

JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036

Vol. XLVI - 62nd Year

Wednesday, July 18, 1979

No. 137

MODAI DEMANDS SPEED UP OF ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 17 (JTA) -- While the President of the United States stakes his political future on an energy savings plan, Israel deals with the energy crisis as if she has all the time in the world, the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, Yitzhak Modai, charged before the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee. Modai said, that as far as gasoline is concerned, time is running out fast.

He spoke in reference to the Cabinet's failure this week to agree to new hikes in the price of oil and its failure to adopt an energy saving plan. He said the Ministerial Energy Committee is discussing an energy savings plan which should be adopted immediately, otherwise Israel will have to adopt even more extreme measures to conserve energy.

A proposal to close down gasoline stations on Saturdays and holidays was rejected by the committee because of objections by Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich and Industry Minister Gideon Patt.

Series Of Proposals Rejected

The committee similarly turned down a proposal to require each motorist not to use his car one day a week. A proposal which would allow residents of condominiums to detach themselves from the central heating system in order to purchase solar heating units was dropped after Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir explained that it was difficult to carry this change out because of the legal status of condominiums. A proposal to introduce daylight savings time was dropped at the objection of the religious ministers who claimed that it would inconvenience worshippers, especially during the High Holidays.

The only measure in sight at present is a substantial rise in the price of fuel. It is expected that by the end of the week, prices will rise by 25-30 percent. The Energy Ministry claims that given the recent hikes in world oil prices and the continuing devaluation of the Pound, the real increase in oil prices here should be 55-60 percent.

Five months ago, Modai presented to the Cabinet an 11-point plan to conserve energy. The plan called for a savings of eight percent in the consumption of energy, later modified to five percent. Israel planned to spend about \$1.1 billion on oil this year. A five percent savings would amount to about \$55 million. But with the recent Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries price hike, the expenditure for oil is estimated at \$1.5 billion, neutralizing the planned savings.

In a speech to the Knesset last week, Modai said hardly a day passed that Israel did not receive "almost ultimative" notices on cuts in oil sales or on price hikes even in deals already signed. Israel consumes eight million tons of oil annually. About 20 percent of it will come from the Sinai oil fields which will be returned to Egypt at the end of November.

Says Sadat's Promise Of Oil Was Vague

Premier Menachem Begin said last week, on his return from Alexandria, that President Anwar Sadat had promised him to sell Israel oil from the

Sinai fields at "market price."

But Modai told the Knesset committee that the promise was "only a vague and generalized oral commitment" and therefore was not enough. He warned that after the Alma oil fields in Sinai are handed back to Egypt, 98 percent of the country's fuel will be coming from foreign sources.

With the cut-off of oil supplies from Iran, Israel has increased her purchases from Mexico which now covers a great part of its energy needs. But a third of Israel's fuel comes from "changing and temporary" sources, which may be closed any day. Modai also complained that the country was short of fuel storage capacity. He said no progress was being made on the proposal for a nuclear electric power station.

Committee chairman Moshe Arens called for an immediate decision to build the first nuclear power station. Israel possesses all the manpower and the technologies required, he said.

ISRAELI SPORTS CIRCLES CONCERNED ABOUT 1980 MOSCOW OLYMPIC GAMES

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, July 17 (JTA) -- Concern has grown in Israeli sports circles that the Soviet Union may resort to the denial of entry visas or other administrative measures to prevent Israel from participating in the Olympic Games in Moscow next summer despite its promise that every nation will be welcome to compete. The possibility of such action by the Soviet authorities seemed likely after Alex Giladi, a senior Israeli television official, received word last night that his application for a visa to enter the USSR was rejected.

Giladi, who had covered the Olympic Games in Munich and Montreal for Israeli television, is slated to head the Israeli TV crew at the 1980 Games in the Soviet capital. He was scheduled to go to Moscow next Sunday along with 39 senior officials of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) to cover the "Spartakiada," a general rehearsal for the Olympic Games. Of all the applicants, he apparently was the only one denied a visa.

Doubts about Soviet intentions toward the Israeli Olympic team were increased by the discriminatory treatment given 40 Israeli political scientists who had asked to attend the International Congress of Political Science which opens in Moscow on Aug. 12.

Prof. Asher Arian of Tel Aviv University, head of the Israeli chapter of the Political Science Association, reported that only 30 of the 40 applicants have been notified that they will receive visas. The others have received no notification. Moreover, none of the applicants has yet been notified about accommodations and it appears that no reservations have been made for them.

Unless the full delegation receives visas and accommodations, Israel may have to cancel its participation in the forum. According to Arian, the American and French political science associations have promised that if all 40 Israelis are not allowed to attend, they would cancel their participation. It was pointed out, however, that a decision by Israel to boycott the congress would be collective. The academicians with visas could go to Moscow on an individual basis if they chose to but would not be part of an Israeli delegation.

ASPEN INSTITUTE PRESSURED TO WITHDRAW INVITE TO ISRAELI PROF.

By Judith Rosen

NEW YORK, July 17 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee said today that it backed the board of trustees of the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies in their dispute with the East-West Foundation over the latter's alleged injection of anti-Israel bias into the funding of the Aspen's Middle East studies program.

The Aspen board has charged specifically that Christopher Beim, president of the non-profit tax-exempt East-West Foundation, threatened to terminate an annual \$600,000 grant to Aspen unless it withdrew its invitation to an Israeli academician to participate in a seminar on "The Arab World in Transition."

Ira Silverman, director of Special Programs of the AJC committee, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the foundation's action was "another example of deplorable attempts by the Arabs and their representatives in the business world here to subvert academic institutions for their political purposes."

He said the AJC committee has "full confidence in the integrity of the Aspen Institute, with its long tradition of intellectual interchange with Israelis, among other scholars, which will continue. Silverman said the "AJC committee has been involved in regular contact with Colin Williams, director of Aspen's Middle East program, and we know him to be committed to fair practice."

According to reports here, Aspen invited a Hebrew University professor of Arabic literature, Menachem Milson, to participate in the seminar but withdrew the invitation after being informed by the State Department that Milson, a reserve officer in the Israeli army, had served as an aide to the Military Governor of occupied territories in 1977. No other Israeli was subsequently invited. Joseph E. Slater, president of Aspen, denied that this was due to pressure from Beim but other sources said Beim had protested to Aspen against inviting any Israeli.

Aspen Rejects Interference

The alleged threat by Beim to withdraw his foundation's grant to Aspen was said to have been in response to a resolution drawn up by the Aspen board of trustees objecting to interference by the foundation in its Middle East programs. The resolution affirmed that Aspen would have "absolute control" over the choice of participants.

The East-West Foundation was established by the Fluor Corp., a construction and engineering firm said to do billions of dollars worth of business in Saudi Arabia. According to the AJC committee, John Fluor, its chairman, who is also chairman of the board of the University of Southern California, tried to use corporate funds to influence the university's Middle East Center in similar pro-Arab ways. The Aspen Institute is headed by Robert Anderson, chairman of the Atlantic Richfield Co. Its stated purpose is to bring together business, educational and government leaders at seminars on public affairs.

EUROPEAN JEWRY MAPS PLANS TO AID THE BOAT PEOPLE

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, July 17 (JTA) -- The Executive Committee of the European Council of Jewish Community Services (ECJCS) issued an urgent plea to its member organizations, at a meeting here, to put their experience in refugee resettlement at the

disposal of their respective governments willing to assist the boat people.

Fritz Hollander, of Stockholm, chairman of the ECJCS, declared that "All of us who survived the Nazi period must be stirred into action or else left with a feeling of impotence and despair by the great tragedy unfolding before our eyes." Maurice Schamisso, of Antwerp, who heads the ECJCS social service committee, said there were agencies in a number of affiliated communities with experienced personnel who could be of valuable assistance in any resettlement scheme adopted by their governments.

Dr. Rene Weill, of Bern, noted that the Social Welfare Committee of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Switzerland has formed part of a consortium of eight voluntary agencies which has taken charge of the resettlement of 1700 Vietnamese refugees admitted last year and an additional 2000 being admitted this year. The agencies work in close cooperation with the Swiss government.

Weill said much credit for the success of the program could be attributed to the use of intensive training given the refugees in the languages and customs of Switzerland, a program modeled on Israel's ulpanim used in the acculturation of immigrants from many countries.

A conference on the refugees, called by United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, will convene here July 20-21. The UN has invited 72 countries and 12 foreign ministers have indicated they would participate. Israel will be represented by its Minister of Absorption, David Levy, and the U.S. by either Vice President Walter Mondale or Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Meanwhile in Brussels, the Jewish Community Center (JCC) has agreed to take in three refugee families as a first step to aid the Belgian government's plan to admit 10,000. The JCC said its action was in memory of Jewish refugees seeking haven from the Nazis 40 years ago. "These tens of thousands of people are being expelled like we were at the time," a spokesman for the Brussels community said. The JCC called on Belgian Jewish families to follow its example and adopt groups of refugees from Indochina.

LABOR WARNS SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 17 (JTA) -- The Labor Party has informed the Socialist International that it will "suspend its activities" within the International if Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat is invited to attend a session. The message was conveyed today to former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, president of the Socialist International by Labor MK Micha Harish in Strasbourg.

Harish told an Israeli Radio interviewer that there was no definite proposal for Arafat to be invited to a Socialist International session but there was "such a danger." The idea evolved from Arafat's recent meeting with Brandt and Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky in Vienna. Harish said Brandt regretted "that the Israel Labor Party was hurt" by the Vienna meeting and reiterated his own unchanging friendship and support for Israel.

But the Labor MK refused to divulge the contents of Brandt's report of the meeting with Arafat. When asked if Arafat had shown any shift in his traditional stand, as Brandt intimated after the Vienna meeting, Harish said he would report back to Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres before making any public pronouncement. He said that was agreed between himself and Brandt.

JAKOBOVITS WARNS AGAINST BREEDING 'HOLOCAUST MENTALITY'

GENEVA, July 17 (JTA) -- A sharp critique of present Jewish priorities and concerns was expressed by Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits, Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth, who warned against "breeding a Holocaust mentality" and emphasizing the survival of Jews over the survival of Judaism. Jakobovits spoke on "a cultural prospectus for the '80s" at the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture held here earlier this month. He urged the Foundation to undertake a global and historic review of its tasks.

He said it should see the Holocaust, for example, not as a reason for perpetual despair but as a good to affirmative Jewish living in order to assure the survival of Judaism. He said he regretted that Zionism had set itself too limited a goal. The creation of a Jewish State to secure the survival of Jews is not enough; Israel must aspire to become a state exemplifying the survival of Judaism through the realization of the noblest Jewish virtues in the prophetic tradition, the British Chief Rabbi said.

"Would it not be a catastrophic perversion of the Jewish spirit if brooding over the Holocaust were to become a substantial element in the Jewish purpose and if the anxiety to prevent another Holocaust were to be relied upon as an essential incentive to Jewish activity?" he asked. "The slogan 'Never Again,' now so popular, is a poor substitute for purposeful Jewish living as a potent driving force to promote Jewish vitality."

Continuing, Jakobovits said: "We exist not in order to prevent our own destruction, but to advance our special assignment, embodying the ageless values which are our national raison d'être. We must shift the current emphasis on the survival of Jews to the survival of Judaism. For without Judaism, Jewish survival is both questionable and meaningless."

He observed, in that connection, that "Instead of making and holding up Israel as the only country in the world where one can live a fully Jewish life, our propaganda -- whether for fund-raising or aliyah -- has projected it not as a sanctuary, attracting Jews by its holiness, but primarily as an asylum for the homeless, a haven of security for Jews in danger. And once it can no longer offer this security, the attraction is vitiated and the supporters are liable to be disenchanted," Jakobovits said.

Situation Of Soviet Jews

He cited the situation of Soviet Jews as an example, recalling that on his return from a visit to the USSR several years ago he was a target of abuse for advocating adding "Let my people live" to the slogan "Let my people go," convinced that if we did not work hard at the regeneration of some Jewish life inside Russia and among the emigrants as soon as they left Russia, the wells of Soviet aliyah would dry up for lack of Jewish idealism.

Jakobovits noted that "Now, with 70 percent or more of Russian emigrants opting for settlement in other countries because they were not induced to seek a Jewish life, the abuse has given way to consternation... What have we achieved by bringing them out if, as a result, they will be even less conscious of being Jews than they were before?" he asked.

Jakobovits said that Zionism has failed to realize one of its primary goals. "By creating a national basis of Jewish life, the Zionist idea

was to fortify the ramparts of Jewish pride and belonging against the tide of drift and defection. Nothing like this has happened," the Chief Rabbi observed. "We now sustain more casualties by assimilation and intermarriage in the free world than through persecution, war or terror in the whole world."

Allocation Of \$1,814,825 For Programs

The Board of Trustees approved an allocation of \$1,814,825 for a variety of cultural programs in more than 15 countries. They include doctoral scholarships to prepare future scholars, teachers and rabbis; fellowships to aid and encourage research scholars, writers and artists; support for special training programs for rabbis, educators and Jewish communal workers; grants for Jewish research and publication; support for Jewish studies programs at universities; and allocations for programs to document and commemorate the Holocaust.

The Board of Trustees is composed of the representatives of 48 international and national Jewish cultural and religious organizations that reflect all of the major trends in contemporary Jewish life.

HAIFA PREPARING FOR SADAT'S VISIT

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, July 17 (JTA) -- Haifa, "the forgotten jewel of Israel" as its Mayor Arish Gurel describes it, is sprucing up for President Anwar Sadat's visit next month aboard his yacht. The visit has brought to life a project begun 25 years ago -- the construction of a modern passenger terminal in the port area -- which observers say would have taken another 25 years to complete were it not for the impending arrival of the Egyptian leader.

Now, workers are swarming over the partly built structure in a crash effort to get it ready in time for Sadat. Haifa, which many people consider the scenically most beautiful city in Israel -- it has been compared to Naples and Rio -- is Israel's largest seaport. But as travel by sea declined and most tourists arrive and depart from Ben-Gurion Airport, the city on the slopes of Mt. Carmel, overlooking a crescent-shaped bay, tended to be bypassed by visitors.

There are relatively few hotels, except on the high ridge of the Carmel where Israeli and foreign vacationers throng in summer to enjoy the cooler temperatures. Sadat will be coming at the peak of the season and the Mt. Carmel hotels, already heavily booked, will have to find rooms for representatives of the world news media as well as hundreds of local journalists. Gurel believes that regardless of these problems, Sadat's visit will put Haifa once again "on the map."

The port itself, where congestion has been the norm for years, will be especially hectic next month. It plays host to two units of the American Sixth Fleet -- the giant carrier Independence and her escort destroyer Patterson -- with a combined complement of thousands of men on a three-day visit. In addition, about 40 passenger-carrying ships will call at Haifa next month, 28 of them cruise ships landing thousands of tourists.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

TEL AVIV, July 17 (JTA) -- Israeli naval units attacked a terrorist base on the south Lebanese coast Tuesday evening. A military spokesman said the base was a launching point for terrorist incursions against Israel by sea. No further details were immediately available.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW THREAT OF PETRODIPLOMACY

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, July 17 (JTA) -- Nathan Perlmutter, the national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, believes that the greatest threat to the Jewish people today is the increasing influence of Arab petrodollar diplomacy.

The world is much more complicated than when the ADL was combating such homegrown anti-Semites as Gerald L. K. Smith and other racists in the 1940s and 1950s, he said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The interview was conducted in his office on the top floor of the ADL's new headquarters overlooking the United Nations, "our enemy," as Perlmutter called it.

The "Zionism is Racism" resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1975 has made anti-Semitism more open in Europe, Perlmutter said. But he believes that more important is the growing Arab use of oil diplomacy which is making the Jewish people "hostage to the price of oil."

Perlmutter said it is for this reason the ADL is opening a European office in Paris. The office will be in the job of "consciousness raising" among European Jews, alerting them and helping them to meet this new danger, he said.

The 56-year-old Perlmutter and other ADL officials recently returned from Brussels where they held a one-day meeting on petrodollars and other issues, at which former Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Gen. Alexander Haig, Supreme Commander of NATO, participated. The Brussels meeting, which was to mark the opening of the European office, was sandwiched between the ADL's National Commission meeting in Jerusalem and an audience with Pope John Paul II where they received the Pope's blessing for a joint program with the Polish-American Catholic Committee honoring Janusz Korczak, the Polish-Jewish martyr who died in Treblinka.

Evidence Of Impact

Perlmutter, a 30-year veteran of the human relations field who was named ADL national director last November, said Jews have to become aware of the impact of petrodiploamacy. He said the situation was analyzed in Brussels but it was dramatized to him upon his return to New York.

When he returned, he saw a newspaper story that 100 members of the Japanese Parliament had called for support of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The next day it was reported that Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, "no friend," and former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, "an old friend," had met with PLO leader Yasser Arafat, "the single most murderous anti-Semite in the world today." This was followed by a report that President Carter had asked West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt to lead European pressure against Israel. This was evidence to him of the power of petrodiploamacy.

Perlmutter noted that Jews are always concerned about the security of Israel. But now this concern will come up against the desire of some in the West to appease the Arab oil producers, he said.

He pointed out that Americans as a whole have not blamed Israel or Jews for the gas lines. They blamed the oil companies or the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

But Perlmutter said a situation could arise where, due to the influence of Arab propaganda, Americans could begin calling for a "PLO state" as a means of assuring a steady supply of oil, as some in Europe are already doing.

This is why, Perlmutter said, American Jews must support efforts to conserve energy, to find additional oil and to use other sources of energy, develop synthetic oil and take other steps so the West does not become "hostage to the endless greed of the oil sheikhs." American Jews should be urging the President, their Senators and their Congressmen to take this action, Perlmutter declared.

COMPANY ASKED TO BOYCOTT ISRAEL

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, July 17 (JTA) -- Due to the jurisdictional and political divisions that exist in Canada a major telephone equipment company may be able to slip through a contract with an Arab power that contains an anti-Israel clause stipulating "no commercial relations with Israel and no branches or agencies in Israel." Northern Telecom, the largest telephone equipment suppliers in Canada and the supplier to Bell Canada, is considering supplying equipment to the Emirates Telecommunications Corp. Ltd.

The bidding form for the contract contains a boycott clause and one official of the firm, Dick Wertheim, has told the press the company is considering the contract though he "could not answer as to what route we might find to satisfy the boycott clause." A second official, Roy Cottier, the vice president of corporate relations, said the company would not honor a clause like that. "We do not break the law."

However, the law, or rather laws, are unclear. The Province of Ontario has a full-dress anti-boycott law categorically forbidding companies in the Province to agree to curtail trade with Israel in return for doing business with Arab states. The federal government of Canada was about to pass such a law recently when the general elections intervened. What is on its books now is only a requirement for firms to report requests to agree to such boycott clauses with no serious sanctions attached.

HUC AIDS INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

LOS ANGELES, July 17 (JTA) -- As an expression of its concern for the plight of the "Boat People," Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion has arranged to sponsor an Indochinese refugee family; it was announced by Dr. Alfred Gottschalk, president. The sponsorship of the family is being arranged in cooperation with the International Rescue Committee.

The family consists of Thach Bao Cuong, 35, a school teacher who speaks fluent English, his 27-year-old wife and their 2-year-old son. Gottschalk said they will be brought to Los Angeles, where the college will provide housing and see to their other needs. In addition, the college will give employment at its Los Angeles school to Thach.

In another step to mobilize help for Indochinese refugees, Gottschalk has written to the rabbinic alumni of Hebrew Union College who lead the Reform congregations of the United States, urging that each congregation sponsor a refugee family. There are approximately 700 such congregations in the country. Gottschalk, a member of the President's Commission on the Holocaust, has written to President Carter to advise him of the steps he has taken. Gottschalk said he expected the family to arrive in the United States within six weeks.