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SPECIAL TO THE JTA JEWISH COMMUNITY IN IRAN

By Rochelle Saidel Wolk

ALBANY, N.Y., Nov. 23 (JTA) -- A recent visitor to Iran who is familiar with the Jewish community there has told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Jews of Iran are "very apprehensive" about possible drastic changes in government that might take place. According to his report, Irani Jews fear that restrictions against them would be initiated if a new government with predominant religious influence were to come to power.

When Shiite Moslem Ayatullah Shariatmadri was interviewed by foreign correspondents recently, the visitor said, this influential leader expressed the view that Jews had traditionally enjoyed the protection of the Moslem state, and they would continue to do so under a religion-oriented government. Shariatmadri added, however, a proviso to the effect that this would only be the case as long as the Jewish community in Iran agreed not to support Zionism or the State of Israel.

Under the aegis of the Shah, the visitor explained, the Jewish community and other minorities have enjoyed human rights, religious freedom and prosperity. Minorities are recognized and represented in the Irani Majlis, or Parliament, with the Jewish community served by their elected representative, Yosef Cohan.

Jews, Non-Moslems Adversely Regarded

According to the Shiite religious edicts, however, Jews and other non-Moslems are adversely regarded. For many such devout Moslems, it has not been customary to have contacts with the Jewish community. There were instances of anti-Jewish literature being distributed in bazaars during the latest upheavals, the visitor said, but these supposedly originated from individual Moslem leaders and the Moslem religious leadership publicly disassociated itself from them.

There are approximately 80,000 Jews now living in Iran, with the majority in Teheran and also large clusters in the cities of Shiraz and Isfahan. Under the Shah, Irani Jews have become relatively affluent, enjoyed complete freedom to enter professions, and established industries and businesses, with the encouragement of the government, the visitor said.

Three Separate Jewish Groups

The Jewish community in Iran is composed of three separate groups, he explained. The majority are members of the Irani Jewish community which is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, Jewish communities in the diaspora. There has been such a community in parts of Iran ever since the destruction of the first Temple.

A second group, an offspring of the first, is called the Mashedi community, originating in Mashed, one of the cities holy to the Shiite faith. These Jews were forced to embrace Islam about 150 years ago, but kept Judaism secretly alive and returned to open practice when conditions permitted. Because of its unique history, the visitor said, this group of 3000 families gen-

erally keeps to itself. They are primarily occupied with carpet dealing, and now have communities outside of Iran, in Israel, Milan, Italy and elsewhere.

Iraqi Jews who came to Iran as recently as the 1930s and 1940s comprise another small group. They are usually merchants and their traditions differ slightly from those of the other communities.

Until the turn of the century, Jews in Iran, as in many Moslem countries, lived in special quarters, or ghettos. Since the time of the father of the current Shah, they have been allowed to live in all parts of Teheran and other cities. The Jewish community has a representative body called Anjuman Kalmian, which is elected periodically by members of the community. All matters of communal life, welfare and education are administered by this Jewish committee, the visitor said. At present, there are about 80,000 Irani Jews living in Israel.

BEN-ELISSAR: NO PLAN TO SUBMIT REPORT ON AUTONOMY IMPLEMENTATION

By Barbie Zelizer-Meyouhas

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Dr. Eliyahu Ben-Elissar, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office and head of the Governmental Committee on Autonomy, denied media reports today that the committee intends to submit an intermediate report on the implementation of the autonomy plan to the government next week. Ben-Elissar said the detailed implementation of the autonomy plan had not yet been discussed in committee.

The media noted that the committee's report contains three primary recommendations for the implementation of autonomy: State land in the autonomy region, comprising some one million dunams, will remain the property of the State of Israel and will not be turned over to any foreign body; the self-ruling body under the autonomy plan will not be granted rights equal to those held by the Jordanian government in the region prior to 1967; and all water sources in the autonomy region will remain the property of Israel.

Ben-Elissar, in denying these reports, also noted that the committee is not planning to submit a report on the autonomy in the near future. It is generally felt that while the committee intended to submit such a report, the sensitive stage of the ongoing negotiations between Israel and Egypt rendered such a move impractical at this time.

Meanwhile, the religious kibbutz movement voiced opposition today to the Israeli autonomy plan, contending that it undermines and endangers the very existence and development of settlements on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In a session of the movement's political committee and general secretariat, it was decided that the movement will begin lobbying immediately for the establishment of local authorities for settlements in these territories.

DAYAN SAYS PEACE TREATY DRAFT APPROVED BY CABINET STANDS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan has made it clear that the draft peace treaty with Egypt that the Cabinet approved by a 15-2 margin is not subject to any changes or additions. It is one package and should be treated as such by Egypt and Israel, Dayan said in a briefing for Foreign Ministry officials after the Cabinet

vote Tuesday. "One can either take it or leave it," he said. He stated that the Israeli negotiating team has no particular reason to return to Washington at this time to continue negotiations, a possible hint that the Israelis would return only for the purpose of initialing the draft treaty.

Dayan noted that the version approved by the Cabinet did not contain any Israeli concessions beyond those made by Israel at Camp David. He said the treaty includes all of the essential components for normalization of relations with Egypt, including demilitarized territories, the deployment of United Nations peace-keeping forces and the definition of the substance of peace.

The Cabinet, in voting to approve the treaty, rejected unequivocally the post-Camp David demands by Egypt for linkage and a timetable for implementation of autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But it said Israel was prepared to start negotiations on autonomy as soon as the treaty is signed and ratified.

The consensus here is that the next move is up to President Anwar Sadat of Egypt. The fact that Sadat recalled the head of the Egyptian negotiating team in Cairo for "consultations" Tuesday was not viewed with concern here. Political circles see it as a move to balance the return of the chief Israeli negotiators to Jerusalem and to give Sadat time to "think things over." The fact that reports from Washington indicate that the Americans are generally optimistic that a treaty will be signed, dissipated any feelings that a crisis was at hand. (See related story Pg. 3.)

Egyptians Got Quid Pro Quo

The Israelis feel that they have given the Egyptians quid pro quo. By accepting American proposed compromise language in the treaty preamble -- previously rejected by the Cabinet -- which characterizes the treaty as a step toward an overall settlement of the Middle East conflict, Cairo has, in effect, gotten the linkage it wants, sources here said. To balance this, Israel will insist on a separate clause guaranteeing the validity of the treaty irrespective of developments in other fields, such as the implementation of autonomy.

At the moment, it is believed that a peace treaty can be signed on Dec. 10, the day Premier Menachem Begin and Sadat receive the 1978 Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo. But that date is not regarded as an absolute deadline and if it is not met it will not mean the peace negotiations have failed, Israeli circles noted.

U.S. PROMISES TO ISRAEL CITED

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said today that the United States has promised Israel to construct the two new air bases in the Negev within one year. He told a press conference here that the agreement was that if the air bases are not completed within the three-year time limit provided in the Camp David agreements for Israel's withdrawal from Sinai, the U.S. would provide Israel with alternative installations. He did not elaborate.

Israel Radio reported yesterday that the U.S. promised to guarantee all of Israel's energy needs after the abandonment of the Sinai oil fields. This was one of several commitments made during the peace negotiations in Washington in order to speed up the negotiations, the radio report said. It gave no further details.

Israel returned the Abu Rodeis oil fields in Sinai to Egypt under the terms of the 1975 interim agreement but is still extracting oil from other

wells in Sinai. When the first phase of the Israeli withdrawal is completed within nine months of the signing of a peace treaty, Israeli forces will be deployed on the El Arish-Ras Mouhammed line in eastern Sinai, leaving all remaining oil fields in Egyptian hands.

CANADIAN POLICE NAB TOP PFLP MEMBER

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- A 32-year-old Palestinian, Mohammed Khalil-Abotouha, is in the custody of Canadian security police since his arrest a few days ago in Montreal, charged with "infractions of the Canadian immigration law." The Palestinian, according to the Royal Mounted Police, is one of the leading members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is headed by George Habash. Before coming to Montreal, he lived in the Washington, D.C. area, police said.

The authorities intend to seek his deportation on grounds of allegedly entering Canada under false pretensions and also because there is a strong link between him and another member of the Popular Front, a Lebanese named Bassam Muhammed Ferkh, 24, who studied English in Edmonton, Alberta and who was deported from Canada Nov. 3 and is now reported to be in a Beirut jail in custody of Lebanese authorities.

Both individuals are charged with having participated in the murder of the U.S. Ambassador and his economic counselor while they were trying to cross from the Moslem sector of Beirut into the Christian sector on June 16, 1976. Officials here said they expected the pair to be charged with those killings.

BLUM DENOUNCES UN STUDY

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Yehuda Blum, Israel's UN Ambassador, expressed strong objections at a press conference here yesterday, to the publication of a UN study entitled "The Origin and Evolution of the Palestine Problem." The study was sponsored by the Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, an anti-Israel body which serves the goals of the PLO. Blum referred to distortions of historical facts in the study and said that "even the most cursory reading of this document can leave no doubt that the means and machinery of the UN has been misused to disseminate highly selective and tendentious information."

KREPS: U.S. TRADE TO BOYCOTT NATIONS WENT UP DESPITE ANTI-BOYCOTT LAW

NEW YORK, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- American exports to the boycotting countries of the Middle East are up 12 percent over what they were a year ago despite enactment of the American anti-boycott law, according to Secretary of Commerce Juanita Kreps.

"When the law was first enacted in 1977," she told the American Jewish Congress at a dinner honoring her, "there were some who predicted that it would have disastrous impact on our trade. There were some who said that this nation could not afford to stand up for what was right because the economic cost would be too high. They were wrong." She spoke in accepting the 1978 Stephen Wise Award of the AJCongress "for extraordinary public service." She was honored as the first economist and the first woman to hold the position of Commerce Secretary.

In her address Kreps noted that in addition to higher U.S. exports to Arab states that boycott Israel and bar trade with the U.S. firms that trade with Israel, major Arab countries have made "signif-

icent changes" in their boycott requirements. "Few Arab states still insist on explicit agreements to comply with the boycott," she said, "and boycott questionnaires are less and less often required. Over and over again, we are told that U.S. companies, backed by the authority of U.S. law, are able to resist boycott demands and yet secure business."

While conceding that "difficulties do exist" and "some business transactions have surely failed because of the inability to comply with boycott demands," Kreps said she was convinced "that if we stand firm, if we insist -- while respecting the sovereignty of other nations -- on the right to protect our own... if we insist that business without principle is business not worth having, then we will be successful."

Kreps, whose department is responsible for enforcing the anti-boycott provisions of the Export Administration Act, praised the American Jewish community and the American business community for working together last year in drawing up an anti-boycott bill acceptable to both groups. She called that cooperation "a remarkable display of responsibility and citizenship, an exercise without precedent in American political life."

U.S. URGING EGYPT TO TONE DOWN INSISTENCE ON DETAILED TIMETABLE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- The United States indicated yesterday that it is urging Egypt to lessen its insistence on a detailed timetable linking an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty with the political process on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. At the same time, the United States appeared to be seeking that Israel also move from the decision taken by the Israeli Cabinet Tuesday which rejected the Egyptian demands and also did not accept the linkage proposal in the U.S. compromise of Nov. 11.

These developments appeared yesterday when Blair House conference spokesman, George Sherman of the State Department, said President Carter telephoned Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and in a 10-minute conversation discussed the "state of negotiations following the Israeli Cabinet decision" Tuesday. He gave no details, but according to reports, Sadat gave Carter assurances that the peace talks would continue.

Hermann Eilts, the U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, met Sadat yesterday in "a preliminary discussion about the same subject," Sherman said. In this connection, Sherman pointed out that consultations are underway with both Egypt and Israel "about the next steps in the negotiations." Sherman said that Carter spoke to Sadat after receiving Eilts' report on his conversation with Sadat.

Meanwhile, reports from Cairo today said that Sadat told reporters after a meeting with parliamentary members of his party that he and Carter had agreed to reassess and review the situation and exchange views next week. He reiterated Egypt's commitment to linking any treaty with a timetable for Palestinian self-rule but said that he would not be able to comment until after a top-level policy meeting attended by Egypt's chief peace negotiator, Defense Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, who is expected home late today.

RELIGIOUS, SPIRITUAL HERITAGE OF JEWS IS KEY TO JEWISH SURVIVAL

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- "The religious and spiritual heritage of the Jewish people" is still "the key to Jewish survival," as it was "through 2000 years of exile," Harold M. Jacobs, outgoing president of the Union of Or-

thodox Jewish Congregations (UOJCA) of America stated in remarks prepared for delivery tonight to 1000 lay and rabbinic leaders attending the UOJCA's biennial convention here.

According to Jacobs, who is chairman of the Board of Higher Education of New York City, "Political Zionism and the Hebrew language are no longer demeriting forces creating binding ties between the State of Israel and the American Jewish community. Neither tourism, philanthropy nor investments will bring the two communities closer together," he said. "Only our eternal religious heritage and tradition offer the most powerful ties for uniting the spiritual and ethnic destinies of Jews throughout the world to Israel."

Jacobs praised Premier Menachem Begin for "unabashedly giving expression to the spiritual roots of Israel's national existence and stressing the religious connection between the people of Israel and the land of Israel." He claimed that "Begin has once again proven his flexibility and statesmanship in search of peace." He said that "if pressure is to be applied now by the United States it must be used to prevail upon Egypt to accept the peace treaty which it freely negotiated with Israel just a few weeks ago."

Addressing an earlier session of the convention, Rep. Jack Kemp (R. NY) urged continued restrictions on U.S. trade with the Soviet Union until Russia's treatment of its Jewish citizens improved. "Congress must not weaken nor repeal the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, not only in the interests of Soviet Jews, but in the interest of Soviet-American relations," Kemp said. "The only way in which we can have true detente with the Soviets is when they are encouraged to democratize their political system," he said.

According to Ronald Greenwald, convention chairman who has been active on behalf of the release of imprisoned Jews all over the world, "the liberation of oppressed Jews must remain one of the American Jewish community's first priorities in the decade ahead."

Berman Elected President Of UOJCA

Julius Berman, of Forest Hills, N.Y., was elected president of the UOJCA, succeeding Jacobs, who was elected chairman of the organization's board of directors. Berman, a graduate of Yeshiva University, has served as a national officer of the UOJCA since 1966 and is a past president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA).

He is a member of a Manhattan law firm and is currently a trustee of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, and a member of its executive committee. He is the chairman of the UOJCA's delegation to the New York Jewish Community Relations Council, and a member of its executive committee. He has served as the head of the UOJCA's delegation to the Synagogue Council of America, and is a member of that organization's executive committee. Berman currently serves as Secretary of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Board.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Israel Museum purchased a rare manuscript in the Sassoon Collection for \$430,000 Tuesday, largely due to the efforts of Mayor Teddy Kollek. The manuscript went up for sale at a public auction in Zurich. "We have purchased the most famous Pentateuch of the Sassoon Collection," said Kollek, who led a personal 48-hour telephone campaign with Jewish leaders throughout the world in order to raise the money. The 840-page manuscript is the "Pentateuch de Gastro," written in Germany in the late 14th Century. David Solomon Sassoon bought it in Amsterdam in 1899.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES PRYING INTO THE NAZI PAST

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- A prominent French businessman and former senior government official, 69-year-old Jean Leguay, has been accused of having helped the Nazis to round up Jews in France and have them sent to the death camps of Eastern Europe. Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld told a press conference here recently that he is suing Leguay for his past action and intends to shed all the light on his collaboration with the Nazis.

Leguay served between 1942 to 1944 as secretary general of the French national police. Dismissed from government service after the war he was reinstated after he appealed to the Supreme Court which ruled that Leguay "had done whatever he could to counteract the enemy's (Nazi Germany) plans and actions." Klarsfeld told the press conference that he has new evidence to show that Leguay did cooperate with the Nazis in rounding up the 75,000 Jews deported from France.

Since 1957, Leguay has been in business. After serving as general manager of Nina Ricci perfumes in the United States, he went on to head the Jacqueline Cochrane cosmetics industry in New York. Back in Europe, he headed successively a number of large American companies' European subsidiaries. His latest post was that of president for Europe of the Warner-Imbaret House.

Old Scandals Unearthed

Meanwhile, 33 years after the war, Western Europe is prying once again into the troubled waters of its World War II past. By a strange coincidence, this introspection simultaneously hit Holland, West Germany and France. In Holland a prominent minister, Willem Aantjes, 55, resigned after the National Historic Institute announced that he had served in the SS during the war. In West Germany, Bundestag President Karl Carstens has admitted to having been, though involuntarily, a member of the dreaded SA and of the Nazi Party. Carstens, 64, was slated to succeed Walter Scheel as President of West Germany. The public revelation of his past has plunged the country into a political storm.

These scandals are focusing public attention on what went on in these respective countries a generation ago. The local papers in half a dozen countries are trying to pry open more secrets and obtain new revelations. Not a day passes without an "in depth" debate on the Nazi past of countries and regimes on television or in the press.

One of the first effects has been a renewed demand for the extension of the statute of limitations which is due to go into effect in West Germany next year and on renewed investigations into the past of many men now heading government bodies or large business corporations in their respective countries.

Neo-Fascists Meet in Marseilles

While in Western Europe's capitals people were prying into the past, 500 neo-fascists from half a dozen West European countries met in Marseilles earlier this month. The city's Mayor Gaston Defferre had barred the participants from using a municipal hall and holding a public demonstration, but the neo-fascists managed to rent a cinema hall in one of the city's suburbs.

In spite of a mass demonstration of some 5000 liberals with Defferre at their head, the police insisted that the neo-fascists were legally entitled to meet behind closed doors. Leftwing demonstrat-

ors clashed with police while trying to break into the meeting hall. Several people were wounded and 10 demonstrators, four belonging to the left and six to the neo-Nazis, were detained by police.

The neo-fascist demonstrators who belong to a federation of "European Rightwing Organizations," came from France, Belgium, Spain, Greece and Italy. At the end of their meeting they voted resolutions supporting South Africa, Rhodesia and the Lebanese Phalange.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES SELLING POSTERS OF ITS EXHIBIT ON THE HOLOCAUST

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- The National Archives branch of the U.S. General Services Administration, is offering a limited number of sets of four poster-size reproductions of its exhibit "Holocaust: The Documentary Evidence." The photographic reproductions are of the dramatic display of captured German papers and artifacts, documents on the persecution of the Jews by the Nazis in the period between 1938-45. It is a view of the archives where it was set up last May.

The reproductions are being sold, the Archives authorities have announced, as a public service in response to requests from a variety of organizations. Among them are the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Social Problems, in Seattle; the Canadian Jewish Congress; and the John Adams Associations, the B'nai B'rith Museum and the Jewish Community Council in Washington, D.C.

"Because the original exhibit is too fragile to travel," explained Dr. James B. Rhoads, archivist of the United States, "the office of educational programs of the National Archives had the documents and captions photographed to ensure their widest possible distribution. This is part of our continuing effort to make records of exceptional historical importance available to the public."

The documents include an invoice recording the shipment of 309 canisters of Zyklon B cyanide compound to be used at Auschwitz for "disinfection and extermination," a report from a mobile command unit recording the mass shooting of precisely 33,771 Jews at Babi Yar, concentration camp deathbombs, and the troop report on the suppression of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

"It is a great exhibit," said John Toland, Pulitzer Prize winning writer and author of a best-selling biography of Hitler. "Anyone who has seen this and does not believe there was a 'final solution' does not want to know the truth."

NEW STATISTICAL ANNUAL

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- The most revealing measure of inflation in the new statistical annual is its price -- IL 170. Compared to last year's annual which cost IL 95, this is an increase of some 80%. The new annual has some details about world Jewry. At the end of 1977 there were 14,260,000 Jews in the world, 21% of them (3,020,000) in Israel.

World Jewry has not yet reached its number on the eve of World War II -- 16.7 million. At the present growth rate, the number of Jews in the world will reach the same level only at the end of the century. The new annual shows a decrease in the birth rate in Israel. The number of new births last year was 95,315, a decrease of 3.5% compared to the 98,763 born in 1976. The rate of families with more than seven persons decreased in the last decade from 12% to less than 10%. Most of the decrease is in the Jewish population, specifically among Jews of Asian and African origin.