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REPORT EGYPT AND ISRAEL AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO JOINTLY USE AIRPORT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- Israel and Egypt have agreed in principle to share one of the Sinai airfields that Israel will relinquish when it completes its withdrawal from Sinai in 1981 -- but on a strictly civilian basis. It was disclosed today. The disclosure was made by Joseph Maayan, director general of the Defense Ministry to the Knesset Economic Committee. He said that a formal agreement will have to be worked out in negotiations between the two countries.

The facility in question is the Etzion air base which is close to the Israeli town of Eilat. It will be handed over to Egyptian sovereignty. But under the terms of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, Egypt will not be allowed to use it as a military air base because of its proximity to Eilat. Instead, both Israel and Egypt will use it jointly, for civilian aircraft. It will supplement the commercial airport at Eilat which is not equipped to handle the large number of tourists who visit that resort area each year.

Meanwhile, work is continuing on the American-financed military air bases being built in the Negev to replace those that Israel will give up in Sinai. Maayan said that the Defense Ministry would offer more jobs to local workers because of possible unemployment resulting from the government's anti-inflation program. But foreign labor employed by the American contractors continued to arrive.

An additional 111 workers from Portugal landed in Israel today to join an earlier group of 82 Portuguese workers on the Ramat Matred air base near Mitzpeh Ramon. About 2500 workers are expected from Portugal in the next six months but they may be asked to leave if it turns out that Israelis need the jobs.

HURWITZ THREATENS TO WITHDRAW GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FROM ELAI

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz threatened yesterday to withdraw government support from ELAI unless all parties involved with Israel's national airline find a way to rehabilitate the money-losing carrier.

Addressing the Likud Knesset faction, Hurwitz said that the company loses about \$70 million a year and noted that its projected loss for next year is \$110 million. "There is no justification for a society that has to double the price of milk for its children to finance a company that loses so much money," Hurwitz said. He warned ELAI workers that "they had better understand that things cannot continue as they are."

ELAI has been plagued by labor strife during the past few years and the Likud MKs appeared to agree with the Finance Minister that the government-subsidized airline should be shut down if its huge losses are not stemmed.

Eliezer Shostak remarked that ELAI's poor labor relations have been poisoning the entire economy for the last two years. Menahem Savidor told Hurwitz "You should have closed ELAI after the last strike last weekend," Ehud Olmert concurred. "ELAI is your big test. You must go to

the bitter end on this," he said.

Hurwitz defended his economic austerity program announced last week. He said it would produce "a significant drop" in the rate of inflation "within five to 10 months." Hurwitz spoke in the Knesset a few hours after Histadrut Secretary General Yehoram Meshel promised more than 5000 angry demonstrators outside labor federation headquarters that Histadrut would fight against the new hardships imposed by Hurwitz's program.

The demonstrators were protesting the last-minute cancellation of a general strike that Histadrut had called for yesterday. Meshel assured them that the strike was not cancelled, only postponed and would take place soon.

BAKER SUGGESTS U.S. LEASE THE TWO SINAI AIR BASES TO HELP PROTECT U.S. FRIENDS IN THE AREA

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- Sen. Howard Baker of Tennessee, the Republican Senate Minority Leader and a declared candidate for his party's Presidential nomination, wants the U.S. to "re-assess" its Middle East policy in view of the Iranian situation and suggested leasing the two Israel-built air bases in Sinai to help protect its friends and allies in the area.

Baker said in a Senate speech yesterday, "Whatever the outcome of the tragic imprisonment of our diplomats in Iran, the U.S. must re-assess its prospects and the prospects of its allies and friends in the troubled Middle East."

He added: "It goes without saying in 1979 that it is imperative that our oil lifeline to that area of the globe be preserved. The stable governments that exercise authority in the region must have reason to believe that the U.S. can and will do whatever is necessary to assist them in maintaining the stability of their institutions."

Capable Of Handling U.S. Bombers

Noting that "For many years the Sinai has been the site of some of the most impressive air bases in the world," Baker pointed out that "they are capable of handling" America's giant B-52 bombers. "Today, as a result of the impressive success of the peace process between Egypt and Israel," he said, those bases are to be handed over to Egypt.

Baker believes that "President (Anwar) Sadat might well agree that an American presence in this troubled area would be additional proof of the increasing firmness of the Egyptian-American relationship."

The Senator noted that "the economic rewards associated with such an American lease could be of substantial benefit to the Egyptian economy" and that "the oil-producing countries of the area would be well served by such a manifestation of the American will to do what is necessary to sustain both its alliances and its lifeline."

The two air bases in Sinai will be handed over to Egypt in 1981 in the final stage of Israel's withdrawal from the peninsula. By that time, two replacement air bases in the Negev are expected to have been completed.

Israel's Stability In The Mideast

Meanwhile, In a speech on the floor of the House, Rep. Dan Glickman (D.Kan.) pointed out

that "In considering our options in Iran, it is clear that the U.S. would be severely restricted without the presence of our ally, Israel." He added:

"While I recognize that Egypt and Saudi Arabia, among others, have been supportive of our position in this tense time, our options in dealing with the release of the hostages, for instance, and on future dealings with Iran, clearly and unequivocally depend on the existence of at least one stable ally in the region. Israel is that ally and we should never forget that its strength and security is paramount to America's strength and security in the Middle East and is tremendously significant to the rest of the world."

UN-PRODUCED FILM ON PLO IS COUNTERED BY A DOCUMENTARY

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- "The PLO" an independently-produced Swiss film documentary on the terrorism of the Palestine Liberation Organization, was screened here this morning at the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith headquarters after the United Nations rejected Israel's request to screen the film in the Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium at the UN building.

"The PLO," was Israel's "answer" to the UN-produced film "Palestinians Do Have Rights" -- a PLO version of the Arab-Israeli conflict -- which will be shown tomorrow at the UN as part of the Palestine Day celebration.

The UN-produced film cost the UN \$80,000 and was authorized by the General Assembly's Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

"The PLO" was purchased by the Israel Mission to the United Nations and will be distributed to different groups and organizations in the United States and elsewhere. The 26-minute film documents major acts of terror, murder and sabotage perpetrated by the PLO, with brief interviews with experts on terrorism, among them former Israel UN Ambassador Chaim Herzog. The film stresses that PLO terrorism is indiscriminately aimed at civilians and that its victims are people of all nationalities as well as Jews and Israelis.

Asked by reporters if he was "happy" with the film, Israel Ambassador Yehuda Blum told reporters he thought "there is much more to be said" on the issue and that an in-depth analysis of the reasons and results of PLO terrorism would require a longer film. He also said the film failed to show that the PLO was the initiator of seizing diplomats and hostages and executing them.

THE ISSUE OF AUTOPSIES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- The government has decided to submit to the Knesset without delay an amendment to the Pathology Law that would severely limit the circumstances under which autopsies can be performed. The move is clearly intended to placate the Aguda Israel bloc which was angered by the recent defeat of an anti-abortion measure in the Knesset and is threatening to leave Premier Menachem Begin's coalition.

The proposed autopsy amendment was unanimously approved by the Cabinet Sunday. It would permit autopsies only if the deceased person had agreed prior to death or if the family of the deceased consented afterwards. The only

exception would be in cases where foul play is suspected. Under the present law, a panel of three doctors can override the family's objections.

The autopsy issue has been a cause of bitter strife between religious and secular circles in Israel. Very often doctors and Orthodox families battled over possession of the body of the deceased. Such disputes have decreased lately as Israel's medical teaching hospitals have been able to obtain a sufficient supply of cadavers from abroad.

The Medical Association, however, opposes the amendment and a delegation of doctors plans to lobby among Knesset members before the measure goes to the floor. The Medical Association says the amendment would mean a retrogression in Israel's medical sciences.

Nevertheless, coalition whips say it will not encounter the same opposition in the Knesset that resulted in the recent defeat of the anti-abortion amendment. It is not clear whether passage of the autopsy legislation will satisfy the Aguda as long as the present, relatively liberal abortion law remains on the books.

"Who Is A Jew" Issue Revived

Meanwhile, MK David Glass of the National Religious Party, has revived another dormant religious issue that could lead to an all-out battle in the Knesset and possibly topple the government. As chairman of the Knesset's Legal Committee he has begun hearings on the "Who is a Jew?" amendment to the Law of Return.

The amendment, proposed more than a year ago by Kalman Kahana of the Poalei Agudat Israel, would add to the law governing conversions to Judaism the words "according to halacha" (religious law). This would invalidate conversions performed by any but Orthodox rabbis. It is one of several concessions to the Orthodox that Begin committed himself to in exchange for their support when he formed his coalition government two years ago.

It is strongly opposed both within Israel and among Reform and Conservative Jews overseas. But the three religious factions -- the NRP and the two Aguda parties -- are inexorably committed to it.

The explosive nature of the amendment has prevented a full-scale Knesset debate until now. But Glass's committee has begun taking testimony. At the committee's session today, Prof. Ezra Spicheckandler of the Jerusalem branch of the Hebrew Union College, an American Reform seminary, warned that the "Who is a Jew?" amendment would "sow division" among the Jewish people at a time when maximum solidarity is needed.

He said it would offend "85 percent of American Jews who belong to the Conservative or Reform movements." However, Spicheckandler said, in reply to a question by Glass, that the Reform movement would "give favorable consideration" to a proposal to establish a joint Orthodox-Conservative Reform "beit din" (religious court) to handle conversions.

VIENNA (JTA) -- Chancellor Bruno Kreisky said Tuesday that Austria may present a resolution to the UN General Assembly which reportedly calls for direct negotiations between all parties to the Middle East dispute, including Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization as the representative of the Palestinian people. It urges Israel and the Palestinian people to enter into exploratory talks without preconditions but calls for Israel's recognition of Palestinian rights and Palestinian recognition of Israel's right to exist. The resolution was reputedly inspired by several Arab countries.

TALMUDIST SAYS MAJOR THREAT FACING ISRAEL IS ONE OF SELF-IDENTITY

NEW YORK, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, a world famous Israeli Talmudist, Jewish writer-philosopher and spiritual guide, declared here that despite the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, true peace with the Arabs is farther than ever and that the "major threat facing Israel today" is one of self-identity and the need for inner examination. "It we don't build an inner core of identity in Israel then we will have to rely on outside pressures. And it is better to be a Jew because I like it rather because others dislike it," he said.

Steinsaltz, who is known throughout the world for his exhaustive Talmudic commentary, his writings on Jewish mysticism and his work of religious renewal, particularly in bridging the secular and religious worlds, spoke Monday night before some 2000 people at Congregation Bnai Jeshurun.

Answering questions from Dr. William Berkowitz, rabbi of the congregation, at its Dialogue '79 forum series, Steinsaltz, referring to the controversy over Jewish settlements, asserted that the main issue should not be whether the settlements are for defense purposes which "is secondary" but rather if "Jews can live anywhere in Eretz Yisrael."

The main issue in the controversy, he said, should be over whether the territories will be "judenrein" or not. "Jews should remain in the areas whether they are under Israeli, Jordanian, Egyptian or PLO rule. The city of Hebron has as much holiness as the city of Tel Aviv and is as important as Jews living in New York," he said.

Asked by Berkowitz about the current Iranian situation and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as a religious-political leader, Steinsaltz asserted that while he prefers religious fanatics to nationalistic fanatics because the religious fanatic has some form of inner controls, nevertheless, Khomeini is "the nasty combination of religion and nationalism and when they come together it's worse because someone like Khomeini believes he is a prophet of the Lord -- and so he has all the arrogance of religion without any of the limits of it."

Judaism In America

In his broad discussion of the issues facing American Jewry, the noted religious thinker said that a major problem of Judaism in America is that "too many people are passive participants," Steinsaltz urged American Jews to become more deeply involved in their Jewish participation. "And to participate does not mean those groups which have brunches on Sunday but it means to engage in the adventure of study, prayer, and mitzvot (Jewish living)."

As for American rabbis, Steinsaltz said they must challenge their congregants and ask them continually: "What new thing did you find out today about being Jewish?" At the same time the religious thinker decried segments of American Jewry for "suffering too much from kosher-centered Judaism in which small parts of Judaism are made greater than they are." Asserting that this kind of Judaism cannot survive and exist for long, Steinsaltz said that religious life preoccupied with levels of kosher certification becomes a "boring shell and a plaything" which would disappear. "Too many Jews only want to deal with the kitchen but there are other rooms

in the house as well," he added.

Women And Judaism

In his comments on the controversial theme of women's role in Judaism, Steinsaltz, who said he first "wrote on the issue 22 years ago -- long before it became a fad," spoke of his desire to see women involved in Jewish areas "beyond the kitchen." Nevertheless, he asserted that too many in the Jewish feminist movement were overly concerned with "external forms and are forgetting the important parts."

A person, he said, participates in Judaism "not in the number of things they do but in the depth of how they do them." If women will take a greater role in the Jewish community, he continued, they will be leaders in Jewish life, whether they are called rabbis or not. Jewish women will assume a greater role "not by fighting for it but by creating it." As for the feminist calls for added religious obligations, Steinsaltz said that the Jewish women's task should be "not getting new rights or commandments but fulfilling what they can already. Are the old commandments so ardently kept that women need new ones?" he asked.

On current calls for a Jewish mission to non-Jews, Steinsaltz said his "dream is to have a mission to the Jews. If somebody needs conversions, it is the Jews. It is the mission among our own people that is needed very urgently." Declaring that "Jews are a family" and not a formal religion, Steinsaltz said that a mission to the outside world is inappropriate. "You don't grab people in the street and say -- I want you to join my family."

Continuing, he added that "the mission of the Jew to the world is to be themselves and exist as Jews. If you light a candle that burns, it sheds light and makes other places bright. Our mission is to burn brighter and that will light the world as it did in the past."

ISRAEL'S PROBLEMS BETTER UNDERSTOOD BY AMERICANS IN LIGHT OF IRAN-CRISIS

WARWICK, R.I., Nov. 28 (JTA) -- Sen.

John Warner (R-Va.) feels that, as a result of the Iranian crisis, Americans have developed a new understanding of Israel and its problems.

Speaking before more than 500 corporate executives and guests at a State of Israel Bond dinner here last night at which sales of over \$2.3 million in Bonds and other instruments were reported, Warner said, "The Iranian crisis has brought Americans together in patriotism. It is beginning to unite the Congress behind a strong national defense of which Israel is an integral part. We have developed a new empathy with Israel because of its courage and because it faces dangers constantly. We are learning, as Israel has learned when faced by terrorists, no nation can surrender to terrorism."

Bruce Sundlun, president and chief executive officer of the Outlet Company, headquartered in Providence, which operates department and specialty stores, as well as radio and television stations, received the Israel Prime Minister's Medal, the nation's highest public service award, at the dinner which was held in his honor. Col. Menachem Eini, air force attache at the Embassy of Israel in Washington, D.C., made the presentation.

Elizabeth Taylor Warner, who recently returned from a trip to Egypt and Israel, expressed to the audience the thanks and friendship for the American people that President Anwar Sadat and Premier Menachem Begin had urged her to convey. Begin had also expressed his gratitude for U.S. help in achieving the peace treaty, she said.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW**THE ROLE OF THE SEPHARDIC COMMUNITY**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- Project Renewal, designed to rehabilitate underprivileged neighborhoods throughout the country, suffers from hodge-podge administration and is hardly equipped for the task. This charge was made by Prof. Charles Tapiero, the 36-year-old chairman of the World Zionist Organization's Department of Sephardic Communities in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

He said the project was built hastily, because of pressures by overseas communities for quick results. The organizers did not have sufficient time to seriously study the problems, and only now do they realize that the project is only one facet of an overall system of "social construction in Israel," Tapiero said.

He also charged the project was devoted too much to the external rehabilitation of the deprived neighborhoods -- neglecting the social work that needed to be done. In addition, there was too little effort in trying to recruit the population itself that resides in those neighborhoods to join in Project Renewal, he said.

Tapiero believes he knows this population. He was born in Morocco, and first arrived in Israel at the age of 12, leaving his parents behind in Paris. After completing studies at the youth village of Ben Shimon and the agriculture school of "The Green Village" near Tel Aviv, he graduated from Hebrew University where he studied physics and mathematics. He then continued studying electronic engineering in Canada where he founded the Students Union of French-Speaking Jews, which later became the Moroccan Jewish community and the Sephardic Federation in Canada.

In 1967 Tapiero did his doctoral dissertation in administration at New York University. Until two years ago he served as professor at Columbia University in New York. Since then, he immigrated -- for the second time -- to Israel and became a professor at the School of Business Administration of the Hebrew University. Last year he took a leave of absence from the university to replace the late Andre Nahvoni as the head of the department.

Getting To The Sephardic Communities

At the end of his first year in the department, Tapiero believes he knows the direction which should be taken to get to the Sephardic community, both in Israel and overseas. One of his main objectives is to build a proper image for the Sephardic community. Sephardic Jews should be convinced that they are capable of helping themselves, he said. Once they are convinced, "they will be able to give what they have to give," he stated.

Tapiero said this is a difficult task because the Sephardic community -- which consists of 60 percent of Israel's Jewish population -- faces objective difficulties, such as an economic and cultural gap compared to other groups in the society. Thus, the WZO Department of Sephardic Communities has taken upon itself to improve the self-image of that community, not by creating division, but rather by a cultural-social synthesis, Tapiero said.

Projects Undertaken By The Department

The first area in which the department

works is the human and leadership development of the Sephardic community, Tapiero explained. The principle that guides this plan is that a person with education has the proper tool to advance in life. The department is currently subsidizing the studies of some 1700 students from development towns and deprived neighborhoods.

Each student costs the department some \$1,300,000 which covers school fees as well as subsistence. In return, the students commit themselves to serve their towns or neighborhoods for a period of time which is equal to their period of studies.

The program has already shown results, Tapiero noted. The mayors of Tiberias and Yokneam, as well as members of municipal councils, local police officers and other senior public servants are graduates of the program, forming an advanced human infrastructure at the margins of Israeli society.

A second project is the increased number of activities inside the development towns and the poverty neighborhoods. The WZO department publishes a newspaper, "Hedim," which has turned into an organ of the development towns. A third project is cultural activities in the development towns. These include special seminars for potential leaders in these communities.

Bringing People Into The Mainstream

"The main purpose of all these activities is to bring this wonderful group of young Israelis into the mainstream of Israeli life so that they can contribute to the building of the society," Tapiero said. The idea is that one cannot rehabilitate a neighborhood, but only an entire society.

He observed that such work should actually begin at the level of kindergarten, and should not be limited to promoting leadership. But, Tapiero said, "We begin where we can. We are trying to establish an infrastructure of leadership, and go on from there. If we could, we would go deeper, but this is the part of the government's role." Realizing the potential gap between his resources and his aspirations, Tapiero said: "We are a small department, but our objectives are great."

Reaction To The Charges

Reacting to the charges by Tapiero that Project Renewal is a "hodge-podge" administration, Yitzhak Shavit, deputy director general of the project, said Tapiero's charges were based on erroneous information.

Shavit said that in principle the project is built from the bottom to the top. That is, unless local steering committees are set -- with the participation of the local residents -- rehabilitation plans are not approved. In some cases plans were delayed because the local mayors did not agree to include residents on the planning committee.

However, Shavit added, because planning is in the best case a matter of several months, Project Renewal went ahead with projects which needed almost no planning -- such as the construction of day centers and synagogues. "But in principle we do not approve any construction unless there is a comprehensive social plan for the rehabilitation of the deprived neighborhood," Shavit said.

BRUSSELS (JTA) -- A Chicago-based rabbi, D.M. Lieberman, has been named Chief Rabbi of Antwerp. He will arrive in Belgium to assume his post early next year. A new synagogue has been set up in Antwerp by the Babov Hasidim. Over 100 Babover live in Antwerp where they form one of the city's most active communities.