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CANADA DROPS ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION FROM PRIORITY LIST

By Michael Solomon and Ben Kayfetz

OTTAWA, July 26 (JTA) — The statement by a leader of the ruling Progressive Conservative Party yesterday that its promise to enact tougher legislation against application of the Arab boycott in Canada is no longer on the government's list of priorities, drew expressions of outrage from the opposition Liberal Party today. But Canadian Jewish leaders expressed confidence that the government would honor its pre-election commitment.

Walter Baker, President of the Privy Council and leader of the Progressive Conservatives in the House of Commons, appeared to link the boycott issue for the first time with Prime Minister Joe Clark's election campaign promise to move the Canadian Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Baker told a press conference yesterday that it would not be appropriate to introduce an anti-boycott bill while Robert Stanfield, former head of the Progressive Conservative Party, is studying the situation in the Middle East. Clark appointed Stanfield last month to head a study mission to the Middle East on the proposed Embassy move and related issues. He was given one year to draft a report and recommendations.

That move by Clark was widely viewed as a retreat from his Embassy pledge under pressure from the Arab oil-producing states and Canadian business interests. Before the elections, the Progressive Conservatives were sharply critical of the Liberal government's boycott guidelines and promised to introduce foolproof anti-boycott legislation modeled on the strict anti-boycott laws enacted by the provincial legislature in Ontario.

But now, Foreign Trade Minister Michael Wilson says the guidelines are working well for the time being and that the government is able to tell which firms give in to boycott pressure.

Termed 'Outrageous Abandonment'

Robert Caplan, a Liberal MP for the Toronto area denounced the government's latest position today as "an outrageous abandonment of a serious commitment to Canadians." Another MP, Herbert Grey, said the government is doing even less than the previous Liberal regime. It criticized it severely before the election.

Harold Buchwald, chairman of the Canada-Israel Committee, issued a statement yesterday on behalf of Canadian Jewish leaders. It noted that "The Prime Minister and his colleagues have repeatedly stated their unequivocal support for comprehensive anti-boycott legislation. We believe that the government will enact such legislation. The government determines its own priorities and legislative agenda and the Canada-Israel Committee intends to consult with the government on this matter."

The statement added, "The Arab boycott is an issue of concern to all Canadians because of its important implications for human rights and Canadian sovereignty." The statement was issued on behalf of Judge Philip Givens, president, Canadian Zionist Federation; Rabbi W. Gunther

Plaut, president, Canadian Jewish Congress; and Lou Ronson, president, District 22 of B'nai B'rith.

TALKS CONTINUE IN EFFORT TO RESOLVE DISPUTE OVER UNTSO

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, July 26 (JTA) — The State Department said today that the U.S. is continuing discussions at the United Nations to solve the dispute over the decision to employ an expanded United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO) force to replace the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in Sinai. The Department's chief spokesman, Hoddgdon Carter, told reporters that he did not foresee any top level meetings on the issue which would take Secretary of State Cyrus Vance or special Presidential envoy Robert Strauss to the Middle East at this time.

The UNEF mandate expired at midnight Tuesday and its replacement by UNTSO was agreed to by the UN Security Council over strenuous protests by Israel. Carter said he has seen estimates ranging from 250-800 men to make up the reconstituted UNTSO force plus additional equipment needed for transport and rapid movement in the region.

U.S. To Sell Jordan Tanks

In another development, Carter confirmed today that the U.S. has agreed to sell Jordan up to 300 M-60 A-3 tanks. He said they would be sold to replace, on a one-to-one basis, Jordan's old M-48 tanks which it is now phasing out. A U.S. official stated that Jordan would probably receive a total of about 500 tanks from the U.S. and some from Britain which has agreed to sell it approximately 275 Chieftain tanks.

The official said the U.S. decision to sell the tanks to Jordan was made with certain military, political and economic considerations in mind as well as the friendly relationship with Jordan that is valued by the U.S. He said the U.S. feels that the balance with other countries in the area will thus be maintained, and, that as Israel, Egypt, the Palestinians, the West Bank and Gaza move into the peace process the value of helping other Middle East countries with their needs will become apparent.

WZO SETTLEMENT CHIEF CALLS FOR 10 NEW SITES AROUND NABLUS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 26 (JTA) — Mattityahu Drobless, co-chairman of the World Zionist Organization's settlement department, unveiled a plan today to surround the West Bank Arab town of Nablus with a bloc of 10-12 new Jewish settlements. "This should be our answer to the Security Council resolution (passed last week) branding Israeli settlements in Judea and Samaria illegal," Drobless told reporters during a press tour of Gush Emunim settlements on the West Bank.

He said he has already discussed his plan informally with several ministers and intends to submit it to the Cabinet very soon. He said his ultimate aim was to settle a total of 100,000 Jews on the West Bank during the five-year autonomy period in order to ensure that the territory's political future was shaped and influenced by Israel by virtue of a massive Jewish presence there. He said that at present there are 18,000 Jews living in 41 West

Bank settlements, 33 of them established since the Likud government took office in May, 1977. The tour included the controversial Gush Emunim settlement site of Elon Moreh four kilometers from Nablus, where development work has been halted by order of the Supreme Court. The court has ordered the government to present proof that the expropriation of Arab land for the settlement was necessary for security reasons.

But the Gush settlers were defiant of the Supreme Court. Benny Katzover, leader of the Elon Moreh settlers and other Gush leaders from nearby settlements threatened that the Gush would take "unorthodox action" soon if the land expropriation issue is not resolved to their satisfaction. They did not say what "action" they contemplated. But Katzover told reporters that his settlement would apply to become a party to the Supreme Court action. He contended that the high court has no right to issue orders concerning Jewish settlement in "the land of Israel."

Katzover, who is also secretary of the Kadumim settlement, and Daniella Weiss, secretary of the Ofra settlement near Ramallah, urged the government to drop its contention that land expropriations were required "for security purposes" and to declare openly that Jewish settlement was a national and Zionist goal. They agreed that full compensation should be paid to the dispossessed Arabs.

Security Needs Stressed

But Doubless stuck to the security needs argument and sought to play down the land seizures in expounding on his program to reporters. He said that some cultivated and some barren Arab lands would have to be expropriated near Ofra to make room for the expansion of that settlement. But there would be no need for further expropriations at Kadumim and Shavei Shomron near Nablus he said because both settlements are located adjacent to army camps which will be dismantled in the coming months.

He said he hoped the Supreme Court would eventually find in favor of the government in the case of Elon Moreh. He claimed that the hilltop site overlooking a road junction outside Nablus was vital to security. "In my opinion, the strategic importance of this spot speaks for itself," he said. He said his plan called for the construction of three additional settlements in the same area to form a "settlement bloc" with all local amenities and facilities. Without such surroundings, Elon Moreh would not be viable as an isolated outpost, he said.

He plans to create similar blocs centering on Shavei Shomron and Kadumim on the opposite flanks of Nablus and a fourth bloc, Tirzei to the northeast of Nablus. He claimed that his long-range settlement plans called for minimal expropriation of privately owned Arab land. The vast bulk of the settlements would be built on State owned land and only in "five percent of the cases" would expropriation be required. He said that he would recommend fair compensation to the owners, adding that "No other country would act differently in a similar situation."

Doubless claimed that more than 3400 Israeli families have expressed interest in settling on the West Bank and another 150 Jewish families in the U.S., Britain and France have made their plans to immigrate to Israel contingent on their being able to settle on the West Bank. According to Doubless, this belies the contention that

the settlements lack people to populate them.

He gave the reporters a breakdown of the present West Bank settlements according to type. He said 20 were "community settlements," meaning non-collective ventures; nine are urban settlements intended to grow into small towns; five moshavim, cooperative small-holders settlements; three kibbutzim; and two "industrial villages."

COURT RULES AGAINST ARAB FARMERS

JERUSALEM, July 26 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court yesterday ruled against a complaint by Arab farmers on the West Bank that their land had been illegally seized for the establishment of a Jewish settlement named Mattityahu in the Modlin area, a region associated with the Maccabees. The court at the same time withdrew the temporary injunction it had issued last April banning work on the settlement.

Justice Meir Shamgar, who announced the court decision, ordered the complainants to pay all legal expenses. He declined to state the reasons behind the ruling but indicated they would be made public at a later date. The land involved was seized by the Military Government in September, 1977, to establish a settlement for the ultra-Orthodox Poalei Agudat Israel.

AUTONOMY TALKS TEAM NAMED

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 26 (JTA) -- Israeli and Egyptian working groups will meet in Alexandria for three days beginning Sunday for their first round of talks on various aspects of the autonomy plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The decision to assign this stage of negotiations to senior officials rather than the ministerial level teams that inaugurated the autonomy talks was taken at the last meeting of the ministers in Alexandria. Details were worked out between Interior Minister Yosef Burg, chairman of the Israeli delegation, and Egyptian Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil, head of the Egyptian team.

The composition of the Israeli working group, appointed by the ministerial autonomy committee, was announced today. It consists of Ruth Lapidot, legal aide to the Foreign Ministry, Meir Gabbai, director general of the Justice Ministry, and Haim Kubersky, director general of the Interior Ministry. They may be assisted by Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir. The Egyptian working group will be headed by Ezzat Abdel-Talif, a senior diplomat who has been involved in the negotiations throughout the peace process.

The full ministerial teams of Israel and Egypt are scheduled to meet again in Haila August 5-6 to review the progress of the working groups. Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, a member of the ministerial group, reportedly had pressed for the inclusion of ministers in the Israeli working group on grounds that the issues to be discussed involved policy. But the arrangements agreed to by Burg and Khalil were not changed.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Twenty-eight renowned American computer scientists sent a cable to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev in Moscow urging him to secure the release from prison of their young Soviet colleague Anatoly Shcharansky, it was announced here by the Committee of Concerned Scientists. The appeal was based on information received by Shcharansky's mother in the Soviet Union that her son's health has been deteriorating rapidly and that proper medical care was not available to him in prison.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR MAKES HISTORY

By Ben Frank

PARIS, July 26 (JTA) -- History was made on July 17 when the first elected European Parliament -- meeting in Strasbourg, France, just across the river from Germany -- elected a Jewish survivor of Auschwitz as its president.

Simone Veil, age 52, born in Nice, a former Health Minister of France and for the last five years considered the most popular official in that nation, will preside over the 410-member legislative body that was chosen by a combined electorate of 180 million people. She will also represent the Parliament in negotiations with other European Economic Community (EEC) institutions.

What made her give up a secure appointed position as Minister of Health for the rough and tumble of electoral politics of France and of a European Parliament which includes elected representatives from the EEC countries of Denmark, Ireland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Italy and West Germany?

There are those close to her who say that part of the motivation for her wanting to be a force in the European Parliament is that it would be a forum where she could speak out to ensure that a Holocaust which took the life of six million Jews, including her father, mother and brother, should never occur again. She now considers the EEC a safeguard against anything "like that" happening again. In the past, say French Jewish leaders, when she has had to speak out, she did so forcefully.

Speaking Out Forcefully

Example: This attractive woman, who dresses elegantly in Chanel suits and long sleeved dresses that always hide the concentration camp number 78651 tattooed on her forearm, was instrumental in having French television show the NBC-TV "Holocaust" series after the head of all three TV stations made public statements refusing to show it.

Example: Last year, the newsweekly "L'Express" published an interview held in Spain with the Vichy government's Commissioner of Jewish Affairs Louis Darquier who insisted that the Holocaust never occurred. Ms. Veil spoke out: She chided L'Express for not at least providing along with the interview accompanying documents and photographs showing what really happened, and emphasized the dangers of banalizing racism. Her response triggered page-one editorials in the Paris dailies, comments from President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and a long rebuttal in L'Express.

Example: In a fierce debate in the French Parliament, a number of years ago, she led the French government's battle to win the right to abortion for all women. When a member of Parliament accused her of sending babies to the crematory, she fired back: "You have no right to say that to me of all people."

There are of course other ideological and political reasons why Ms. Veil may have been chosen to run in the first place for the European Parliament which, while it may have limited powers, now has the moral impact and moral authority of having its members elected by universal suffrage rather than appointed by the Parliaments of member states.

This past spring, Giscard plucked Ms. Veil from the Minister of Health post to head his ticket aligned against the Socialists, Communists, Gaullists and others in France's election of representa-

tives to the European Parliament. The President's and Ms. Veil's prestige were on the line. Until 1979, she possessed a completely non-partisan image since Giscard had appointed her and she never had to endure a political campaign.

Could Be Choice For Prime Minister

Giscard's "Union pour la Démocratie Française" outpulled the others in the race in the European-Parliament elections in France in June and as head of that slate, Ms. Veil emerged as a major victor not only for herself but for the President himself and his political following. It was a test of whether her personal popularity could be translated into electoral magic and she came through with flying colors.

It is unlikely that Giscard will forget this woman who defeated his opponents in the political arena in 1979 when he runs in 1981. Few, if any, now deny that Ms. Veil could be Giscard's choice for Prime Minister were he to be elected two-and-a-half years from now.

First, as president of the European Parliament, she will have excellent political exposure and thus be in a position to maintain her prestige in France, too. Secondly, what better experience could be given to a future Prime Minister who would have to deal with the French Parliament than that of presiding over the European Parliament, which, while it has no authority over the member nations has an advisory role on certain EEC activities.

But it is expected to be an influential forum on major European issues, especially since many of its representatives carry political clout. Thus, if Ms. Veil does make it to the post of Prime Minister of France she will be the first woman French Prime Minister, but not the first Jewish one; Leon Blum, Rene Meyer and Pierre Mendes-France were Jewish.

A Woman For All Seasons

Who is this woman of France who has been honored by her country and people? What is she like? What does she think? What is her philosophy? One Jewish leader who declared, "We are very proud of her," said bluntly that she is "totally a French woman -- elegant, self-assured, reserved." She is a product of the French Civil service which to this day believes in the tradition of service to the state. She is a serious woman, a hard taskmaster. A politician, in a complimentary way, once described her as "the only man in the Cabinet," similar to the compliment Premier David Ben Gurion of Israel paid Golda Meir.

Writing from Paris in the Manchester Guardian, Walter Schwarz said Ms. Veil's "ideas, like Giscard's, are humanist, rationalist, anti-doctrinaire and moderate. She is a feminist and cares about the environment, but she considers nuclear energy unavoidable." She has called for governmental human rights appeals for Soviet dissidents.

One feels that much of her strength comes from her early tragic life, and much of her sense of ties to the Jewish people stem from those terrible months in the death camps.

When the Nazis called for the deportation of Jews from France in World War II, she and her family split up and went into hiding. They adopted pseudonyms. Taken in by friends, Simone Veil continued her studies. In 1944, the day after she received her high school diploma, she was stopped in the street by a German policeman. Her identity papers were immediately recognized as forgeries and within days the Gestapo sent her to an extermination camp in Germany. She ended up in Auschwitz, along with her mother and one of her sisters. Her head was shaved. The number 78651 was tattooed on

her arm. Ms. Veil and her sister were the only members of her family to survive. But she and others renewed their lives and like many other Jews in the French Republic, she re-entered the mainstream of the life of France which today is the home of 700,000 Jews, the third largest Jewish community outside of Israel and the fourth largest in the world.

Ms. Veil, who has a degree in law and who is a graduate of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques, passed qualifying exams for civil service in the Judiciary. She became an advisor to the Minister of Justice in the mid-1960s and contributed to important judicial reforms. She is married to Antoine Veil, head of the French airline, UTA. The Veils have three children.

Positive Sentiments About Judaism

Ms. Veil has expressed positive sentiments about her Judaism. There is no doubt that, also in the past she has been affected by the ups and downs of political relations between Israel and France. She has visited Israel several times and was the first European Minister of Health and one of the first French Cabinet ministers to visit the Jewish State.

In her 1975 trip to Israel, Ms. Veil paid a courtesy visit to another woman who was a leading figure in her country, Golda Meir. Ms. Veil is often asked about her ties with Judaism and Israel. In the April, 1977 issue of L'Arche, the publication of the Fonds Social Juif Unifié, she was quoted as saying:

"It is a sense of basic belonging to a community which has been formative for us and which one feels one has inherited, intellectually and emotionally. It is an overall tie with Judaism. Religion is not just a belief; it is really a philosophy, a code of ethics. I am aware that I belong to this intellectual community of which Israel is both the cradle and the ark that enables the philosophy I mentioned to be perpetuated and renewed.

"More important still, I experienced this tie with Israel in Auschwitz. I lived with young Polish, Czech, Slovak and Yugoslav women who knew that for them Israel was the only refuge. The solidarity among us was too great not to have left an impression. Nevertheless, I personally never endured those trials with the idea of going to Palestine. But I have lived that great hope so intensely with those young women that it became something very important for me emotionally."

NO DATE FOR BEGIN TO LEAVE HOSPITAL

JERUSALEM, July 26 (JTA) -- Doctors treating Premier Menachem Begin said today that he will remain in Hadassah Hospital for an indefinite period "in order to be able to rest completely." Doctors had originally told Begin that he would have to remain in the hospital for 10-14 days from the time he was admitted. Shivan Lavie, the hospital's neurologist who is in charge of Begin's treatment, told reporters that he and other doctors would be holding consultations on the Premier's condition. Begin is receiving few visitors and his wife Aliza is with him all the time.

Begin was admitted to the hospital last Thursday after suffering a minor obstruction of a brain vein which caused dizziness and impaired his eyesight. The dizziness is gone but Begin is suffering a 25 percent loss of vision in his right eye and a 10 percent loss in his left eye.

CHIEF OF STAFF GETTING SUPPORT

JERUSALEM, July 26 (JTA) -- Supporters of

Chief of Staff Gen. Raphael Eitan are attacking his critics in the mounting controversy over his reduction of the sentence of an Israeli army officer convicted of killing Arab prisoners of war during the Lebanese operation in the spring of 1978. On Tuesday a motion was submitted in the Knesset for Eitan's dismissal. Today the government press office released a letter of support for the Chief of Staff signed by 400 moshav villagers.

They assailed the "hypocrisy of those who did not say anything when the sentences of terrorists were reduced but do so in the case of a young officer." Likud MK Pessah Grupper charged in the Knesset yesterday that critics of Eitan are besmirching the good name of Israel's defense forces and denigrating its values. He claimed that the army's future operation activities may be impaired as a result of this criticism.

MANN BLASTS STATE DEPARTMENT

SAN DIEGO, Calif., July 26 (JTA) --

Theodore Mann, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, today assailed State Department spokesman Hoddge Carter for his "moral blind spot" on Israel and terrorism. Mann, who addressed the 84th national conference of the Jewish War Veterans here, was referring to the statement by Carter on Monday in which he said the U.S. "strongly condemns Israel's air attacks up and down the Lebanese coast on Sunday" and added that "we had hoped that these raids which take such a toll in human life will not be repeated." Israel said it had hit terrorist concentrations.

Mann, in taking issue with Carter, declared: "The equation of Israel's attempt to wipe out terrorism with terrorism itself, is a moral outrage. If Israel stopped its raids on PLO strongholds, the bloodshed would not stop. The death of innocent civilians is an inevitable and tragic consequence of war. But it is the PLO who has declared war on Israeli citizens, and only on civilians since the PLO's inception 15 years ago."

Mann also criticized the United Nations and world leaders who seek accommodation with the PLO. "Every time the PLO is honored by the UN, it is strengthened. Every time European leaders pay homage to the PLO, and every time an American Ambassador to the UN hints that America ought to have ways of relating to the PLO, the PLO is strengthened and terrorism is strengthened." Concluding, Mann said, "Israel, I have no doubt, will continue to pursue its PLO terrorists wherever they may be, until they have foresworn terror."

PLO BIGGIE DIES OF BULLET WOUND

PARIS, July 26 (JTA) -- Zuhair Mohsen, the military chief of the Palestine Liberation Organization who was shot in the head by gunmen yesterday, died today at Saint Roch Hospital in Nice. The 43-year-old Mohsen, who was also head of the pro-Syrian Saika group, was shot when he returned to his luxury apartment in Cannes. His body will be flown to Damascus for burial. The PLO has blamed Israel and "those responsible for the Camp David agreement" but French police believe it may be a result of inter-Arab disputes following the recent seizure of the Egyptian Embassy in Ankara, Turkey by a group called the Eagles of the Revolution, an off-shoot of Saika. Meanwhile, a four-man PLO delegation has arrived in France to investigate the shooting of Mohsen.