line because it reflects many of the internal requirements of her society. "But it would be a mistake to imagine that such an approach precludes the possibility of genuine negotiations for peace—either with President Sadat or in a Geneva conference...."

The nature of the Likud victory seems to suggest, according to the survey, "that in the medium term it is essential for both superpower and local diplomacy to reconsider an approach to the interaction of questions which have so far bedeviled President Sadat's courageous initiative: those by which peace becomes dependent on security, and those by which security is dependent on peace." The "Strategic Survey 1977," is published by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London.

SAYS YOUNG DIDN'T SAY IT QUITE THAT WAY By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, May 24 (JTA)—A spokesman for the United States Mission to the United Nations, said today that a statement attributed to U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young was distorted. Asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency about Young's statement in the British magazine, The Middle East, in which the diplomat reportedly said that Egypt's President Anwar Sadat is "the most popular man in the U.S.," the spokesman said that Young "did not say it quite this way."

According to the spokesman, Young was interviewed by the magazine in April. What the Ambassador said, the spokesman contended, was that "at that particular time" Sadat was "more popular" in the U.S. than President Carter himself. "Young did not say that Sadat is the most popular man in the United States," the spokesman added, only that he is "more popular" than Carter. The

U.S. envoy, according to the magazine, described Sadat as "the most popular man in the United States, bar none, including President Carter, unfortunately."

Young was quoted by the magazine as saying: "The Americans were so taken with the sincerity and courage of the peace initiative that he (Sadat) almost single-handedly balanced what had been an irrevocable 30-year commitment to Israel, which did not consider what the Arab world wanted." Young also was quoted as saying that the warplanes package to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, "recognizes the needs of our true allies. Israel is not our only ally."

REPUDIATE REPORTS OF PLAN TO SEIZE ABSENTEE ARAB LANDLORDS' PROPERTIES By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 24 (JTA)—The West Bank military government announced today that it will continue to recognize powers of attorney assigned to representatives of Arab land-owners who have taken up residence abroad.

The announcement, published in local Arabic newspapers, repudiated recent reports that the government was planning to seize the property of absentee Arab landlords in order to increase the acreage of Jewish settlements on the West Bank. It is expected to put an end to mounting protests by West Bank Arab leaders over what they alleged was a new policy by the military government.

The statement published today informed them that each transaction will be approved unless the Custodian of Abandoned Property finds they are based on improper powers of attorney. The Custodian was ordered by the Israel Lands Administration last February to withhold approval of such transfers because a number of the documents were found to have been forged.

Those orders apparently gave rise to the reports that a new land policy had been adopted. The military government statement today stressed that "any other reports save this announcement are invalid."

Basis For The Rumors

The powers of attorney have been assigned by West Bank land-owners who live mainly in Europe, North America and other Western countries. The property of Arabs who fled to Arab countries is regarded as abandoned and seized by the State. The rumors that the government intended to seize all property was attributed to a lack of coordination between the military government, the Custodian of Abandoned Property and the Lands Administration to which the Custodian is subordinate.

The Lands Administration itself is subject to the authority of Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, a Herut hardliner who has been at odds with the Defense Ministry over his demands for accelerated Jewish colonization in the occupied Arab territories.

The clarifying statement issued today came after the military government, an agency of the Defense Ministry, appointed a special team to investigate Arab charges. Yesterday, Mayor Elias Friej, of Bethlehem, a moderate who is friendly to Israel, appealed to Defense Minister Ezer Weizman for an investigation of "our legitimate claims." He insisted that there had been a change of policy with "sinister political motivations."

According to Friej, the alleged new policy aimed to take over Arab land to preclude the establishment of "a Palestinian homeland or independent state" and to encourage West Bank Arabs to emigrate.

DAYAN: EGYPT'S REPLIES 'UNSATISFACTORY'

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 24 (JTA)—Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan termed recent Egyptian replies to Israeli-posed questions "unsatisfactory." Answering a Knesset political motion by Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, Dayan revealed that Egyptian "replies" had been conveyed to him last Friday by U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis. Dayan hinted that other Egyptian positions had been rejected by the Americans themselves as unsatisfactory. He did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, however, it was reliably learned today that the U.S. is expecting the Israeli Cabinet to take up the two key American questions to Israel, posed to Premier Menachem Begin and Dayan in Washington earlier this month. The U.S. believes positive Israeli answers are vital for a resumption of the peace talks. Failing such responses, it now is apparent, the U.S. will step in with a peace plan of its own.

The two American questions relate to the future of the West Bank after the five years of self-rule under the Begin plan. They seek to ascertain Israel's stand on the eventual solution of the sovereignty issue (left suspended under Begin's plan) and to determine also how Israel proposes to give the local inhabitants the opportunity "to participate in the determination of their own future" (to cite President Carter's Aswan formula).

The second question stems from Israel's flat rejection of the U.S. "limited-option referendum" idea, which would have offered West Bankers the chance to chose linkage with Jordan after the five years are up. Observers here expect the Cabinet to begin discussions on these issues at its session Sunday, though a final position may not be formulated for a week or two.

DINITZ WARNS ABOUT PLANES SALES DANGER

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, May 24 (JTA)—Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz said today that the U.S. decision to sell advanced warplanes to Egypt and Saudi Arabia will affect both the military and political aspects of the Middle East peace process. Speaking to reporters at a luncheon of the Overseas Writers Press Club, the Israeli envoy noted that with the addition of Saudi Arabia to the ranks of the confrontation states, Israel will now have to face five Arab airforces instead of four.

"It is a military problem that will have to be dealt with by our two governments in a very careful way.... How to minimize and rectify that which has been created" by the sale of advanced warplanes to Saudi Arabia, he said. Dinitz claimed that a second element of the aircraft package deal was to eliminate the premise that Israel is still strongest and that in case of war, its victory is assured. He said that was a simplification of the situation.

Referring to the stalled peace talks with Egypt, Dinitz confirmed that the Israeli Cabinet will be conferring on several points and noted that the Egyptians are also conferring with U.S. officials on several points related to the West Bank. Dinitz said he believed the best chance of resolving the outstanding issues between Israel and Egypt is through the process of direct negotiations. "You can't make peace through a long distance operator," he said.

Meanwhile, State Department officials said yesterday that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will discuss the Middle East situation with Egyptian

Foreign Minister Mohammed Kaamel in New York late next week. Both officials will be there to attend the special United Nations session on disarmament.

RABBI ASKS BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT TO ACT AGAINST NEO-NAZI MOVEMENT

SAO PAULO, May 24 (JTA)—Rabbi Henry I. Sobel, an outspoken advocate of human rights, has formally protested to the Brazilian government, requesting that steps be taken to stop the resurgence of the neo-Nazi movement in Brazil. Sobel's demand was sparked by the gathering of representatives from neo-Nazi movements from all over the world, for a meeting in Resende, near Rio de Janeiro.

These delegates, representing the "Movement for the Freedom of the German Reich," met last month at the Tyll Hotel in Resende to celebrate the 89th birthday of Adolf Hitler. According to an article in *Folha de Sao Paulo*, a major daily newspaper, Sobel, in a statement to the press, assailed the recent statements of Alfred Winkelmann, owner of the hotel where the meeting was held, that the Nazis had not killed six million Jews. Sobel declared:

"Barely 30 years after the end of the Second World War, when memories begin to fade, and the last survivors begin to die, Alfred Winkelmann comes along and denies that they ever existed."

Sobel expressed grave concern about the indifference of the Brazilian government towards the "attempt on the part of leaders and followers of small anti-Semitic movements all over the world, and in particular in the district of Resende, to deny the guilt of the Nazis in the worst historical crime ever committed." Sobel called upon Jews, Brazilians and all decent-minded people to take action against "the proliferation of neo-Nazi literature."

The *Folha de Sao Paulo* reported that Sobel stated that this Nazi movement must be eradicated from the very beginning, "so that it may not have the capability to grow very fast and become a menace not only to Jews but to all mankind." Declaring that he believes in democracy and freedom of expression, Sobel noted that the "freedom of the press does not justify the inflammation of racial animosity by falsehood and deceit."

He expressed regret that in a world in need of reconciliation and friendship between all peoples, "those who seek to revive the frightening terror of Nazi regimes only serve to incite yet further hatred among all men. This must not be allowed to remain unchallenged."

CANADIAN PASTOR CONTRIBUTES TO JNF

JERUSALEM, May 24 (JTA)—Bernice Gerard, a Canadian pastor and a well-known radio commentator in Vancouver, recently presented Jewish National Fund chairman Moshe Rivlin with a \$12,400 check on the occasion of Israel's 30th anniversary. The check came from viewers of Canadian TV following the program "100 Huntly Street," which mentioned gift trees for planting in the Holy Land. Gerard interviewed Rivlin on tree planting in Israel—to be broadcast on CJOR Radio, Vancouver. "We Canadians are proud to have a part in the greening of Israel," Gerard said. She was instrumental in the planting of a grove of trees in Israel's Canada Park in 1975.

REMINDER: There will be no Bulletin dated May 29, due to Memorial Day, a postal holiday.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA

FIRST SEDER IN CHINA SINCE 1949

By Ben Frank

NEW YORK, May 24 (JTA)--What may have been the first Passover seder in China since 1949 was held recently by 32 Jewish men, women and children from more than a dozen countries in a banquet hall in the Tung Fang Hotel, in Canton, China.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Victor DeLoya, a New York businessman who speaks eight languages including Chinese, said the event took place April 21, the first night of Passover, with the reciting of the traditional Haggadah, the singing of Hebrew songs, the dancing of the hora, and the eating of matzoh and other Passover foods. "It was all spontaneous," said DeLoya who conducted the ceremony in the Sephardic minhag (custom) and who had to improvise with various food products to create the proper Passover dishes.

This year, Passover occurred during the Canton Spring Fair, a trade show of Chinese products and goods at which businessmen and traders from all over the world are invited. Many nationalities are represented at this international gathering and Jews were among the business delegations from Venezuela, Mexico, Spain, France, Switzerland, Italy, Morocco, Canada, the U.S. and Hong Kong.

By chance, DeLoya had been to Israel before arriving in China and as president of the Moroccan Jewish Organization and a member of the executive board of the American Sephardi Federation, he met with various Sephardic leaders, including the Chief Rabbi of the Israel Defense Forces, Rabbi Gad Navon, who gave DeLoya a Haggadah and prayer book.

Collective Effort To Hold Seder

When he arrived in Canton, DeLoya told the JTA that he noticed that many of his fellow co-religionists "were restless," and a number indicated that they would like to celebrate Passover. Armed with one Haggadah, and with the help of Alvin Florea, a buyer and a leader of the Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, as well as with the aid of the American Liaison Representative's office and officials from the Canadian Consulate where there are several Jews employed, the seder was planned.

Knowing many officers of the fair, DeLoya obtained date paste for the haroseth (the date paste with matzoh and wine made the haroseth). A can of grape juice was acquired as well. And then, a stroke of luck. Visiting Canadian tourists had a Haggadah and a box of matzoh and the seder was on.

Word must have spread throughout Canton that a seder was being held, for DeLoya related that a woman of Chinese origin from Hong Kong heard about the seder and produced a bottle of Carmel wine and two packages of matzoh.

DeLoya, himself quite a diplomat and businessman, negotiated the meal with the Chinese caterers in the hotel, and he instructed them to use the Moslem kitchen, since the latter would not have certain meat products. He wrote and planned the menu which consisted of fish, chicken, rice (Sephardim are permitted to eat rice on Passover), steamed vegetables and hard boiled eggs.

As the seder began, the men covered their heads with hats, handkerchiefs or with kipot (yarmulkas). As DeLoya, who received his relig-

ious education in Morocco, chanted the prayers, the Haggadah was passed from person to person. A young girl from Caracas, Venezuela recited the Four Questions. The tunes of Passover songs filled the banquet room. "It was an emotional event," DeLoya said, "for we felt the ages of history were binding us and that night we were reciting the prayers that once were repeated by thousands of Jews of China."

Positive Reaction By Chinese Officials

DeLoya said that officials of the National Committee for U.S.-China Trade, who heard about the seder, voiced their pleasure at the holding of the holiday celebration. He said he was called in the next day by a Chinese government official who complimented him on initiating a specific religious ceremony. The reaction of the Chinese official was positive, DeLoya asserted. The Sephardi leader said he felt that the seder in the People's Republic of China has served as a precedent for future events to meet the religious needs of Jewish businessmen and tourists in that country.

The presence of Jews in China goes back almost 1900 years. It is reported that in the First Century C.E. groups of Jews, probably remnants of the tribes of Israel, came to China from the Near East by way of Persia. Later, the almost legendary Marco Polo visited China and reported on the Jewish community there.

Jewish life under the Mongols resembled the great development of the Jews in Spain under the Arabs. Jews never suffered persecution in China. Surrounded by millions of Chinese, many assimilated. By 1941, about 25,000 Jews were living in China. Included in that figure were early refugees from Nazism, many of whom lived in Shanghai. There were also about 5000 Russian Jews in Harbin.

After World War II, nearly all of the Jews left China. The strife of the civil war caused others to depart. There are virtually no Jews now in the People's Republic of China.

MARSHALL KUHN DEAD AT 62

SAN FRANCISCO, May 24 (JTA)--Funeral services were held today for Marshall H. Kuhn, a former official of the Jewish Community Center and of the Jewish Welfare Federation, who died last Thursday at Mt. Zion Hospital at the age of 62. Born in San Francisco, he had been executive director of the center and director of the Federation community endowment fund. He also had served a variety of philanthropic organizations as a volunteer.

A conservationist, Kuhn helped organize a nature trail in Golden Gate Park and had been honored as "Environmentalist of the Year" by the John Muir Historical Society. At the time of his death, he was editing his memoirs, under sponsorship of the Judah Magnes Museum and the American Jewish Congress. They will be included in the San Francisco Jewish Community Leaders series by the Bancroft Library at the University of California at Berkeley.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Israel's 20-odd Conservative and Reform congregations have formed an umbrella organization to press their case for religious pluralism. The founding meeting was convened here Tuesday at the request of the capital's large and flourishing Mevakshei Derech Congregation, comprising mainly American immigrants and local intellectuals.