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ISRAEL IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH U.S. CONCERNING SITUATION IN LEBANON

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Aug. 29 (JTA)--Israel is in continued close contact with the United States over the situation in Lebanon and is trying to convince the Carter Administration that Syria is planning to destroy the Christian military forces in north Lebanon, it was learned here today. Both Israeli political and military experts believe that the Syrians want to eliminate the Christian military capability in order to perpetuate the control of the Syrian army in the northern part of the country.

The U.S. does not share Israel's fears; but Washington is concerned about the possibility of a military clash between Israel and Syria, according to sources. (See related story from Washington.)

The Israelis believe that Syria has started its massive military activity against Christian enclaves in northern Lebanon because Damascus felt Israel could do nothing because of the upcoming summit meeting at Camp David. But Israel has warned the U.S. that it would consider the conquest by Syria of the rugged mountains of north Lebanon, where the Christian strongholds are located, a dangerous strategic threat to Israel.

This warning was apparently relayed by Washington to Damascus. This, it is believed here, may be the reason that Syrian President Hafez Assad warned yesterday that Syria is ready to repulse any Israeli attack.

Israel apparently is not contemplating any direct intervention at this time. Israel's policy is still based on opposition to the stationing of any Syrian troops in south Lebanon to prevent the Palestinian terrorists from penetrating areas south of the Litani River and to protect the Christians in south Lebanon. However, if the situation in Lebanon deteriorates to a point where the Christians face physical extinction, Israel may have to act.

BEGIN TO PRESENT ALBUM TO CARTER

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)--President Carter will receive an original album called "War and Peace" from Premier Menachem Begin when he attends the Camp David summit next week. The album, worth \$2000, contains 20 original prints on the subject of war and peace painted by different renowned Israeli artists. It was edited by a former curator of the Tel Aviv Museum. The album is a limited edition of 190 copies. The first copy was presented yesterday to Begin at his residence. It is due to go on sale to the public later this week.

ISRAEL ASKS POLAND TO DEFER PARLEY ON KORCZAK SCHEDULED FOR YOM KIPPUR

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)--Israel may boycott an international conference in commemoration of Janusz Korczak, because the Polish authorities intend to hold it on Yom Kippur.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer suggested that such action be taken if the Poles refuse to change the date of the gathering. Furthermore, in a letter Hammer sent today to the Israel Janusz Korczak Committee, he said he had heard that the Poles have already turned down the idea.

"It seems to me," wrote Hammer, "that this refusal constitutes an insult to the Jewish public. Janusz Korczak was a Jew and was murdered in the Holocaust because of his Jewishness. It would therefore have been proper to have taken his people's feelings into account," Hammer wrote. Korczak, whose real name was Henryk Goldszmit, was a pediatrician in Warsaw. When the Nazis captured the city, he was instrumental in saving the lives of countless children.

LEBANON TO BE ON THE SUMMIT AGENDA

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29 (JTA)--The United States, urged by some Israeli leaders to take action against the continuing assaults by Syrian forces against the Christian community in Lebanon, today for the first time linked next week's summit conference at Camp David to the Lebanese situation.

Without specifying that Lebanon will be on the summit agenda or agreeing that the Lebanese problems might upset the conference, the State Department in discussing the situation pointed to Camp David in a review of the American position towards Lebanon.

"We consider the Camp David meeting the best opportunity to date for working out at the highest level the framework for negotiating a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict," spokesman Kenneth Brown said in discussing Lebanon. "We are determined to do everything possible to make that meeting a success."

Asked whether the Syrian attacks against the Christians in Lebanon are intended to "torpedo" the summit conference, Brown said he has "no evidence of such plans by the Syrians." He added, however, that "a number of situations" may cause "eruption of violence at any time."

Saying "no" to a question whether Lebanon's tragedy may upset the conference, Brown said that the U.S. was urging "maximum restraint" in all quarters "publicly and privately," that the U.S. is "continuing contacts" with all having a "role or influence" in Lebanon, and that the U.S. is having "active contact" with the United Nations which may be asked by Lebanon to extend its action in the war-torn country.

When asked about shipments of arms into Lebanon, Brown replied that "this obviously is included" under the rubric of restraint. He said he knows nothing specific regarding a reported request by Israel that Washington urge Syria to halt attacks on Lebanese Christians.

ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC SITUATION TO BE DISCUSSED AT SPECIAL CABINET SESSION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)--The Cabinet will hold a special meeting Sept. 17 to discuss Israel's worsening economic situation. The discussion

will range over a wide variety of topics. First, is the budget, which, despite demands that it be cut to curb inflation, may have to be increased by IL 3 billion because of wage increases, considerable supplements to the police budget for anti-terrorism activities and the growing deficits in municipal budgets. The government's action on the problem in the localities has a special political impact since municipal elections are being held in November.

Commerce and Industry Minister Yigal Hurwitz resigned last month over his demand that the budget be cut by IL 3 billion. He rescinded his resignation when he was promised that the Knesset Finance Committee would review his demand. He says he still has not lost hope that the budget will be cut despite the sign that there will be increases, not cuts, in the budget.

Problems To Be Tackled

The Cabinet will also discuss the worsening inflation. The Finance Ministry originally projected a 30 percent increase in inflation which it has corrected to an estimate now of 37 percent. The Bank of Israel projects the rate at 40 percent.

Another problem is the growing consumption in the country and the fact that more is being bought from abroad than exported, which has caused an increase of \$300 million in Israel's balance of trade deficit. The government also expects to pay off by January its public index-linked bonds estimated at IL 8 billion. Most of the money is expected to be spent by the public, adding to inflation.

The Cabinet will also discuss the expected Histadrut demand that the freeze on cuts on government subsidies for essential food items be extended six months. The Finance Ministry wants to cut subsidies after the High Holy Days.

Wage demands exceeding the 15 percent ceiling set by the government are expected to be made by the teachers, tax services employees, engineers and physicians. If any of these demands are approved, inflation will increase further. In addition, the Ministry of Social Betterment is proposing several new laws, including one setting a minimum wage, which will involve further increase in expenses. Despite economic objections to the bills, they are likely to be approved for political reasons.

Measure To Cope With Situation

The Finance Ministry is considering several measures to slow down the deterioration in the economy which it will propose at the Sept. 17 meeting. One will be to encourage holders of the government bonds to keep them under improved terms. A second proposal is to increase the interest rate to cut down on credit. The rate for a bank mortgage is now 42 percent annually.

The Ministry will also propose increasing fees for government services such as driver's license and auto registration. The government policy is opposed to any increase in the income tax which has a top level now of 60 percent but it might increase the value added tax (VAT) which is now 12 percent.

Another proposal may be to increase the price of such products and services as fuel, electricity and water. A gallon of gasoline now costs \$1.50. The Finance Ministry may also urge cutting the subsidies on food items despite the objections of the Histadrut.

NEW DEPARTMENT APPROVED BY WZO

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)--The World Zionist Organization Executive established a new department this week, to be called the Department for Development and Services. It will be responsible for increasing the number of Jewish organizations which are part of the Zionist movement, spreading news about Zionism and Judaism on university campuses throughout the world, and being actively involved in establishing a school on Judaism and Zionism that has been proposed for Jerusalem.

The department, to be headed by Executive member Avraham Shenker, will take over the WZO's Institute for Leadership Development, Mossad Bialik, the Weizmann Institute for Zionist Studies and the World Hebrew Union.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA STEINEM SAYS SAUDI ARABIA IS A 'NAZI GERMANY' FOR WOMEN

TORONTO, Aug. 29 (JTA)--Charging that Saudi Arabia was "a Nazi Germany for women," the American feminist leader, Gloria Steinem, said yesterday it was "outrageous" that the Carter Administration had failed to recognize Saudi subjugation of women as a denial of human rights. At a new conference here, prior to addressing the convention of the American Psychological Association, Ms. Steinem cited the Saudi practice of "auctioning off women as chattel to their prospective husbands," as one example of sex discrimination.

The deplored a statement by President Carter during his visit to the Saudi capital Riyadh earlier this year, "when he stood in the company of the sheikhs and other government rulers and said how much 'at home' he felt."

Ms. Steinem said she was particularly disturbed by current Saudi efforts to impose Moslem ideas about women on other countries that seek to do business with the oil-rich kingdom. "Not only do the Saudis oppress their own women, they discriminate in every way against women of other nationalities seeking employment in the Saudi kingdom," she declared. The feminist leader and author observed that, while the United States has attempted to reduce anti-Jewish discrimination and to mitigate the anti-Israel policies of the Saudi regime, no similar effort had been undertaken by the White House on behalf of women.

UN ASSEMBLY TO DEVOTE MAJOR PORTION OF SESSION TO MIDEAST CONFLICT

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 29 (JTA)--The United Nations General Assembly, which opens here Sept. 19, will devote a major part of its time to the Mideast conflict and its ramifications. As in previous years, Israel is likely to come under heavy fire from the Arabs and their supporters.

According to the provisional agenda of the upcoming 33rd session of the Assembly, the situation in the Mideast and the "question of Palestine," which are listed as items 30 and 31 respectively on the agenda, will come up for debate during the first weeks of the Assembly.

The Mideast debate will center around a report by Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and the debate on the question of Palestine will focus on the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, which was branded by Israel as anti-Israel and one-sided.

Other items on the agenda which will provide the Arabs with an opportunity to attack and criticize the Jewish State are the debate on the Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories (item 55) and the debate of the Program for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (item 73)—a debate that is likely to be the basis for an attempt to revive the Arab-inspired 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism.

'PROJECT RENEWAL' TERMED THE SECOND REBIRTH OF ISRAEL

By Barbie Zelizer-Meyouhas

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)—The 320 members of the United Jewish Appeal's Prime Minister's Mission were taken to see for themselves today some of the 160 poverty neighborhoods throughout Israel slated for rehabilitation over the next 10 years through the efforts of the government of Israel and world Jewry.

But first they were given a briefing by Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, who heads "Project Renewal," the \$1.2 billion program which will be financed half from government appropriations and half from world Jewry. The project is the second rebirth of Israel, Yadin told the visitors from the United States and Canada. He said the country is today trying to correct the poor planning on social problems of the past.

"Although the Ministry of Housing had good will, it had limited resources and not enough time to cope with hundreds of thousands of people living in tents after the War of Independence," Yadin observed. "These refugees and immigrants were literally dumped into houses without any study of who should live with whom."

Yadin said that then a series of crucial mistakes compounded the problem, particularly a lack of social infrastructure, and of educational facilities. The absorption and integration prospects for these communities were consequently hindered.

"As a result, Project Renewal is a comprehensive approach to deal with social problems rather than specific remedial measures aimed at particular aspects," Yadin said. He noted that it involved the Ministries of Health, Education, Social Betterment and Labor, as well as the Ministry of Housing. Yadin added that in Project Renewal, the participants of the program are the neighborhood residents themselves.

The Deputy Premier stressed to the Mission members that the overseas fundraisers must ensure that financial resources are available for the program, as well as contribute their own skills, talents and advice toward the operational management of the renewal scheme. "I urge you," he continued, "to see things from the eyes of the poor. When you visit the neighborhoods, please keep in mind that the success or failure of Project Renewal depends as much on you as it does on us."

ZOA CONCLAVE TO PROBE MAJOR ISSUES OF ZIONIST CONCERN IN U.S., ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Aug. 29 (JTA)—The 81st national convention of the Zionist Organization of America, which will be held in Washington Sept. 8-10, will focus on major areas of Zionist concern in the United States and Israel, it was announced here by Leon Ilutovich, ZOA na-

tional executive director. Foremost among them, he said, will be: the issue of interdependence in policy and action between Israel and the diaspora, especially American Jewry; religious pluralism in Israel; the problem posed by Soviet Jewish dropouts "and the role played in this tragic development by some respectable non-Zionist Jewish organizations"; aliya as a central task and an evaluation of Israel's absorption process; and "our position regarding the most desirable structure for the Zionist movement in the United States and a clear-cut policy with regard to the American Zionist Federation as presently constituted."

Ilutovich, noting that the convention will coincide with the Camp David summit conference, said "all eyes will be focused on the Camp David meeting to see if there will be any strains in the already taut bonds between Israel and the United States." Any American plans to make Israel "more forthcoming" are certain to be rejected by the ZOA, he added.

Among the Israelis scheduled to address the convention, which will be held at the Shoreham Americana Hotel, are Simcha Diniz, Israel's Ambassador to the U.S.; Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Yitzhak Moda'i; Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations; Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives; and Harry Hurwitz, newly appointed advisor on external information to Begin. Israeli Premier Menachem Begin has been invited to address the convention and has indicated his interest, "if the meetings at Camp David allow," Ilutovich said.

The convention will also elect a new president in accord with the ZOA constitution, which limits the term of office to no more than four consecutive years. Rabbi Joseph P. Sternstein, who has served since the 1974 convention as president, will step down. During the convention the delegates will be briefed by high-ranking State Department officials and a number of Congressmen are scheduled to meet with delegations and address the convention.

POLICE OFFICIAL REMOVED FROM POST FOR MAKING ANTI-SEMITIC REMARKS

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 29 (JTA)—The superintendent of police of Groningen in the northeastern part of The Netherlands, Leender Wit, has been removed from his post by the Minister of the Interior for having made anti-Semitic remarks. At a closed meeting with some police officers last autumn he reportedly made anti-Semitic remarks about Jewish labor politicians, one of whom is a young Alderman in Groningen. Some of those present at the meeting reported the matter and an investigation was ordered.

Wit said he could not remember having made these remarks and that he certainly is not anti-Semitic. He said if he did make the remarks he regrets them and offers his apologies. However, the Labor Mayor of Groningen said he did not think this was sufficient. Wit will now be transferred elsewhere.

SZYMON GOTESMAN DEAD AT 92

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug. 29 (JTA)—Szymon Gotesman, who participated in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and was later active in the Zionist movement here after his arrival in Rio following the war, died last week at the age of 92. In pre-war days he was a well-known attorney in Cracow. He left that city during the war and joined forces with Itzhak Zuckerman, a commander of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

EVRON IS NO STRANGER TO WASHINGTON

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)--Ephraim Evron, the 57-year-old director-general of the Foreign Ministry who has been named to succeed Simcha Dinitz as Ambassador to the United States Dec. 15, is no stranger to Washington.

In fact, there is a story, probably apocryphal, that when Evron was appointed Ambassador to Canada in 1968 after a short time as the envoy to Sweden, it was because the then U.S. President, Lyndon B. Johnson, had sent Israeli Premier Levi Eshkol, a note saying, "I miss him (Evron) and I would like to have him closer to me."

Evron was a Minister in the Israeli Embassy in Washington from 1965 until going to Sweden. But he had gotten to know Johnson and other Americans even earlier when he served as the Histadrut's representative in the U.S. and as a second secretary in the Israeli Embassy in 1953. He also served as Minister in the Israeli Embassy in London from 1961 to 1965. Before being named to his present post in 1977, Evron was deputy director general in charge of North American affairs for six years.

Born in Haifa, Evron attended Hebrew University. He served in the British Army from 1941 to 1946 and with the Haganah intelligence in 1948. He was wounded in the battle of Jerusalem in 1948.

Evron entered the Foreign Service in 1949 and became political secretary to Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett. He was Premier David Ben-Gurion's political secretary from 1951 to 1953 and in 1954-55 was director of the office of Defense Minister Pinhas Lavon. Short and thin, Evron is known for developing personal relations and is considered especially effective in small groups.

RIVLIN URGES DECISIVE RESPONSE TO THE JNF'S FIVE-YEAR PLAN

NEW YORK, Aug. 29 (JTA)--Moshe Rivlin, chairman of the Jewish National Fund Directorate, concluded a nationwide tour by calling upon all "American friends and supporters of the Jewish State" to respond decisively to the challenge of the JNF's new Five-Year Master Plan. The plan calls for the site development for 80 new villages, the construction of 2000 kilometers of roads, the afforestation of 40,000 acres, the preparation of 12,000 acres of wasteland for new farming and 1000 parks and recreation areas.

Rivlin, in addressing some 100 JNF executives who assembled Sunday in New York from all parts of the country, stated that "it is vital for the Jewish National Fund to create 'land facts' in the Galilee where only 37 percent of the population is Jewish. By developing industrial complexes, by afforestation, by building roads and new settlements in this largely Arab-populated region in the State of Israel, we will reinforce and extend our presence and, hopefully, in the next few years, make the Galilee truly and almost wholly Jewish."

Rivlin also reported that the JNF is currently operating in 300 locations throughout Israel and at seven times the level as existed 10 years ago.

Dr. Samuel I. Cohen, JNF executive vice president, told the meeting that 1978 has been one of the most successful years in JNF history and predicted a 20 percent rise this year in the JNF annual income. A highlight of the meeting was an address by Rabbi William Berkowitz, JNF president, who stressed the "unique ideology" of the JNF as a "potent and dynamic educational

force in revitalizing Jewish life."

BLUM IS BUSY PREPARING FOR TASK AS ISRAEL'S ENVOY TO UN
By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 29 (JTA)--Prof. Yehuda Blum, who arrived in New York with his family last night, was busy at work this morning in his first day as Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations. His day was largely devoted to meetings with the staff of the Israel Mission to the UN and with consultations. In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency shortly after his arrival, Blum said he will present his credentials as Israel's Ambassador to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim on Sept. 5.

Blum, a Hebrew University expert on international law, added that the next three weeks will be devoted to "organizing and getting ready" for the General Assembly, which is scheduled to open here Sept. 19. He noted that considering the challenges Israel will face in the Assembly there is much to be studied and prepared "in the short time that is left until the opening of the Assembly."

The Czechoslovakian-born Ambassador, who succeeded Ambassador Chaim Herzog, said that he will hold a press conference this week, possibly Thursday, to get acquainted with Israeli and Jewish reporters here. Shmuel Moyal, a spokesman for the Israeli Consulate in New York, will serve as spokesman for the Israeli UN Mission until a permanent spokesman is sent from Israel. The former spokesman, Tuvia Saar, leaves Thursday for Israel.

ISRAEL, CALIFORNIA TO COOPERATE IN DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR ENERGY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)--The Israeli government and the State of California are about to establish a joint fund for the development of solar energy. Yosef Bardi, director general of the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, met recently with California Governor Jerry Brown to discuss cooperation on this project.

Israel holds a world record in using solar energy. A quarter of Israel's population uses solar energy boilers for heating water, the highest rate in the world. Out of this year's IL 100 million devoted for the search of alternative energy sources, some IL 42 million will be allocated for further solar energy studies. An international congress on this subject is scheduled to take place next week at the Haifa Technion.

WEDDINGS DOWN, DIVORCES UP

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA)--Israelis divorce more and marry less, according to a survey of the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The survey shows that in 1976 some 26,000 Jewish couples got married, compared to 29,000 who did so a year before. The number of divorces rose from 2,900 in 1975 to 3,100 in 1976.

According to the survey, the average marriage period of the couples that divorced was eight years and half of them had children. The survey also reports a rise in the number of illegitimate babies--591 in 1976 compared to 72 in 1951.

Life expectancy in Israel is among the highest in the world. Males reach 71.6 years, and females 75.4, the survey showed.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin is scheduled to address the nation in a radio-TV broadcast on the eve of his departure for Camp David, Sept. 3.