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ISRAEL BLASTS U.S. AUTONOMY ROLE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- The members of the Israeli ministerial team's "working group" for the autonomy talks which met this week for three days with the Egyptian team in Alexandria have expressed bitter criticism of James Leonard, the American envoy to the talks. The team, which along with the Egyptian team was established last month to negotiate details of the autonomy plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, last night focussed their anger on two key positions taken by Leonard upon instructions from Washington:

That the self-governing authority (administrative council) should have legislative and judicial organs as well as executive, and that the elections to set it up should be held under international supervision.

The first point is particularly important because it goes to the heart of the vexed "source of authority" question. If the self-governing authority is to have the right to legislate that clearly would mean that it is its own source of authority and that the Israeli authority over the West Bank and Gaza Strip would have ceased. This is entirely contrary to the Israeli view. (See related story from Washington)

Tantamount to Creating Palestinian State

Israel holds that it will retain a residual authority over these areas even after the autonomy is set up. That would enable it to act against any extra-legal action by the proposed Palestinian administration -- such as the proclamation of a Palestinian state. The U.S. positions taken by Leonard are seen in Jerusalem as "tantamount to the creation of a Palestinian state." On election supervision, Israel's position is that no international control is required to ensure absolutely free and fair elections.

Another position presented by Leonard which Israel views with bitterness is that East Jerusalem should be included in the ambit of the proposed Palestinian autonomy and its citizens entitled to vote in the election.

'Land Mines Ahead'

Interior Minister Yosef Burg, chairman of the Israeli ministerial committee, in a brief interview yesterday in Jerusalem spoke of "land mines ahead" when the full Israeli and Egyptian committee convenes in Haifa next week. Some Israeli sources said they felt the Egyptian position at the "working groups" meeting in Alexandria was influenced toward greater rigidity by the U.S. role.

Leonard was quoted on Israel TV yesterday as having told the Israeli officials in Alexandria: "I have received a batch of instructions from Washington which are going to shock you...."

This latest bitterness here against U.S. policy comes at a time of strained relations with Washington. The Israeli government is still unhappy over the U.S. determination to use a United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization force to replace the defunct UN Emergency Force in Sinai. Israeli suspicions

have been aroused of late by public and private statements by U.S. officials that seemed to indicate that Washington is considering a revision of UN Security Council Resolution 242 to make it more palatable to the Palestine Liberation Organization. In addition, President Carter's reference to the Palestinians as comparable to American civil rights activists is also expected to further sour relations between Jerusalem and Washington.

YADIN: CHANGING RESOLUTION 242 WOULD BE OBSTACLE TO PEACE PROCESS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin said today that any attempt to change UN Security Council Resolution 242 would constitute a serious obstacle to the peace process. Yadin, interviewed on Israel Radio, said that even an implied change in Resolution 242 was unacceptable. Yadin's statement was the first official reaction to reports of a breach in the relations between Israel and the U.S. He described the comparison made by President Carter in The New York Times interview yesterday of the Palestinian issue to the American civil rights movement as "unfortunate."

The Cabinet is expected to review the deterioration in the relations between the two countries at its next session Sunday. Premier Menachem Begin was expected to be released from the hospital tomorrow but he is not expected to attend the Cabinet meeting. It was understood that Begin would be consulted and will take part in any decision taken by the Cabinet.

U.S. DENIES AUTONOMY ROLE

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- The State Department denied categorically today reports from Israel that the United States has taken a position directly contrary to that of Israel on the nature of autonomy for the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip currently under negotiations between Israel and Egypt with American participation.

"The stories are premature because they suggest we have taken a position one way or another," Department spokesman Tom Reston said today. He also denied a news report in New York today that the U.S. was acting in the autonomy talks under pressure by the Arab oil-producing states for swift progress.

Reston addressed himself to reports on Israeli television and radio last night alleging that the American representative at the autonomy talks, James Leonard, had, on instructions from Washington, submitted certain proposals known to be totally unacceptable to Israel during this week's meeting of the Israeli-Egyptian autonomy working groups in Alexandria.

"What is being done is the making of lists of subjects that will need to be covered in each of the actual steps of the negotiations," Reston said. "The U.S. has tried to help the two sides reach agreement on the list of subjects but we have not sent any substantive positions.... Any reports that you will see that the U.S. is advancing any opinions are simply wrong."

Elaborating on that point, Reston said: "We have not said exactly how we think the thing (autonomy) should look in the future. There are a number of issues which are left to be discussed in the plenary

session" (of the ministerial autonomy committee). "The subject of the negotiations is what are the arrangements going to look like in the future at the end of these negotiations and certain subject areas are going to be addressed.... We have not said this is what we want or what it has got to look like.... That is the mandate of the working groups -- not to negotiate exactly what it is going to look like."

On the reported threat by the Arab states to cut back in oil production this fall if good progress is not made on autonomy, Reston said "I think the Administration has said recently that the U.S. is not going to do anything in these negotiations based on our need for oil. Ambassador Robert Strauss (President Carter's special envoy to the Middle East) in this week's U.S. News & World Report, has said it again.... He speaks for the Administration."

Reston had no information as to when the foreign ministers of Israel and Egypt will meet in Washington to discuss the issue of the future peacekeeping force in Sinai.

UN OFFICIAL DEFENDS UNIFIL

By Yitzhak Shargit

TEL AVIV, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- A top UN official defended the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) against recent charges by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan that it served as an umbrella for terrorists in south Lebanon. According to Brian Urquhart, UN Undersecretary General for Special Political Affairs, UNIFIL has been the target of unfair charges by both sides in the Lebanese conflict. "Of course, it depends which side you talk to," he said in an Israel Radio interview today.

"On the other side there is a mirror image of that (Dayan's) argument. In fact, we are stuck in the middle. All forces in the area have to be regarded as realities whether you approve of them or not. UNIFIL is there to try to establish a zone of peace and it is a very difficult job. I don't agree with the argument, whichever side it comes from, that we are a shelter for hostile acts."

Urquhart is here to superintend the withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) from Sinai. The first contingent of 142 Swedish soldiers departed from Ben Gurion Airport this morning. The UN official arrived here from Lebanon and Egypt. He conferred today with Defense Minister Ezer Weizman on the UNEF pull-out and its replacement, for the time being, by unarmed UN truce observers.

There are still some 3000 Swedish soldiers in Sinai, making up the bulk of the 4015-man force and their evacuation will be gradual to allow time for political discussions that will finalize arrangements to replace them permanently. Israel has objected strenuously to the Security Council's decision last week to replace UNEF with a United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO) force.

10 COPS FACE DISMISSAL FOR PARTICIPATING IN DEMONSTRATION

By Yitzhak Shargit

TEL AVIV, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- Dismissal orders were issued today against five police officers and five more are awaiting dismissal for their part in Monday night's mass demonstrations protesting the Knesset's decision to bar the establishment of a police union. Despite the punitive action, a threatened general strike by

police today failed to materialize.

The strike threat had come from police union activist Sgt. David Ofek who has been on a hunger strike for the past few days. He collapsed last night and was hospitalized. Earlier, Interior Minister Yosef Burg, who has jurisdiction over the police, and Police Superintendent Haim Tavori made it clear that disciplinary action would be taken against the organizers of the demonstration but not against the thousands of police personnel who participated in it.

The police themselves were divided in their reaction to the Knesset ban on unionization. While a hardcore of activists said they will continue to fight it, others spoke of negotiating with Burg for alternative ways to protect the rights of police officers. These include the creation of a public council to serve as watchdog over police conditions and the appointment of an ombudsman within the Interior Ministry to whom police and their families could bring their grievances.

BEGIN TO BE DISCHARGED FRIDAY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin will be discharged from Hadassah Hospital tomorrow, 15 days after he was admitted suffering from a small blood clot in a vein leading to the brain. Dr. Sylvan Lavie, one of a team treating the Premier, told reporters yesterday the Premier had been ordered to rest for one week at home and then to return gradually to his regular work schedule. Lavie said Begin would have to take anti-coagulant treatment, in the form of one pill per day, for the next three months. He said the impairment of Begin's vision might take several months to clear up.

MOSLEMS WANT TO RETAIN SYNAGOGUE

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- Turkish Moslems who occupied the abandoned former Ashkenazic synagogue in The Hague last week have demanded that the municipal authorities turn it over to them permanently for use as a mosque. The Jewish community left the 150-year-old Oriental style structure several years ago for smaller, modern quarters in a new residential area. It was sold to The Hague municipality recently with the stipulation that it could not be converted into a Christian church.

Conversion to a mosque was not covered in the sales contract. The Turkish Moslems who seized the empty building last Friday said they wanted to use it for worship during the Moslem holy month of Ramadan because their own mosque was a fire trap. It did, in fact, burn down a day later under suspicious circumstances. The Moslems are now demanding an immediate decision by the municipal authorities on their claim to permanent possession of the building.

OFFICIALS REFUSE TO REGISTER NEWS SERVICE

JERUSALEM, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- The official Corporations Register in Jerusalem has refused to register the "Palestinian News Service" operated by nationalist Raymond Tawil, on the grounds that the name of the organization "insulted the public feelings."

Tawil, a well-known personality in the West Bank, who was under house arrest for an extended period of time for her anti-Israeli activities, heads the East Jerusalem office which supplies press services, especially for overseas consumption. Her organization is not recognized by the government as a legitimate foreign service, and the move to register the organization was probably meant to force the press office to give it such accreditation.

GOLDSCHMIDT, CARTER'S NOMINEE FOR TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY, IS ACTIVE IN PORTLAND JEWISH COMMUNITY

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- Mayor Neil E. Goldschmidt, of Portland, Oregon, who President Carter has nominated to be Secretary of Transportation, has always been active in the Portland Jewish community. Rabbi Emanuel Rose, of Temple Beth Israel, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency the Mayor is a "caring Jew" who is a member of his congregation along with his wife, Margaret. His son, Joshua, and daughter, Rebecca, attend the Reform congregation's religious school.

The 39-year-old Goldschmidt, a fifth generation Oregonian, is a member of B'nai B'rith and a recipient of the annual award of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. He is also a member of many other Jewish organizations according to Rose. Goldschmidt visited Israel last June as part of a Jewish National Fund mission, but according to the rabbi, he also spent some time on a kibbutz years ago.

Goldschmidt was first elected mayor in 1973 when at the age of 32 he was one of the nation's youngest mayors. He has been credited for vast improvements in Portland in revitalizing the city's neighborhoods, in the growth of the downtown and promotion of public transit. A graduate of the University of Oregon and the University of California at Berkeley Law School, he quit a Capitol Hill job in 1964 because of the Senate's slow pace on civil rights legislation to help Charles Evers register rural blacks in the South to vote. The Senate is scheduled to act on his nomination in September.

FIRST WOMAN RABBI ELECTED TO LEAD CONGREGATION

NEW YORK, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- Rabbi Linda Joy Holtzman, a 1979 graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC) in Philadelphia, has been elected as spiritual leader of Beth Israel Congregation, Coatesville, Pa., it was announced by Newton Dutch, president of the 55-year-old Conservative congregation. The 110 member-family congregation thus becomes the only synagogue in North America to have a woman rabbi at its helm, he said.

Holtzman will also serve as the educational director of the synagogue. She is a native of Philadelphia who, during her student days at the RRC, served as student rabbi at the Bristol Jewish Center in Bristol, Pa. Holtzman also spent a year studying at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She received her BA and MA degrees in English from Temple University, and a Bachelor of Hebrew Literature degree from Gratz College in Philadelphia.

In commenting upon the election of Holtzman, Rabbi Ludwig Nadelmann, executive vice president of the Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation, said her appointment "represents an important breakthrough for women rabbis. Until now, women have only been elected as assistants, or, as in the case in a unique arrangement at Beth El Zedeck Congregation in Indianapolis, the Sassos, Dennis and Sandy, function as co-rabbis of their congregation. We are confident that Linda Holtzman, in embarking upon her new career, will demonstrate that both men and women can serve as rabbinical leaders with equal competence."

PRICE CONTROLS SET UP

By Gil-Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- The Likud government slapped price controls on a wide variety of consumer products today after an inflationary spurt yesterday sent prices soaring by 10-20 percent. The move immediately drew fire from the Israel Manufacturers Association. Minister of Commerce and Industry Gideon Patt who ordered the price ceilings, admitted that the measure was distasteful to him as a member of the Liberal Party but said circumstances forced him to take it.

The price controls apply to only 170 of the 350 consumer items that rose in price yesterday, among them food products, cosmetics, soft drinks and household cleansers. The manufacturers of such items will need permission from the public committee on prices before they can introduce further hikes. Last month, Patt ordered price controls on 35 other items.

Avraham Shavit, president of the Manufacturers Association, warned Patt that he was "barking up the wrong tree." The Minister conceded that Shavit may be right but observed that the government had to start somewhere to control inflation. Shavit blamed the government and other public authorities for the price increases. "When the costs of production go up, so must the costs of manufactured goods," he said.

Shavit noted that the government has just raised the cost of fuel, electricity and municipal rates all of which contributed to the rise in production costs. In addition, he said, employees' paychecks in July contained advances on their cost-of-living allowances due in October and banks are raising their interest rates.

Patt suggested that if the need arose, he would expose certain goods to foreign competition in order to reduce prices. Several manufacturers warned that if such a step was taken they would be forced to shut down and fire their workers. Patt retorted that if some companies close, others will stay open.

The Commerce Minister was scheduled to meet today with Histadrut Secretary General Yerusham Meshel to discuss the latest price rises. Meshel welcomed the price controls as a timely decision to curb inflation. He was expected to demand that the manufacturers be compelled to stamp the retail price on their goods so that merchants cannot buy them at the old prices and sell them at the new ones.

REPORT CHILDREN FROM IRAN ATTENDING MISSIONARY SCHOOLS IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- The Education Ministry has acknowledged that about 40 Jewish children from Iran are presently attending missionary schools in Israel. The Ministry said it is investigating the matter on the basis of a complaint by Likud MK Moshe Katsov. Twenty of the children are studying at a missionary institution in Jerusalem and the rest at an Anglican institution in Jaffa. The Ministry believes they were enrolled by their parents, possibly at the encouragement of missionary sources in Iran.

If the youngsters came to Israel on tourist visas, as many did during the Iranian revolution, the Education Ministry is powerless to dictate where they attend school. If they came as immigrants, however, the Israeli authorities could invoke the compulsory education law to force them to leave the missionary schools.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Israel is on the verge of a serious water shortage because of a prolonged dry spell. Israel, it is estimated, has a sufficient water supply only for the next six months.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA AMERICAN LEGAL EXPERT SAYS SOVIET PROCEDURAL MISTAKES JUSTIFY REVERSAL OF SHCHARANSKY CONVICTION

NEW YORK, Aug. 2 (JTA) -- An analysis of the arrest, trial and appeal process in the Anatoly Shcharansky case has led an American expert on Soviet law to conclude that grave procedural errors have been committed, warranting a reversal of the conviction.

This conclusion by George Fletcher, Professor of Law at the University of California, Los Angeles, follows a recent 10-day study of the case in Moscow, during which time he interviewed the Shcharansky family, their legal advisor and, among others, the Chief Justice of the Russian Supreme Court. Fletcher is a member of the Steering Committee of the National Lawyers Committee of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ).

Although Fletcher believes Shcharansky is, in fact, innocent "under the vague Soviet definition of treason" he limited his review of the case to procedural improprieties. His findings, in the form of a paper, were released here today by the NCSJ.

"The procedural issue that haunts the Shcharansky case is the violation of the defendant's statutory right to the assistance of counsel," charges Fletcher. "Why did Shcharansky end up defending himself? Did the court properly consider petitions to appoint defense counsel? Should the court have permitted the defendant in a capital case to stand alone, without legal assistance?"

Shcharansky was kept in isolation from the day of his arrest on March 15, 1977 until July 10, 1978 -- six days before his trial began. "There was no way of Anatoly's knowing anything that happened in the outside world (during this period)," says Fletcher. "The defendant labored under such impediments that he could not carry on an effective defense on his own behalf. The striking fact of Shcharansky's situation on July 10, 1978 is that he did not know of the world-wide protest mounted on his behalf. Shcharansky began his own defense without even knowing that President Carter had publicly exonerated him of collaboration with the CIA."

Judgement To Remain Classified

Shcharansky was convicted of treason and disseminating anti-Soviet opinions and sentenced to 13 years deprivation of freedom -- the first three in prison and the last 10 in a labor camp. Although the Soviet press prejudged him guilty of spying for the CIA, only Shcharansky himself and some Soviet legal officials know how much of the 50 volumes of documentary evidence and five days of oral testimony given during the trial were actually incorporated into his 50-page judgement.

To this day the courts continue to refuse to give a copy of the judgement to Shcharansky's family or legal advisor, maintaining that Soviet law only requires them to supply the judgement to the convicted person. Shcharansky is now, as before, in solitary confinement; unable to consult with an attorney and incapable of preparing an appeal on his own. His brother, Leonid, who was in the courtroom during the four or five-hour reading of the judgement, was not permitted to take notes.

According to Fletcher's interview with A. K. Orlov, Chief Justice of the RSFSR (Russian

Supreme Court, it is unlikely that the contents of the judgement, which includes an explanation of the verdict and the evidence it is based upon, will ever be made public. "Although Justice Orlov was cordial," writes Fletcher, "he took a firm stand against the family or anyone else receiving a copy of the judgement. Even if the family should now obtain the services of a Moscow lawyer, the lawyer could, at most, read the judgement. He said openly that Soviet officials did not want the judgement to fall into Western hands."

Although one of the basic rights of any convicted Soviet defendant is to appeal within seven days for a review of the legality of the conviction, Shcharansky is prevented from making this "casational appeal." Because one of the three judges who heard his case is a member of the Russian Supreme Court, the judgement in his case is considered to have come from the Supreme Court itself.

The only mode of review now available to Shcharansky is a "protest" proceeding initiated by either Roman Rudenko, the Procurator General of the USSR; L. N. Smirnov, the Chief Justice of the USSR Supreme Court; or Chief Justice Orlov. But, according to Fletcher, there is little chance that Shcharansky's case will be reviewed in this manner.

Court Won't Review Decision

"In the same interview ... Chief Justice Orlov said plainly that the Court would not reconsider or review its decision. The Supreme Court was satisfied that the conviction was legally sound. In view of this pre-judgement of the issues, the Chief Justice was obviously not interested in any pleas from Anatoly Shcharansky himself."

According to Leonid Shcharansky, parts of his brother's trial were conducted in closed, secret sessions because they allegedly dealt with state secrets or politically sensitive matters. It was during one of these sessions that Sonya Lipovsky, a KGB agent, testified against Shcharansky. Although it is unknown how much weight her testimony carried (because the judgement is unavailable), it is known that Shcharansky was prevented, during his closing argument, from rebutting this or any other testimony given in closed session.

This, says Fletcher, is "the most blatant restriction on Shcharansky's carrying on his own defense." A month before the beginning of the trial ... the Supreme Court of the USSR issued a decree instructing all courts to implement and protect the constitutional right to a defense. Point 17 of this decree says explicitly that "the court may not restrict the exposition of arguments bearing on the substance of the case." If the court does so restrict the closing argument of the defense, the decree continues, "the violation constitutes a per se ground for reversal."

"There is no doubt," concludes Fletcher, "that the court violated this provision in Shcharansky's case by not permitting him to refer to Lipovsky's testimony in his closing argument. If the matter was politically sensitive, the court could readily have solved that problem by calling another closed session for final argument. There was no excuse for denying Shcharansky's right to make a closing argument encompassing all the issues in the case."

BONN (JTA) -- The Free Democratic Party announced Wednesday that its foreign affairs expert, Juergen Mehlmann, will meet with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat in Lebanon Sunday. The FDP is a partner in the coalition government led by the Social Democratic Party.