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ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS TO BE ON AGENDA OF BEGIN-SADAT SUMMIT

Situation In Afghanistan Also To Be Discussed
By Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7 (JTA) — Soviet action in Afghanistan will be on the agenda of Premier Menachem Begin's summit meeting with President Anwar Sadat in Aswan beginning tomorrow, it was disclosed here today. They will also discuss the normalization of Israeli-Egyptian relations and the autonomy negotiations. Begin said last Friday that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is more serious than its invasion of Czechoslovakia in the spring of 1968 because Afghanistan, unlike Czechoslovakia, is not a member of the Soviet bloc.

Preparations for the Aswan summit are completed. The Cabinet today gave its formal approval of Begin's visit to Egypt and announced that Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin would act as Premier in his absence. Begin is to be greeted at Aswan airport by Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil in an official State ceremony.

He and Sadat will have at least two meetings and will hold a joint press conference after their three-day summit. Begin will be accompanied by his senior aides, headed by Eliahu Ben-Elissar, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office who is Israel's unofficial Ambassador-designate to Cairo.

Egypt Names Envoy To Israel

Israel and Egypt are scheduled to exchange Ambassadors on February 26, one month after the normalization of relations is officially established. Israel has already received a formal request from Egypt to approve its selection of Saad Mofarda as the first Egyptian Ambassador to Israel.

While no objections have been raised, circles here expressed surprise at Mofarda's nomination inasmuch as the 56-year-old career diplomat has not been involved in the Israeli-Egyptian peace process and his name never appeared among the likely candidates for the post. Egypt's decision not to appoint a more senior diplomat, sources here said, is further evidence of the trend in Cairo to keep the normalization with Israel in a low key.

Mofarda's last post was Ambassador to Morocco where he served for about a year. He was there when the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty was signed last March 26. A month later, Morocco joined 16 other Arab League countries in severing diplomatic relations with Egypt to protest the treaty.

Meanwhile, Egypt today refused to allow an El Al plane chartered by the foreign press corps to land at Aswan airport because no official air agreement has been signed yet between Egypt and Israel. The Foreign Press Association approached the government and it was decided to put an Israel Air Force Boeing or Hercules transport at the disposal of the journalists. About 500 Israeli, Egyptian and foreign journalists are expected to cover the Aswan meeting.

CARTER FAVORS PROSECUTION OF EX-NAZIS

By Rochelle Saidel Walk

NEW YORK, Jan. 6 (JTA) — In the first

such statement by any American President, President Carter has endorsed the Justice Department's investigation and prosecution of alleged Nazi war criminals.

The January 1980 issue of "Jewish Living," expected to appear in two weeks, carries Carter's statement saying: "I will lend my full support to the Justice Department's efforts to denaturalize and deport ex-Nazis living illegally in the United States, because I believe that we can never forget the actions of those responsible for the Holocaust..."

A previous statement by Carter about Nazi war criminals in the United States was made in defense of alleged Nazi war criminal Konstantin Warvariz. At an Oct. 31, 1977 Presidential press conference, Carter said: "...Insofar as the allegation that has been made in the Soviet press about his supposedly pro-Nazi activities in the 1940s, Mr. Warvariz has stated to us... that there is not an iota of truth to the charges. He is a career diplomat." Warvariz, a high-ranking officer of the U.S. State Department, who represents the United States at UNESCO, is accused of having been employed by the SS in Rovno, the Ukraine, from 1942 to 1943.

Carter's remarks in Jewish Living were part of a statement that was specifically prepared for the magazine, its editor, L. Aryeh Rubin, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The magazine had sent out a questionnaire to eight Presidential candidates, asking for answers on "specific hard-nosed facts about the candidate's positions on issues of special Jewish concern."

Rather than responding to the questionnaire per se, Carter issued a statement to the magazine which included his endorsement of Justice Department efforts on war criminals. Since this question was not part of the Jewish Living questionnaire, the other seven candidates did not express their views on that issue.

Rubin said that Jewish Living, an independent "Jewish lifestyle" magazine, has a circulation of 150,000. Launched with a trial issue called "Kosher Home," in Oct. 1978, it became the bi-monthly Jewish Living in March, 1979 and is now published nine times a year.

Rubin, 29, founded the magazine after a visit to Auschwitz five years ago convinced him that such a magazine was necessary "as a medium to help Jewish life flourish." (See related stories about Nazi war criminals in America on pages 1 and 4.)

SPECIAL TO THE JTA

SPOTLIGHT ON ACCUSED WAR CRIMINALS

By Rochelle Saidel Walk

NEW YORK, Jan. 6 (JTA) — Accused Nazi war criminal Tacherim Soobzokov, now facing denaturalization proceedings for allegedly concealing his Nazi collaboration from government authorities, lets slip some well-known anti-Semitic code words when he blames "pressure of a small minority group" for the Justice Department's action against him.

His remarks will be aired as part of a television documentary entitled "ABC News Closeup — Escape From Justice: Nazi War Criminals in America," Sunday, Jan. 13 (7-8 p.m. EST) on the ABC Television Network. This reporter previewed the special

at an ABC-TV studio in New York City.

Saobzakov is a resident of Paterson, N.J., where he is the chief of the Purchasing Department for Passaic County. On Dec. 5, 1979, the U.S. Attorney General's Office and the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigation (OSI) served him with a denaturalization notice, accusing him of concealing his collaboration with the Waffen SS and his participation in Nazi atrocities in and around Krasnodar, in the Transcaucasus.

Of the 16 alleged Nazi war criminals now under litigation, Saobzakov is the only one who agreed to an interview for the ABC documentary. Perhaps this is the reason he is granted what seems an inordinately large portion of the program to profess his innocence.

Trifa Case Examined At Length

The case of Archbishop Valerian Trifa, head of the Rumanian Orthodox Church in America, headquartered at Grass Lake, Mich., is also examined at length. (A date for his denaturalization hearing had been expected imminently, but reliable sources have indicated that presiding U.S. Justice, Cornelius Kennedy said last week in Detroit that Trifa's case would not come to court until the spring or later.)

Rabbi Moses Rosen, Chief Rabbi of Rumania, says on the ABC special that he remembers hearing Trifa on the radio in Bucharest in 1941. Trifa's remarks were "a death sentence for us," Rosen says.

Trifa was accused of complicity in the January 1941 Bucharest pogrom, staged by the fascist Iron Guard. At least 600 Jews were murdered, including 200 who were hung on meat hooks and stamped "kosher meat." When Trifa was tried in absentia in Rumania in June 1941, he was identified as "commandant of the student Iron Guard corps; he has organized this corps and supplied it with arms."

Trifa entered the United States in 1950 and became a citizen in 1957. Denaturalization proceedings against him began in 1975, when the government filed a complaint against him to cancel his citizenship on the grounds it was illegally procured "by the concealment of material fact and ... misrepresentation."

Trifa and Saobzakov are among the more than 200 alleged Nazi war criminals and collaborators currently being investigated by the OSI, headed by Walter Rockler. According to ABC, the more than 200 alleged Nazi war criminals living in the U.S. are collectively responsible for the deaths of two million Jews, Gypsies and anti-Nazi partisans.

Other War Criminals Discussed

Other alleged Nazi war criminals to be discussed on the ABC documentary include: Feodor Fedorenko of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., a former guard at the Treblinka concentration camp; Edgars Laipenieks of San Diego, Calif., accused of Nazi complicity in Riga, Latvia; Andrija Artukovic of Surfside, Calif., the former Minister of Interior of the Nazi puppet state of Croatia; and Villis Hazners of Dresden, N.Y., accused of atrocities against the Jews of Riga.

For the first time Americans will have the opportunity to see on network television actual documents implicating the Central Intelligence

Agency (CIA) for having intervened on behalf of an alleged Nazi war criminal, Laipenieks. Charles Allen Jr., author and journalist, shows copies of CIA letters that he secured in 1975-76 revealing at least a 14-year relationship between the accused mass murderer and the CIA.

Although concern or action by the major American Jewish organizations is not presented in the documentary, a peaceful demonstration at the Hazners' home in rural upstate New York portrays the involvement of rank and file members of the American Jewish community.

Led by Rabbi Paul Sifton, education director at Temple Israel in Albany, and Lyn Light, director of the Jewish Students Coalition-Hillel at State University of New York at Albany, some 50 SUNYA students are shown praying, singing and carrying posters outside Hazners' home.

The program also interviews experts on the issue of Nazi war criminals in America to determine why alleged Nazis were "recruited, protected, even employed by the United States government."

A "Sordid Chapter" In U.S. History

Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-NY) calls the presence of alleged Nazi criminals in this country "a sordid chapter" in American history. As chairperson of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and International Law, she has been instrumental in exposing the issue and prodding the Justice Department to take action.

In addition to Holtzman and Allen, famous Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal; Holocaust survivor and author Elie Wiesel; former Immigration and Naturalization Service employee Vincent Schiano; former Nuremberg prosecutor Telford Taylor; OSI head Rockler; and 82-year-old retired dentist Dr. Charles Kramer, who has worked on the Trifa case for more than 20 years, also offer their views on the presence of Nazi war criminals in America.

Billed as "the most comprehensive examination of Nazis in America ever televised," the documentary is narrated by ABC news correspondent Tim O'Brien, with investigative reports by "Closeup" correspondent Michael Conner.

SCHINDLER CRITICIZES WEIZMAN FOR ENDORSING CARTER FOR RE-ELECTION

NEW YORK, Jan. 6 (JTA) -- Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), has called on Premier Menachem Begin of Israel to reprimand Israel Defense Minister Ezer Weizman for "publicly and unabashedly endorsing President Carter for re-election." Schindler said in a message to Begin that he was expressing "my dismay and that of many of my fellow Jews in the United States."

The Reform leader was apparently referring to remarks Weizman made to reporters when he was in Washington a week ago for discussions of future U.S. military and economic assistance to Israel with President Carter and other top Administration officials. On emerging from a 50-minute meeting with Carter, Weizman said he hoped to see the President in the White House for another four years.

Similar remarks were attributed to him on other occasions during his visit. On returning to Israel last week, Weizman responded to criticism there by saying that he spoke out of courtesy to the President who had just received him but made no endorsement.

Schindler said "Weizman's impetuous statement

is not only an inadmissible intrusion into the American political process; it will also be seen as an attempt to influence American friends of Israel — including the Jewish community — in their choice of President. This does injury to and jeopardizes support from — other Presidential candidates, many of whom have been strong advocates of Israel over many years, all of whom have now been publicly rejected by Israel's Minister of Defense.

Schindler pointed out that Israel has always enjoyed the support of both major parties in the U.S. and "all major aspirants for the Presidency." He urged Begin "to make clear to the American people that your government will observe the wise and time-honored tradition that the leaders of one democratic state are expected to assume a stance of strict neutrality in the elections of another." He said he would request the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, of which UAHC is a constituent member, to adopt a resolution along the lines of his message, urging strict neutrality in the Presidential elections.

The Reform leader said that he would hold the same position "no matter which candidate Mr. Weizman or any other Israeli Cabinet officer publicly supported for the Presidency." Schindler, however, had attacked Carter earlier, following the resignation of Andrew Young as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

Had Criticized Carter Before

On November 12, while participating in a dialogue at the biennial convention of the United Synagogue of America, he accused Carter of exploiting the American Jewish community for political reasons and declared that he would not work for the re-election of Carter whose handling of the Young affair he claimed, was a form of "political anti-Semitism."

Schindler added, "If Carter and (John) Connally (or declared candidate for the Republican Presidential nomination) confront each other (in the 1980 elections) I'll commit suicide." Connally had angered Jews by a speech in which he linked Middle East oil supplies to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Schindler's message to Begin recalled similar criticism of former Premier Yitzhak Rabin who, when he was Ambassador to Washington in 1972, allegedly publicly endorsed President Nixon for re-election.

MAPAM VOTES TO REMAIN IN ALIGNMENT

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6 (JTA) — Mapam ended its three day convention at Kfar Hammaccabiah by voting 483-301 in favor of continuing its alignment with the Labor Party. The delegates also adopted a resolution calling for closer ties between the two factions — meaning a greater input by Mapam in policy decisions — to be defined in a written agreement. It appeared, however, that failure to reach such an agreement would not dissolve the alignment.

The final decision represented a compromise between those elements in Mapam who want to strengthen the link with Labor and others who favored looser ties or wanted to keep the alignment alive only until the elections in 1981. The most outspoken opponent of the alignment was

Mapam veteran Chaika Grossman who said she was supported by the party's younger circles.

She conceded that she expressed a minority view but stressed that Mapam must preserve its distinctive ideology which is to the left of the Labor Party. She said that if Mapam went its separate way in the next elections, Labor would have to rely on it to form a coalition rather than on the National Religious Party.

The convention expressed opposition to further Jewish settlements on the West Bank and called for the immediate implementation of the Supreme Court's order to evacuate Elon Moreh. It also discussed the problem within Histadrut. The delegates said Likud is trying to reduce the Histadrut's scope and influence in the nation's economic activities.

Meir Talmi, Secretary General of Mapam, announced at the end of the convention that he was leaving his post after seven years. He is expected to be replaced by former Health Minister Victor Shemtov. President Yitzhak Navon attended the opening session of the convention. Also present was a delegation from the Rumanian Communist Party.

REPORT U.S. PREPARING BASE IN EGYPT

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6 (JTA) — Israel television claimed tonight that the United States is secretly preparing an air base in Egypt without either country informing Israel. According to the television's military commentator, this development is occurring at a time when Israel has announced its readiness to grant the U.S. air and naval facilities.

The Americans have been engaged in making a base placed at their disposal by the Egyptians ready for action, he said. The base would enable the U.S. to send troops to protect its vital interests in the Persian Gulf oil producing countries or Pakistan. Neither the U.S., considered a friend of Israel, nor Egypt, in the midst of a peace process with Israel, saw fit to inform Israel which had to learn about it from foreign sources, the commentator said.

He did not identify the foreign sources but observed that this development sheds light on the American political trend in the near future to base its policy on the Arab anti-Communist states. According to the commentator, that is why the U.S. rejected Israel's request for \$3.4 billion in military and economic aid in the next fiscal year and offered to add only \$200 million to the \$3 billion aid package over the next three years. There was no confirmation of the Israeli television report.

JEWISH WOMEN HONORED IN CANADA

OTTAWA, Jan. 6 (JTA) — Three Jewish women were among those named in the New Year's honors list of the Order of Canada announced by the Governor General Ed Schreyer. They are:

Barbara Frum of Toronto, a radio and television personality who comments on the news; Dr. Reva Gerstein of Toronto, psychologist and educator, and a former president of the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada; and Belle Ben-Gurion, who has been living as an expatriate in London where she has been closely involved in promoting the arts.

Reuben Cohen of Moncton, New Brunswick, a lawyer and financier, was named a Member of the Order.

NAZI HUNTER BEING REPLACED

By Rochelle Sidel-Wolk

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6 (JTA) -- Allan Ryan, a lawyer from the Solicitor General's office, will replace Walter Rockler as head of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) which is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of alleged Nazi war criminals in the United States. Rockler told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Ryan will join the OSI tomorrow as deputy director replacing Martin Mendelsohn. He will then take over the OSI when Rockler leaves March 31.

By this period of overlap there will be continuity in the OSI, Rockler said. "In my opinion, Ryan is a very bright and able guy, and I certainly recommended his coming aboard." Ryan has handled one Nazi case appealing a decision against the Justice Department's attempt to denaturalize Feodor Fedorenko in which the Fifth Circuit Court in New Orleans reversed the lower court decision and ordered Fedorenko to surrender his naturalization papers.

Before joining the Solicitor General's office, Ryan, who is in his 30s, was associated with Washington attorney Edward Bennett Williams. He had been a law clerk for U.S. Associate Supreme Court Justice Byron White.

Asked about the 37-year-old Mendelsohn's future, Rockler said that the former deputy director had been offered "certain options" by the Justice Department but had not yet made his decision.

Many Upset By Move

Meanwhile, many of those involved in urging the government to seek and deport Nazis now residing in the U.S. appeared upset by Mendelsohn's removal. There were reports that Assistant Attorney General Philip Heymann, who is in charge of the criminal division, replaced Mendelsohn because of a personality clash between the deputy director and Rockler. It was stressed that there was "no issue of any substance" dividing them.

Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-NY), chairperson of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and International Law, who has been leading the efforts to have the government more vigorously pursue alleged war criminals, said she had told Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti that she was strongly opposed to Mendelsohn's removal. "To remove him would seriously impair the effective functioning of the office and would send the wrong signals to the Federal courts and to foreign governments, which would see this as a sign that the U.S. is not really serious about these cases," she said.

The Harvard Jewish Law Students Association sent a mailgram to President Carter, Civiletti and Heymann expressing its "outrage" at Mendelsohn's ouster. Allen Wieder, the student association's president, declared that the group has "monitored" the OSI and "what has been accomplished to date is largely a reflection of Mr. Mendelsohn's skill, stamina and professionalism."

Wieder charged that "the loss of the litigation and management skills which Martin Mendelsohn has brought to his government service would severely impede OSI's progress when combined with the resultant destruction of the inter-

national goodwill which he has so carefully cultivated. His departure would almost surely cause a significant diminution in the pace of investigations. Time has been the Nazis' ally for too long, and additional delays can be ill-afforded."

JEWISH POETS AT WHITE HOUSE

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6 (JTA) -- Chaim Grade, the Yiddish poet who was scheduled to recite two poems at the White House reception for poets last Thursday night, became ill after driving from New York to Washington and was confined to his hotel room, unable to participate. His wife, Inna, who is a translator, recited the translations of two of his poems in his place. The poems, both on the Holocaust theme, were entitled "The Naked Little Boy" and "At the End of the Day." Her recitation was first greeted by stunned silence, followed by an outburst of applause. One member of the large audience, which stood in tribute, stated "my tears were more appropriate than applause."

The Grades are both American citizens. Mrs. Grade, a Russian emigre, received her citizenship in the 1950s under special Congressional legislation. She has testified at Congressional hearings about Soviet repression.

Grade's participation came about at the suggestion of Hyman Bookbinder, Washington representative for the American Jewish Committee, and was arranged in a few days. Bookbinder was a member of the audience for the readings. Other American Jewish poets who recited their poems included Karl Shapiro, Stanley Kunitz, David Ignatow, Ted Weiss and Philip Levine.

LOUIS HOLLANDER DEAD AT 87

NEW YORK, Jan. 6 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held last Friday for Louis Hollander, a national labor leader for more than 60 years, and a founder of ORT in the United States, who died last Thursday in the Workmen's Circle Home for the Aged in the Bronx at 87. From 1932 to 1976, he was a vice-president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, which he helped to found in 1914. He was New York State president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations from 1943 until its merger with the state American Federation of Labor in the late 1950s.

Hollander was a founder of ORT in the United States and a founder of the American Labor ORT in 1938. He helped found the American Labor Party and was elected a City Councilman from Brooklyn on that ticket. He was a union organizer and leader in the United States and Canada.

Born in Wadowice, in what was then known as Russian Poland, he came to New York with his family when he was 10 years old. At 19, he began organizing for the United Brotherhood of Tailors and getting his high school diploma at night while working 12-hour days.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The Israel Bond Organization produced a total of \$394.5 million in 1979 to help finance and advance the economic development of Israel, it was reported by Sam Rothberg, general chairman, and Michael Amon, outgoing president and chief executive officer of the organization. This represented an increase of \$24.7 million over \$369.8 million in 1978, Amon said.