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MARSEILLES MAYOR REVEALS DECREE BARRING NAZI INSIGNIAS, UNIFORMS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 26 (JTA)--Marseilles Mayor Gaston Deferre last night denounced the recent increase of neo-Nazi activities. Deferre, who is a prominent Socialist Party leader and a former French Presidential candidate, said that in the city of Marseilles itself "anti-Semitic slogans are painted on walls, Jewish institutions desecrated and people in Nazi uniforms appear in public."

He explained that it was in view of these facts that he signed a municipal decree last month banning Nazi insignia and Nazi uniforms from the city's streets. The decree, unpublished until now, ordered city police to arrest, detain and prosecute all those breaking the ban. City officials said this morning that as far as they know no arrests have been made but the decree itself seems to have had a deterrent effect on neo-Nazi elements. Deferre said on a television program that he is determined to maintain the city's peace and ensure the harmonious co-existence of its various communities.

Marseilles, with a population of nearly one million, has one of France's largest Jewish and Arab communities. An important port, it is also the traditional home of various outlaw and extremist elements. Deferre himself has regularly been re-elected for the last 20 years on a Socialist ticket with a large Jewish vote.

Reports from Marseilles say that the recent anti-Semitic incidents have not been more frequent or more serious than similar acts in the past. Jewish sources nonetheless expressed pleasure at the Mayor's action which they say "helps to put out the fire before it actually breaks out." More serious, according to these sources, is the extreme right-wing demonstration due to take place tomorrow night in Paris. Representatives of right-wing organizations from a dozen West European countries are due to meet to try and work out a joint European organization. Several liberal organizations have formally protested and a number of unspecified Jewish and non-Jewish groups plan to stage a counter-demonstration in front of the hall where the 600 right-wingers will meet.

EHRlich DENIES U. S. ECONOMIC PRESSURE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA)--Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich does not foresee cuts in United States economic aid to Israel as a means of political pressure. Ehrlich reacted today to reports quoting "senior government sources in Jerusalem," that warned that such cuts were around the corner. The reports followed a visit over the weekend by three senior American officials representing the State Department and other U. S. agencies which looked into facts and figures presented by the Israelis as part of their preparations for the 1979-80 fiscal year.

Sources in Jerusalem noted that some officials in the U. S. Administration had always been in favor of cutting economic aid to Israel, but it was the political level that left the economic aid at \$785 million for this year, in addition to a

military aid of \$1.5 billion.

Although Ehrlich was careful not to express pessimism over expected cuts, he noted that there were objective factors such as the "tax revolt" in the U. S. and the tendency to cut down foreign aid in general that might effect economic aid to Israel.

JEWISH AGENCY ASSEMBLY DELEGATES DISCUSS REHABILITATING SLUM AREAS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA)--Delegates to the Jewish Agency's 7th Assembly got down to the Assembly's main order of business today--the rehabilitation of Israel's slum areas--while demonstrators from the poor neighborhoods of the four largest cities paraded outside the convention hall with placards accusing the government of having shown no serious interest in solving their problems. The demonstrators had been prevented by ushers from raising their signs inside the hall.

The chief item on the Assembly's agenda is the joint government-Jewish Agency "renewal project" calling for a massive reconstruction and rehabilitation program to improve the overall living conditions as well as the housing of some 45,000 disadvantaged families in 160 slum areas throughout the country. The project will be financed by the government and oversees Jewry. Dr. Avraham Avi-Hai, chairman of the Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal, told the Assembly that the agency would raise \$200 million over and above its regular campaigns during the next five years for the renewal project. The KH-UIA operates in all countries except the U. S. and Canada where fund-raising is conducted by the United Jewish Appeal.

The festive opening of the Assembly took place last night and was addressed by President Yitzhak Navon. But there were many rows of empty seats whose intended occupants were, apparently, at home watching a telecast of the World Cup soccer championship game in which Argentina defeated The Netherlands. The sport event emptied the streets of Jerusalem between 8-10 p.m. and Max Fisher of Detroit, chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, acknowledged the competition when he gavelled the session to an early close. Only one Cabinet minister attended, Interior Minister Yosef Burg.

CASE URGES ADMINISTRATION NOT TO TRY TO SHAPE MIDEAST SETTLEMENT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, June 26 (JTA)--The Carter Administration's general approach towards solving the Arab-Israeli conflict is expected to undergo close scrutiny and criticism Wednesday from members of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on the Middle East following the severe questioning of Administration policy by Sen. Clifford P. Case (R. NJ). While the subcommittee's hearing was not directly linked to the Case statement issued Friday, the criticism in it is known to be shared by many of the Senate's leading figures and the responses to it will be closely examined, Capitol sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today.

Appearing before the subcommittee behind closed doors will be the State Department's top Middle East specialists--Ambassador-at-Large Alfred L. Atherton and Assistant Secretary of State for

Near Eastern Affairs Harold Saunders. The hearing will take place virtually on the eve of Vice President Walter Mondale's visit to Israel and Egypt, starting Friday. Saunders will be in the Mondale party.

Case, the ranking Republican member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, urged in his statement that neither Israel nor the Arab countries should be pressed to state their ultimate positions but should be asked only to deal with the issues "without preconditions. The suspicions between the Israeli and the U.S. governments have reached an all-time high," Case told the Senate. "So has the concern of the American Jewish community, not only about Israel's future but even about their own status in America.

"It seems to me that a major cause of these difficulties has been the increasing effort of the United States to shape the actual terms of a final settlement in the Middle East, contrary to our long-standing position and to the dictates of wise statesmanship. We had better drop this approach and start again. That means leave such matters to the parties directly involved and insist only that negotiations take place between the parties without preconditions of any kind," Case said.

Ha said he was making the statement with respect to the "U.S. reactions to Israel's answers to questions put to it by the Carter Administration on the future status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip." The U.S. said Israel's answer did not "fully respond" to the questions and sharp attacks on Israel followed from sources within the Administration although the State Department's statement was relatively calm.

Case Poses Own Questions

Case put the following questions to the Administration and said that by finding answers to them the larger issues "may be far easier to resolve." He asked: "Shall the borders between Israel and the West Bank and Gaza remain open borders? Will thousands of Palestinians be permitted to continue to earn their living working in Israel but living on the West Bank and Gaza Strip? Will Israelis be allowed to travel and live on the West Bank and if so under what rule will the border between Jordan and the West Bank remain open? And if so, who will control the border? Will Israel be permitted to keep a strategic presence in the area, and if so for how long and under what conditions? How will threats of terrorism be controlled and who will have responsibility for it? How will the different groups cooperate and what will be the ground rules?"

Case said that "however the Israelis may differ among themselves on details, no Israel government is going to make concessions that would prevent it from defending itself so long as hostile forces demand Israel's extinction. It is futile to demand from Israel or from the Arabs for that matter, an immediate solution to the question of the Palestinians, or their ultimate destiny. It does no good to proclaim that the United States would not press for a Palestinian state on the borders of Israel if the practical result of the concessions the United States currently demands of Israel could result in nothing less. We must neither press Israel for concessions she cannot make without self-destruction nor the Arabs for concessions no moderate Arab can presently make and survive. Let us drop the search for ultimates and concentrate on practical issues that can be dealt with now," Case said.

BILL POSTPONES CHIEF RABBIS' ELECTION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA)--The Knesset in a preliminary vote today approved a bill postponing the elections to the Chief Rabbinate and the Chief Rabbinate Council for one year. They were to have been held next month. The measure was supported by Likud, the Labor Alignment and the National Religious Party but opposed by many other MKs. In explaining it, Yehuda Ben Meir of the NRP, said the Chief Rabbinate had not functioned properly in recent years and the election law needed amendments which would require more time to formulate.

The postponement was initiated by Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzeira who obtained a nine-month postponement last year when the terms of the incumbent Chief Rabbis expired, also on grounds that more time was needed to prepare for the elections. Opponents of the delay, led by Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, charged that the measure was "undemocratic" because 140 of the 150 electors had already been chosen. They implied that the postponement was intended to salvage the re-election prospects of Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren who faces a strong challenge from Rabbi Shaul Yisraeli. Goren's supporters contend that he already commands a majority of the electors.

The electors are reported to be evenly divided between the two contenders and the outcome was expected to hinge on the ten electors yet to be appointed by Abu-Hatzeira. Yosef has asked Premier Menachem Begin to make sure that all ten are not in the Goren camp. He said that of the 52 rabbis chosen as electors, 48 support Yisraeli.

Ben Meir was interrupted from the floor several times by opponents of the bill. Zalman Kahane of the Aguda Israel said the bill was "a disgrace to the Knesset" because it subjugated the Chief Rabbinate to a "certain party," meaning the NRP. The bill must survive three more readings in the Knesset before it becomes law.

AMERICAN ARABS DENOUNCE NAZIS

WASHINGTON, June 26 (JTA)--The National Association of Arab Americans, the largest group of Americans of Arab origin in the United States, has informed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in a mailgram that it "joins other concerned Americans in opposing the Nazi march in Skokie." The mailgram, signed by Hisham Sharbi, the NAAA president, said the march is "a deliberate provocation by an anti-Semitic group in a community whose members have suffered too much." The mailgram was dated before the Nazis called off their march.

ARAB LEAGUE REPLACES HEAD

LONDON, June 26 (JTA)--Mohammed Mahgoub, commissioner general of the Arab League's Israel Boycott Office since its creation in the early 1990s, has retired following reports of pressure by Egypt and Saudi Arabia. According to the Arab League, Mahgoub has given up the job solely because he is over retirement age. However, it was reported last December that Egypt would propose his replacement following his criticism of Egypt for allowing the Ford Motor Company to set up a factory in Egypt in contravention of boycott regulations. Saudi Arabia was also said to prefer somebody more "realistic" for this highly sensitive post. He was succeeded by his deputy Sayyid Al-Barkai. (By Maurice Samuelson.)

ISRAEL REJECTION OF EGYPTIAN PLAN SEEN AS DEMONSTRATION OF FIRMNESS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA)--The Cabinet's announcement yesterday "unreservedly rejecting" Egypt's latest proposals for the West Bank and Gaza Strip was intended, according to Cabinet sources, principally to demonstrate Israel's firmness in the face of expected pressures in the near future.

The announcement gave thumbs down on the Egyptian proposals even before they had been formally submitted to the U.S. or to Israel--an unusual procedure. The Cabinet reacted to Cairo radio reports on the evolving Egyptian plan which calls for the return of the West Bank and Gaza to Egypt for an interim period until the eventual determination of their future and the negotiation of Israel's "security problems" during that interim period. The Cabinet, at Premier Menachem Begin's insistence and without a vote, rejected these ideas as a "precondition" since they demanded evacuation of the areas before negotiation of Israel's "security problems."

Cabinet sources explained that the Egyptian ideas had been evolving for a period of weeks and had been expressed by President Anwar Sadat on several occasions in recent days. Israel decided to speak out forcefully against them, the sources said, before they took hold of Western public opinion because Israel found them completely unacceptable as a basis for resumed negotiations.

The sources referred to Vice President Walter Mondale's visit here this weekend as the likely harbinger of a renewed American effort to get the peace process moving. They said the Cabinet deliberately wanted to put its categorical position on record before Mondale's arrival here.

U.S. officials themselves now concede that the Mondale trip will be more than the mere "ceremonial" occasion it was originally labeled. Some observers here expect it to mark the start of an energetic American effort to speed up the momentum. Therefore they recommend that the Israel government brace itself for some tough talk from Mondale, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, and other top U.S. officials.

There is no official word here yet regarding the prospect of a tripartite meeting of Foreign Ministers in London in mid-July, a possibility reported from Washington and from Cairo. But privately, officials expect Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan to receive an invitation soon to go to London and meet there with Vance and Egypt's Foreign Minister Mohammed Kamel as a first move towards resumption of the stalled negotiations.

Some observers here believe Vance chose the London venue in order to involve the British government and other European Common Market nations in the U.S. effort to get the two Mideast protagonists back to the negotiating table.

PARTIAL MONDALE ITINERARY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA)--A partial itinerary for the visit by Vice President Walter Mondale at the end of this week was disclosed today. It remained unclear whether he will visit East Jerusalem but he will visit the Western Wall in the Jewish quarter of the Old City. The itinerary was planned by a group of Israeli officials headed by Mordechai Ben-Elissar and an advance party of American officials.

No detailed timetable has been announced.

It was learned, however, that Mondale, accompanied by his wife, Joan, and 17-year-old daughter, Elinore, will arrive with his party Friday afternoon and will meet with President Yitzhak Navon. Premier Menachem Begin will host a festive dinner for the Mondales at the Knesset Sunday night. The Vice President is expected to visit former Premier Golda Meir, probably at her home in Tel Aviv.

He will also visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, Ben Gurion's grave at Sde Boker in the Negev and the Negev University at Beersheba where he will unveil a monument in memory of the late Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, a fellow-Minnesotan. The Mondales will stay at the King David Hotel. Direct telephone lines to the White House, installed during former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's "shuttle diplomacy" mission in 1975, will be reactivated. The members of Mondale's party have booked 160 rooms at the hotel which forced the management to turn away regular tourists.

CARTER SAYS HE'S 'DISAPPOINTED' BY ISRAELI RESPONSES TO U.S.

WASHINGTON, June 26 (JTA)--President Carter said today that he was "very, very disappointed" with the Israeli Cabinet's response to the American questions on the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and also appeared critical of Israel's rejection yesterday of Egyptian proposals for those territories before they were even formally presented.

Carter made those remarks when asked at a press conference late this afternoon for his assessment of Middle East peace prospects. He said his experience left him unsurprised by "temporary setbacks" and stressed that "our commitment to the policy of seeking a comprehensive and effective peace in the Middle East is constant and very dedicated. We will not back off on this," he said.

The Israeli Cabinet yesterday rejected "unreservedly" an Egyptian proposal that the West Bank be returned to Jordan and the Gaza Strip to Egypt pending negotiations on the final disposition of those territories and on Israel's security problems. The proposal appeared in the semi-official Cairo daily Al-Ahram but was not made officially by the Egyptian government. Carter stressed that point. He said that when the Egyptian proposals are finally formulated and given to the U.S., they will be conveyed to Israel and both sides would have proposals on the table. "I should hope at that point we could make real progress in searching out common ground on which they might stand and alleviating the differences that still remain," he said. He said he could not predict how long that would take.

The State Department declined to comment today on Israel's rejection of the unofficial Egyptian proposal and would not discuss whether the Egyptian ideas were "a concrete proposal" or, as Israel contends, "a pre-condition" for resuming peace talks. The Department's chief spokesman, Hodding Carter, said that "Our interest is in getting the parties back into direct negotiations on general approaches to peace in the area and what the agenda will be."

President Carter said that when he rebuked Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, Fidel Castro of Cuba and "special interest groups" at home for their criticism of National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski last week, he had no particular special interest group in mind. He had been asked if he had been referring to such groups as American Jews who have been critical of Brzezinski.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**MOOD IN SKOKIE: RELIEVED BUT 'SOMBER'**

By David Ettinger

SKOKIE, Ill., June 26 (JTA)--Severe thunderstorms drenched this Chicago suburb yesterday, the day members of the American Nazi Party had threatened to march in this heavily Jewish residential community. The weather seemed to fit the mood here. Even as it helped clear the air, the steady rainfall contributed a certain somberness to the atmosphere already heavily laden with controversy which has focused international attention on this village of 40,000 Jewish inhabitants.

The persistent rain, however, did little to dampen the spirits of Skokie's 7000 Holocaust survivors who breathed a collective sigh of relief that they would not once again be victimized by the spectacle of Nazi stormtroopers parading through the streets of their home town. There was a calm before the storm.

As Americans throughout the country grappled with their consciences on the heated controversial issues raised by the proposed Nazi demonstration, residents of this community privately marked what they hoped was the end of their year-and-a-half long ordeal which came last week with the Nazi decision to cancel the planned rally. As an expression of support for the people of Skokie, hundreds of Jews from across the country who had flocked here to participate in the planned counter-demonstration held a solemn memorial service for Holocaust victims yesterday morning. "We've come to Skokie to challenge evil, to keep American democracy impregnable," said Rabbi Maurice Lamm of Los Angeles. Jewish community leaders, who admitted to being "emotionally drained" by the events of the past few weeks, expressed relief that Skokie residents were spared the trauma of reliving a horrible past.

Just One "Battlefront"

Sol Goldstein, a member of the Political Actions Committee of the Chicago Jewish United Fund (JUF) that helped organize the intended counter-demonstration against the Nazis, said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that it was the determination of those thousands of people to confront the Nazis which scared them off. Attempting to put the situation in Skokie into perspective, Goldstein, a Holocaust survivor, told the JTA that he considered Skokie only "one battlefront" of a much larger "war."

"This battlefront gained a victory. But the war is not over. In another while we will have to step into another battlefront," he said, adding that "we will come to any place the Nazis will appear." He said that "Skokie served as an example to the whole world that you don't have to hide; you have to resist. You have to come out and speak up," he said. "I don't expect the Nazis to return to Skokie," he added. Goldstein said the lesson of Skokie was that the Nazis would back down when confronted by a determined American public.

A spokesman for the JUF termed Skokie "a focal point" and "rally point" for "anti-Neo-Nazism." Goldstein joined Jewish officials in expressing gratification over the outpouring of response received in the course of recent weeks. "I am encouraged by the hundreds of letters and telegrams from the world over," he said. "I am getting letters saying 'don't stop, this is not the end. We have to plan for the future.' The major constructive result," of the entire affair has been "the

warm and spontaneous" reaction it elicited, according to James Rice, executive vice-president of the JUF. Rice referred to "heartwarming letters of sympathy" received from across the globe. He compared Skokie's impact to that of the Holocaust television series.

American Public Sensitized

Goldstein agreed that Skokie had helped to further sensitize the American public to a greater awareness of the events of the Holocaust in which six million Jews perished. During World War II, "the people had an excuse. They said they didn't know. Now everybody knows. All the Jewish people were in Auschwitz. They were all sentenced to death. Our commitment is to tell this story to the world, to force them to remember," Goldstein added.

"There is a threat and the threat won't disappear so easily," according to Goldstein, who suggested the next battlefront may be faced in two weeks if the Nazis follow through on their plans to demonstrate in Chicago's Marquette Park on July 9. He attacked the American Civil Liberties Union as "destroying the principles" for which it was organized by defending the Nazi action. "To display a swastika... is to discuss whether the Jews have a right to live. It is not a matter of free speech at all," he claimed.

Could the Holocaust happen again, this time in the United States? "It may," says Goldstein. "I cannot say to you it cannot happen. It can under certain conditions, under certain circumstances. I know it will not happen if we'll stay alert and if we stop this cancer growth while there is still time."

ISRAEL'S ACHIEVEMENTS OUTLINED BY YARIV

NEW YORK, June 26 (JTA)--Aharon Yariv, a retired general who was formerly chief of Israel's military intelligence, declared here that among Israel's major achievements during its 30-year history were "the maintenance of independence, the absorption of immigrants, the development of a modern society within a democratic structure."

Yariv's remarks came as he presented the Israel Prime Minister's Medal to Augustine R. Marusi, chairman and chief executive officer of Borden, Inc., at a National Israel Tribute Dinner held in cooperation with the State of Israel Bonds. More than 700 leaders in the food and chemical industries, as well as major banks and insurance companies, joined in honoring Marusi at the dinner Thursday night with the purchase of \$3 million in Israel Bonds.

Yariv, a former Minister of Information, said "were it not for the help from the United States, including Israel Bonds, I am convinced that (Egyptian President Anwar) Sadat would not have taken his peace initiative." Marusi stressed that the economic strength of Israel "made possible by the Israel Development Bond Program, is the foundation on which rests a great share of our hope for peaceful development and for a strengthening of the forces of freedom in the Middle East."

Former Israeli Premier Golda Meir sent a message praising Marusi as a "symbol of understanding and goodwill that we depend on for our survival and progress."

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Immigration last month increased by 25 percent over May, 1977, the Jewish Agency's immigration and absorption department reported. The new arrivals numbered 2218 compared to 1775 during the same month last year.