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BEGIN TO OFFER FOREIGN MINISTER'S POST TO SHAMIR AFTER YADIN SAYS NO

By David Landau and Gil Seden

JERUSALEM, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin indicated today that he may offer the vacant Foreign Ministry post in his Cabinet to Knesset Speaker Yitzhak Shamir, a long-time political ally, and Shamir, for his part, indicated that he would not turn it down. He would make "a very good candidate," Begin told reporters this morning, referring to Shamir, who is a member of Herut and was a leader of the underground Stern group in the pre-Statehood period.

Begin stopped short of saying that he would actually offer Shamir the job from which Moshe Dayan resigned a week ago. But his remark confirmed reports that the Knesset Speaker was the strongest candidate. Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin earlier rejected a formal offer of the post.

The Premier visited Yadin at Hadassah Hospital where he is recuperating from a recent heart attack. Yadin, leader of the Democratic Movement, was said to have told the Premier that it would be "wrong and unethical" for him to take over the Foreign Ministry in view of the serious policy differences between his faction and the Cabinet majority.

Interior Minister Yosef Burg, who heads the Israeli negotiating team in the autonomy talks with Egypt, also declined the post. Political observers believe he did so because the National Religious Party is loathe to give up the Interior Ministry, a traditional NRP fiefdom since the State was established.

But Shamir said on an Army Radio interview this morning that he would "help the Prime Minister to the best of my ability" in his efforts to reorganize his Cabinet. He said he would respond specifically to a Cabinet appointment if and when a concrete proposal was made by Begin, indicating that he was amenable to the idea.

Under Pressure To Reorganize Cabinet

Begin has been under considerable pressure to speed the reorganization of his Cabinet since Dayan's departure opened the way for a reshuffling of portfolios. He conceded today that the present situation is "complex," but he firmly denied reports that he was contemplating resignation. The appointment of Shamir to the Foreign Ministry would satisfy Begin's Herut Party in the Likud coalition. However, it would create serious problems with Likud's Liberal Party wing which stands to lose a key Cabinet portfolio.

Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich, under fire from all sides, including his Liberal Party colleagues over Israel's deteriorating economy, announced last night that he would resign "in a week or two" regardless of the outcome of the Cabinet reorganization. According to one scenario, Ehrlich would replace Shamir as Knesset Speaker.

But Liberal Party circles have angrily rejected the trade-off of a powerful Cabinet portfolio for a largely ceremonial Knesset post. The Liberals, with nearly 20 Knesset seats, would then be reduced to three Cabinet ministers, the same as the Democratic Movement which has only

seven Knesset seats and, according to public opinion polls, has virtually no political constituency.

PLO MAKING INROADS IN WEST EUROPE

By Edwin Eytan (Paris) and Lisa Palmieri-Bittig (Rome)

Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Faruk Kadumi, political director of the Palestine Liberation Organization, told reporters in Rome today that he was "highly satisfied" with his three-day visit there. He also had reason to be satisfied with his visit to Belgium several days earlier. The foreign ministers of both countries all but granted official recognition to the PLO and Italy is apparently ready to receive PLO chief Yasser Arafat who is to visit France, Belgium and Portugal next month.

Kadumi had lunch and a 3 1/2 hour talk with Italian Foreign Minister Franco Maria Malfati. Malfati said afterwards that "Italy has no problem in granting political recognition to the PLO, nor does the Italian government find any obstacles to the principle of an eventual visit by Arafat." Malfati said, however, that "political recognition is not to be confused with juridical recognition of the PLO as the exclusive representative of the Palestinian people."

The latter status, he noted, could be won by the PLO only through "free and universal elections among the Palestinian people" which at the moment are "practically impossible." Malfati said that Italy has long considered the PLO an "important force" among the Palestinian people "playing an important role in the attempt to find a global solution to the Middle East problem."

Says PLO Speaks For Palestinians

In Brussels last Thursday, Belgian Foreign Minister Henri Simonet said his government recognized the PLO as "expressing the will of the Palestinian people." Speaking after a meeting with Kadumi, he contended that a bilateral peace agreement, such as the Camp David accords, is not sufficient for the establishment of a solid, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. "The main issues which need a solution concern the status of the occupied territories and their future destiny," the Belgian minister said.

He added that the future "of the occupied territories is to become the country in which the Palestinians can build the framework of their identity, their rights, their existence as a nation. It matters not whether we like or not this situation. We have to face reality." He said, however, that it was "premature to extend an official recognition" to the PLO.

The Coordinating Committee of Jewish Organizations in Belgium, which represents 35 Jewish organizations, wrote Simonet expressing its "apprehension" over what it termed a de facto recognition of the terrorist organization that seeks the destruction of Israel. A demonstration by Belgian Jewish students outside Simonet's home Thursday night was dispersed by police. There were no arrests.

In Rome, Kadumi tipped off his visit by calling at Socialist and Communist Party headquarters. Asked by the daily, *La Stampa*, if the PLO is considering direct negotiations with Israel, Kadumi replied, according to the interview published today, "How can we consider negotiating with those who occupy our territory presuming it as an integral part

of the Zionist state?" He added, "Of course, we are for a negotiated solution of the conflict, but in the proper place. I repeated this three times to Malfati. The ideal place for negotiations cannot be other than the United Nations. There, everyone is represented."

Italy's position, according to observers, is to follow but not attempt to surpass the pro-PLO line of the nine European Economic Community (EEC) nations. It is expected that Arafat will visit Italy and will be received by Premier Francesco Cossiga and that the PLO office in Rome will be upgraded to a more official status.

JEWISH LEADERS ANSWER TRUDEAU

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- The Canada-Israel Committee has replied to an interview given by former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, now leader of the opposition, in which he appeared to have launched what is considered by the Canadian Jewish community as an attack on Israel's foreign policy and on the Jewish communities of Canada and the United States.

Trudeau, in his interview last Thursday in the Toronto Star, alleged that continuing pressure by Canadian Jewish leaders over anti-boycott legislation and the proposed transfer of the Canadian Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem could stir anti-Semitism in Canada and that pressure by Zionist leaders in the U.S. on President Carter was making it difficult for Carter to aid the Middle East peace negotiations.

The Canada-Israel Committee, in its reply last Friday, said the Jewish leadership of Canada "is shocked and deeply disturbed by this statement. Mr. Trudeau views Israel's policies as the main stumbling block to peace in the Middle East. We strongly disagree with Mr. Trudeau's one-sided interpretation of the Middle East conflict. He chose not to comment on the Arab rejectionist states' position, Jordan's refusal to enter the peace process and the Palestine Liberation Organization's continuing terrorism and announced goal of Israel's destruction."

The Committee said Trudeau "appears to suggest that it is improper for citizens of democratic states to speak freely and petition their governments on questions of foreign policy or other public issues. It is alarming that a man of Mr. Trudeau's stature and experience should make statements which may encourage feelings of ill-will among our fellow citizens."

Need Remains For Anti-Boycott Legislation

The Committee termed Trudeau's comments about the Arab boycott "serious" in that the boycott affects the human and civil rights of Canadian citizens. The boycott, it added, "is also an assault on Canadian sovereignty and impinges on our right as Canadians to maximize our trading opportunities."

Noting that Trudeau's government failed to enact anti-boycott legislation despite widespread support, the Committee declared that the need for such legislation "remains and the Jewish community continues to support policy initiatives in this direction. Mr. Trudeau appears to be advocating a position which endorses blackmail by giving in to the numerous threats of economic retaliation by Arab states. There is no substantial body of evidence that has been presented in the public domain to corroborate the allegation that Canada has been hurt economically."

Saying that Trudeau did not meet with the

Jewish leadership, the statement expressed hope that he would dissociate himself from "these unfortunate comments." The statement also said that the Jewish community leaders "continue to reaffirm their support for the Canadian government's policy initiatives of moving the Embassy and introducing effective legislation to deal with international economic boycotts."

The Canada-Israel Committee's statement was signed by Harold Buchwald, president of the Committee; Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress; Judge Philip Givens, president of the Canadian Zionist Federation; and Lou Rensson, president of the B'nai B'rith of Canada.

MOVE TO HALT ATTACKS ON SYNAGOGUES By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- An emergency conference to mobilize community and law-enforcement agencies to combat the recent wave of burglaries, arson and vandalism against synagogues and other houses of worship in the New York metropolitan area was held at the American-Israel Friendship House here today. The participants included representatives of Jewish and Christian communal and religious groups, ranking police officers and city and state officials.

The conference, sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of New York, was presented with an eight-point emergency program to deal with crime and desecration of houses of worship. In addition, a \$500 reward was offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators.

Mrs. Peggy Tishman, vice president of the JCRC and chairman of its committee on police liaison, declared, "We consider this an urgent and serious problem not only for the Jewish community but for all people of New York." She noted that churches and religious schools, like synagogues, have been the targets of such assaults and said her organization is proposing "an all-out drive involving all ethnic and religious groups to assist police, the district attorneys and others responsible for law enforcement in their efforts to stop these crimes."

Elements In The Program

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the JCRC, introduced the program. It calls for intensive efforts to improve security at houses of worship in cooperation with the Police Crime Prevention Unit; to approach the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration to fund the development of model security programs for houses of worship and to make available security devices at reasonable costs; to request the New York State Legislature to increase the penalties for crimes against houses of worship; to work with insurance companies to provide coverage to all synagogues and reduce the cost of premiums; and to seek an increase in the New York Police Department's houses of worship patrols.

Deputy Police Chief Rudolf J. Pangini, commanding officer of the Queens detective area, and Robert McNerny of the crime prevention section, expressed the Police Department's concern over these crimes. They stressed that the police will need "the cooperation" of the community to help solve the problem.

The two police officials assured the conference that the police will do "everything we can" to prevent crimes against houses of worship in the future. McNerny urged houses of worship in the metropolitan area to ask for free security surveys of their premises by the Police Department as one preventive measure.

Charles Straut, executive director of the

Council of Churches, Brooklyn Division, pledged the support of the Christian community. "If we don't speak up now, we can be next," he said. Another community leader, Manuel Sanchez, executive director of the Council on Inter-Religious Relations, condemned the crimes against houses of worship and called for a concerted effort by the entire community to combat them.

TIMERMAN PRAISES U.S. ADMINISTRATION FOR HELP IN SECURING HIS RELEASE

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Jacobo Timerman, the Argentine publisher and editor now living in Israel, said today he was grateful to the Carter Administration for help in securing his release from Argentina after two-and-a-half years in prison and under house arrest. "For the first time a first-rate power like the United States made a point about human rights," he said.

Timerman made his remarks at a luncheon in which he received the Hubert Humphrey Prize Medallion from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The medallion was originally presented in June in absentia and accepted by Timerman's son, Hector, who was also at today's fete at the ADL headquarters.

Maxwell E. Greenberg, ADL national chairman, also presented a special citation today to Patricia Derian, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, for help in the Timerman case and her efforts in behalf of other political prisoners throughout the world.

Timerman also expressed thanks to the ADL and other independent organizations in the U.S. who worked on his behalf. But he urged the ADL and other American groups to continue their efforts on behalf of other political prisoners. "They are expecting from you the same that I expected from you," he said.

Hopes Were Raised

Timerman said that he and other political prisoners in Argentine jails had their hopes raised when they learned that Derian had come to Argentina in their behalf. Derian called Timerman her "cousin" and said she had other "cousins" who were still prisoners in Argentina, the Soviet Union, South Africa and elsewhere. She urged continued efforts until the people of the world say "no, this is intolerable" to all political oppression.

Benjamin Epstein, executive vice president of the ADL Foundation, said that when the Humphrey prize was presented last June, no one dreamed that in a few months Timerman would be here to receive it himself. "What we do today may save a life," Epstein said.

Nathan Perlmutter, ADL national director, said that Timerman was imprisoned for ideals. But now that he is free he carries a "burden" that what he does may have an effect on those still in Argentine prisons. Timerman refused to answer questions from reporters today, but he did tell the audience that many of their questions will be answered in a book he is writing which is being published by the Keter Publishing House in Jerusalem.

Timerman, who was editor and publisher of the prestigious La Opinion before his arrest, said today that during his year-and-a-half under house arrest in his Buenos Aires apartment he had many talks with his rabbi, Marshall Meyer. "I promised him never to become a victim of resentment," he said. He said his only feeling now was one of

"joy." The ADL luncheon was attended by representatives of many of the organizations that had helped fight for Timerman's release.

KREISKY: MIDEAST PEACE CONTINGENT ON TALKS BETWEEN PALESTINIANS, ISRAELIS

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky declared today that "Only negotiations and agreements between the Palestinians and the Israelis, on the basis of their mutual recognition will lead to results. Without this readiness to negotiate and the will to achieve agreement, there will be no peace" in the Mideast.

In his address to the General Assembly, the Austrian leader predicted that soon most, if not all governments in the world will recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization as the representative of the Palestinians. Once this happens, he said, "the Palestinian side would have to acknowledge as a reality the existence of the State of Israel and Israel would have to acknowledge as legitimate the national rights of the Palestinians." He added: "It is only at that stage that in my opinion the moment for first exploratory talks will have to come."

Later, in a press conference at the UN, Kreisky reiterated the same ideas. He said his "impression" from the talks he held with PLO leader Yasser Arafat last July was that "there is a fair chance" that the PLO will agree to recognize Israel in return for Israeli recognition of the PLO. As for the Camp David accords and the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, Kreisky said: "This peace remains a historic achievement of President Anwar Sadat" of Egypt. He did not mention Israel's part in reaching the agreement.

Israel's Ambassador Yehuda Blum, in a brief statement issued after Kreisky's address to the Assembly, said the Chancellor "manifested his partiality again today in referring to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty as an exclusive achievement of President Sadat." Therefore, Blum said, the Israel Mission sees "no need to comment" on Kreisky's UN statement.

In his press conference, Kreisky said he keeps contacts with both parties, the Israelis and the Palestinians. But, in reply to a question, he said he does not have contacts with Israeli government officials.

NUDEL HEART ATTACK REPORT DISCOUNTED

JERUSALEM, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Tda Nudel has not suffered a heart attack, as far as her close family have been able to ascertain from reliable sources. This despite a report by the Al Tidom Association of New York which released a report over the weekend to the effect that the Jewish Prisoner of Conscience who is exiled in Siberia had been stricken by a heart attack recently.

According to a close family friend, Nudel's sister, Ilana Friedman, who lives in Holon, spoke with allya activists in Moscow by phone over the weekend and was assured that the heart attack report was unfounded. Another friend, Genya Intrator of Toronto, also spoke with Moscow by phone yesterday and she, too, was told that Nudel was not critically ill as the report made out.

(In New York, Rabbi David Goldstein of Al Tidom told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, which carried the report, that he based his information on what he termed reliable sources. He said according to those sources Nudel had suffered a heart attack the weekend of Oct. 20. He insisted that this source had not been wrong in providing Al Tidom with reports in the past.)

BEGIN, U.S. JEWISH LEADERS DISCUSS SOVIET DROPOUT ISSUE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin met today with leaders of American Jewish organizations to discuss the problem of Soviet Jewish dropouts. Max Fisher, chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, said Begin and the Jewish leaders reached agreement on two points: the need for more Jews to leave the Soviet Union and the need for more of those leaving the Soviet Union to go to Israel. But there was little agreement on the issue of dropouts -- those who leave the USSR but do not choose to settle in Israel.

About half a year ago Begin proposed that the Joint Distribution Committee and HIAS deal only with those emigrants who have relatives in the United States. Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, said Begin's proposal had been accepted by HIAS and JDC leaders who were now discussing it with local community organizations.

"Some of the communities are ready to accept the proposal," Dulzin said, but others are not convinced. So far, the situation is that few Jewish communities in the United States believe they should stop helping Soviet Jews to settle in the U.S. in order to help reduce the dropout rate." Jewish Agency sources claimed that so far the Detroit, Miami and Los Angeles communities have agreed to reduce aid to Soviet immigrants, except for those who have close relatives in those cities. (See related story.)

The Jewish leaders who met with Begin today asked the Premier for another few weeks before giving him a final answer on how they would resolve the dropout issue. Meanwhile, it was understood that due to diminishing funds, financial aid to Soviet immigrants who wish to settle in the U.S. would be reduced. Among those meeting with Begin were, in addition to Fisher and Dulzin, Gaynor Jacobson, executive vice president of HIAS; Edwin Shapiro, president of HIAS; and Donald Robinson, president of JDC.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA TWO FEDERATIONS URGE THAT AID BE HALTED TO SOVIET JEWISH DROPOUTS

NEW YORK, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- One of the more lively sessions at the 48th General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations in Montreal Nov. 14-18 may very well be on the issue of Soviet Jewish dropouts. At least two Federations have indicated that they will present resolutions on this issue which some observers say may produce fireworks.

The two resolutions, one by the United Jewish Community of Bergen County (New Jersey) and the other by the Jewish Community Council of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, affirm that Soviet Jews who arrive in Vienna with Israeli visas must go to Israel and that Federations in the United States should no longer be financially responsible for aiding in their resettlement in this country.

Both resolutions also state that those Soviet Jews for whom the Federations have already assumed responsibility will receive the requisite aid. The Oklahoma resolution adds that "A Russian Jew who arrives in a local community through any means" should be aided in resettling.

The Bergen County resolution, which was passed 34-14, reaffirms "total support for the present policy of using world Jewish charitable funds and human resources to help all Jews exercise

their right to emigrate from the Soviet Union" and that Soviet Jews "will receive our total support for the use of world Jewish charitable funds and human resources to aid all Jews to immigrate to Israel and be 'resettled' in Israel."

Will Not Allocate Future Funds

The resolution adds that Soviet Jews "will have the right to resettle anywhere else in the world, doing so by utilizing family or personal resources. We declare that the United Jewish Community of Bergen County shall not allocate any future funds or human resources, nor accept any additional Russian Jews for resettlement in Bergen County."

The Oklahoma City resolution, which was adopted by the Community Council's executive committee, stated that "mindful of the need for increased immigration to Israel," the Council "requests that the UJA (United Jewish Appeal), JDC (Joint Distribution Committee), HIAS and its member communities take positive steps to insure that all Russian Jews who arrive in Vienna with Israeli visas be sent without delay to Israel."

A spokesman for HIAS said that neither his organization nor the JDC, both of which are beneficiaries of the UJA, ever initiate contact with Soviet Jews in Vienna to discuss resettlement with them. The two service organizations discuss resettlement only after the Jewish Agency in Vienna, which handles transmigrant Soviet Jews, recommends to the JDC and HIAS those who insist that they do not want to emigrate to Israel. Even then, the HIAS spokesman said, his organization seeks by every means possible to first ascertain that the Soviet Jew in question is convinced that he or she does not want to go to Israel.

INTERFAITH LEADERS URGE VATICAN TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- A panel of interfaith leaders, authors and academicians meeting for three days in New Orleans issued a statement urging "recognition of the State of Israel by the Vatican, the posthumous excommunication of Adolf Hitler by the Catholic Church, and the emphasis on the essential Jewishness of Christianity by the Christian Church," it was reported here by Jacques Torczyner, chairman of the Herzl Institute, who was a member of the panel.

"Our group of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish authorities on relations between Christians and Jews in the United States discussed the Holocaust and its impact on both Jews and Christians," Torczyner added. He said the speakers agreed that Israel "must not be regarded as a result of the Holocaust but rather as a response to that tragedy. Israel was seen as a sign that the world's Jews refused to accept the idea that death would have the final word."

The panel, which included Rabbi Solomon Bernards, director of the interreligious department of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Dr. Harry Cargas, professor of world literature at Webster College in St. Louis, Mo., Prof. Alice Eckardt, professor of religion at Lehigh University, Dr. David Sidorsky, professor of philosophy at Columbia University, and Dr. William Zuidema of The Netherlands, also insisted that the legitimacy of Israel's existence is not open to question. No other government is faced with a similar challenge, the panel emphasized.

Sister Katherine Hargrove of Manhattanville College in New York said that an annual "interfaith think-tank dialogue" would be established, Torczyner reported.