

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

Thursday, August 16, 1979

No. 158

JEWISH LEADERS, CONGRESSMEN CALL FOR THE DISMISSAL OF YOUNG

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Aug. 15 (JTA) - Calls for the dismissal of U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young, for his meeting with the Palestine Liberation Organization's representative at the UN, Zehedi Labib Terzi, mounted here and in Washington today.

Meanwhile, there were more shock waves in Washington today as the State Department disclosed that Milton Wolf, the American Ambassador to Austria, had separate meetings with three PLO officials in Austria. (See related story.)

Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president of the American Zionist Federation, in a sharply worded telegram to President Carter, said that "only the dismissal of Ambassador Young can restore confidence in your Administration." Sternstein's telegram also declared:

"Ambassador Young's discussion with a PLO official, itself a flagrant breach of American policy, was severely compounded by his egregious lie concerning the content of that encounter. Not only has this reprehensible incident done irreparable damage to the progress of the Mideast peace negotiations, but has damaged American credibility in the eyes of Israel and all our allies."

The American Jewish community, Sternstein continued, "is waiting for your action. Mere expressions of displeasure are hardly suitable discipline for such an impropriety. Your credibility and the credibility of American public policy has been placed on the line."

Berram Gold, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee, issued a statement in which he said: "If Andrew Young indeed did talk with the PLO on his own, he should be fired. But if he did this on instructions from the State Department, then President Carter should take a hard look at his State Department."

Hits State Department Appeasement

Theodore Mann, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said Young's meeting "in contravention of President Carter's directions is deplorable. The meeting, however, fits into a larger State Department pattern and that is what requires President Carter's immediate attention."

Mann recalled that Carter "has likened the PLO to the Nazis, stating repeatedly that the United States has no direct or indirect contact with it. But that has not stopped the State Department from attempting to appease the PLO by finding language for a UN Security Council resolution which will satisfy this terrorist group. Appeasement of assassins will never bring peace to the Mideast. We know appeasement is not President Carter's policy. We are less confident that it is not the State Department's policy."

Bernice Tannenbaum, president of Hadasah, sent Carter a telegram from Chicago, where she is preparing for Hadasah's 65th annual national convention beginning Sunday, charging that Young's meeting with the PLO official "is a betrayal of oft repeated assurances by your Administration to Israel and the American peo-

ple." Claiming that the President bears the responsibility for his appointees, Mrs. Tannenbaum urged Carter to "take clear and unequivocal steps to repudiate Young's actions as well as any future cause that would legitimize the PLO."

Not An Isolated Incident

Ivan Novick, president of the Zionist Organization of America, charged that the Young-PLO representative's meeting "was no isolated incident, but was rather part of a continuing thrust by the Administration to find an accommodation with the PLO. This has been further reinforced by the revelation that another United States official, the U.S. Ambassador to Austria, also had unauthorized meetings with PLO representatives."

Howard Squadron, president of the American Jewish Congress, stated that "Young's clandestine meeting with a PLO representative and his attempts to cover it up are an embarrassment to this country. Inevitably, such acts call into question either the sincerity of America's pledges or the ability of this Administration to make them stick. Even more serious than Andrew Young's indiscretions and deceptions is the fundamental uncertainty as to where this country stands."

Maxwell Greenberg, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, characterized Young's action as "an obstacle to peace. In light of Young's repeated disregard of Administration policy and in light of his misleading early reports, we believe it important that the Administration take appropriate action to discipline the Ambassador." Greenberg added.

Byrd And Dole Criticize Young

In Washington today, Senators Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) and Robert Dole (R-Kan.) called for the removal of Young as UN Ambassador. "I respectfully urge that if Mr. Young is to remain in a high government position, that it be in a less sensitive post," Byrd declared in a statement issued here. He said that Young "compounded the situation by being less than truthful." Byrd is Senate Majority Leader.

Dole, Republican Vice Presidential candidate in 1976, also criticized Young for declining initially to disclose the whole truth of his meeting with Terzi. "President Carter made a promise in 1976 to fire any Cabinet officer who did not level with the American people," Dole said. "I firmly believe the time has come for Ambassador Young to step aside."

Young himself conceded in New York last night that he had not given the State Department the whole truth about his meeting with Terzi on July 26. Speaking with reporters Young acknowledged that he had told State Department officials at first that his meeting with Terzi, at the home of the Kuwaiti Ambassador to the UN, had been an accidental encounter and that they only exchanged social amenities. But, he said, "that was not a lie, it was not the whole truth."

Chance Encounters Of The Third Kind: STATE DEPARTMENT DISCLOSES U.S. ENVOY TO VIENNA MET THREE TIMES WITH OFFICIALS OF THE PLO

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- The State Department disclosed today that the United States Ambassador to Austria, Milton Wolf, had met three

times with officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization, two of them "chance encounters." Department spokesman Tom Reston said that although Wolf has been reminded of the U.S. policy of not dealing with the PLO he did not believe that the Ambassador had acted improperly.

The disclosure came only a few hours after Secretary of State Cyrus Vance met for 45 minutes at the State Department with Andrew Young, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, apparently over Young's meeting with a PLO official in New York last month. Young was rebuked by Vance over the telephone yesterday. Reston would not disclose what was said at today's meeting between Young and Vance nor would he deal with any questions about Young's possible resignation.

On Wolf, Reston said the Ambassador had met in Vienna with Issam Sartawi, a high-ranking PLO official, after Sartawi telephoned from Beirut and said the PLO wanted to clarify a position it had taken. No details were given of what that position was.

During the meeting with Sartawi, Wolf "listened, but did not take any substantive position," Reston stressed. "Furthermore, in each encounter with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization, he has been careful to repeat the longstanding U.S. position that this government will not recognize or negotiate with the PLO until and unless it accepts United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and the right of Israel to exist at peace and with secure and recognized borders."

Reston said Wolf's two other meetings with PLO representatives were "chance encounters" at social occasions at which Austrians were present, including, at one of them, Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. The Department spokesman stressed that "no substantive topics were discussed" at these two encounters.

One of the "chance encounters" took place last spring and the other June 12, Reston said. While he did not know when the meeting with Sartawi took place, it is believed to have occurred last month shortly before Kreisky and former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt met with PLO leader Yasir Arafat in Vienna.

Reston said that between the time Sartawi asked for a meeting with Wolf and the meeting at the State Department was not notified, Wolf was active in the Cleveland Jewish community before his appointment as Ambassador.

Meanwhile, a delegation of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, headed by its chairman, Theodore Mann, met today here with Ambassador Robert Strauss, President Carter's special envoy for Middle East negotiations. No details were immediately available. Strauss leaves tomorrow for Israel and Egypt.

YADIN WARNS: IT'S EITHER THE PLO OR ISRAEL IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin warned here that the inclusion of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Middle East peace negotiations could cause Israel to withdraw from the talks. At the same time he said that the meeting between U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young and the PLO observer at the UN, Zohad Labib Terzi, was "an obvious departure" from the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. "I must say openly that in fact a part of the peace treaty has been erased."

Yadin, who made these statements as he was departing today for a 10-day visit to the United States, said that "if ever the PLO will be recognized by some others as a partner to the peace negotiations, that means that Israel will be out of the game. Therefore, everyone will have to think twice about what they want." Either, he added, negotiations will take place with the PLO at the peace table but with Israel absent, or the talks will be held with Israel present and the PLO absent.

The Deputy Premier, who will spend his time in the U.S. explaining Israel's position, primarily in meetings with the media and Jewish leaders, charged that there is "an absolute diversion from its former policies on the part of Washington, and (Israel) shall oppose any attempt to either change UN Resolution 242 or amend it in any way. He was referring to Israeli fears that a Kuwaiti-sponsored resolution in the Security Council could change the meaning of Resolution 242 by including a call for Palestinian self-determination and a Palestinian state.

INCREASE IN ALIYA, NESHURA

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency reported yesterday a 57 percent increase in aliya in the first seven months of this year. The number of immigrants reached 21,012, compared to 13,354 in the same period last year. These figures appeared in the monthly immigration report which was given by Rafael Kotlowitz, head of the Jewish Agency immigration and absorption department, to members of the Executive. In July alone, some 3292 immigrants arrived in Israel, compared to 2187 in July 1978.

However, a continued increase in the number of Soviet Jewish dropouts in Vienna was also recorded. Out of the 4068 Jews leaving the USSR in July, only 1300 arrived in Israel, a dropout rate of 70 percent, which is a new record in the number of dropouts, the Jewish Agency noted.

The number of Soviet immigrants this year so far is 10,058, compared to 9779 last year, an increase of 68 percent. Immigration from France also increased by 39 percent, with 891 French immigrants arriving so far. However, immigration from South Africa and Argentina decreased by 22 percent.

Kotlowitz noted in his report that there is an increase in the shortage of housing for immigrants, and unless an early solution is found, there would be no more room in the absorption centers and other transition facilities for olim.

Some 15,663 immigrants are currently staying in 80 absorption centers throughout the country, waiting for their housing. Many of them have been staying there for more than a year, he said. The shortage in immigrant housing continues despite the opening in July of three new absorption centers in Afula, Ofakim and Ashkelon, Kotlowitz reported.

EIGHT TERRORISTS KILLED BY ISRAELIS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- An Israeli raiding party last night attacked two jeeps carrying Palestinian terrorists along the Lebanese coastal road, north of Tyre, killing eight of the terrorists.

Israeli military correspondents, who were aboard missile boats cruising off shore, said the raiding party was given specific instructions not to fire its bazookas at civilians who were driving on the road. The Israelis went into action only when the jeep was positively identified as carrying terrorists, the correspondents said.

A young officer, who took part in the raid, said the Israelis were shot at from some points along the shore. But there were no Israeli casualties.

Following the raid, which took only 10 minutes, the lights went out in several of the coastal villages.

Chief of Staff Gen. Raphael Eytan said after the raid that such actions will continue to prevent the terrorists from carrying out terrorist actions in Israel.

Meanwhile, a United Nations spokesman in Jerusalem said today that five Nigerian soldiers serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) were wounded last night in a clash with "unidentified armed elements." He said a patrol of six Nigerians ran into an ambush less than a mile south of the Litani River. One of the Nigerians was hurt seriously and flown to a hospital in Haifa. The spokesman said UN headquarters in south Lebanon has assigned a special investigating team to try to establish the identity of the attacker.

BEGIN, SADAT TO DISCUSS OIL ISSUE By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- The nature of future oil transactions between Israel and Egypt will have to be determined in the upcoming meeting between Premier Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat at the beginning of next month in Haifa.

The Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee heard a report yesterday from Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i on his recent talks in Egypt on this subject. Most of the members shared the view that current arrangements for the supply of Egyptian oil to Israel after Israel withdraws from the Alma oil fields in southern Sinai at the end of November were unsatisfactory. Details were not disclosed.

Moda'i said that even after his talks in Egypt last week with the Egyptian Fuel Minister Ahmed Ezzadin Hilal, Israel still disagreed with Egypt about the exact quantities and the price of oil. Egyptian oil experts were scheduled to arrive in Israel today for technical discussions which should help clarify various aspects of the handover of the oil fields, and the oil transactions afterwards.

Moda'i said that discretion and an absence of publicity were to the advantage of both countries as far as their oil relations were concerned.

Four Likud members on the committee, Yigael Hurvitz, Yosef Rom, Moshe Arens, and Eitan Livni, said the oil agreement as it appeared to be emerging, would not meet Israel's basic needs nor serve its vital interests.

Rom said the Egyptian oil would cost more than Israel anticipated. He suggested that Israel should reopen the Camp David agreements in order to ascertain the supply of oil to Israel. Arens suggested that any agreement with Egypt should make sure that any breach of that agreement would constitute a violation of the peace agreement.

Moda'i responded that the oil deal, as it was shaping up, was the best Israel could obtain under the circumstances of the overall Israel-Egypt peace agreement. It was reported last week that Moda'i was told by Hilal that Israel will not get oil from the Alma oil fields immediately after transferring them to Egypt as originally promised but would have to wait another nine months until the normalization of relations between the two countries goes into effect in accordance with the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement.

In addition, Hilal said that each January

Egypt will put up for international bids the oil from Alma. If Israel is the highest bidder, it will get the oil, otherwise some other country will get it, Hilal said.

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY WANTS TO PAY COMPENSATION TO NEOT SINAI SETTLERS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- The Ministry of Agriculture wants to pay settlers in Moshav Neot Sinai near El Arish, some IL 20 million in compensation for the vegetable fields they had to give up. The vegetable fields were evacuated by the settlers when El Arish was handed over to the Egyptians last May, after a violent confrontation with Israel Defense Force soldiers. The settlers agreed to give up their fields after they were promised adequate compensation.

However, members of the Knesset Finance Committee claimed today that the Ministry had actually proposed to pay double the value of the fields. They said that an assessor from the Ministry calculated the value of the fields as if they were covered with sophisticated hot houses, although most of them served to grow watermelons. The committee is scheduled to review the compensation request.

DISPUTE OVER SONG FESTIVAL By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin rejected yesterday a decision by the Israel Broadcasting Authority (IBA) not to hold the Eurovision song contest in Israel next year. The IBA board of directors decided Monday not to hold the contest on the grounds that television must devote all its resources to preparations for the age of color. Israel is the only country in this part of the Mideast which still broadcasts in black and white.

The Eurovision song contest was held this year in Jerusalem and was a declared success, by the actual production -- and by Israel winning the first prize, which entitled the winning country to host the contest once again.

But Yosef Lapid, IBA director general, argued that in its present state, TV could not both switch over to color and undertake another Eurovision special without causing harm to programming. "Television has not yet recovered from this year's contest," Lapid said. According to IBA, the Eurovision budget would have amounted to IL 20 million.

But Yadin sent a cable yesterday to Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, who is in charge of implementing the IBA law, and declared that the government and not the IBA should take the decision of this sort. The main argument in favor of holding the contest here is the opportunity for international exposure. In a reaction, Prof. Reuven Yaron, chairman of the IBA, said it was fully within the IBA's competence to make such a decision.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Three people were wounded Wednesday in two separate bomb explosions, a police spokesman said. Two people were wounded when an explosive device went off on the outskirts of Netanya. A third person was wounded when a blast occurred outside the town hall of Kfar Saba, about nine miles northeast of Tel Aviv.

PARIS (JTA) -- A war-time German magazine, "Signal," has been banned by the French government at the request of former concentration camp inmates and resistance fighters organizations. The magazine is an exact replica of the Nazi publication. It was generally considered a collectors' item among those involved in obtaining World War II mementos. Several anti-Nazi groups expressed fear that the magazine would "contaminate" its readers and spread Nazi propaganda.

SCA OFFICIAL SAYS TRIFA CASE HURTS JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS

NEW YORK, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- "The fact that the Orthodox Church in America has not seen fit to convene an ecclesiastical court in the case of Archbishop Valerian Trifa is the single most painful aspect of Jewish-Christian relations in the United States today," according to Dr. Michael Wyschogrod, senior consultant on interreligious affairs of the Synagogue Council of America (SCA), the representative body of the major branches of Judaism in the United States.

Trifa heads the Rumanian Orthodox Episcopate of America which is under the canonical jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church in America, the second largest Orthodox body in the U.S. The Greek Orthodox Church headed by Archbishop Takovos is the largest Orthodox Church in this country.

Trifa has been accused of leading a Rumanian Fascist group during World War II and organizing a pogrom in Bucharest in January, 1941 in which hundreds of Jews were killed. He is scheduled to go on trial soon in the Federal District Court at Detroit, Michigan, on charges of having withheld important information in his immigration and naturalization applications.

"The Orthodox Church in America," Wyschogrod said today, "has taken the position that it will take no action unless Bishop Trifa is convicted in the Detroit trial. For a church to abdicate its religious responsibility to investigate grave charges against one of its bishops and to leave it to a secular court to settle this matter, is to ignore the obligation of religious bodies to adhere to their own teachings. Canon law exists so that churches can govern themselves instead of being governed by secular authorities."

Do-Nothing Attitude Scored

Wyschogrod pointed out that for over a year, a committee representing the Synagogue Council and the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) examined documents and heard witnesses on the Trifa matter. "At the end," said Wyschogrod, "the OCA simply took the position that they can do nothing unless Bishop Trifa is convicted in a secular court. They did not claim that the evidence we produced was insufficient. They just kept repeating that only after conviction in the Federal Court would they take action." The OCA delegation to the joint committee was headed by Father Leonid Kishkofsky, an official of the OCA.

In May of this year, the SCA called on other Orthodox Churches and non-Orthodox Christian bodies in the U.S., to speak out against the continuing scandal of Bishop Trifa's holding office in a major American church. More recently, the SCA officially requested the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops, headed by Takovos, to take up the Trifa case.

"While there are a number of accused war criminals in the U.S.," Wyschogrod emphasized, "none of them holds any position of prominence. Only Bishop Trifa continues as a bishop in spite of the gravity and documentation of the charges against him." Wyschogrod today repeated his call to churches and other Christian bodies to speak out on this matter. "In this ecumenical age, all Christians and all human beings are responsible for each other," he added.

REPORT NEW SOVIET LAW COULD FURTHER IMPEDE JEWISH EMIGRATION

NEW YORK, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- The new Soviet citizenship law which came into effect July 1 could be used for restricting emigration, according to an analysis of the new law by Dr. S. J. Roth, director of the Institute of Jewish Affairs (IJA), the London-based research arm of the World Jewish Congress, and published as a Research Report.

Of all the Soviet citizens who emigrate, only Jews emigrating to Israel are forced arbitrarily to renounce their citizenship; the new law may make this more difficult than ever. It declares that "unfulfilled commitments to the state" can be used as a reason for refusing the renunciation of citizenship, a provision which, the IJA report said, "offers unlimited opportunities for restrictive policies and bureaucratic chicanery."

Prior to the new law, refusal of the right to leave the USSR has always been justified by the Soviet authorities on the basis of protecting "national security," "public order" or a related reason. The report pointed out that additional possible restrictions on emigration might result from an Article in the new law which stipulates that children must retain Soviet citizenship if one parent renounces and the other retains it.

The new law, with its harsh provisions, came into force during the "present more liberal emigration policy" of the USSR and, the report continues, "the new levels of restriction . . . can be used whenever it suits the whim and policies of the Soviet authorities" even though these restrictions are contrary to the international obligations undertaken by the USSR.

JUDGE APOLOGIZES TO RABBI

NORFOLK, Va., Aug. 15 (JTA) -- Traffic court Judge Vernon Hitchings has apologized in a letter and in person to a 24-year-old Orthodox rabbi for ordering him to take his yamulke off in court last week. "I write this letter to express my deepest and sincere apologies for the affront committed to you and your co-religionists," the judge wrote Joshua Sackett, a teacher at a Hebrew academy in Tidewater, Va. The rabbi, who shook hands with the judge on Monday, said "as far as I am concerned the matter is closed." Following the incident, there were protests by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and local political officials.

MONTREAL (JTA) -- Yves Lambert, secretary-general of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) informed Zvi Caspi, Israeli Consul General and permanent representative of Israel to ICAO, that he had received official notification from Egyptian civil aviation authorities that "the state of war between Israel and Egypt has been terminated by ratification of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty on April 26." Lambert also informed all member state representatives at ICAO headquarters about the notice of termination of war between Israel and Egypt.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Esther Herlitz will join the Knesset on the Labor Party list, in place of Yehoshua Rabinowitz, who died yesterday at the age of 67. Funeral services will be held Thursday in Tel Aviv. Herlitz was a member of the previous Knesset. She served in the political department of the Jewish Agency before the State was established and then served for many years in the foreign service. Her last office in the Foreign Ministry was Ambassador to Denmark. She was also a member of the Tel Aviv city council and advisor to the Premier on volunteer services.