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LINOWITZ, BURG TO CAIRO TO DISCUSS AUTONOMY ISSUES WITH EGYPTIANS

By David London and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA) — Sol Linowitz, President Carter's Special Ambassador to the Middle East, will go to Cairo tomorrow with Interior Minister Yosef Burg to discuss the status of the autonomy talks with Egyptian officials. Linowitz and Burg, who heads the Israeli negotiating team, will meet with Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil, head of the Egyptian delegation.

Linowitz met with Premier Menachem Begin for two hours last night. He told reporters afterwards that he was "immensely heartened by what he (Begin) said and I am absolutely convinced we can go forward together toward our mutual objective in a spirit of trust and understanding."

Begin characterized his talk with the American envoy as one of the most interesting he has had in years. Linowitz conveyed a message to Begin from President Carter which, he told reporters, expressed "the great admiration and high regard" with which Israel's Premier is held by the President, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and other Administration officials.

The meeting in Cairo tomorrow will be held at the request of Khalil who had earlier asked for a postponement of the next plenary session of the autonomy talks. They were supposed to have begun today in Herzliya but it now appears they will be held there next week, probably on December 17. Linowitz has indicated that he wants to lose no time in continuing the negotiations which have been restricted at most entirely to procedural matters up to now and have made virtually no progress on substance.

Terms Meeting An Opportunity

Linowitz appeared before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee yesterday where he expressed hope that some specific proposals would be raised when he, Burg and Khalil meet in Cairo. "It is obviously an opportunity for us to try to come to an understanding on how we can move in connection with the autonomy discussions," he told reporters later.

At the session, committee chairman Moshe Arens voiced Israel's concern over possible American arms sales to Egypt. Afterwards, Arens told reporters that he was encouraged to have learned from Linowitz that no decision has been taken yet with respect to a U.S.-Egyptian arms deal. Linowitz told the MKs that there was no reason for their concern. Arens said he was confident that the envoy will return to Washington and report Israel's concern on that matter to the President.

JEWISH ACTIVISTS ATTACK 'NEW RIGHT' SYMPOSIUM; 31 INJURED IN FRACAS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Dec. 11 (JTA) — Some 100 members of a self-styled "Jewish Defense Organization" attacked a symposium organized by France's "New Right." More than 20 of the 1000 delegates

to the "Research and Study Group for a New European Civilization" were injured, four of them seriously according to police. Eleven of the Jewish activists were also injured in the violent clash which took place last Sunday but none of them was reported to have sought first aid at any of the city hospitals.

The New Right is a loose movement of right wing intellectuals and senior government aides which advocates a return to "Aryan sources and purity" and promotes an elitist view of the world. Paradoxically, most New Right spokesmen profess pro-Israel views.

The 1000 delegates had begun their symposium Sunday night in the Congress Center near the Etoile when a group of some 100 Jewish activists entered the building. Most of them wore motorcycle helmets and carried improvised shields and steel bars. A violent fight ensued as the right wing delegates armed themselves with chairs, tables and fire hoses. A small group of Jewish activists who had previously infiltrated the meeting hall joined in the fray.

Police arrived after the fighting ended and the Jewish activists had left the site. There were no arrests. The International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism announced yesterday that it had lodged a formal complaint with the State Attorney charging that the right wingers had assaulted the Jewish activists. Philosopher Alain de Benoist, leader of the New Right, lodged a counter-complaint with police, charging the activists with "practicing fascist and neo-Nazi tactics."

ARGENTINA TO SEEK ITS OIL NEEDS FROM IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA

By Anatolio Landmann

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 11 (JTA) — The Economic Ministry announced that Argentina will fill its oil needs from Iraq and Saudi Arabia rather than from Ecuador, Venezuela and Mexico, the Latin American sister republics that have provided the country with crude oil in the past. Oil comprises about seven percent of the country's imports.

The announcement was made following the visit here of an Arab economic delegation representing both the moderate and "rejectionist" Arab states. Their mission was to stimulate trade with Argentina, especially food products which the Arab countries need to import. The delegation met with Economic Minister Jose Martinez de Hoz and other officials. According to press accounts, Middle East political problems were not discussed.

It was disclosed, meanwhile, that Argentina will seek eventual self-sufficiency in oil. The State-owned petroleum company, YPF, will receive large credits to explore locally for new oil sources.

FORMER POC WARNS OF THE DANGER OF CONTINUING SOVIET DROP-OUTS

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA) — Boris Penson, the internationally famed artist who was a former Prisoner of Conscience in the Soviet Union and who now resides in Israel, warned American Jewry "about a terrible danger which threatens my fellow Russian Jews" who "are now leaving Russia

with visas for Israel and are going to other countries because they have been told by Soviet propaganda that Israel is a dangerous and poor country."

Penson, whose speech in Russian was translated into English, told some 2000 Jewish leaders from the United States and Canada at the United Jewish Appeal's 1980 National Conference, "Convocation of Solidarity" at Lincoln Center last Friday, "I know all of you love our Israel and the last thing that you would want to do is to hurt Israel, but the sad fact is that, by offering housing and material help to nosthim (drop-outs), paying for tickets to America, and all kinds of settlement benefits, the struggle to free Russian Jewry from spiritual slavery is turned into a tug-of-war over material rewards."

Continuing, Penson stated: "By this Israel is being forced to compete with the richest country in the world, something it just can't afford to do. And now, in the last six weeks our worst fears are coming true. The Russian government is stopping the emigration of many Jews. Almost no one in Odessa or Kharkov can get a permit to leave now."

"The Russians say the reason is that so many Jews are going to America and not to be united with their families in Israel. They are investigating if a person really has a father or mother or wife or child in Israel. If they find out that the family is in America, they turn down the application."

"Do you understand what this means? It means that if you bring Russian Jews to America, their families will be condemned to stay in Russia, with no way to escape. I know that is not what you intend, in your generosity and goodwill, but you must know that it is now happening, and we must face responsibility for the results."

Dropping Out A Second Time

Speaking of results, Penson declared:

"You, the leaders of American Jewry, know very well what is happening in your communities to the Russian immigrants. They are becoming 'Americanized' very rapidly and are 'dropping out' yet a second time. This time they are dropping out from the Jewish people, something that is unforgivable and one day, when it is too late, whom shall we blame?"

Penson, who is on a tour of the United States under the auspices of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, said he has learned that many American Jewish youth lack a strong Jewish consciousness and are intermarrying and assimilating "at a frightening rate. Some people call this 'The Silent Holocaust' — the loss of hundreds of thousands of Jews without a shot being fired, without a drop of blood being spilled." He warned that this same fate awaits the Soviet Jews "who in their ignorance, and with your good will and help, have been attracted to come to America."

Issue Of Freedom Of Choice

As to freedom of choice, Penson said he is in favor of that principle. "If a Russian Jew has the funds, either his own money or that of his relatives, then let him go where the money will take him," he stated. "Freedom of choice doesn't mean that American Jewry has to pay for his short-sighted decision. If a man wants to commit suicide, no one should help him." The

same attitude should prevail "If a Russian Jew is committing cultural and religious suicide."

Penson pointed out that the future of Israel, its survival and prosperity, depends on massive aliya from the Soviet Union. "In simple terms," he said, "the 65,000 Russian Jews now in America will grow to over 100,000 by a year from now — unless we do something to stop it. Do you realize what another 100,000 Jews could do in Israel? Do you realize what a great contribution has been made by the 165,000 Russian Jews who have come to Israel in recent years."

"My dear friends, in the name of the Prisoners of Conscience still rotting in Russian prison camps, in the name of Anaboli Shcharansky, in the name of Ida Nudel, in the name of Vladimir Slepok, in the name of Yosef Mendelevitsh, in the name of Israfel Begun, in the name of 165,000 proud Russian Israeli Jews, in the name of future generations of Jews who will be your judges, I beg that you stop this process, now."

"I Dreamed A Dream"

Penson, who was tried in December, 1970 during the first Leningrad hijack trial and sentenced to 10 years at strict labor and released last April, recalled his long years in prison: "I think that all I can say is that I dreamed a dream during that miserable time — that I and my chaverim (comrades) would one day be free to go to our Jewish homeland — Eretz Israeli, Medinat Israel."

"We wanted to be free Jews, free to live a Jewish life, to be sure that our children would grow up as Jews and not become goyim. For our struggle some of us have died, but we were ready to die if necessary, to free ourselves and to free all our people in Russia. Truly a miracle has happened. With your help and struggle, and our sacrifice, the doors of Russia opened up, and over 160,000 Jews have made aliya to Israel. They are precious to Israel, which needs them and wants them."

MEGUID TELLS WJCONGRESS PEACE TREATY IS BEING IMPLEMENTED

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA) — Dr. Ahmed Abdel Meguid, Egypt's Ambassador to the United Nations, told a meeting of the International Affairs Commission of the World Jewish Congress yesterday that the implementation of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt was going ahead as agreed upon. He said it was important to co-operate and to talk, rather than to fight. It was, he added, better to argue with words than with bullets. After all, he observed, the Middle East had introduced morality and ethics to the whole world.

Meguid, who said he had been in New York for eight years and was glad he had finally been invited to address the WJCongress, said he was speaking as an Egyptian and a Moslem. He said he was glad that Dr. Yigal Hamdani, the representative of the World Moslem Congress at the UN, was also present.

The Egyptian envoy noted that Islam taught respect for the peoples of the Book, both Jews and Christians. It taught tolerance of other religions and their adherents, Meguid added. In response to a question, he stated that as had been emphasized during the recent UN Security Council debates on Iran, Egypt was critical of taking American hostages. Introducing Meguid, Bernice Tannenbaum, president of Hadassah, who chaired the meeting, recalled that the envoy was a member

of the original Egyptian delegation to Camp David and was the first Egyptian diplomat to meet with his Israeli counterpart at the UN.

UN ASSEMBLY MEASURE TELLS ISRAEL TO ALLOW INSPECTION OF NUKE FACILITIES

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- The General Assembly adopted a resolution today calling on Israel to "submit all its nuclear facilities to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency" and urging all states "to take all necessary measures to prevent the transfer of fissionable material and nuclear technology to Israel which could be used for nuclear weapons."

The resolution, sponsored by Iraq, was adopted by a vote of 97-10 with 38 abstentions. Israel and the United States were among the countries that opposed it. Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Yehuda Blum, denounced the resolution as nothing more than "a vehicle for the continuation of the anti-Israel political warfare conducted by the Arab states and their supporters in the UN." He emphasized that Israel "remains faithful to its commitment to prohibit and prevent the spread of nuclear weapons."

The resolution, titled "Israel's Nuclear Armament," appealed to all states "to put an end to any cooperation with Israel which may assist it in acquiring and developing nuclear weapons." Another provision strongly condemned "any attempt by Israel to manufacture, acquire, store, test or introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East."

Blum: Resolution Is Based On Hearsay

Blum, who spoke before the vote was taken, charged that the Iraqi draft resolution was based on hearsay. As far as Israel is concerned, he said, direct negotiations with the participation of all states in the Middle East "could contribute significantly to the implementation of a process leading to the establishment of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East."

Blum charged that "By avoiding mention of conventional weapons and by accusing Israel of trying either to acquire or of possessing a nuclear capability, Iraq has shifted into a safer area of slander where hearsay, rumor and speculation can be offered as 'irrefutable evidence.'"

WEIZMAN DEPENDS PLAN TO REORGANIZE ARMY UNIT UNDER A SINGLE COMMAND AND TAL AS ITS COMMANDING OFFICER

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ezer Weizman today strongly defended a plan to reorganize the army's ground forces under a single command and his appointment of Brig. Gen. (res.) Yisrael Tal as the commanding officer. He told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that certain adverse reports about Tal were "malicious rumors" and that while the plan itself and the naming of Tal aroused disagreement in military circles, "the army is not a factory and when a decision is made it is carried out."

Both Tal and Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan were present at the committee session. According to MKs who attended, Eitan made no comment to refute Weizman's defense of Tal.

Eitan is a hawk. Tal is regarded as one of the more dovish generals. Under the new plan he would rank second only to Eitan in the military chain of command and would be in a position to succeed him when Eitan's term as Chief of Staff expires in two years. Weizman also expressed full confidence in Eitan.

The reorganization plan would place all front line units — armored corps, infantry, paratroops, artillery and engineering corps — under one command. Tal would have the mandate to improve the army's attack capability. Individual corps would be reorganized, accentuating research and development in all fields of modern warfare with the objective of increasing over-all efficiency and reducing expenses.

Plan Was Devised By Tal

The plan was in fact devised by Tal who was the army's top strategic expert and Deputy Chief of Staff before the Yom Kippur War. It encountered strong opposition at the time from the then Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur. Gur, who is presently a leader of the Labor Party, reiterated his criticism today and questioned Tal's competence.

He called Tal's appointment to the top post a "big mistake" and claimed that the general's performance before, during and after the Yom Kippur War had been unsatisfactory. According to Gur, there was no justification to recall Tal from "civilian life after several years of frustration" and put him in a position that made him a potential Chief of Staff. In Gur's view, there are a number of younger generals much better suited for the job. He acknowledged however that Tal was a very competent armored corps officer.

Tal, 55, has served as assistant to the Defense Minister for defense development and production matters since his retirement from active duty. In that capacity he was in charge of developing the Israel-made Merkava tank that was recently put into service.

Gur criticized the reorganization plan on grounds that it was unnecessary and could lead to waste of money and manpower. He warned that it might create certain obstacles in the work of the General Headquarters Staff. Weizman recently backed the plan. He said that until now the situation was not right for a major reorganization but with the stabilizing effects of the peace treaty with Egypt, the time is now ripe for a change.

BRUSSELS (JTA) -- The International Federation of Free Trade Unions Monday adopted at its annual conference a resolution welcoming the Camp David agreements and expressing the hope that all other interested countries will join the negotiations. The Federation said the agreements' ultimate aim is "the recognition of the fundamental rights of Israel and the Palestinian people by all concerned on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 242."

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York's filmstrip production, "My Israel," has received a Bronze Medal at the prestigious 22nd International Film and Television Festival of New York. Over 1400 filmmakers from 35 countries participated in the Festival.

BRUSSELS (JTA) -- The Belgian Jewish weekly, "Belgisch Israëlitisch Weekblad," this week marked its 25th anniversary.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA

KOSHER MEALS IN HOSPITALS

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA) — Observant Jews with New York area Blue Cross coverage do not have to pay for kosher meals when they are hospitalized but this exemption does not apply to patients with hospital coverage provided by other insurers. Julius Berman, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations (UOJC) said:

Berman said that most hospitals in the New York area do not charge for kosher meals, treating them as a special diet benefit under Blue Cross contracts. He said the problem stemmed from the fact that while only a minority of New York City area hospitals charge for kosher meals, that minority includes some of the area's largest hospitals.

He said that observant Jews awaiting discharge from hospitals charging for kosher meals should refuse to pay fees for such meals, which such hospitals list along with telephone and television, as extras not covered by the Blue Cross contract. Berman said such Jews should get in touch with their Blue Cross representative to settle any difficulties that might arise from their refusal to pay for such meals.

David Merzel, the UOJC's community relations director, learned about the problem when observant Jews who had been cared for in three hospitals — New York University Hospital, New York Hospital and Columbia Hospital — had informed the UOJC that they believed their kosher meals should be considered among the special diets Blue Cross contracts cover, but that they had been billed for such meals during their hospital stays.

Merzel said UOJC officials contacted Blue Cross officials and learned that it was a common understanding that Blue Cross contracts did cover kosher meals. He said Blue Cross officials agreed to issue a memorandum to hospital administrators, through the New York Hospital Association, when the association, which Merzel said had agreed in principle to inclusion of kosher meals as a Blue Cross hospital benefit, formally approved such a memorandum.

Formal Approval Expected

Merzel said the hospital association board is scheduled to meet Dec. 17 and that a Blue Cross representative would be present as a member of the association board. He said no difficulties were expected in obtaining formal approval from the hospital association.

Merzel said he had been told by Blue Cross officials that a memorandum instructing all Blue Cross member hospitals on the matter was being delayed pending approval by the hospital association board because it was expected that such approval would help assure implementation of the policy in those hospitals which charge for kosher meals.

But Merzel stressed that observant Jews need not pay for kosher meals in any New York City area Blue Cross hospital and that Blue Cross officials had assured the UOJC that the memorandum to Blue Cross hospitals would be issued after the Dec. 17 hospital association board meeting, whether or not that board made formal approval in principle of kosher meals as a diet option for observant Jews.

Merzel said that once the machinery is in place as a formal Blue Cross policy in the New York City area, the UOJC planned to seek similar commitments from Blue Cross units throughout the United States, as well as with private insurers, such as insurance firms writing hospital coverage policies.

Merzel added that many of the hospitals do not have kosher kitchens and provide patients, on request, with frozen pre-packaged kosher meals — breakfast, lunch and dinner — with a variety of entrees, each package sealed and containing plastic cutlery to assure that both the food and serving implements are kosher. He said a half-dozen firms produce such packaged meals which are routinely provided, on request, to observant Jewish passengers on such common carriers as trains, ships and airplanes.

200 PEOPLE GATHER AT U.S.-CANADIAN BORDER TO RALLY FOR SOVIET JEWRY

By Wendy Marcus

BLAINE, Washington, Dec. 11 (JTA) — Two hundred British Columbian and Washington Jews gathered in a driving rain at Peace Arch Park on the U.S.-Canadian border yesterday for the first international border rally for Soviet Jewry. The rally, planned by Seattle and Vancouver Women's Plea groups, was keyed by Canadian Cabinet Minister for the Environment and Postmaster General John Fraser, and Rep. Mike Lowry (D. Wash.).

Fraser, who has adopted a Soviet Prisoner of Conscience, said: "To the degree that freedom of others remains impaired, our freedoms are threatened." He and Lowry emphasized the need for the struggle on behalf of Soviet Jews to continue until the Soviets guarantee free emigration. Both said the Jewish community could count on the continued support of the U.S. Congress and the Canadian Parliament.

JOSEPH WOHL DEAD AT 69

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA) — Funeral services were held yesterday for Joseph Wohl, founder and president of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America's Universal Brotherhood Movement, who died last Saturday at the age of 69. For 27 years he had been a member of the Seminary's Board of Directors and in that capacity had chaired major committees in the areas of finance, development, real estate and building.

A major donor to the institution, he endowed scholarships in memory of his father, Abraham, and his mother, Yetta, in addition to major capital gifts to the Seminary's building funds. A resident of Old Westbury, Long Island, Wohl was active in many philanthropic activities. He was a founder and officer of the Long Island Jewish-Hillside Medical Center, a member of the board of the United Jewish Appeal, and of his synagogue, the Old Westbury Hebrew Congregation.

MOSHE KOENIG DEAD AT 75

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 11 (JTA) — Dr. Moshe Koenig, a leading figure in Orthodox Jewish circles here and for several years chairman of the Amsterdam Ashkenazi Congregation Council, died yesterday at the age of 75. He was born in Austria, studied at the Orthodox rabbinical seminary in Berlin where he was ordained and later obtained a law degree in Frankfurt. He settled in Holland in the mid-1930s. He never practiced as a rabbi but was active in Jewish communal affairs.