

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. XLVII - 62nd Year

Thursday, December 13, 1979

No. 236

BEGIN AND BRITISH MINISTER EXPRESS DIFFERENCES ON THE PLO

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 12 (JTA) -- Visiting British Minister of State at the Foreign Office Douglas Hurd told Israeli leaders this week that London had detected "an evolution" within the Palestine Liberation Organization and believed it ought to be tested and encouraged.

But Hurd apparently failed to persuade Premier Menachem Begin of the validity of this assessment. Begin, in a public statement, referred to the British view as "an optical illusion" and asserted that the PLO had not changed its aims or its methods.

Hurd told the press yesterday, at the end of his visit, that the "evolution" within the PLO was "towards a more political, more diplomatic approach." He said the British government had "occasional contacts with the PLO on the level of officials and the odd social contact. But there are no substantive discussions at the ministerial level."

(It was reported last week from London that Britain's Deputy Foreign Minister Sir Ian Gilmour and PLO foreign minister Farouk Kaddumi met briefly Dec. 5 in what the Foreign Office described as an "unscheduled encounter" at the Syrian Embassy. It was the first acknowledged meeting between a British Cabinet Minister and such a senior PLO official. The Foreign Office said their talks were without substance and that the meeting did not mark any shift in Britain's Mideast policy.)

No Change Seen In PLO's View

The "evolution," Hurd noted, was "not complete. Not perfect. But such as it is, we welcome it. We think it is a step in the right direction."

Public pronouncements by a PLO official in London recently, which had been repeated in private conversations, showed that the PLO still maintains the ultimate goal of a "secular democratic state" in Palestine. But, according to

Hurd, it is prepared to accept a small state now in the West Bank and Gaza "and then to pursue the rest of its objectives by political means."

The British Minister stressed that his government did not "endorse those objectives," and he added that if he were an Israeli he would be "very cautious." Hurd said Britain supported the Camp David process. He met here yesterday with U.S. special Mideast envoy Sol Kowitz for a briefing on the autonomy talks, and said afterwards he found him to be "realistic and impressive."

Meets With West Bank Leaders

Hurd lunched at the British Consulate here with a number of West Bank leaders, whom he was not prepared to identify. He said he found them to have "a high sense of practical responsibility" and expected them to examine whatever agreement was reached by Israel, Egypt and the U.S. in the light of that "sense of practical responsibility."

It is understood from reliable sources that Hurd was queried here about the impending major

British tanks sale to Jordan -- and he defended the sale on the grounds that supporting King Hussein was a way to contribute to regional stability. Britain, Hurd noted, was a traditional supplier of arms to Jordan.

FIRST INCIDENT OF ANTI-SEMITIC VANDALISM IN N.Y. COLLEGE TOWN ABOUSES COMMUNITY-WIDE CONCERN

By Rochelle Saidel Walk

ITHACA, N.Y., Dec. 12 (JTA) -- The first incidence of anti-Semitic vandalism has aroused community-wide concern in this college town of 26,000. Police Chief James Heron has assigned two members of his department to head up an investigation of recent swastika smearings in downtown Ithaca.

The Nazi symbol was spray-painted on four business establishments, two of them Jewish-owned and on the walls of Temple Beth-El and a municipal garage during the weekend of Dec. 1-2. So far, no clues or witnesses have been found.

According to Beth Randall, New York State Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, this is the first known instance of anti-Semitic graffiti in Ithaca which has a Jewish population of about 1,000. She said the ADL would work with the local Interfaith Committee and the Hillel directors at Ithaca College and nearby Cornell University to prevent a recurrence.

The possibility was raised that the swastika smearings may have been related to the painting of Ku Klux Klan symbols and the epithet "nigger" on the walls of the African Cultural Center on the Cornell campus over the same weekend. Anti-Black graffiti was also found on the walls of the Ujamaa dormitory which houses many Black and Third World students at Cornell.

Apparently unrelated was the swastika smearing on the Hebrew day school in Middletown, N.Y., last week. It was the third time this year that the school was vandalized.

REPORT POLISH GOVERNMENT AGREES TO REFURBISH UMSCHLAG PLATZ IN WARSAW

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 (JTA) -- President Carter's Commission on the Holocaust announced yesterday that the government of Poland has agreed to "refurbish" the Umschlag Platz in Warsaw where more than 500,000 Warsaw Jews were deported to Nazi extermination camps, principally Treblinka, during World War II.

The Commission said that in recent years only a small plaque had marked the site and a gasoline station was built on it. While traveling to Eastern Europe, Denmark and Israel earlier this year, Commission members "brought this insensitivity" to the attention of the Polish government. "Today," the Commission said, "word has been received of the Polish government's plans to refurbish the plaza and honor this important site of deportation."

Elie Wiesel, the distinguished author who is chairman of the President's Holocaust Commission, and Andrew Mellon, professor of humanities at Boston University, said in announcing the plans that the agreement called for cooperation between the Polish government and the President's Commission and its successor body, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

Carter issued an executive order last Oct. 30 creating the Council but has not yet appointed its members. The Holocaust Commission had a limited tenure to prepare suitable plans to memorialize the 11 million victims of the Nazi Holocaust, six million of whom were Jews.

Wiesel expressed his appreciation to Janusz Wiecez, head of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Poland and to Zigmund Strachlitz and Miles Lemian, co-chairmen of the fact-finding mission of the President's Holocaust Commission for their role in the negotiations. Wiesel stressed that in honoring the memory of the Jewish victims of Nazi oppression, killed solely because they were Jewish, "the Polish government was acknowledging an historic injustice."

PRESERVE, RESTORE JEWISH MONUMENTS IN EUROPE, ACADEMICIAN URGES

NEW YORK, Dec. 12 (JTA) -- A noted academician called for increased efforts to preserve and restore Jewish monuments in Europe so that future generations will more fully understand the development and destruction of European Jewry. In an address here before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the American Jewish Committee's New York chapter, Prof. Werner Cahnman, chairman of the Rashi Association for the Preservation of Cultural Monuments in Europe, noted that communities across Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Poland still serve as warehouses of Jewish cultural and religious monuments.

"We cannot afford to lose, through neglect those sites which the Nazis did not destroy. Much of the visible testimony of Jewish life, the places where Jews lived and prayed and buried their dead, remain standing and must be salvaged for the future," Cahnman said. He highlighted recent preservation efforts underway, in conjunction with local European communities:

In the German city of Worms, the Rashi Synagogue originally built in 1234 has been rebuilt. Former buildings of the Jewish quarter and the Jewish cemetery, the oldest in Europe, remain, but are in need of repair. Other projects in Germany include the preservation of a Jewish settlement in Speyer, a mikvah from the early Middle Ages in Cologne, wooden synagogues in Braunschweig, a Bavarian synagogue in Floss, and the Jewish ghetto of Venice, Italy where many of the buildings are crumbling and the remains of five baroque synagogues still exist, though in a state of disrepair.

GOLDBERG: THE U.S. HAS NO WARRANT TO DETERMINE ISRAEL'S SURVIVAL NEEDS

TORONTO, Dec. 12 (JTA) -- Israel's need for U.S. support does not give Washington a "warrant" for determining what is necessary for Israel's survival, former UN Ambassador Arthur Goldberg warned yesterday in an address to the 55th biennial convention of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations here.

"Help for Israel by our government is justly owing to this democratic country friendly to the United States," he said. "It is not a warrant for seeking to assume the paramount role in determining what is essential to the nation's survival." Goldberg spoke after receiving the UAHC's Maurice Eisendrath Award "for service to the Jewish community." The award is named for the former president of the UAHC, who had been the rabbi of Holy Blossom Temple here.

Goldberg told nearly 4000 delegates from Reform synagogues in the U.S. and Canada at the closing session of their five-day meeting here that "American Jews should remember the ancient teaching that Jews should not put their trust in princes. As American citizens we should support our government if we conceive it to be right. We should oppose it if we deem it to be in the wrong."

The former Ambassador, who served as Secretary of Labor under President Kennedy and was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Johnson, cautioned against any "confrontation" between Israel and the United States.

"There may be and there are differences, inevitable in matters of foreign policy where no one can be sure of the correct answers," he said. "But there must never be a severance of the special relationship that exists between Israel and the United States."

Goldberg said that "avoidance of such a severance requires sensitivity and restraint both on the part of our government and the government of Israel. Israel must recognize that the United States has global interests and concerns," he said. "The United States must be sensitive to the fact that Israel is a sovereign country with democratic institutions which chart the nation's course." American Jews must also "accept this reality," Goldberg said.

Role Of U.S. Jews

He added: "It is academic to argue whether American Jews should speak publicly about their differences with the decisions of Israel's democratically elected government. American Jews, like all Americans, are accustomed to the right of free speech and, rightly or wrongly, will exercise it. But in the final analysis, Israel's leadership -- elected by its democratic processes -- must make the final determination on the peace issue and all others affecting its sovereignty."

On the identification of American Jews with Israel, Goldberg said: "Israel is central to Jewish life in America and wherever Jews exist. There is no need either to deny this or apologize for what is an indisputable fact. The concept of dual loyalty is not even worthwhile discussing, except to say that it must and should be rejected out of hand."

AUTONOMY TALKS TERMED SUCCESSFUL

JERUSALEM, Dec. 12 (JTA) -- "Very successful" was how Israel's Interior Minister, who is also Israel's chief negotiator in the Palestinian autonomy talks, described his meeting in Cairo today with Egypt's Premier Mustapha Khalil and U.S. special Ambassador to the Middle East Sol Linowitz. Linowitz also affirmed, in brief remarks to reporters, that progress had been made.

Yosef Burg, Israel's negotiator, and Linowitz had flown to Cairo from Tel Aviv earlier in the day for a top level talk with Khalil who, because of pressing internal business, was unable to come to Israel for the plenary session of autonomy talks originally scheduled this week in Herzliya. The meeting was postponed to next week at the request of the Egyptians. However, Burg received a cable yesterday from Khalil that he would not be able to attend next week's meeting either.

Khalil explained he could not come because of "prior obligations," but it is known that he has been accused of being involved in an internal scandal and has demanded his reputation be cleared and is determined not to leave Egypt until this matter is resolved. The plenary session, therefore, will take place next week in the Cairo suburb of Giza and Linowitz reportedly will not be able to attend, according to Israel Radio.

REVEAL CIA BLOCKED ASSASSINATION TRY AGAINST A WOMAN HEAD OF STATE; BELIEVE TRY WAS AGAINST GOLDA MEIR

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Dec. 12 (JTA) -- The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) thwarted a major assassination attempt against "a head of state of a friendly government" by terrorists 24 hours before it was due to be carried out, Ray Cline, former CIA deputy director, disclosed today. He declined to identify the head of state, saying only "it was a woman" and that the assassination attempt was made "a while ago" in New York. It was understood, however, that he referred to former Israel Premier Golda Meir who visited New York a few times during her premiership.

Cline made the disclosure in the course of a symposium on terrorism held by the Institute for Studies in International Terrorism and the Ralph Bunche Institute on United Nations at the New York City office of the State University.

The former CIA official warned that the present terrorist crisis in Iran is not "an accident." He said it is part of a larger pattern of Soviet strategy in the Mideast and Africa which supports terrorism in order to destroy U.S. influence in the Mideast and, as a result, cut American access to energy and other resources of the area.

For that purpose, Cline said, the Soviet Union has been using the Palestine Liberation Organization and "other terrorist organizations," supplying them with weapons and other forms of support. Soviet support of international terrorism "is a form of warfare" against the West, Cline charged.

Yonah Alexander, an expert on terrorism and director of the Institute for Studies in International Terrorism, warned that the implications of the Iranian crisis bode ill for the future. He said future terrorism will "be much more costly" and the terrorists will be using sophisticated technology, including the possible use of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

ADMINISTRATION URGES CONGRESS TO APPROVE ARMS SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 (JTA) -- The Carter Administration today urged Congress to approve its proposed sale of sophisticated munitions to Saudi Arabia for its fleet of F-5 war planes, even though the package would give the Saudis superiority over Israel in some categories of weaponry.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee's subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East and on international security and scientific affairs which received the testimony at a joint hearing, went into executive session immediately after an open hearing. The indications were that they would approve the package and submit it to the full House for consideration. The Senate also must approve.

Lucy Wilson Benson, Undersecretary of State for Security Assistance, Science and Technology, testified that "the threat" from Soviet-dominated South Yemen and Soviet-backed Iraq "is real" and that "the munitions supplied would not have a significant impact on the balance of forces in the region." She also said that Soviet-supported Ethiopia and Afghanistan pose threats to Saudi Arabia's extensive resources.

"The situation in the Persian Gulf has be-

come increasingly unstable and the Saudis perceive a more immediate threat from Soviet-inspired regimes in the area," she said. Asked by Rep. Jonathan Bingham (D.N.Y.) if Saudi oil output is a factor in U.S. support, Mrs. Benson replied that it would be "a grave disappointment" to the Saudis if they did not get the munitions. She said "the threat" to Saudi Arabia would not come "today, but I don't know about next week."

Current Proposals Outlined

Lt. Gen. Ernest Graves, director of the Defense Department's Security Assistance Agency, testified that in 1975 the U.S. sold 1000 laser-guided bombs and 3000 cluster bomb units to Saudi Arabia and a year later, 850 air-to-air Sidewinder missiles and 1600 Maverick missiles.

The current proposal is for 660 more Sidewinders and 916 Mavericks, 3435 laser-guided bombs and 1918 cluster bomb units. Graves put the total value at \$120 million. Previously it had been reported that the sale would total \$200 million. Graves said that Saudi Arabia has 117 F-5 war planes and 60 F-15s for cover.

James Montgomery, Deputy Assistant Director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, which reports to the State Department, testified that if the sale to the Saudis was approved, Israel, which he said has approximately 1000 Mavericks, would have 450 fewer Maverick missiles than Saudi Arabia. The sale would also give the Saudis an "inventory of 4435 laser-guided bombs compared to 1500 for Israel."

Montgomery said the proposed sale of Sidewinders and cluster bombs raises "no significant arms control concern." He said "Israeli holdings" of cluster bombs "are already of a far greater magnitude" than the Saudi inventory" and that Israel's "inventory of air-to-air missiles -- Sidewinders, Sparrow and Shafir -- not quantitatively and qualitatively are superior to Saudi holdings."

Montgomery indicated that he anticipated that Israel would call for additional weapons in view of the sale to the Saudis. He said the cluster bombs sale "should not stimulate reactive Israeli purchases" but that the Mavericks and laser-guided bombs "can take on political significance, particularly where there is a large numerical imbalance."

He said the sales could be "used by the Israelis as justification" for requesting "compensating weapons." When Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R.N.Y.) suggested that "We may be fueling another arms race," Montgomery replied, "that's a consideration."

PROTEST RALLY BY ARAB VILLAGERS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 12 (JTA) -- The residents of Dir el-Khaleb village held a rally today to protest the construction of a Jewish settlement at nearby Djebl Kebir. The army surrounded the village and set up roadblocks to prevent the mayors of other West Bank towns from joining the protest.

Earth-moving equipment continued to work on the access road to Djebl Kebir where the settlers from Elon Moreh are to be moved later this month. Elon Moreh is to be dismantled by order of the Supreme Court. Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, chairman of the Ministerial Settlement Committee, said in the Knesset today that a large Jewish town would be built at Djebl Kebir "and will make a substantial contribution to peace." He promised that the evacuation of the Elon Moreh settlers would be orderly.

NATIONWIDE ACTIONS FOR IDA NUDÉL

NEW YORK, Dec. 12 (JTA) -- Actions on behalf of Ida Nudel, the "guardian angel" of Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience who is now, herself, sentenced to exile in Siberia, took place Monday in 80 cities across the country by Women's Plea for Soviet Jewry under the aegis of the Leadership Conference on National Jewish Women's Organizations.

In New York, "Reach Out" was the singular challenge in addresses to the New York Women's Plea. Some 200 organization delegates were convened by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry (GNYSJ) and B'nai B'rith Women to rally wide public support for Nudel.

Rep. Jonathan Bingham (D. NY), the keynote speaker, emphasized, "All we are asking is that Ida Nudel be granted her rights under the Helsinki Final Act and the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights -- both endorsed by the Soviet Union." As evidence of the Soviet Jewry's success potential, he pointed to the 50,000-plus emigration figure for 1979, which he termed a record total.

"But, this success must not cause us to lessen our efforts," Bingham said. "Soviet authorities know of our concern for Ida Nudel but we must make certain that they know our dedication to her and other prisoners will not waver until we see them stepping off the plane in Tel Aviv."

New Restrictions Cited

This note of warning was reinforced vigorously by Margy-Ruth Davis, GNYSJ executive director, who pointed to ominous signs of crack-down on future emigration by Soviet authorities. "1980 will be a pivotal year. Devious new Soviet policies -- now in place -- can set us back for years to come."

These new restrictions, she said, "would limit the chances of Soviet Jews even to apply for a visa by redefining the concept of 'family' to mean only first-degree relatives. This effectively foils the hopes of thousands of Jews who seek to emigrate for reunification. Other threats include education-work contracts, restrictive visa office schedules and a vicious new policy of parent-child denunciations as prerequisites to application."

The "outreach" theme was echoed, also, by Velma Hill, Assistant to the President of the United Federation of Teachers, who stressed the essential need for coalition between Jews and Blacks: "We must realize that our communities are not monolithic. The struggle for freedom does not stop at water's edge. We stand by the values that have held us together in our eternal commitment to freedom for all peoples."

In a show of solidarity, Women's Plea delegates marched to the gates of the United Nations where a message from Israel's UN Ambassador Yehuda Blum was read. The program concluded with a reading by Leona Chanin, chairwoman of the Leadership Conference from a letter by Ilana Friedman -- sister of Ida Nudel: "I gain strength from you good Americans and so many good people the world over who press for Ida's release and her right to join me here in Israel."

Soviet Embassy Rejects Appeal

In Washington, members of the Congressional Wives Committee for Soviet Jewry, a nationwide organization under the sponsorship of the

National Conference on Soviet Jewry's Washington office, delivered a letter to Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin at the Soviet Embassy on behalf of Nudel and other POCs. The letter was not accepted.

The written appeal expressed the Congressional Wives' sensitivity, as women, to the plight of "our sister" Ida Nudel who languishes now in exile in Siberia. "The appeal added: 'Although we also would seek to ease the suffering of others in prison ... we are especially sensitive to the pain of Ida Nudel's ordeal.'"

The nationwide actions, in which the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council cooperated, marked the anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the observance of International Human Rights Day.

Report On Shcharansky's Condition

In San Francisco, the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry urged the Soviet Union to grant amnesty to Anatoly Shcharansky. Regina Waldman, director of the Bay Area Council, said "Shcharansky's name is synonymous with human rights." She said that recent reports from the USSR indicate that his health is rapidly deteriorating. According to his mother, Ida Milgram, Shcharansky suffers from a constant state of fever and chills; has acute pains in his head, eyes and chest; has blurred vision; and has lost one-third of his body weight.

Specialists at the Chaim Sheba Medical Center in Israel have stated, Ms. Waldman reported: "Although the information available does not permit an accurate diagnosis ... (the symptoms) are indications of severe organic disease ... It is clear that the continuation of Shcharansky's imprisonment endangers his life."

In a related Human Rights Day action, Shirley Leviton, president of the National Council of Jewish Women, sent a telegram to the White House urging President Carter to continue to speak out against oppression around the world. Noting that Human Rights Day "is especially poignant this year" when American citizens are being held hostage in Iran, and thousands of children are suffering in Cambodia, she concluded: "The Holocaust of the 1940s as well as the current oppression of Jews in Syria, Ethiopia and the Soviet Union has taught us that silence encourages tyranny."

BUENOS AIRES (JTA) -- Interior Minister Albano Harguindeguy denied that there is any kind of official anti-Semitism in Argentina and declared that Argentine Jewry enjoys "a climate of absolute liberty." Addressing a Rotary Club luncheon, Gen. Harguindeguy charged that international terrorism is behind claims that anti-Semitic trends exist in the country in order "to damage, by all possible means, the image of our country abroad." He said that Argentine Jews "identify themselves absolutely with all our problems and hopes and join in our struggle, celebrating our triumphs and regretting our failures."

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund will distribute some 1400 pine tree tops among Christians residing in Israel for use in observing Christmas. The trees will be distributed among foreign diplomats, journalists and institutions. The JNF is continuing a tradition which started some 20 years ago.

GENEVA (JTA) -- The Swiss Palestine Friendship Association here collected 5000 signatures in favor of Swiss recognition for the Palestine Liberation Organization and submitted them to the Foreign Ministry in Bern.