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GOVERNMENT DEFEATS 4 NO-CONFIDENCE MOTIONS OVER THE EXTENSION OF THE EVACUATION OF ELON MOREH

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- The government easily defeated four motions of no-confidence today over the five-week extension granted for the evacuation of Elon Moreh. The vote was 60-43 with independent MKs Moshe Dayan and Samuel Flatto-Sharon supporting the coalition. Geula Cohen and Moshe Shamir of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya movement and Kalman Kahane of the Poale Agudat Israel abstained.

Premier Menachem Begin vigorously defended the extension voted by a majority of the Cabinet last Sunday on grounds that the time was needed to complete the new settlement at Djebil Kebir so that it could receive the Elon Moreh settlers. He denounced charges that he was surrendering to the Gush Emunim as "libel and slander" and insisted that both the government and the settlers have complied with the Supreme Court's order to evacuate the Arab-owned land on which Elon Moreh was built.

Several parcels were returned to Arab owners in November and, according to Begin, he was assured by the Gush Emunim that the remainder of the land will be evacuated as soon as Djebil Kebir is ready. "We have nothing to apologize for. It is to our credit that we are going to enforce the high court's ruling," Begin declared.

Statements By The Opposition

No-confidence motions were introduced by four opposition factions -- the Labor Alignment, Shai, Sheli and the Communist Party. Labor MK Yossi Sarid, who opened the debate, said the Cabinet's action on Elon Moreh ignored the Supreme Court's ruling and it appeared doubtful therefore that Elon Moreh will be completely evacuated. He charged that the Gush Emunim were dictating to the government. "The monster that Premier Begin helped create has turned on its master," Sarid declared.

Charlie Biton of the Communist Party said the government was spending millions of Pounds on West Bank settlements while it was urging the underprivileged to tighten their belts. The Gush Emunim, he said, not only dictates settlement policy but runs the country's economy. Meir Payil of Sheli said the government's settlement policy was undermining the peace agreement with Egypt by preventing the establishment of a self-governing body in the occupied territories.

Payil attacked Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, chairman of the Ministerial Settlement Committee, as "Baron von Sharon" who, like a Prussian baron, tries to impose his leadership over the entire State without having any real constituency among the public.

Dayan, who resigned as Foreign Minister last Oct. 21, just one day before the Supreme Court ordered the removal of Elon Moreh, explained that he supported the government today "so that one does not interpret my vote as opposition to settlement in the territories." But he made it clear that he was opposed to Elon Moreh and to the new settlement at Djebil Kebir, both close to

Nablus, the largest Arab population center on the West Bank. He said there was no justification for the new settlement which would only cause damage to Israel.

While the debate was in progress, the Knesset's Finance Committee approved an allocation of IL 91 million for three new settlements in Judea and Samaria -- Reihan, Dotan and Karnei Shomron IV -- and for paving new roads in the region.

On this issue, a Jewish Agency spokesman, referring to a report in the Daily News Bulletin of Dec. 27, said it was erroneous to believe that the Jewish Agency and other settlement bodies could commit themselves to construction projects in the administered territories. The Dec. 27 report had stated that the Treasury has instructed the Jewish Agency and other settlement bodies to commit themselves for a specific sum to be used in the construction of housing in the territories.

SADAT OKAYS BEN ASHER CODEX LEAVING EGYPT TEMPORARILY FOR RESTORATION

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- President Anwar Sadat of Egypt has given permission for Egypt's most precious Jewish manuscript, the Ben Asher Codex, to leave Egypt temporarily to be restored, according to MP Greville Janner, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, who has just returned from Cairo.

The Codex, a Bible written in the 9th Century of the current era, is one of more than 20 valuable books stored in Cairo's Karaite Synagogue. It is badly in need of repair and until now the Egyptian authorities have insisted on its staying where it is. However, Sadat reversed this ruling when he received Janner at his home in the village of Mit Abue al Kom. The only other person present during the 2 1/2 hour talk in Sadat's garden was Janner's 20-year-old daughter Marion.

The President also assured Janner that a number of Jews in Alexandria could visit Israel. They had been invited there some time ago by Premier Menachem Begin of Israel but so far they have been obstructed by Egyptian officials.

Janner, who spent 10 days in Egypt, also met Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Butros Ghali, as well as the Minister of Justice, Trade and Overseas Cooperation, and the editor of Al-Ahram. He also met leaders of the Jewish communities of Cairo and Alexandria and the American and British Ambassadors.

Summarizing his impressions, Janner said he saw no possibility of renewed hostilities between Egypt and Israel and believed that Sadat and his team were devoted to peaceful methods. Sadat felt that he enjoyed an "almost mystical relationship" with Begin and was confident about the next stage of negotiations, Janner said.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES: THE DANGER OF A PALESTINIAN STATE

By Uzi Benziman

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- Faced with increasing international support for the Palestinians' demand for "self-determination" the Israeli government has recently published an explanatory document setting out its objections to the idea of an independent Palestinian state.

The publication, issued by the Israel Information Center, states, among other things, that the Camp David accords provide for ensuring the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinians as recognized by the signatories of the accords -- Israel and Egypt -- and the accords, therefore, limited the conventional connotation of the term "legitimate rights." They did not accept the Palestinian interpretation of the term, that is a separate, independent state.

The far reaching significance of this position is that Israel considers itself one of the primary parties entitled to participate in deciding what comprises the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinians, regardless of the international community's views on the subject. What the Israel government believes to be non-legitimate is the idea of "self-determination" in the sense of a separate state. This is not legitimate because it would endanger Israel's own security.

Israel's basic approach -- which underlies the autonomy proposals -- is that in a series of discussions some modicum of understanding could be worked out which would give the Palestinian people a framework for a moderate alternative leadership to the Palestine Liberation Organization which objects to any solution other than full "self-determination."

Israel's Basic Objections

The pamphlet anchors Israel's objections to a Palestinian state in the following arguments:

* A Palestinian state would be a PLO state, namely a state which would be administered by a terrorist organization that rejects the idea of coming to terms with the existence of the State of Israel, or limiting Palestine to the confines of Judeaea, Samaria and Gaza. The PLO, moreover, would continue to serve as a convenient political tool of the rejectionist Arab states and the Soviet Union in their perennial quest to destabilize the region, the pamphlet contends.

* A Palestinian state would place Israel's major centers of population and the country's industrial infrastructure under the constant threat of the gun. The pamphlet reminds the reader of some basic statistics: most of Israel's population and much of its industrial infrastructure is situated in the coastal plain which lies between the Mediterranean Sea and the mountains of the West Bank.

The pre-1967 armistice lines converted this coastal plain into a narrow corridor ranging from 7-15 miles wide linking the north and the south of Israel. Tel Aviv, Israel's largest metropolitan center, was a mere 11 miles from Jordanian army positions. Jerusalem was encircled on three sides by Jordan's Arab Legion. The importance of strategic depth for Israel was dramatically illustrated in the Yom Kippur War when Israel was taken by surprise and both Egypt and Syria made substantial territorial gains.

The threat posed by these gains, the pamphlet stresses, was mitigated to a large extent by the distance of the lines from the heartland of Israel. Had the Arab attack been launched from the pre-1967 armistice lines, Israel would have been sliced in two, Jerusalem cut off from the rest of the country and the major centers of population would have been overrun by enemy forces.

Controlling The Air Space

Israel's entire air space could be fully controlled from the areas of a Palestinian state. Ben Gurion Airport would be within easy range of the simplest anti-aircraft missiles, which could be

deployed from across the pre-1967 armistice lines. Anti-aircraft missiles would control almost all of Israel's air space and would thus pose a constant threat to the country's main communications link with the rest of the world. The effectiveness of Israel's Air Force would be severely impaired as would be its preemptive capability.

* A Palestinian state would serve as a launching-pad for attack upon Israel by radical and uncompromising Arab states, and as a base for assaults by the various terrorists that might well continue operating independently of a centralized, responsible Palestinian government.

The pamphlet claims, moreover, that the range and the destructive capacity of the artillery in Arab arsenals has more than doubled since 1967. The terrorist organizations, too, have acquired substantial quantities of artillery and rockets from the Soviet Union and other sources. Consequently, over 90 percent of Israel's civilian population and industrial infrastructure would be within comfortable range, and therefore vulnerable, if a Palestinian state were established on the West Bank and Gaza.

Political And Economic Instability

* A Palestinian state would lack political and economic stability and thus would catalyze general regional destabilization. The pamphlet points out that the areas of Judeaea, Samaria and Gaza would have no natural resources, extremely limited farmlands and underdeveloped industrial infrastructure. Industry today accounts for only some nine percent of the local gross national product. There is an extremely high population density and a basically unskilled work force.

Consequently, according to the pamphlet, there is little chance of economic independence in the foreseeable future, and a Palestinian state in these regions in the final analysis would become an international welfare case.

Moreover, because of the short working time available to Israeli decision-makers, if military control over the West Bank were to be relinquished, the basic defense posture of the Israel defense forces would have to be based on worst-case assumptions, necessitating a no-risk preemptive policy.

Also given the fear that the West Bank under the PLO would be a base for ongoing irregular terrorist activity, the danger of a small incident resulting in a general destabilization would always be possible. Israel believes that it would not be in the interest of world peace that Israel be placed in the strategic and tactical position of not having enough lead time to allow for fail-safe procedures before responding.

Nor would it be in anyone's interest to place Israel in the position of having to take ongoing military measures in response to unbridled terrorism which could escalate into war.

Seen As A Soviet Satellite

* A Palestinian state would inevitably become a "Soviet satellite on Israel's doorstep." The pamphlet argues that Moscow would have predominant influence in a Palestinian state as the USSR and the PLO share the common aim of sabotaging both Western and Israeli interests in the Middle East. Therefore, a PLO state on Israel's frontier would provide the Soviet Union with yet another foothold in the Middle East and constitute yet another blow to the Western sphere of influence in the region.

Finally, the pamphlet denies the contention that Israel's security fears would be eliminated if the proposed Palestinian state were to be demilitarized.

The document claims that with the inherent lack

of control which would exist in a state composed of political factions dedicated to armed struggle, demilitarization is not a viable expectation. The threat to Israel, it is stressed, is not necessarily exclusively expressed in a scenario of total war but it is not less real in terms of ongoing harassment by irregular forces aimed at the country's most sensitive areas.

In the given current political reality, the pamphlet concludes, with the PLO widely accepted as the self-appointed representative of the Palestinian people, Israel cannot accept the dubious security afforded by the promise of West Bank demilitarization.

U.S. REVIEWING POSSIBILITY OF USING MILITARY BASES IN THE MIDDLE-EAST

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- The State Department said today that the U.S. has "under review" the possibility of using military bases in the Middle East. Asked if Israel or Egypt have offered the U.S. use of military bases in their territory, the Department's chief spokesman, Hodding Carter, said parties in both countries have stated that the U.S. would be welcome to use their facilities. He added, "The question of the use of facilities in the whole region is under review."

Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman referred to that matter when he appeared on the CBS-TV "Face the Nation" program in Washington Dec. 30. He commented on a report in the Egyptian magazine, October, that President Anwar Sadat had offered the U.S. bases if needed. Asked if Israel had made a similar offer, Weizman said there was no need because the U.S. knew that Israel was a close friend and would give it anything it asked for in the interests of security in the region.

Arms Aid Package For Egypt

Meanwhile, government sources said today that President Carter has approved a long-term arms aid commitment to Egypt with an initial installment of \$350 million. It is part of a proposed \$3 billion five-year modernization program for Egypt's armed forces that would include the sale of advanced American fighter aircraft and tanks. The White House announced Monday that Carter will ask Congress to approve \$200 million in military sales credits to Israel in addition to the \$3 billion aid package already approved for the next three years.

LAWMAKERS ON MIDEAST VISIT WILL SEEK TO DEVELOP NEW U.S. -LEBANON POLICY

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- Rep. Toby Moffett (D. Conn.) is leaving tonight for a 10-day trip to Lebanon, Syria and Israel. Moffett, who is a Lebanese American, will be accompanied by a group of six Lebanese Americans, including two Lebanese American Congressmen, Reps. Nick Joe Rahall (D. W. Va.) and Mary Rose Oaker (D. Ohio). The delegation was appointed by House Speaker Thomas O'Neill (D. Mass.).

Moffett said he plans to meet with President Elias Sarkis of Lebanon about developing a separate U.S. policy on Lebanon similar to U.S. policy with Israel and Egypt. He said that until now Lebanon has been just one of the Middle-East countries in terms of U.S. policy. Now "it is feared that Lebanon will be dealt away as a small chip

in a large Middle East poker game," Moffett said.

He noted that his visit to Lebanon is a symbolic show of support for that nation's central government and that it is the "culmination of a long-term effort to get the United States government and the House of Representatives to focus itself on Lebanon and later talk to the State Department to develop a separate U.S. policy on Lebanon."

In Israel, Moffett said, he hopes to learn more about the country. He said he will meet with Premier Menachem Begin, Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, and members of the Knesset. He said he wants to learn more about Israel's perspective on south Lebanon, and ways of getting the Palestine Liberation Organization out of Lebanon. He will also visit Syria and meet with President Hafez Assad in an effort to determine whether Assad is adamant against the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement as the American media claims he is.

EL AL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT 1980

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- El Al began the new year yesterday confident it will be able to cut operational losses and with an agreement from all of its employees not to call a strike for the next five years.

This became possible when El Al chairman Avraham Shavit announced to the airline's board of directors late last night that the last employees' group, the air hostesses and pursers, had agreed to the salary cuts and other demands of the company. The last agreement is similar to that reached with the pilots and other cabin crew to end the practice of paying part of the salary in foreign currency.

The pilots agreed to the pay cuts, which amounted to 20-40 percent, after the Cabinet threatened to close down the airline if agreements were not reached by Dec. 31. Ground crews agreed to waive wage demands late last Saturday night.

Shavit told the board of directors that 1980 will see a new El Al, one in which all its employees have pledged their desire to see El Al once again among the front line of international airlines.

He said El Al employees have demonstrated a readiness to give up demands, delay requests for wage increases and even do more than the agreements called for in the recently signed agreements. Shavit said travel agents throughout the world could now book passengers on El Al assured they will receive good service and that operations will not be interrupted by strikes.

Shavit earlier this week predicted El Al would be in the black by 1981 because of the new agreements. The airline lost \$60 million in 1979 and is expected to lose almost double that amount this year.

ISRAEL-IN-Y. CHARTER SERVICE PONDERED

TEL AVIV, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- One of Israel's leading hotel operators has announced plans to establish a twice-weekly charter service from New York starting in March. Chaim Shiff, whose Shiff Hotels contain some 1800 rooms throughout Israel, told a press conference he expects the new service to bring some 60,000 tourists to Israel in the spring tourist season.

Shiff said he decided to invest in the company in order to halt a drop in the number of tourists. Efforts to increase tourism as well as foreign investment and exports are part of Israel's needs to find new avenues for foreign currency income. This has become more acute with the announcement this week that Israel will only receive \$200 million in additional military sales credits rather than the large increase in U.S. aid it had sought.

JDC REPORTS CAMBODIAN RESPONSE EXCEEDS \$100,000 AND STILL GROWING

NEW YORK, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- The American Jewish response to the needs of the Cambodian refugees has been "a heart-warming demonstration of concern" according to Donald Robinson, president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. He reported that more than 100 communities were actively participating in the program of Cambodian relief, and noted that rabbis and Jewish educators were also playing an active role and "seeking to involve large segments of the Jewish community in this charitable effort."

Ralph Goldman, JDC executive vice president, noted that the \$100,000 already received included donations from thousands of concerned individuals as well as institutions. "The JDC was empowered by its Board of Directors to enable the American Jewish community to participate in this humanitarian program through its own institutions. The JDC," he added "with 65 years of experience as the overseas relief arm of the American Jewish community, is the logical institution to turn to."

Goldman said plans are well underway for the dispatch of an American-Jewish medical and social work team to aid the refugees. "I urge the public not to be discouraged by the reports from Cambodia that the agencies there are having a difficult time continuing in their efforts," he said. "The very conditions that make this work difficult now, makes it all the more important for us to continue the moment that it is feasible."

"In addition," Goldman added, "our partners in the Interfaith Hunger Appeal, the Church World Service, the Catholic Relief Service and other agencies are having success in reaching the famine area of Cambodia along the Thailand border and the work with the 250,000 refugees in camps in Thailand may have to go on for years ... Thus it is imperative that those who wish to help do not hesitate."

Robinson praised the willingness of the local Federations and United Funds of the Jewish community to place themselves at the disposal of the Cambodian program. "It is laudable and is a tribute to their deep commitment to community concerns," he said.

DOCUMENTARY ON NAZIS IN AMERICA

NEW YORK, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- A television documentary to be aired this month will examine the fact that there are more than 200 alleged Nazi war criminals now living in the United States who may be responsible for the deaths of as many as two million people.

"ABC News Closeup -- Escape From Justice: Nazi War Criminals in America" will be aired Sunday, Jan. 13 (7-8 p.m. EST) on the ABC Television Network. An ABC spokesman termed it the most comprehensive examination of Nazis in America ever televised -- exploring how they got here, why they have been able to stay, and why effective legal action against them is starting only now.

This investigation of Nazi war criminals in America presents evidence indicating that some of them have been recruited, protected and even employed by the United States government. "Escape from Justice" will be narrated by ABC News correspondent Tim O'Brien, and will feature investigative reports by "Closeup" correspondent Michael Connor. Richard Gerda is the producer.

Of the more than 200 cases involving alleged Nazi war criminals in the U.S. -- only Argentina and West Germany are thought to have more -- there are but 16 in litigation, according to ABC. One thing the defendants share in common is that for decades they lived untouched by the U.S. government, even though there was evidence of their war-time activity.

Investigated 'Project Paperclip'

Connor investigated one top-level intelligence program, "Project Paperclip," which not only allowed some war criminals into this country, but did so with the official sanction of the government. From the end of World War II to the mid-1950s, it brought more than 900 German scientists to the U.S. Paperclip's goal, Connor says, was to recruit and "exploit" the best of German brainpower. Officially, Paperclip barred active Nazis, but screening procedures were lax and, in some cases, negligent.

Connor investigates two such Project Paperclip recruits: Otto Ambros, convicted at Nuremberg of slavery and mass murder and sentenced to eight years in prison. Ambros, according to the investigation, now works as a consultant for W.R. Grace & Company. The other is Maj. Gen. Walter F. Schreiber, a doctor who was the second ranking medical officer in the German army, and was later hired by the U.S. Air Force.

Two conclusions can be drawn from the evidence of Project Paperclip and the cases being pressed by the Justice Department, says O'Brien. First, the majority of alleged Nazi war criminals in this country have managed to avoid deportation because of simple negligence on the part of government agencies. Second, at least some of them have been protected by influential friends, including intelligence agencies of the U.S. government.

Government prosecution of alleged Nazi war criminals is not an easy assignment, the documentary notes. O'Brien points out: "The fighting and violence of World War II involved millions of soldiers. Now, 40 years after the war began, the U.S. Justice Department finds itself probing the history of that violence, trying to distinguish between some who may have been good soldiers, and others who may have been unprincipled killers. It is a task made difficult and, in some cases, impossible, by the passage of time."

The ABC documentary was filmed in West Germany, Rumania, Austria, France and throughout the United States. Richard Richter is senior producer of the ABC News documentary unit. Pamela Hill is executive producer of the documentary unit.

"ABC News Closeup -- Escape from Justice: Nazi War Criminals in America" will carry the following advisory: "This program contains graphic historical film. Parental discretion is advised."

TERRORIST-BASE REPORTED IN CYPRUS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- Greek Cypriot police are keeping a close watch on Palestinian terrorist activity in Cyprus where the Palestinians have reportedly set up a maritime training base to prepare recruits for sea-borne terrorist assaults on Israel, it was learned here today. The Greek Cypriots are said to have asked the Lebanese authorities to exchange information on the movements of Palestinians. But, according to the reports, the terrorists enjoy freedom of movement in the Turkish zone of Cyprus where the authorities close their eyes to their activity. The base's existence was disclosed by an Arab terrorist recently captured by the Christian militia in south Lebanon, Maariv reported today.