

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. XLVI - 62nd Year

Monday, August 27, 1979

No. 165

STRAUSS DEFENDS U.S. POLICY OF NOT TALKING TO PLO BUT SEEKS TO BRING PALESTINIANS INTO PEACE PROCESS

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- Robert Strauss, President Carter's special Ambassador for Middle East negotiations, defended today the United States policy of not talking to the Palestine Liberation Organization, but stressed he is seeking to bring Palestinians into the peace process.

In an interview on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation," Strauss also denied that the Administration's Mideast policy is in "disarray," announced he will be deeply involved in the Lebanese situation, and called for a cooling of Black-Jewish tension in the wake of the resignation of Andrew Young as Ambassador to the United Nations.

Strauss' comments on the PLO came after he was asked about Young's statement in his valedictory address to the UN Security Council last Friday that it was "ridiculous" not to talk to the PLO. Strauss said the U.S. "just can't talk with people who refuse to accept the existence of other people." He stressed that the U.S. has urged and "I urge" the PLO to accept the right of Israel to exist and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 so that "we can have a dialogue."

Ball Calls For Talks With PLO

This position on the PLO was criticized several days earlier by former Undersecretary of State George Ball who said the U.S. should "liberate" itself from the pledge to Israel and begin negotiations with the PLO.

Writing in the Washington Post last Friday, Ball said that while the PLO "has not yet formally renounced the objective of destroying Israel, that does not preclude our exploring with the PLO leaders the outlines of a deal in which Palestinians would be offered self-determination in return for such renunciation. Once that initial obstruction were cleared away, Israel would have no basis for refusing to join negotiations to work out the appropriate modalities and safeguards."

But Strauss, in his interview on CBS today, said while the U.S. can't talk with the PLO it does want to bring Palestinians into the peace process. "If we are going to have a comprehensive peace agreement... then we are going to have to bring in the people whose lives are affected," he said.

In that connection, Strauss said he would "make an effort" on his next trip to the Mideast to speak to West Bank mayors. He said he has talked to Palestinians and to Americans of Palestinian descent and others of "who we call moderate Palestinians," non-PLO.

Says Mideast Policy Not In Disarray

Rejecting claims that there is "disarray" in the Administration's Mideast policy, he affirmed that the policy which was set by the President is "strong, firm." He stressed that the President, the Secretary of State and he set the policy which he carries out. He said that Secretary of

State Cyrus Vance is responsible for overall Mideast policy and he is responsible for Mideast talks. He denied any conflict with National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski who Strauss said talks with the President daily on all foreign affairs problems, including the Mideast.

Strauss also denied that he had been in conflict with the instructions he was given when he made his recent Mideast trip. He said he participated in the discussion on the proposals for the trip and "I agreed to carry out the mission."

The special envoy said that one of the goals of his mission had been to "ease tension in Israel" and he had "accomplished" that. He denied he carried a proposed U.S. resolution for the Security Council on Palestinian rights but said he had taken several ideas for such a resolution, all of which were rejected both by Israel and Egypt.

No Quick Progress On Autonomy Talks

Strauss cautioned Americans against expecting quick progress on the autonomy talks between Israel and Egypt. He noted that Egypt and Israel "don't want us to push them faster than they want to go." He added that "I want to make progress a bit faster" than they do since the U.S. has a May deadline for completing the talks. But he said progress is being made.

The special envoy revealed that he plans to become fully involved in the Lebanese situation. He said the U.S. has to make a strong effort to end the "terrorism, the violence, the shelling."

On the Black-Jewish tension which has followed Young's resignation, Strauss called it a "tragedy" which he hopes can be cooled during the coming weeks. He noted that the Black and Jewish communities "have a great deal of common interest in this country" having "marched side by side" on issues of justice. He said he hoped that Black and Jewish leaders can "lower the rhetoric" and get together to end the conflict.

SOUTH-LEBANON RELATIVELY QUIET AFTER CEASEFIRE GOES INTO EFFECT

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- South Lebanon was relatively quiet today despite some sporadic firing and shelling from Palestinian terrorists that erupted six hours after a ceasefire went into effect at 5 a.m. local time.

Today's ceasefire came after terrorists broke an earlier ceasefire last night by shelling south Lebanese Christian villages and northern Israeli towns. A Kiryat Shemona resident, Perez Meir, 58, was injured and hospitalized during the barrage. But today Kiryat Shemona and other northern Israeli towns were repairing the damage.

While Israel had no official comment on the ceasefire, the Cabinet discussed the situation in south Lebanon today and declared it will continue its raids against terrorist bases in that area. "Of course we are launching counter-attacks against those murderers," Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor said after the Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem. "We want to prevent them from carrying out their so-called politics of killing innocent civilian population, and we shall continue."

The first ceasefire went into effect at noon yesterday ending several days of shellfire between the terrorists and the Christian militia headed by

Maj. Saad Haddad. The shellings have resulted in many civilians leaving the areas controlled by the Palestinian terrorists. Reliable sources in Israel said the terrorist leadership wants to maintain the tension in south Lebanon in order to force the Lebanese government to seek a condemnation of Israel by the United Nations Security Council.

However, the sources said, because of the increased anger of the local population with the Palestinians and the desire by the terrorist forces for a respite from the bombardment, the terrorists agreed to a ceasefire proposed by Emanuel Erskine, commander of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Haddad at first refused, saying his troops never opened fire but only responded to the attack by the terrorists. But he finally agreed, after Israel, responding to a request from UNIFIL, urged him to accept the ceasefire. Four Christian villagers and one member of Haddad's militia had been killed before the ceasefire was accepted.

But then, six hours later, terrorist artillery shelled Christian villages and Israeli towns. Both the Christian militia and the Israeli army returned the fire. A new ceasefire was announced by UNIFIL for 5 a.m. today, but again, six hours later the terrorists opened fire. This time the barrage was not answered.

Sources here noted that while the terrorists are firing their rockets and artillery shells from north of the Litani River they are still deploying some artillery and mortars from inside territory controlled by UNIFIL. A Norwegian officer with UNIFIL has been quoted as saying UNIFIL is losing control of some areas in south Lebanon.

Erskine said in an interview with Israel Radio that serious attempts were being made by Palestinians and Lebanese leftwing terrorists to infiltrate the UNIFIL buffer zone. "I think we have between 200 and 250 armed, uniformed (Palestinians or Lebanese leftist) individuals in the area that we ourselves can identify."

BEGIN TO DISCUSS OIL SUPPLIES WITH SADAT AT THEIR MEETING NEXT WEEK

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 26 (JTA) — One of the main topics to be discussed next week in the meeting between Premier Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat will be the continued oil supply to Israel from the oil fields in Sinai after Israel returns the area to Egypt at the end of November, Begin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee over the weekend.

Begin said that oil was the key word for the heavy pressure Western nations were exerting on Israel recently. But, he added, Israel will not give in to oil pressure just as it will not give in to demands to return to the 1947 borders. "If people try to exert pressure then this nation will not surrender, and it prefers to eat bread and margarine rather than give way," Begin said.

Prof. Moshe Arens, chairman of the committee, urged the government to secure a long-term agreement on the purchase of oil from Egypt before the wells were returned. He said the oil contract should be integrated into the peace agreement. Arens suggested that if Egypt was not ready to sign an oil contract for 10 years, Israel ought to halt its withdrawal from Sinai.

MYSTERY OF A RADIATION LEAK

LONDON, Aug. 26 (JTA) — The Israeli

Embassy was the center of a 12-hour radiation scare last Friday as scientists, firemen and police combed the building to see if it was the source of a leak which caused the evacuation of a nearby fire station. It ended Friday afternoon when a London fire brigade spokesman announced that no source of radiation had been discovered in the building. Significantly, the National Radiation Protection Board, which monitors serious incidents, was not called in.

Throughout the day, however, the Embassy was pestered by journalists convinced that this may be a replay of the bizarre mystery of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow which has been bombarded with micro-waves for the last 10 years.

Despite the ending of the scare, the mystery has still not been solved. The radiation level in the fire station — at the rear of the consular section of the Embassy — is going to be kept under observation, and some firemen will have medical checks. At one point it was thought that the leak might emanate from the x-ray machine with which the Israelis screen their mail for letter bombs. But that was ruled out. (By Maurice Samuelson)

CIA, FBI DISMISS OR REFUSE TO CONFIRM ISRAELI BUGGING OPERATIONS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26 (JTA) — Officials of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation dismissed or refused to confirm media reports about Israeli intelligence operations stemming from Ambassador Andrew Young's meeting with a PLO representative in New York.

Latest reports alleged "U.S. government sources" and "senior officials" said Israeli agents were following PLO envoy Zehdi Labib Terzi when he arrived for his meeting with Young on July 26 at the residence of Kuwait's UN Ambassador Abdulla Yacoub Bishara and that Bishara's apartment had been bugged by the Israelis for some time.

The acting press chief of the CIA, Lavon Strong, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency the CIA did not know the anonymous officials quoted in the news reports but he added, "they are misinformed. The information is not accurate."

Strong said "we agree with the position of the State Department that prior to August 11, there was no information in the State Department" regarding Young's meeting July 26 with Terzi.

"Don't be looking for hidden clauses or any evasion," Strong said. "It's a straightforward fact."

FBI press officer Jeff Maynard said the FBI does not comment on intelligence activities but he stressed that the allegation attributed to the FBI that the Israelis are most active in the United States, apart from the Soviets' KGB, is wrong. "The FBI never said that," Maynard said.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti said he has no evidence that Young's meeting with Terzi was bugged by Israeli intelligence agents. "Based on the knowledge I've received... I have no reason to believe the meeting was tapped, bugged or surveilled," he said. He added that "nobody's furnished us with any basis" for any probable cause to believe there was any bugging and that there is no basis for any investigation by the Justice Department, as has been called for by some members of Congress. The Omnibus Crime Control Act prohibits electronic surveillance unless it is authorized by the Justice Department.

There will be no Bulletin dated Sept. 3 due to Labor Day, a postal holiday

POSTPONEMENT OF SECURITY COUNCIL VOTE SEEN AS TRIBUTE TO YOUNG

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 26 (JTA) — The Security Council, in an action widely interpreted as a personal tribute to outgoing U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young, adjourned last Friday after accepting United States efforts to postpone a vote on a draft resolution calling for "self-determination, national independence and sovereignty" for Palestinian Arabs.

The postponement, which was not linked to a specific date for fresh consideration by the Council, was viewed as a significant achievement for Young, who resigned under pressure following disclosure he met July 26 with Zehdi Lahib Terzi, the Palestine Liberation Organization observer at the UN, at the apartment in New York of Abdalla Yaccoub Bishara, the Kuwaiti delegate.

Young presided last Thursday night and Friday afternoon as president of the Council, in accordance with Council rotating procedure. He had said he would follow instructions and veto the resolution if it was brought up for a vote Friday by Arab and Third World backers, though Young was on record as saying U.S. refusal to talk to the PLO is "ridiculous."

Various Reasons For Postponement

The precise reasons for the decision not to press for the vote were not known. A formal explanation, offered by Bishara, was that "we can not imagine Ambassador Young being blemished with a veto. We agreed to postpone the vote out of deference to him. My only concern was the enhancement of the status of Ambassador Young."

But skepticism was widely expressed as to whether that was the real or only reason. Some initial supporters of the resolution, including Kuwait, felt that the final draft resolution — which eliminated a reference to a "homeland" for the Palestinian Arabs — which was approved by the General Assembly's Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, was not tough enough.

Another possibility was that the "non-aligned" nations meeting in Havana this week might call for a special General Assembly session on Palestinian rights in September. Veto of the resolution in the Council would have required an automatic grant for a special Assembly session under UN rules. The difference is that the Security Council can enforce its resolutions with action to the point of sanctions or expulsion of a member state, while Assembly resolutions are purely advisory.

Postponement of a veto was indicated Friday morning as imminent by Medaune Fall, the Senegalese delegate. In his role as head of the Palestinian Rights Committee. He formally presented the resolution and added he was "well aware of the difficulties of an immediate decision so I do not insist on this question" — meaning no vote.

Raps Policy On PLO

Outspoken as ever, Young made a valedictory speech in which he criticized the United States, the Arab world and Israel. He repeated an earlier public statement that it was "ridiculous" for both the United States and Israel not to talk to the PLO. He added "It's also ridiculous for many of you around this table not to have good relations with the State of Israel."

He declared that "the violence of the Arab

world has failed to destroy Israel and the attempt to destroy Israel has cost greatly the moral basis of the existence of the Palestinian people. And yet Israel also now is rapidly spending its moral capital, wasting it, in pursuit of violence and destruction in Lebanon.

He reaffirmed the Carter Administration's standing policy that the Palestinian issue could best be resolved through Egyptian-Israeli talks on Palestinian autonomy. He also reiterated the U.S. position that Council Resolutions 242 and 338 were the "basis for making peace" in the Middle East. The PLO has never accepted those resolutions.

Speaking extemporaneously and emotionally, he said "I think isolation of the PLO has failed and isolation of Israel has failed." He said he was leaving the UN with "no regrets for the fact that perhaps we broke the comfortable diplomatic channels, we violated some long-ago-made agreements that are ridiculous," a reference to the U.S. pledge, made initially in 1975 by then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, against U.S. contacts with the PLO.

Blum Criticizes Young

Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, said later Young's criticisms of Israel were "totally uncalled for. He was not only being openly factually incorrect but he was also morally misguided."

Other UN sources said that the Arab nations achieved their goal of raising the Palestinian issue in an unusually bright spotlight and that they wanted to avoid a vote and the inevitable veto because that would move the Palestinian debate to a new stage and there is widespread disagreement in the Arab world about what that next stage should be.

Bishara said that the PLO and the Arab states did not receive any concession from the Carter Administration in exchange for agreeing not to push the issue to a vote. Bishara said the only gain the Arabs got for their forbearance "is the enhancement of the status" of Young. Bishara also said the Arab states could not let Young leave his post with a veto which would "blemish his perfect record of promoting civil and human rights."

Young declared that "not talking would risk more lives and more bloodshed." He said "my eyes were open" when he went to Bishara's apartment "to talk to another friend," Terzi.

At the opening of the debate Thursday night, Blum told the members that the debate was an attempt to damage the current peace process in the Mideast. Blum said that UN Resolution 242 is the "only agreed basis for peace negotiations in the Mideast, and any tampering with it can only gravely jeopardize the current peace process and this is precisely what the initiators of this debate want."

Blum declared that the Camp David accords offer the Palestinians "greater opportunities for autonomy than anything they have ever experienced in their entire history. It offers them the prospect of governing themselves, of peaceful coexistence and prosperity alongside their neighbors. It offers them a secure future, free from terror."

Egyptian Ambassador Ahmed Esmet Abdel Meguid, in his address Thursday night during the debate, supported the resolution, declaring it "would constitute a confirmation and consecration" of Palestinian rights. He also called for a comprehensive settlement in the area based on Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories and the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people.

KLUTZNICK DISSOCIATES WJC FROM GOLDMANN INTENTION TO MEET ARAFAT

NEW YORK, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- Philip Klutznick, president of the World Jewish Congress, has dissociated himself from the possibility that his WJC predecessor, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, may have a meeting with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat. Klutznick said he regretted he had to take the step. Klutznick, who made the statement in Chicago Friday and released by the WJC office here, noted that Goldmann had said that one of the reasons he resigned as WJC president was to be a free man and able "to meet with whom I want."

Klutznick said that, as WJC president, he did not feel inhibited from meeting anyone he wanted to meet, but that "at this time when there is excessive heat, excitement and confusion over the PLO, Palestinians, and the pending issues in the Security Council, it is a highly questionable judgment for the former president of the World Zionist Organization as well as the World Jewish Congress to hold such meetings."

Klutznick added that "any encouragement of the PLO program as enunciated by Arafat is in direct contravention of resolutions adopted by the plenary of the World Jewish Congress during Dr. Goldmann's regime. I deeply regret the necessity of issuing this statement in the light of my long friendship with Dr. Goldmann which this cannot affect. But, for the sake of the organization which he helped found I must make our dissociation from this step abundantly clear."

Goldmann said last Thursday in a telephone interview from West Germany and on Israel Radio that he had not received an invitation from Arafat but that if he did get one, he would accept it.

JCRC WARNS AGAINST CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY COMIC BOOKS

NEW YORK, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- The Jewish Community Relations Council's (JCRC) Task Force on Missionary Activity issued an alert, warning parents to watch for Christian missionary comic books being distributed to Jewish youth.

According to Dr. Seymour Lachman, Task Force Chairman, reports have come from many Jewish homes and camps of the dissemination of Spierer Christian Comics to Jewish children. These comic books feature well-known cartoon characters, and subtly suggest that youngsters accept Christianity as their "true religion." In many cases, Jewish youngsters have been easily deceived by these comics, not knowing their true intent, Lachman said. He identified one of the sources of these publications as a Christian Comics publishing firm located in Old Tappan, New Jersey.

Malcolm Hoenlein, JCRC executive director, said that it was particularly disturbing that these proselytic activities are aimed at young children who are unable to fully comprehend the issues involved. He noted that this was part of an attempt by certain missionary groups to mislead those Jews who are most vulnerable to deceptions.

He urged rabbis and Hebrew school teachers to publicize this matter to the general Jewish public, and to alert parents to carefully scrutinize the literature their children bring home to ascertain that it is not, in fact, missionary material.

MOVE TO HALT NEO-NAZI GROUP FROM SPONSORING HATE MESSAGES

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- A tribunal of the Canadian Human Rights Commission has issued an order to a neo-Nazi group to stop sponsoring telephone hate messages aimed at Jews and other minorities. The group, the Western Guard, had arranged for recorded messages callers could hear by dialing a Toronto number of the group. The messages called for an all-white Canada, denounced leading local Jews and espoused white power. The tribunal's ban has the force of a court decision.

The tribunal said that while the messages did not mention Nazi Germany or the Nazi Party of the Third Reich by name, there were "references" indicating that the Western Guard found the Nazi principles and policies "praiseworthy."

The tribunal also said that the messages were designed to incite hatred and contempt for Jews and contravened the Canadian Human Rights Act. The messages have been on the telephone system since 1973. John Taylor, 68, leader of the Nazi group, said he would comply with the tribunal's order but added that "the fight is only beginning and we will fight the decision to the highest court in the land." The tribunal heard evidence in the case for four days in June.

CANADA PROTESTS COTLER'S EXPULSION

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- External Affairs Minister Flora MacDonald has protested to the Soviet Union over the expulsion of Irwin Cotler, a professor of law at McGill University, who was given the power of attorney by Avital Shcharansky, the wife of Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky, to appeal against her husband's conviction and the 13-year jail sentence he is serving. MacDonald summoned a Soviet official to the Department of External Affairs last Friday.

MacDonald said her government was protesting the expulsion and the way it was carried out as inconsistent with the Helsinki Accord and recent efforts on both sides to improve relations between Canada and the Soviet Union. The Soviet official was also told that Canada regretted that Cotler had been expelled "in summary fashion" and without credible explanation and that Soviet authorities refused to allow him to contact the Canadian Embassy and that police confiscated his papers, including an 800-page legal appeal for Shcharansky.

Cotler said after his return here that he intends to continue his work on behalf of Shcharansky, whose parents he was about to visit when he was arrested for violating local travel restrictions and placed on the first airliner heading to West Europe. Cotler is also acting in the case of Ida Nudel who has been sentenced to five years exile in Siberia.

JEWISH AGENCY BOARD MEETING MOVED FROM ZURICH TO JERUSALEM

NEW YORK, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- The forthcoming meeting of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Agency, has been moved from Zurich to Jerusalem. The change in venue was announced at the executive meetings of the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency in New York last Thursday, after consultations between Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Agency and WZO Executives, and Max Fisher, chairman of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency.