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NATIONWIDE BLACKOUT BLAMED ON FLUKE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- A massive power failure which blacked out the entire country through the middle hours today was caused by a "one in one hundred thousand" fault at the central power plant near Yavne, between Rehovot and Ashdod, Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai said tonight. He said he felt no need to appoint a commission of inquiry or take other drastic action because this was a fluke of the kind which plunged New York into darkness in 1977. "Every system can break down," Modai said.

The power failure meant no electricity for cooking lunches. Traffic snarls as lights went out, and an enforced layoff for many hundreds of thousands of industrial workers at plants which do not have their own reserve generators. In most parts of the country the blackout lasted for about two to two-and-a-half hours from 12 noon. But in the south, it went on until close to 4 p.m.

An Israel Electric Corp. spokesman said tonight that the failure occurred when a short circuit at the Yavne transformer tripped safety devices that shut down turbo-generators at the main power stations in Ashdod, Tel Aviv and Haifa. The sudden outage caused a thunderous explosion at the Haifa station which gave rise to initial rumors of sabotage. But the Electric Corp. spokesman said the blackout was caused by a technical breakdown.

The last time such a nationwide power failure occurred was nine years ago, Modai said. He stated that he would instruct that a study be carried out to determine the cost of the failure in terms of production lost, and on that basis he would decide whether the government ought to invest in new equipment designed to minimize still further the risk of such failure occurring. He seemed to indicate, though, that the equipment concerned is very expensive and that the government would be unlikely to purchase it.

900 IRANIAN JEWS ARRIVE IN ISRAEL

By Gil Sedon

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- More than 900 Iranian Jews arrived in Israel over the weekend on a 24-hour airlift maintained by El Al between Teheran and Tel Aviv. The airline employed two Boeing 747 jumbo jets and one 707.

Avrieh Beckenstein, El Al's manager in Teheran who was a passenger on one of the flights, told reporters that his company had transported more than 3500 Iranian Jews to Israel in recent weeks. But many of them may have been in transit as no more than 1000 arrivals were listed prior to this weekend. Exact figures are unavailable. A spokesman for the Absorption Ministry said hundreds of immigrants were coming from Iran but declined to elaborate.

The number of Jews still in Iran is now estimated at between 65-70,000. Observers here believe that most of those who wanted to leave have done so. Most of the Jews remaining behind are said to be of the lower middle class and laborer sections of the community.

POLISH-BORN RABBI APPOINTED POLAND'S FIRST RABBI IN YEARS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- A Brooklyn rabbi, Aszor Zibes, has been appointed as Poland's first rabbi in years, and is expected to arrive in Warsaw soon. Polish official sources in Warsaw told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the rabbi will live in Warsaw, which has Poland's largest Jewish community, but will be free to travel throughout the country and organize religious activities. The new rabbi is Polish-born and served some 14 years ago in Wroclaw (Breslau). He will keep his American nationality.

The official Polish sources told JTA that the government gave the Polish Jewish Religious Union permission to invite a foreign rabbi to serve the community "in order to help improve our relations" with the various Jewish organizations. There has been no resident rabbi in Poland since 1967 when a mass exodus of Polish Jews took place following the Six-Day War.

Meanwhile, a three-man Polish Jewish delegation, led by the director of the Warsaw Yiddish Theater, Szymon Szurmey, left today for Israel to attend the conference of Polish Jews due to open this week. Another member of the delegation is the president of the Polish Jewish Religious Union, Moses Findelsztejn.

Poland has been trying for the last few years to improve its relations with world Jewry and especially with the Polish Jews who have emigrated and now live in the West. Poland has also tried to improve its diplomatic relations with Israel short, however, of extending diplomatic recognition. It is not expected to do so as long as the Soviet Union does not.

CONGRESS ASKED TO ALLOCATE TO ISRAEL \$785 MILLION IN ECONOMIC AID AND \$1 BILLION IN MILITARY AID

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- The Carter Administration officially asked Congress today to allocate to Israel \$785 million in economic support assistance and \$1 billion in military aid during the fiscal year that begins next Oct. 1. These amounts equal the appropriations for Israel in both categories in each of the last two years. Their buying power for the new fiscal year will have eroded by some 20 percent from two years ago as a result of inflation. As in the past two allocations, half of the \$1 billion in military funding is to be repaid as a loan and half will be forgiven.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Defense Secretary Harold Brown presented the Administration's foreign aid program for the coming year to the House Foreign Affairs Committee in that body's first appearance in the new Congress. The House reverted to the designation "Foreign Affairs" after four years during which the panel was known as the International Relations Committee.

Asking Congress to approve \$89.6 billion in foreign assistance spread over seven components of the aid program, Vance specifically requested \$750 million in economic support assistance for Egypt, also the same as in each of the last two years. "Our security supporting assistance program in both

Egypt and Israel are vital to the peace process, because they support the economic stability of both nations," Vance told the committee.

He pointed out that "nearly half of the Egyptian people live in overcrowded cities," and the Cairo government "cannot provide them with the necessities of life without assistance from the U.S. and other nations." Vance observed further that the aid "is important to the political stability which is critical to President (Anwar) Sadat's ability to lead Egypt toward peace."

Israel's Security Is A Key Factor

He said that "as with Egypt, Israel's ability to provide for the security and well-being of its people is a key factor in its decisions toward peace. Our aid has helped Israel to take the austere measures of devaluation and import reduction needed for efforts to increase its defense capacity following the 1973 war. Although Israel's economy is now doing much better, its prospects for steady growth and stability depends strongly on help from the U.S.," Vance said.

Vance did not give specific figures for aid to Jordan and did not mention Syria or Lebanon. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed, that authorizations for them will be approximately the same as last year.

Opposes Retaliation Against UN Agencies

Opposing financial retaliation against United Nations agencies such as the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which the Congress has accused of politicizing issues in seeking to punish Israel and the U.S., Vance departed from the aid program itself. He asked that "prohibitory language be removed promptly" from the State Department's appropriations bill. Vance referred to the use of U.S. assessed contributions to UN agencies.

Under the demands of Congress, the U.S. has withdrawn from the ILO and reduced its payments to UNESCO. With Congress not in session last fall, the Carter Administration refused to participate in a UN program commendatory of the Palestine Liberation Organization, but refused to curtail its payments toward that program.

Vance contended today that the prohibition "places the U.S. in violation of its legally binding obligations to the UN agencies" and "weakened" U.S. "influence" in them "just at a time when this country has begun to reassert its traditional leadership role."

ADL BLAMES CARTER ADMINISTRATION FOR RETARDING MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS

PALM BEACH, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- The National Executive of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith adopted a resolution yesterday at the conclusion of its four-day meeting here implicitly accusing the Carter Administration of retarding the peace process in the Middle East by "its policy of exerting pressure on Israel," and demanded a change.

"Israel has been taking great risks for peace and cannot consider taking further risks while United States pressure on Israel only whets Arab appetites and encourages hard-line Arab demands," the resolution stated. "Pressure on Israel is contrary to American national interest," the ADL resolution claimed. It cited the failure of the U.S. to prevent sustained Jordanian and Saudi Arabian opposition to Camp David and the continued rise of the OPEC (Organization of

Petroleum Exporting Countries) price of oil.

The resolution continued: "We urge President Carter to apply diplomacy forcefully to convince Arab countries to support the peace process by making clear to them that Israel is a fact of life in the Middle East, and all countries in the region will be best served by living together in peace."

The turmoil in Iran increases our need for reliable, strong and stable allies in the region. Such an ally is Israel, and our government can only undercut Israel's strength through undue pressure against it.

It also called on Carter to "be more explicit in correcting public statements made by members of his Administration, which in certain instances seem in contradiction with President Carter's oft-stated support for the security of the Jewish State. One such instance was the recent praise of PLO leadership by the U.S. representative at the United Nations, without regard to the terrorist and immoral nature of the PLO, long acknowledged by President Carter himself." The reference was to remarks by Ambassador Andrew Young in an interview in a United Nations magazine last month.

10-Year Record Of Terror

At an earlier session of the meeting, the ADL National Executive published a 10-year chronology of terrorist acts by the PLO and called on Carter to repudiate what it regarded as an attempt by Young "to lay the groundwork for U.S. recognition of the PLO and support of its application for regular UN membership."

The chronology covered the period Sept. 1, 1967-Dec. 31, 1977 during which the PLO was responsible for killing 1131 men, women and children, wounding another 2471 people and detaining 2755 others as hostages, according to the report.

Maxwell E. Greenberg, ADL chairman, said that statistical tables compiled by ADL researchers make clear that "absolutely no one anywhere is safe from PLO murder and kidnapping gangs." He referred to 308 bombings in 26 countries; 261 attempted bombings, bomb threats and plots in 26 countries; 180 shootings in 11 countries; 18 assassinations -- including American diplomats in 14 countries; 19 hijackings in 14 countries or in their air space; six attempted hijackings and 20 other assorted acts of terror in 12 countries.

MINISTRY FORESEES EARTHQUAKE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure may not have wanted to cause panic, but a statement it published yesterday was not quite reassuring, to say the least.

The Ministry told Israelis that an earthquake "at the level that destroyed Safed in 1837," was inevitable in the future. Therefore, the Ministry said, quoting a scientific report prepared at the Ministry's order, the outcome of such an earthquake depended entirely on preventive action.

Essentially, the Ministry wanted the public to be aware of the need for a thorough research of the possible effects of an earthquake considering the present standards of buildings. To make its point quite clear, the Ministry noted this was especially important, considering plans for the construction of a nuclear power station.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress charged the New York Chamber of Commerce and Industry with providing a forum for a "top Arab propagandist and apologist" for the Palestine Liberation Organization, Dr. Clovis Mak-soud, who is to address a luncheon co-sponsored by the Chamber and the American-Arab Association for Commerce & Industry Feb. 6 here.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**INFLATION HITS COMMUNAL AGENCIES**

By Ben Gallob

(First Part of a Two-Part Series)

NEW YORK, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- Spiraling inflation, now indisputably the biggest continuing threat to American living standards, has forced Jewish communal agencies to undergo drastic cuts in staff and services though these services are more needed now than ever because the number of Jewish needy and the severity of their needs has been increased by the same economic pinch, a Jewish Telegraphic Agency survey has indicated.

In an effort to ascertain just how inflation has affected such services, the JTA submitted specific questions to a sampling of organizations deemed to be collectively representative of the overall Jewish service structure in the United States.

Two umbrella organizations were queried -- the National Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) and the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF). Three national service organizations also were queried -- B'nai B'rith, the American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Congress.

The Federation serving the world's largest Jewish community -- the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of Greater New York -- was among the Federations supplying information. Other Federations which provided data, through the initiative of the CJF, included the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, the Harford Jewish Federation and the Greater Miami Jewish Federation.

JWB Is Cutting Costs

The JWB serves as the association of Jewish Community centers and Ys. The 200-plus centers and Ys are probably the most widely used of local Jewish service centers. A JWB official said the centers have been forced to seek ways of cutting costs and finding new sources of additional income. He said one effect has been renewed interest in the use of volunteers to supplement the professional staff.

The JWB official said center programs with minimum participation have been cut. Center committees examine priorities in an ongoing basis with a high priority assigned to Jewish content programs. The official said he did not know of any center in which such programs have been trimmed.

He also reported that, over the past three years, there have been general fee increases for members, ranging from five to 10 percent. He said that, at the same time, more special categories have been established for college students and single parents, at reduced fees, to attract more members. There are also more financial grants to members who need them, he reported.

He said many centers have had energy audits, re-examining hours of operation and seeking ways to make better use of facilities and staff. They also are applying to foundations and to federal and state governments for funds to finance programs relevant to center goals. In some communities, the official said, centers are sharing sites and administrative facilities with other local agencies, using computer technology where this is applicable.

The official said the JWB is trying to help the affected centers in various ways. It has conducted conferences on energy, and a workshop for controllers, administrators and business man-

agers to help them with budgeting, membership, computer use, insurance, energy and other administrative problems. He said the JWB had issued a kit, "Coping With Current Economic Pressures."

At the national level, the official reported, the JWB has had to consolidate services and find other ways to cut costs. To get more flexible use of staff and make financial savings, he said, JWB closed its area offices and shifted their work to the national office in New York.

Providing Services In Different Ways

The official said that while the JWB has not cut any essential services, it has been forced to provide them in different ways. He cited, as an example in the area of health, physical education and recreation, a reduction of sponsorship of tournaments and more encouragement of physical fitness activities for persons of all ages.

In some areas, he said, JWB now shares services with other national agencies. Last year, JWB coordinated a Holocaust material project in which 17 national organizations participated, eliminating much duplication.

The JWB headquarters has had to operate with fewer clerical staff members. Hiring replacements at the professional staff level has been delayed, and, in some cases, volunteers fill the gap until a replacement is hired. He also reported that a JWB planning and evaluation committee, which he said was unique to JWB, plans JWB's future programs.

He said the prospect of continuing inflation is "an important factor" in JWB planning. The agency's financial review committee and its planning and evaluation committee continue careful planning to make the best possible use of the "shrinking communal dollars" JWB gets, he said.

B'nai B'rith Is Reducing Programs

B'nai B'rith, considered the nation's largest and oldest service organization for Jews, is "running harder, being more successful in our income-generating activities and yet having to cut programs both nationally and in the field," according to Daniel Thursz, executive vice-president.

If one looks merely at income, he told the JTA, the picture is one of an organization which has "amazing vitality" both in its ability to raise money and in its commitment to some major programs for Jews, including Hillel Foundations, the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, its Career and Counseling Service, adult Jewish education, its Israel Commission and other programs.

Thursz said he had omitted the Anti-Defamation League because the ADL conducts separate fund-raising to meet its current budget of nearly \$10 million. He reported that B'nai B'rith contributes to the ADL almost a million dollars in direct allocations from the national office, B'nai B'rith Women and B'nai B'rith lodges.

He reported that inflation has reduced the organization's ability to pay for services, even though it raises more money. Obligation to staff leads to modest annual salary increases, averaging in the past two to three years about six percent, not across the board but on the basis of merit. Still, a major cut in national office personnel had to be made. To cope with increased costs of heat, light, postage, printing and other outlays, "we have actually had to cut budgets for programming," Thursz reported.

Cost-Saving Measures Reported

In 1977, Thursz reported, a large number of Hillel counselorships had to be eliminated and pro-

gram allocations to various B'nai B'rith youth agencies have been reduced. The organization's "National Jewish Monthly" is constantly in deficit despite a substantial total in advertising, he said.

Difficulties in "hopping off" activities led to adoption of cost-saving measures, such as word-processing centers, new offset-printing processes, combining travel so that staff fulfill multiple functions, reduction in committee meetings and cuts in reimbursement "to some of our leaders" to maintain as much program as possible, he said.

Thursz reported "some success" in persuading Federations to help finance Hillel Foundations but allocations "tend to be earmarked locally" which prevents the national office from doing "national planning" on a national basis, another of "the impacts of the inflationary period."

He summarized the situation in these terms: "We need a million dollars a year -- in new money -- just to stand in place, and, so far, we have made the goals each year or at least we have come close to these goals, but it makes it impossible for us to plan for expansion of activities that are desperately needed to serve the Jewish people."

The American Jewish Congress has had to cut staff but "our cuts have been mainly by attrition -- people who resign are not replaced; people who retire are occasionally put on a consulting part-time basis," Richard Cohen, associate executive director, reported. Cohen said the agency has not reduced, eliminated or postponed service programs, adding "we have tried in every way to maintain services with a smaller staff. We just have to work harder."

He reported the agency's budget committee makes expenditure recommendations to the executive committee, which now take into account the expectation of continued inflation. As an example, Cohen cited the prospect of union demands for wage increases when the next contract is negotiated, which will "increase our costs considerably." Cohen said that "one way to cope" with that prospect is to try to raise more funds and, accordingly, "our fund-raising efforts have been stepped up."

(Part II Tomorrow)

QUEBEC PRESS COUNCIL CONDEMNS MAGAZINE FOR ANTI-SEMITIC STANCE By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- The Quebec Press Council has condemned the "Ici Québec" magazine for the anti-Semitic "style and tone" of articles it published in three consecutive issues last February, March and April. The Council acted on the complaint of the Canada-Israel Committee which cited articles titled "Zionism -- Cancer of Society," "The Poisoned Oranges," and other defamatory material as incitement to race hatred.

The Quebec Press Council, an unofficial organization of reporters and publishers in the province of Quebec declared in a statement Jan. 29 that it "deplores vividly the publication of these hateful accusations meant to inflame racist feelings and racism and which deeply hurt the feelings of the Jewish community as a whole." The statement also noted that the articles were "biased in favor of the Palestinians."

The complaint was lodged by Reginald Hamel, a professor of literature at the University of Montreal, and Myer Bick, national executive

director of the Canada-Israel Committee. They said the articles constituted a "flagrant example of incitement to hatred against Israel and the Jewish people."

"Ici Québec" is a French-language periodical, privately published with a circulation of about 3000. It is vigorously nationalistic in its views. However, the provincial government headed by Premier René Lévesque of the separatist Parti Québécois has denied allegations that the magazine has any connections with the government.

JOSEPH MAZER DEAD AT 79

NEW YORK, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held tomorrow for Joseph M. Mazer, honorary chairman and treasurer of the Hudson Pulp and Paper Corp., who helped develop the Israeli paper producing industry. He died Saturday at the age of 79.

Mazer was in the paper-converting industry since World War I when he went into the industry with his brother, Joseph. In 1930, he merged the business with his father's company, the Hudson Company, which became the Hudson Pulp and Paper Corp. In the 1950s, he was the chairman of American Israeli Paper Mills, a company whose mill in Hadera was Israel's only major domestic source of paper.

He was given an honorary degree by Hebrew University in 1955 for "devoted services to the university in its work for learning and science, for Israel, the Jewish people and humanity." In honor of his late father, he donated the Abraham Mazer Building for the Institute of Jewish Studies and the Abraham Mazer Scholarship at the university.

Mazer was a board member of Hebrew University, Yeshiva University, American Friends of Hebrew University and the United Jewish Appeals and was active in Jewish fund-raising organizations.

PERES WARNS ABOUT KHOUMEINI

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- Shimon Peres, chairman of the Labor Party, warned last night that Israel would face one of the gravest developments in its history if the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini took power in Iran and allied that country with the new Arab bloc being formed by Iraq and Syria.

Addressing the Labor Party Bureau in Tel Aviv, Peres said Israel could not ignore the possibility that the militarily powerful, oil-rich Iran, under Khomeini's leadership, would line up with Iraq and Syria. He noted that Khomeini spent many of his years of exile in Iraq and in fact may have been the matchmaker between Baghdad and Damascus which are now in the process of forming a military and political alliance.

Peres attacked the Likud government for giving away too much in the peace process. "The longer the talks take, the more the government gives in," Peres said. "Had we been able to feel secure in the knowledge that this government stands firm, it would have been different, but the fact is that all it opposed at Ismailia it accepted in double dose at Camp David and it continues to lose points as time goes on," Peres said.

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) -- For the first time in the history of Jews in Brazil, two Brazilian-born Jewish students have been ordained at the Mahane Israel Yeshiva in Petropolis. The two rabbis, Itzhak Mishan and Pinhas Elliovitz, both of Sao Paulo, have already been offered posts by several congregations in different parts of the country which presently lack spiritual leaders.