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ISRAELIS ASSURED THAT COUNTRY'S OIL SUPPLY IS NOT IN DANGER

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA) — Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai assured Israelis that the country's oil supplies were not in danger as a result of the turmoil in Iran. He said, in an Israeli Radio interview, that there was "no need and no wish yet" to invoke the 1975 agreement by which the United States pledged to guarantee Israel's oil supplies in case of an emergency.

Mordechai implied that Israel has increased its oil imports from other sources to make up for the curtailed production in Iran. The "big question" he said was how long it would be before Iranian oil exports return to normal. Iran reportedly supplied Israel with about 300,000 barrels a day. But as a result of the turmoil in Iran, shipments of oil to Israel, as to other countries, was halted Dec. 27. Israel never officially confirmed its oil purchases from Iran and the oil, in fact, was never sold directly to Israel but through a third party. Shipments to Israel were listed officially as going to Gibraltar.

Officials here said Israel consumes 7.5 million tons of crude oil a year, a daily consumption of about 150,000 barrels. About 15 percent comes from internal sources and some 6.5 million tons is imported at a cost of \$300 million a year. The American commitment to guarantee Israel's oil needs was part of the 1975 Sinai interim agreement between Israel and Egypt.

U.S. To Honor Oil Agreement

There was some question here as to whether the American pledge was limited to a five-year period from the date of the agreement. Officials explained that the pledge would be in force for a five-year period after Israel officially invoked it. Mordechai said there is no doubt or dispute over the American commitment. This is "very clear," he said, but Israel is not about to implement it because its present supplies of oil are adequate.

In Washington, Energy Secretary James Schlesinger declared today that the United States would honor its agreements to provide oil to Israel in case Israel's oil supply situation will be affected as a result of the turmoil in Iran. "There is the possibility of the export of north slope (Alaska) crude to Israel to alleviate the situation," Schlesinger said. He said the U.S. will assist Israel in efforts to find an alternate source of crude oil, but in accord with bilateral agreements between the two nations the U.S. would supply Israel with oil.

In Teheran, Iran's Prime Minister-designate, Dr. Shapur Bakhtiar, told reporters that his government would refuse to sell oil to Israel and South Africa. Addressing a press conference after being nominated as Prime Minister by both houses of Parliament, he said Iran would sell oil to countries requesting it. Asked if oil would be sold to Israel and South Africa, he replied: "Given the conflict that opposes us in a religious context to Israel, and in another context to South Africa, I think my government will not do that."

Oil exports to Israel note that there is no global oil shortage. Most oil importing countries, including Israel, laid in large supplies after the

Arab oil embargo of 1973 to meet any future crisis.

DENY VANCE WILL SOON ANNOUNCE DATE, PLACE FOR RESUMPTION OF PEACE TALKS

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3 (JTA) — The State Department emphatically denied today wire service reports that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will soon announce the date and place for the resumption of peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt. "The story as run is inaccurate," the Department's chief spokesman, Hodding Carter, told reporters at today's briefing. "I have seen the reports and heard of the sources also. It is erroneous. There is no time set, no meeting set and in fact nothing to confirm that story," Carter declared.

The reports attributed to sources in Washington said that the official announcement of the resumption of peace talks would be made after the State Department receives notification from Egypt that it is willing to continue the negotiations. The sources said, according to the reports, that this was expected by the end of the week and that the talks would be resumed in mid-January in Washington. The Israeli Cabinet announced Sunday that it was ready to resume negotiations and reports from Cairo said the Egyptian Cabinet reached a similar decision after a six-hour meeting today.

But the reports that an announcement was imminent of plans to resume the talks was characterized by the State Department spokesman as "a kind of hot shot story based on the kind of float that people want because of the possibility." He added, "We would always like to see these talks resume, see the process continue and see a treaty concluded. But somebody is jumping the gun on factual matters and almost everything else involved, at least in these wire services." Nevertheless, Carter confirmed that Vance has no plans to travel outside of Washington during the month of January.

Today's report from Cairo quoted Egyptian Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil as saying that any treaty with Israel would be linked to a timetable for Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Israeli Cabinet said Sunday that it was willing to discuss the self-rule issue but would not agree to a timetable. Khalil, for his part, stressed that Egypt was not setting any conditions for the resumption of negotiations.

In his reported remarks today, he said the treaty should provide for normal relations between Egypt and Israel "on an equal footing without any side obtaining a privileged position." He added, "Therefore, it is not acceptable that the treaty should lead to any advantage over other agreements or charters." Israel has demanded that Egypt accept Article VI of the proposed treaty which would give it precedence over earlier treaties that Egypt has with Arab countries.

JEWISH AGENCY REJECTS CHARGES OF LAXITY IN AIDING ETHIOPIAN JEWS

By David Landau and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA) — The Jewish Agency rejected charges by Ethiopian immigrants that it had acted with "indifference" to the plight of Ethiopia's Jews known as Falashas. Leaders of the Ethiopian Immigrants Association appeared before the press yesterday to confirm a report in

Davar last week (see story in Dec. 29 Bulletin) which reported that thousands of Falashas had been killed over the past two years of revolution and its aftermath in Ethiopia, that others had been driven off their land and some were sold into slavery.

The Jewish Agency made it clear that it felt restricted, for obvious reasons, from publicizing its efforts on behalf of the Falashas, and therefore could not address itself to the charges in full.

But the representatives of the 300 Falashas living in Israel told the press that neither the Jewish Agency nor the Israeli government nor any other world Jewish organization is doing anything to help get the Falashas out of Ethiopia. They warned that unless efforts are undertaken to help bring the Falashas to Israel there is a real danger that the 28,000 Falashas in Ethiopia may be exterminated within the next few years.

Zimnah Berhane, chairman of the Ethiopian Immigrants Association, charged that the Israeli Embassy in Ethiopia refused to provide young Falashas with entry visas to Israel in 1972. The same happened to a group of 70 Falasha youngsters who wanted to emigrate to Israel in 1974, he said. "When Emperor Haile Selassie was in power (until September, 1974 when he was dethroned) they (the Israelis) told us not to make any noise," Berhane charged. "Now, with the military regime there, they still tell us to keep quiet."

Intolerable Situation Of Falashas Cited

Zecharias Jonas, another spokesman for the Falashas in Israel, told the press conference that the Falashas in Ethiopia are victims of inter-tribal warfare in that country which has increased since the military regime took office. He said that the Falashas are also suffering as a result of the agrarian reform instituted by the present regime.

Jonas said that Jews were never allowed to own land in Ethiopia and have been for centuries serfs under the feudal landowning system. Now, he said, the regime refuses to extend the agrarian reform to include Falasha ownership of land, with the result that Falashas are taken into slavery or murdered. He reported that some 2000 Falashas fled from their villages to avoid being sold into slavery, but many more could not escape this fate.

Jonas also described atrocities against Falashas which included the raping of young girls in front of their parents and forcing young girls to work as slaves for several families at the same time. He also recited the case of a Jewish woman whose breast was cut off to prevent her from nursing her infant.

A spokesman for the Jewish Agency explained that the Israeli rabbinate and government did not recognize Falashas as Jews until 1975, but by then the military government had taken power and did not allow any Ethiopian citizen to emigrate. He asserted that efforts to aid Falashas are being made at the present time and had been made all along, but that the nature of these efforts could not be made public.

The Falasha immigrant leaders also charged Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan with harming the Falashas in Ethiopia with his statement at a news conference in Switzerland last February acknowledging that Israel was selling arms to Ethiopia, which was then warring with Somalia. In an interview with Israel Radio from Zurich, Dayan said he saw no reason to conceal the fact, but emphasized that Israel was not sending any troops or aircraft to Ethiopia. Although Israel's supply of arms to Ethiopia had been an open secret for 20 years, this was the first time an Israeli official admitted it publicly.

Officials at the Foreign Ministry dismissed the Falashas' charge against Dayan as entirely unfounded. They said no connection could in any way be established between Dayan's statement and the plight of the Falashas. On the contrary, the officials noted, reports of ill-treatment and persecution of the Falashas had been received two years earlier, when the latest stage of the revolution began in Ethiopia.

MK SUSPENDED FROM FIVE SESSIONS OF KNESSET FOR CREATING DISORDER

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- The Knesset House Committee ordered MK Charlie Biton suspended for five consecutive sessions, the maximum penalty allowed under Knesset rules for creating a disorder in the chamber. Biton, a member of the Democratic List for Peace and Equality (Communists), created an uproar last week when he chained himself to the microphone on the speaker's podium during a debate on Soviet Jewry.

Biton was only the second MK in the 30-year history of the Knesset to be penalized for disruption. The first was Menachem Begin who, in 1952, refused to leave the speaker's stand during a debate on German reparations which, as leader of Herut, he vigorously opposed. During that episode, Begin's supporters outside the Knesset hurled stones at the building.

Opposition members of the House Committee argued that Biton's violation could not be compared to Begin's behavior 27 years ago. Moreover, they said, Herut militant Geula Cohen often created much more turmoil in the Knesset but never got more than a reprimand. The majority prevailed, however, noting that Biton had to be penalized not simply for chaining himself to the podium but for smuggling the chains into the chamber, for throwing eggs and tomatoes at the speaker's stand several weeks ago and at another time, bringing a tape recorder to the Knesset without permission.

Biton, a former leader of the Black Panthers, said the chaining incident was to protest the condition of prison inmates in Israel. He maintained that was more important than the problem of Jewish prisoners in the Soviet Union. He said that if his appeal against the penalty was unsuccessful he would use his time visiting slum neighborhoods.

BLACK HEBREWS IN ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Shargit

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- The problem of the Black Hebrews residing in Dimona may soon be solved by establishing an agricultural village for them in the Negev and providing them with the means to construct their own community. This, in essence, is a recommendation of a special committee headed by Knesseter David Glass that studied the problem.

The issue of the Black Hebrews was raised by groups of Dimona residents who claimed that they were having an adverse effect on the local youth in particular and the community in general. The Dimona residents claimed that the Black Hebrews were conducting services and carrying on practices similar to that of the notorious People's Temple in Jonestown, Guyana.

A group of Dimona citizens went to the Supreme Court asking for an injunction against the Interior, Health and Education Ministries to show cause why there was no alternative to having the Black Hebrews in Dimona. They noted that the Black Hebrews live in almost inhuman conditions, including up to 30 men, women and children in one apartment. The citizens said that there are 34 such apartments. In addition, the citizens claimed that the Black Hebrews have their own court system and mete out

punishment to transgressors according to their own laws and decisions by their own leader.

In any event, they are not going to be expelled from Israel and might even be given Israeli citizenship, a status they lack presently. There are several thousand Black Hebrews in Israel, although their exact number is not known since many came as tourists and simply stayed on.

CABINET TO DISCUSS VIET REFUGEES

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin said today the Cabinet would discuss at its meeting next Sunday the idea that Israel give refuge to ship-bound Vietnamese refugees. The idea was raised earlier this week by "peace pilot" Abie Nathan in a telegram to Begin. It has since been publicly espoused by Social Betterment Minister Israel Katz of the Democratic Movement.

Katz said today that Israel should offer a home for these refugees and thus serve as an example to the entire world of "how a nation that has itself suffered persecution responds when it is in a position to aid other victims of persecution. Soon after taking office in the summer of 1977, the Begin government allowed into Israel close to 100 Vietnamese refugees, many of whom have settled here permanently.

DECISION DELAYED ON HOUSING FUNDS FOR THREE SETTLEMENTS ON WEST BANK

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich has requested \$7.6 million for the construction of additional housing at three settlements on the West Bank. But the Knesset Finance Committee postponed a decision today, pending further information from Housing Minister Gideon Patt and Minister of Agriculture Ariel Sharon who heads the ministerial settlement committee.

The money, to be transferred from the reserve budget, would finance 520 housing units in Givon, Hares and Kamei Shomron, all located in the Samaria district. The requested sum is only part of the IL 279 million earmarked by the Treasury to "thicken" the three settlements. A senior Treasury official explained that some IL 35 million was originally intended for the Yamit region but became available for the West Bank when work was halted around Yamit after the Camp David agreements.

MK TO RETAIN PARLIAMENTARY SEAT DESPITE 3 1/2-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE

By Gil Sedon and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Knesset members and legal experts are pondering an anomaly in the law that allows an MK convicted of a crime to retain his parliamentary seat even while confined to prison. The case arose when Tel Aviv District Court Judge Chaim Steinberg imposed a 3 1/2-year prison sentence on Likud MK Shmuel Rechtman today. Rechtman was convicted of accepting a \$20,000 bribe while serving as Mayor of Rehovoth. In addition to the prison term, he was fined IL 70,000 (about \$3500).

Under the present law, there is no way to force an MK to resign his seat under any condition. The law states moreover that the Knesset must consist of no fewer than 120 members and even though jailed, Rechtman would be legally obliged to attend to Knesset business.

Judge Steinberg agreed to delay the sentence for 45 days to allow Rechtman to appeal his conviction. Rechtman insists he is innocent and made it clear that he will continue to attend Knesset sessions and has no intention of resigning.

According to political science Prof. Shevah Weiss of Haifa University, the problem stems from a 1952 law that made MKs virtually immune from ouster. The law was adopted, Weiss said, because opposition parties feared that the government, then headed by a coalition of Mapai and the religious parties, might invoke emergency regulations to remove political opponents. Amnon Rubinstein of the Shai faction submitted a bill today to amend the 1952 law to permit the ouster of any member who disgraced the Knesset by being involved in a crime.

When he pronounced sentence this morning, Judge Steinberg stressed that given the serious nature of his offense, Rechtman's public activities had no bearing in the case. He recalled three previous cases where public figures were jailed for monetary crimes, including the acceptance of bribes.

These were David Peled, former director of customs and excise; Michael Tzur, former managing director of the Israel Corp. and Asher Yadin, who was a candidate for the office of Governor of the Bank of Israel. Stiff sentences were imposed, the judge said, because it was important that the public realize that there is no special treatment for highly placed persons who commit crimes.

SORRY, NO NUMBER

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- There is hardly a single public telephone of the 4000 or so situated in streets and other public places that has not been vandalized, according to senior officials at the Communications Ministry. Receivers are ripped out, coin boxes are smashed open and looted and the booths themselves are wrecked. In many cases, after repeated attacks, the Ministry is forced to remove the facility permanently, putting up a notice in its place to the effect that the removal was caused by repeated acts of hooliganism, the officials said.

According to the officials, the Ministry lost some IL 8 million annually as a result of phone vandalism. They said that the task of preventing these acts is too vast for police to handle. It was, one official claimed, part of a much broader issue of "the ugly Israeli." He challenged schools to teach "civility" to the younger generation. Meanwhile, the Ministry has ordered ostensibly vandal-proof phones installed on the streets and public places.

The officials said the Ministry had recently set up a team of security men to stake out locations of oft-wrecked phone booths and apprehend vandals in the act. But the vandals, when cornered, have beaten up the security men and fled from the scene. The officials have called on the courts to impose much stiffer sentences than before on offenders in order to create a credible deterrent.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- A delegation of the World Jewish Congress recently visited Iran and met with Jewish representatives there. It was stated here by Philip Klutznick, WJC president, who is in Israel for a series of meetings and conferences. He said that the WJC and the Joint Distribution Committee are alert to the situation in Iran and prepared to help in whatever way is necessary should there be a change in the political situation there. From Israel, Klutznick will go to Yugoslavia to meet with representatives of the government and the Jewish community.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Former President Gerald Ford is due here Jan. 21 for a three-day visit as guest of President Yitzhak Navon and the Israel government.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

POISONED VIEW OF JEWISH HISTORY

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Generations of Soviet school children have been given a negative view of Jews and Jewish history as a result of the steadily increasing anti-Semitism of textbooks used in Soviet history classes. "They corrupt young people and implant in them a sense of incompatibility and hostility between them and the Jews," according to an article in "Soviet Jewish Affairs," published by the London Institute of Jewish Affairs.

The author, Daniel Fish, draws parallels with Czarist Russia after the 1880s when the rise of anti-Semitism coincided with the virtual monopoly of high school history textbooks by the anti-Semite D. I. Illovaysky. Noting that the purpose of Soviet education is to "arm" pupils with "Communist morality," Fish asks "What kind of morality and world view are formed by knowledge such as this? And to what end?"

Fish's article found various stages in the increasingly anti-Jewish tone of Soviet history teaching over the past four decades.

A Turning Point In The 1950s

In ancient history textbooks in use from the 1930s to the early 1950s, there was still a desire, if not to inspire respect for Jews as bearers of an ancient culture, at least to neutralize the anti-Semitism of the pre-war and especially post-war years. But the mid-1950s were a turning point, and the words "Judea," "Israel" and "Jerusalem" began to disappear. By 1954, the Jews disappeared almost entirely from ancient history as taught in Soviet school rooms.

In the same year, Jews were also dropped from an influential textbook about the Middle Ages, thus distorting the story of the Spanish Inquisition of which Jews were the chief victims.

In modern history books, too, Jewish references were dropped. The Jewish origins of progressive or socialist writers such as Heinrich Heine or Ferdinand La Salle were ignored and the anti-Semitic Dreyfus affair was presented purely in terms of class warfare. In 1954-56, textbooks on Soviet history for classes eight to ten underwent considerable changes with the removal of a great deal of information on Russian Jewish history.

From the late 1960s, the tendency towards omission was accompanied by the provision of negative information alone. Fish mentions two textbooks in which "the reader is met with a torrent of negative information on Russian Jews. Described as members of the Jewish Workers Union, the Bund, the Jews are abused more than the Black Hundreds," regardless of the fact that the Bund was the first Social Democratic organization in Russia.

Nazi Persecution Of Jews Ignored

Textbooks on contemporary history carefully avoid mentioning that Jews were the chief sufferers at the hands of the Nazis. A book edited by V. K. Furaev makes no reference to anti-Semitism either in the definition of German fascism or in the description of the Nazis' programs and activities.

It merely mentions that the Nazis advanced the slogan: "Down With Jewish Finance Capital!" This leaves the inference that the "terrible Jewish pogroms" carried out by the Hitlerites (to which there is a later reference), were legitimate retribution against capitalistic Jews.

The same book mentions Auschwitz, but not the mass murders of Jews there. It makes no reference at all to the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

On the other hand, there appeared in 1972, in an edition of 100,000 and about 400 pages long, M. S. Gus' "The Madness of the Swastika," from which (Fish writes) "it appears that many of the Nazi leaders were half or completely Jewish; that Jewish bankers were among the Nazi benefactors and that Hitler did not hesitate to take Jewish money."

"There is not one word on the Jews in Hitler's speeches as reported by Gus; indeed, to judge by this author, the target of the Nazis' racial theories was the Slavs, the Negroes or anyone else -- only not the Jews." In a final insult, the book recalls seeing in a displaced persons camp at the end of the war "well-fed young people, of Jewish nationality... who survived by a miracle in various parts of Europe."

The history of modern Israel suffers a similar fate. Initially it is relegated to mere subsections of the history of other Middle Eastern countries, and subsequently treated with greater venom with each new edition. Both the omission of Jewish references and the denigration of Jews, Fish concludes, have "a destructive effect on the psychology of young people and inculcate in them hatred and enmity."

JTA ENTERS COMPUTER AGE

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- The Jewish Telegraphic Agency's daily news file from its international headquarters in New York is now transmitted world-wide using the latest computer technology via Reuters transmission facilities.

Until the end of 1978, the JTA operator punched copy on a teletype machine and transmitted the copy to Reuters in New York, where it was relayed through another teletype operation to Reuters Automatic Data Exchange (ADX) in London and from there to JTA offices and clients throughout the world.

JTA operators now type stories on an ultra-modern electronic terminal which combines a TV screen and a typewriter keyboard, stores articles on a floppy disc and at any appropriate time transmits them via telephone to a computer in Reuters New York data center. The computer then automatically forwards material to the ADX in London.

Introduction of the electronic system means that news is transmitted and distributed faster. In addition, the terminal ensures that fewer errors are made, makes it easier to repeat copy that is garbled or lost in transmission and, also, allows JTA editors to make last minute changes.

UFOs IN JERUSALEM?

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- A number of early-risers in Jerusalem could have sworn this morning that a number of unidentified flying objects visited the holy city. A sleepy duty officer in the Jerusalem district police station received excited phone calls at 4 a.m. from citizens who saw "large and strange blue lights" over the Mt. of Olives, on the eastern hills of the city.

At first, police officers tended to dismiss the reports as mere dreams, but when they themselves went outside, they, too, saw objects flying over the hills. The Air Force and the meteorological service stations were notified. There was no immediate explanation for the phenomenon, but it was assumed that the source of light was merely a bright star. The Jerusalemites joined millions all over the world who followed the recent UFO sightings in Australia and in Europe.