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PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCES STEPS TO HELP JEWS IN IRAN

NEW YORK, Jan. 14 (JTA) — Following a special committee meeting on the situation confronting the 80,000 Jews of Iran, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations said today it will establish regular liaison with U.S. Jewish groups operating in Iran to monitor the swiftly changing situation there and take immediate action if required. The Presidents Conference acted on the recommendation of Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section.

Mrs. Jacobson told the meeting that the Presidents Conference should be prepared to act immediately should conditions deteriorate and threaten the lives of the country's Jewish population. If necessary, intervention with the White House and the State Department would be undertaken by the Presidents Conference to protect Jewish lives in Iran, she said. She noted that Iranian officials were currently not placing any obstacles in the path of Jews wishing to leave the country but that only a small percentage of Jews were taking the opportunity to do so.

Encouraging Iranian Jews To Emigrate

Carl Glick, president of HIAS, said his organization was "actively encouraging" Iranian Jews to emigrate to Israel, although many Jews in Iran felt they could "ride out the storm." Paul Bernick, executive director of the American ORT-Federation, reported that the ORT school in Teheran was closed by the local ORT leadership, not the government, as a safety measure for the students and faculty.

Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the Presidents Conference, who chaired the committee meeting, said the Presidents Conference would continue to meet with HIAS, ORT and the Joint Distribution Committee and local representatives of the Alliance Israelite Universelle, a French Jewish institution which operates a network of schools in Iran.

Rabbi Bernard Rosensweig, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, and Rabbi Mordechai Waxman, former president of the Rabbinical Assembly, told the meeting that Iranian Jews who were members of their congregations -- in Kew Gardens, Queens and Great Neck, N.Y., respectively -- were "deeply concerned" about their family and friends still in Iran and hopeful but not optimistic that the situation would improve soon.

Meanwhile, according to reports from Teheran, Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar of Iran, in presenting his program to the lower house of Parliament several days ago, called for Iran to "fully support" its Arab neighbors, "especially the Palestinian people, in the goal of achieving their legitimate rights." He reiterated that Iran would not resume oil shipments to either Israel or South Africa.

PEACE PROCESS TO RESUME THIS WEEK

By Joseph Palakoff (Washington)
and David Landau (Jerusalem)

Jan. 14 (JTA) — The Carter Administration

is a sudden reversal of its planning, announced yesterday it is sending a small high-level delegation to Israel and Egypt this week in an attempt to resolve issues between them related to the peace treaty proposed by the United States.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance had told news conference last Thursday that the United States was in "no hurry" to resolve the impasse between Egypt and Israel and that the U.S. efforts would be confined to discussion on the ambassadorial level on what he said were minor issues and that major issues would be taken up afterwards on the ministerial level among the U.S., Egypt and Israel.

However, the Department issued a statement yesterday announcing that Ambassador-at-Large Alfred Atherton, the Administration's chief Middle East expert, Herbert Hansell, the State Department's legal advisor, and David Korn, the Department's Israel Desk officer, would leave tomorrow for Israel for what Atherton expects to be a seven or eight day trip to the two countries. The Department statement said that the delegation would visit Egypt and Israel "as part of the discussions we have been conducting with both governments about the Middle East peace negotiations."

"They will seek to resolve the remaining issues related to the text of the peace treaty in order to prepare the way for negotiations at the ministerial level on the other outstanding issues. Following completion of their talks, Atherton and Hansell will return to Washington to report to the Secretary."

Consultations On Two Sections Of The Treaty

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency was told by State Department spokesman Thomas Reston that the consultations will concentrate on two sections of the peace treaty draft "and will not deal with side letters" to the treaty itself. Reston said that the consultations will concentrate on Article IV of the treaty draft which Egypt wants to revise to include a review of the treaty at the end of five years, and on Article VI on the items that deal with the question of whether the preamble is included in the treaty and the effect of Egypt's treaties with other countries.

The issue of linkage of the treaty with autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip was described by Reston as a "major issue" and will not be discussed in the upcoming consultations. Reston disclosed that the United States proposed this trip to the Middle East and that Egypt and Israel agreed to it as it would "supplement" normal diplomatic exchanges.

Concern Over Erosion In Peace Process

Informed sources in Jerusalem see the U.S. decision to dispatch the American team to the region as reflecting the Administration's concern that an overly long delay in resuming the peace process could catalyze an erosion in what has already been achieved and concluded. Vance's busy schedule -- with Iran and Cambodia now topping his concerns, and the visit of Chinese Deputy Premier Teng Hsiao-ping at the end of the month -- means that Vance himself could not devote time to the Mideast talks until well into February.

The feeling among American policymakers, according to the informed sources, was that it would be wiser to keep up the "momentum" by resuming

contacts meanwhile on the level of "experts." Furthermore, the sources in Jerusalem said, the U.S. is anxious to achieve some measure of progress, if possible, in advance of the formal resumption of the negotiations at ministerial level.

The talks conducted by Ahterion hopefully will achieve that purpose, with compromises expected on Article IV and possibly also on the accompanying letter (on the "target date" for holding autonomy elections on the West Bank and Gaza Strip).

Observers noted with interest that Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, in a speech to a political and economic forum in Tel Aviv yesterday, clearly seemed to imply that a 12-month "target date" would eventually be agreed upon by all three parties.

Premier Menachem Begin, however, has argued on numerous occasions that Israel and Egypt, with the best will in the world, cannot commit themselves to a definite target date for the autonomy elections since those elections depend on Palestinian participation, which neither Israel nor Egypt can guarantee. Sources close to Begin, commenting on Dayan's implications, said today that as far as they knew the Premier has not shifted his position on this issue.

In sending Ahterion and Hansell to Jerusalem and Cairo, observers noted that the U.S. was in effect conforming to one Israeli request that has been strongly stressed in recent contacts: that the talks be held in this area rather than in Washington. Israel's purpose, apparently, is to enable Begin himself to have close supervision over the talks. Dayan, it is understood, endorses this purpose, probably because it would serve to shield him from any subsequent sniping from other ministers.

SECURITY TIGHTENED IN NORTH GALILEE AFTER TERRORIST ATTACK IN MAALOT

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- Security was tightened in northern Galilee today in the aftermath of a terrorist attack in the border town of Maalot yesterday morning. Israeli soldiers killed the three heavily armed terrorists who raided a guest house and convalescent center just before dawn in an attempt to seize hostages for the release of terrorists imprisoned in Israel. Miriam Alfasi, 31, of BeerSheva was killed trying to escape through a window.

Two other women were injured in the same manner and a soldier, Cpl. Itzhak Ravivo, 29, was wounded in the ankle in a shoot-out with the terrorists. All were taken to Haifa Hospital for treatment.

Israeli troops were combing the border region today in an attempt to trace the route taken by the terrorists. They were the first to infiltrate Israel from south Lebanon since Israeli forces withdrew from that territory last spring and turned the task of policing it over to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Documents found on the bodies of the slain terrorists indicated that they belonged to Naif Hawatmeh's Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. This was confirmed in a terrorist radio broadcast from Beirut today.

(The State Department condemned the attack yesterday but did not identify the terrorists. A Department spokesman said, "We condemn this terrorist attack. There can be no justification of such acts which result in the death and injury of innocent persons. We extend our sympathy to the victims and their families.")

Embittered By Failure OF UNIFIL

Israelis were embittered today by the apparent failure of UNIFIL to prevent terrorist incursions into Israel. The assaults are believed to have passed through the region controlled by UNIFIL and the border strip patrolled by Maj. Saad Haddad's Christian militia in order to reach Maalot. Israeli military circles are convinced they were assisted by local villagers. Recent reports of a terrorist build-up in south Lebanon, sufficient to prompt the flight of many villagers north across the Litani River, only underscored the laxity of UNIFIL forces, Israeli circles said.

The fact that Maalot was the target had a profound psychological effect in Israel. Maalot, that village four miles south of the Lebanese border was the scene of one of the worst terrorist massacres in Israel's history. At that time, armed terrorists from Lebanon seized a school house where children on a hiking tour of Galilee were spending the night and slaughtered 28 of them during a battle with Israeli forces.

The guest house at Maalot served as both a resort and convalescent home, operated by Kupat Holim, the Histadrut sick fund. It was occupied yesterday by about 230 people, most of them elderly, and also by a group of Egged bus drivers with their families who were spending the weekend there. The terrorists managed to enter the three-story building undetected and took several hostages at gunpoint before they were confronted by Israeli soldiers.

Eye-Witness Account Of Attack

Ravivo, the hero of the hour, gave his account of the action from his hospital bed today. He said he was in charge of a platoon that was staying overnight at the guest house. At about 6:30 a.m. he and two other soldiers inspected the building as a matter of routine.

"On the third floor I noticed a dark-faced man with a large handgun," Ravivo said. "We asked him who he was. He mumbled something in Arabic. At that moment the man grabbed a Kalashnikov rifle he had concealed in a dark corner. I grabbed the rifle from him. Two other terrorists rushed up from the second floor and opened fire on us. We returned the fire. The first terrorist who was closest to us threw a hand grenade. I grabbed it and threw it back. It exploded killing the attacker. The other two raced downstairs and out of the building. They were gunned down by other soldiers about 150 yards from the door." Ravivo, the son of a police officer, was promoted to the rank of sergeant while hospitalized.

In unrelated incidents today, police sappers safely dismantled explosive devices planted by terrorists at soldier pick-up stations near Jerusalem and Ashdod. A booby-trapped hand grenade was discovered just outside Jerusalem on the Tel Aviv highway. An improvised pipe bomb in a plastic bag was found at a roadstop outside Ashdod.

FUROR OVER BILLY CARTER'S REMARKS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- President Carter sought this weekend to dissociate himself from his brother Billy's support of Libya and negative comments about Jews, but stressed that any attempt on his part to clamp down on Billy Carter would be "counterproductive." The White House had earlier issued a denial that the President shared any of his brother's views that could be "interpreted as anti-Semitic." However, neither the President nor the White House specifically repudiated the remarks by Billy Carter, that American Jewish leaders termed

anti-Semitic.

Meanwhile, Jewish groups and the chairman of the Republican Party have demanded that the Justice Department investigate whether the President's brother should have registered as a foreign lobbyist because he is leading a group of 60 Libyans in a tour of Georgia and other parts of the United States.

President Carter, in an interview with NBC-TV's John Chancellor, said that while he and his brother love each other they disagree strongly on many issues. "Any criticism I might make publicly of Billy would cause, I think, him to react very strongly and to exert his independence," he said. The President stated that "I don't look on Billy's actions as a basis for success in future political actions." He added that he hoped "the people of the United States realize I have no control" over Billy Carter.

The President has been clearly embarrassed by his younger brother's associations with a group of Libyans who Billy Carter called his "best friends" although the U.S. government considers Libya a bitter enemy of Israel, an impediment to the President's Middle East peace efforts.

Billy Carter, meanwhile, has been quoted in Atlanta as attributing Libya's negative image to the "Jewish media" and charging that Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson had refused to see the visiting Libyans because of "Jewish pressure." He also said that the U.S. should seek friendships with Libya because "there's a hell of a lot more Arabs than there is Jews." Billy Carter claimed last Thursday, while guiding the Libyans through Plains, Ga., that his remarks were "not intended to be anti-Semitic."

Both Jackson and Governor George Busbee of Georgia declined to attend a reception for the Libyans last Tuesday night at the Atlanta Hilton Hotel. However, the President's mother, Lillian Carter, and his sister, Ruth Carter Stapleton, the evangelist, attended the reception.

Remarks Draw Denunciations

The Department of Justice, meanwhile, has sent a letter to Billy Carter pointing out that any American who works with foreign governments must register as a foreign agent. A copy of the law was also sent. The Department said it expected a reply by late this week. Billy Carter has maintained he is not a foreign agent since he receives no money from the Libyans.

Republican National Chairman Bill Brock demanded action by the Justice Department and called on the President to issue "clear and unequivocal" criticism of his brother's Libyan association as well as "his inflammatory and anti-Semitic remarks."

Rabbi Joseph P. Sternstein, president of the American Zionist Federation, has also demanded that "the extent of Billy Carter's association with Libya be publicly revealed" and there should be a "vigorous investigation" of whether he has broken any laws. Sternstein said the President must "dissociate himself unequivocally from his brother's political sentiments and outrageous opinions."

Robert Havel, a State Department spokesman, said last Thursday night that the Department might have to ask Billy Carter whether he has accepted any money from the Libyan officials for his escort services. While adding that "no investigation" of Billy Carter was being made, Havel said the Department might have to determine whether the President's brother should register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

Havel added that the Department's foreign agents registration section would study Billy Carter as he moves across the nation with the Libyan officials, who are scheduled to visit Louisiana, California, Wyoming, Utah, Michigan, Washington and New York. Havel said "if there is no money changing hands," Billy Carter did not have to register.

The Atlanta Jewish Welfare Federation denounced the trip as "contrary to everything" the President is trying to do. Daniel Thursz, executive vice-president of B'nai B'rith, said Billy Carter has "a long record of boorishness and despicable behavior." Thursz added that "it is unfortunate the comments of an obviously irresponsible and unthinking person, who by happenstance is the brother of the President of the United States, is given such prominence."

2000 PEOPLE AT PEACE NOW RALLY

By David London

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- The Peace Now Movement, quiescent since the Camp David agreements last September, renewed its activities yesterday with a brief but colorful "settlement" attempt on the street outside Premier Menachem Begin's Jerusalem residence. All the equipment of a "settlement," including a huge bulldozer, barbed wire, fencing and tents were employed as props in the generally good-natured effort by Peace Now to express its protest at the government's supposed agreement to allow Gush Emunim a new settlement near Nablus.

Before pitching camp at the Premier's home, some 2000 Peace Now people held a rally at nearby Independence Park. Speakers expressed concern at what they felt was Israeli foot-dragging over the peace negotiations, and particularly at the Emunim settlement efforts which, they believed, could torpedo the chances of peace. They sent a letter to Begin urging him not to cave in to Emunim pressures.

Peace Now leader Omri Padan told reporters he had spoken to Begin's political secretary, Yehiel Kadishai, on the telephone and had been assured that the government had made no specific promises to Emunim regarding a date or place for a settlement near Nablus. Padan said Kadishai had indicated the Premier would make this clear in a written reply to the Peace Now letter to him.

In Tel Aviv, meanwhile, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan told an audience yesterday that he would oppose any proposal to put up a Jewish town alongside Nablus and he hoped other ministers would oppose it too. He termed such a proposal "senseless and idiotic" from both a political and settlement point of view. Dayan was speaking at the Bimah political and economic forum which is organized mainly by the ultra-rightwing La'am faction of Likud. It was clear from other speakers that many or most participants at the forum differed from Dayan on this issue.

TORONTO (JTA) -- In what he called a significant step to repay Canada for all the opportunities it has given him, Max Tannenbaum of Toronto has donated a \$1.5 million art collection to the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa. He gave the gallery 45 Indian and Nepali sculptures from the American collection of Nasli Meeramanek. Buddhist, Hindu and Jain works are in the collection ranging from the second to the eighteenth centuries. Tannenbaum, 69, who is in the steel business, is a former chairman of the United Jewish Appeal of Toronto and active in numerous Jewish causes and institutions.

PROTEST DAY SET FOR JAN. 30 AGAINST EXPIRATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON WAR CRIMINALS IN WEST GERMANY

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- A campaign to protest the expiration next Dec. 31 of West Germany's statute of limitations on Nazi war criminals will take place Jan. 30 throughout North America, it was announced here by Rabbi Abraham Cooper, coordinator of the international effort on behalf of the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies at Yeshiva University of Los Angeles, which is coordinating the Jan. 30 protest campaign.

Rallies have already been planned in Los Angeles, New York, Boston, Detroit, Vancouver, Seattle, Atlanta, Chicago and Houston and several other cities are in the process of planning rallies as well, according to Cooper. Thousands of Jews and non-Jews are expected to participate in the launching of what is to become an international campaign to alert world opinion to what Cooper termed West Germany's "denial of its responsibility to bring to justice tens of thousands of Nazi criminals still at large."

Justice Must Be Served

"We are calling January 30 a 'Day of Public Education' to inform every concerned citizen that we will not let justice be denied," Cooper said. He stated that in all cities in North America with German Consulates, groups of community leaders will be meeting with West German representatives to discuss the matter of the statute of limitations. To date, Cooper said, 350,000 postcards pre-addressed to West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt have been distributed by the Holocaust Center to groups and individuals across the country requesting material on this issue. The cards bear the statement by Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal, "Moral obligation has no time limit."

Ephraim Zuriff, Holocaust Center director, and Cooper emphasized that in calling for the Day of Public Education the Center does not encourage any attempt to project an anti-German tone but to express disappointment and surprise that Schmidt has failed to take a leadership role in opposing the expiration of the statute.

The Jewish War Veterans' New York Department announced that it will join forces with the Nazi Camp Survivors and Resistance Fighters Jan. 30 in front of the West German Mission to the United Nations to protest the do-nothing attitude of the Bonn government regarding the statute of limitations. The organization warned that allowing the statute to expire "would permit Nazi murderers to escape from justice with impunity."

BARS NO BAR TO BAR MITZVAH

STORMSVILLE, N.Y., Jan. 14 (JTA) -- Rabbi Hirschel Jaffe, the Jewish chaplain at the Green Haven Correctional Facility here, reported he had recently performed a unique Bar Mitzvah, the most unusual in his rabbinical service. The ceremony was held Jan. 4 in a chapel surrounded by a 30-foot high concrete wall. Tony Romandette, 36 years old, was the Bar Mitzvah "boy." He is an inmate at the prison here, serving a sentence of 8-25 years for armed robbery.

Although born a Jew, Romandette has never practiced his religion. When he came to prison six-and-a-half years ago, he began attending Jewish services and soon became an avid student of Jewish teachings, Jaffe said. He reported that several months ago, Romandette asked him about the possibility of being Bar Mitzvahed to help symbolize his entry into Jewish life. The inmate,

who is presently enrolled in the Hebrew classes at the prison, was given training in the blessings and the Haftarah portion to read for his Bar Mitzvah. Jaffe worked with him diligently each week.

After the Bar Mitzvah ceremony, members of the congregation joined with prison guards and civilian personnel to give a small party in Romandette's honor. Jaffe commented that "this was the first Bar Mitzvah ever held in a prison and I am extremely gratified that I had the privilege of performing it. This year has given our Green Haven congregation a greater cohesiveness and has engendered much good feeling."

PLEA TO AID VIETNAMESE REFUGEES BRINGS FLOOD OF CALLS TO FEDERATION

CHICAGO, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- The Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago was swamped with hundreds of telephone calls one day last week in response to a plea to help Vietnamese refugees, Federation officials reported. The telephone number of the Federation was given in the course of a program on the local CBS-TV station featuring the plight of the refugees. However, the number given, for viewers who wished to help the Vietnamese, was not identified as the number of the Federation.

Many callers, responding to the plea, were surprised when their calls were answered with "Shalom." One caller said he was surprised because he didn't know that Shalom was a Vietnamese word. The offers for help included contributions of money, job offers and sponsorship, including taking refugees into private homes.

SALOMON FRIEDERICH DEAD AT 58

PARIS, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- Salomon Friederich, founder and director of the Alliance France-Israel, died here last Thursday after a long and painful illness. He was 58 years old. Services will be held at the Israel Embassy here Tuesday and the body will then be flown to Israel for burial in Jerusalem.

Friederich helped set up the de facto Alliance before the 1956 Sinai campaign and had been active since in both France and Israel in advocating close ties between the two countries. A few days before his death, Jacques Chaban-Delmas, National Assembly President and former Premier, visited Friederich in the hospital to personally present him with the French Legion of Honor.

Born in Rymanow, Poland, Friederich was drafted in the Polish army, managing to cross the Russian lines after the fall of Warsaw in World War II. Soviet officials deported him to Siberia. He settled in France in 1947 and became head of the local Betar group. In that post, he helped provide the group with funds and weapons and developed a personal friendship with Irgun leader Menachem Begin, which lasted to his death.

In 1957, he organized the Alliance committee which at one time had 11 French Cabinet Ministers and dozens of senior officials among its members. After the Likud victory in Israel in May, 1977, he chose to stay in France and had been active recently in trying to organize Begin's official visit to France.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and Union of Councils for Soviet Jews said they have learned that, contrary to information received by phone from Moscow, Leonid Slepak and his bride did not receive exit visas. The groups said the call was made from the U.S. to "a reliable Moscow Jewish activist" who twice repeated that Slepak had a visa. Leonid's brother Alexander, who is studying in California, said the information was incorrect after he phoned Leonid.