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REPORT KHOMEINI REGIME IS TAKING OVER PROPERTY OF WEALTHY JEWS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- Kol Israel Radio said today that the regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini is confiscating the property of wealthy Iranian Jews worth many millions of dollars. According to the report, the property of 54 Jewish families was expropriated after they were charged with collaborating with the regime of the deposed Shah.

Among those to lose their property is a well-known Jewish industrialist who was formerly a member of the Iranian parliament, and the late Habib Elkhanian, a Jewish leader executed by the Islamic regime shortly after Khomeini came to power for alleged collaboration with the Shah and for maintaining contacts with Israel. The property of Elkhanian's sister was also confiscated, Kol Israel said. The radio reporter did not disclose the source of his information but said it was reliable.

DAYAN SAYS MIDEAST SITUATION IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN IMAGINED

By Barbie Zelizer

JERUSALEM, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- Former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said last night that the Mideast situation is more serious and potentially dangerous than that depicted in the press. Dayan spoke on the Israel television program "Moked."

Citing the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the turbulence in Iran as examples of the volatile Moslem world, Dayan noted that the situation is much more serious than one thinks. But, he added, he does not believe it will bring about a clash between the superpowers.

In that light, Dayan said "It is very very important for Israel to defuse its conflict with the Moslem world and making progress on the autonomy question would be one way of doing that." There "are a number of local problems," including autonomy, "whose quick solution would remove us from the circle of those in conflict with the Moslem world," he said.

The former Foreign Minister dismissed the view that the U.S. snubbed Israel by not informing Jerusalem of the decision to use air bases in Egypt. "The Americans can still be our friends" without telling us they have an air base at Kina," he observed.

In Dayan's view, the U.S. prefers to use bases in Egypt rather than Israel because they are thinking in terms of actions in the Moslem world. By using bases in Israel in order to realize such an aim, the U.S. would alienate Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, bases in Egypt are more centrally located than those in Israel.

Along with these observations, however, Dayan emphasized that if the U.S. were to need Israeli bases, Israel must answer such a request in the affirmative. If Israel were to refuse this request, we could no longer expect to receive American aid. Dayan also said he does not believe the idea of a strategic alliance between the U.S., Egypt and Israel is feasible. He believes the Americans will take military action in order to ensure their oil supplies.

CONGRESSMAN CLAIMS ARAFAT WILL NO LONGER ATTACK ISRAEL FROM LEBANON

By Barbie Zelizer

JERUSALEM, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- The leader of a U.S. Congressional delegation visiting the Middle East said here yesterday that Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat told them he would no longer attack Israel from Lebanon. Rep. Toby Moffett (D. Conn.), who is of Lebanese origin, also said there was "a case to be made" for Israel's retaliatory raids on Palestinian terrorist bases in south Lebanon.

At a meeting with Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres in the Knesset, Moffett said his group had met with Arafat in Beirut earlier this week to exchange views on the security of both Lebanon and Israel. "He (Arafat) pledged to keep his promise not to attack Israel anymore from Lebanon -- for whatever that is worth," Moffett said.

Says Israel Has Case For Retaliatory Raids

He said he and five other members of Congress on the study mission to the region were shown "the damage done by Israel in south Lebanon." He said "We can't fully understand yet what happened. Only Israel can fully understand how frustration can lead to retaliation. But we know there is a case to be made, that the Israeli actions did some good to the security situation."

Moffett also told Peres that he had warned Syrian President Hafez Assad in Damascus that the presence of his forces in Lebanon was wearing thin and that he had counseled the Syrian leader that the Lebanese central government should bring together all the groups without engaging the assistance of outsiders. Moffett added that his group felt that the role of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) should be expanded.

Peres said that Israel's policy in south Lebanon was "coordinated amicably with the national leadership in the north." He said Lebanon had always managed to preserve a delicate communal balance before the PLO upset the equilibrium. "Israel does not distinguish between Moslems and Christians, just between terrorists and those who keep the peace," Peres said. He noted further that the Labor Party sought a bi-national Jordanian-Palestinian solution to the problem of some 200,000 Arab refugees still living in camps in Lebanon.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA THE JEWS OF AFGHANISTAN

NEW YORK, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- It is said that there may have once been as many as 40,000 Jews living in Afghanistan. However, according to a report prepared by the American Joint Distribution Committee, there are today but a few families -- no more than 100 people -- and their whereabouts in the current situation are unknown. Most of the people lived in Kabul, some in Herat and there are reports of one remaining family in Balkh.

Some date the origins of the Jews of Afghanistan to the days of the First Temple and though that may be difficult to document there is ample evidence of later migrations into Afghanistan from southern Russia and from Persia. In the late 1870s thousands of Jews went from Herat to Persia to avoid a punitive war tax -- but as late as 1927 it was still possible to

count 60 distinct Jewish communities. In 1933, following the assassination of Nadir Shah, the Jews were driven from the countryside and concentrated in the municipal centers for safety. Another significant exodus from Afghanistan took place in 1944, a time of famine, and thousands more went into India — eventually going on to Palestine.

The establishment of the State of Israel brought a messianic fervor to the Jews of Afghanistan and an intense desire for aliya, though the government refused to allow them to leave. As late as 1950, when the Jewish population was estimated as being between 3000 to 8000, Jews paid an infidel tax and had to report for military service though they were not allowed to bear arms. Despite the prohibition on immigration the Jews did find their way out — family by family. Most came to Israel, some to the United States.

A JDC report received in 1971 described the situation at that time as follows: "The Jewish community is rapidly shrinking though there is no overt threat. In Kabul there are 25 to 27 families and about 25 in Herat One major area of difficulty is education. When the Jewish youngster reaches about eighth grade he frequently receives pressure from students and teachers to bring about conversion, therefore few finish high school and there are none in Kabul University."

The most recent JDC reports tell of 10 Jewish families in Kabul and a total of no more than 100 people throughout the country.

AUTONOMY ISSUE UNRESOLVED AT SUMMIT

ASWAN, Jan. 10 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat wound up their three-day summit meeting here with a joint press conference today at which both leaders acknowledged that they had failed to reach agreement on the issue of autonomy and how it might relate to Jerusalem. They reaffirmed, however, that the normalization of relations between Israel and Egypt will proceed according to the timetable laid down by their peace treaty.

Begin told reporters that postal and telephonic communications as well as civilian land, sea and air links would be opened between the two countries on Jan. 26, followed by the exchange of Ambassadors on Feb. 26.

Sadat reiterated that he intended to implement normalization in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the peace treaty. But he expressed disappointment over the impasse on autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "I would have hoped to make progress on the autonomy issue," he said. He added, "we still have time," indicating that more summit meetings will be needed. The peace treaty calls for the autonomy negotiations to be completed by May 26.

Begin told the press conference that he would consider Sadat's proposal to implement autonomy first in the Gaza Strip where the inhabitants are believed to be more amenable than on the West Bank. Egypt believes it still exerts some influence in that territory which it ruled until 1967. Begin said he would submit the suggestion to his Cabinet for consideration.

However, he was adamant in his rejection of Sadat's proposal that East Jerusalem be included in the autonomy plan, allowing its Arab residents to vote in the elections for the self-governing administrative council on the West Bank.

"I again told President Sadat that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel and is indivisible,"

Begin told reporters on his return to Israel this evening.

SITUATION OF RUMANIAN JEWS

NEW YORK, Jan. 10 (JTA) — Alfred Moses, American Jewish Committee national vice president, left last night for Rumania to participate in discussions with Rumanian officials on Jewish emigration from that country.

Moses played a key role in talks that led to emigration assurances from the Rumanian authorities last July, when Congress was considering whether to renew Most Favored Nation trade status for Rumania.

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations recommended MFN renewal in testimony before the House Trade Subcommittee on the basis of the positive Rumanian assurances to Jewish leaders.

Jewish emigration from Rumania had fallen off precipitously early in 1979, Moses reported. Only some 320 were able to depart for Israel in the first six months of the year, about half the already low 1978 rate. Movement picked up significantly after the July discussions with the Rumanian authorities, and some 1100 Jews left Rumania during 1979. While this was still below the 1978 total of 1200, departures in the last quarter of 1979 increased to about 150 a month, an annual rate of some 1800 should this pace continue.

Important changes in Rumanian procedure in dealing with emigration were instituted following last July's discussions, Moses noted. Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania made it known publicly that persons who wished to emigrate should register, and emigration lists were opened in early September.

Fortcoming conversations with the Rumanian authorities will turn on further implementation of the July assurances, Moses declared.

The assurances sought from the Rumanian authorities last July were intended to lighten procedural obstacles to departure and thus allow for greater movement. A major obstacle, Moses noted, still existing is the fact that even after a would-be emigrant is issued a passport by the Rumanian authorities, he still must go through a discouraging pre-application process before he can request a visa.

ATTACKS ON JEWISH PLACES DISCUSSED

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 10 (JTA) — New York Police Commissioner Robert McGuire said today that attacks against Jewish synagogues and other Jewish establishments in the city as well as crimes committed against Jews here do not have an "anti-Semitic pattern" to them. "These are sporadic, isolated anti-Semitic incidents," McGuire told a luncheon meeting with members of the New York Jewish press at police headquarters.

McGuire also said, in response to a question, that the police department does not see at the present any "formal evidence of a Ku Klux Klan revival in the city." As for increased safety and protection in Jewish and other neighborhoods in the city, the Commissioner conceded that the police lack personnel to respond adequately to the needs. He called for "active civic involvement" by members of the Jewish community to help protect their neighborhoods and houses of worship. "We've got to get more citizens involved" in these communal activities, he said.

WASHINGTON (JTA) — President Carter has designated Abraham Katz of Hollywood, Fla., as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for International Policy, a new position. Katz, a specialist in Soviet affairs, has been Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce since last year.

FOCUS ON ISSUES ZION AT THE APOGEE

By Solly Press

JOHANNESBURG, Jan. 10 (JTA) — At the start of 1980 Israel is well-advanced in the peace process with Egypt, a country representing half the Arabic-speaking world. Yet Egypt, in the words of the Cairo scholar, Dr. Hussein Fawzi, is not of the Arab people.

In the course of a recent talk at Haifa, Fawzi remarked that the Egyptian people could not go along with Gamal Abdel Nasser's attempt to merge the North Africans with the Arabs. According to Fawzi, the Egyptians own view of themselves is that they are in fact "Pharaonic and hence non-Arab."

Though this has been known by Middle East scholars, the public declaration by an Egyptian of Fawzi's stature is significant and has far-reaching implications. It helps to explain Egypt's ability to live without membership in the Arab League. But it also raises questions about the Arabness of, say, the Palestine Liberation Organization leadership, many of whom are regarded as Egyptian — including Yasir Arafat — by, for example, the American authority and researcher, Thomas Kiernan.

Jews have their own debates on identity to exercise them, and Israel is less interested in the complexities of "Who is an Arab" than it is in extending the current peace process to the rest of the Arabic-speaking world, particularly to the Arab countries in Asia. At present, the latter comprise the heart of the rejectionist front.

This rejectionism seems to be still a function of their hate/fear syndrome vis-a-vis the Jewish, democratic Israel, whom they regard as a "threat" to their own totalitarian failings and as a "bad" example for the Arab masses. For a generation Israel has been depicted by the Asian-Arabs as more dangerous than the superpowers and their rivalries.

Had Welcomed Zionism And Zionists

The last thing the rejectionists would like to be reminded of is the fact that, a mere two generations ago, they were the ones to welcome Zionism and Zionists to what they, the Asian Arabs themselves, termed the Jewish "land of their fathers."

At that time, the pan-Arabs were led by the Hashemites, an aristocratic group who — to do them justice — saw the benefits of bringing together what they called the "Jewish Arabs, the Christian Arabs, and the Muslim Arabs." Regrettably, on the other hand, the Hashemites thought in terms of empire rather than Common Market regionalism.

Those Arab fatherlanders — in a sense the Hovevei Zion of pan-Arabism — wanted neither Egyptians, nor Turks as part of the future Arab scheme of things. Indeed, as Nejjib al Azoury observed in 1905, the Egyptians were to be excluded "because they do not belong to the Arab people; they are of the African Berber (Hamitic or Moorish) family; and the language they spoke before Islam bears no similarity to Arabic."

All this is unlikely to be news to a modern Egyptian like Fawzi, or to President Anwar Sadat for that matter. But it does raise the question, at least, of Barbary's age-long contribution to the culture and politics of Araby. And Israel, being on the borders of Africa and Asia, has a special

stake in peace between Araby and Barbary.

Earlier Peace Treaty Recalled

Realists as well as romantics will recognize the poignant element in the current strains and stresses of Israeli-Egyptian peace-making when it is realized that Israel Defense Minister Ezer Weizmann's uncle, Chaim Weizmann, achieved a peace treaty with the then-leader of the pan-Arabic Hashemites, the Emir (later King of Iraq) Feisal bin Hussein, the great-uncle of Jordan's King Hussein, two generations ago. That was in 1919.

That agreement consisted of nine articles, introduced by sentiments such as "the ancient bonds existing between the Arabs and the Jewish people," and underscored by the realization that "the surest means of working out the consummation of their national aspirations is through the closest possible collaboration in the development of the Arab state (to be) and (then-British ruled) Palestine."

The Feisal-Weizmann pact's articles speak of accredited agents being exchanged, of definite boundaries, of mutual guarantees, of stimulating Jewish immigration "as quickly as possible," of freedom of religion, of protecting holy places, of economic surveys, of accord and harmony, and of mutually agreed arbitration.

The spirit of this agreement was exemplified by the remarks of the Syrian pan-Arab moderate, Chaghi Ganem, who stated that the Arabs had suffered too much like the Jews, not to "throw open to them the doors of Palestine." Even though Ganem thought of linking Syria and Jewish Palestine through federation, which is not a true regionalist solution, how different that all sounded to today's "heirs" of pan-Arabism — the Baathists with their anti-Christian, anti-Jewish principles and neo-imperial charter.

(At the height of their power the pro-Hashemite pan-Arabs were in the ascendant in the Hejaz, Jordan, momentarily in Syria and in Iraq until 1958. The pan-Arab Baathists today dominate Syria and Iraq and attempt to play a role in North and South Yemen, elsewhere in the peninsula; and in Eritrea across the Red Sea, and of course in Lebanon.)

The Dream Did Not Die

The dream of an Israeli-Arab Asian peace did not die, notwithstanding the eclipse of the Hashemite-led pan-Arabs, the results of the Anglo-French Sykes-Picot Treaty (first made public by Leon Trotsky), the Axis interlude in the Mideast, the intra-Arab divisions, and of course the later superpower rivalry across the region. Thus British Cabinet Minister Richard Crossman wrote in the "New Statesman" of the potential cooperation among "fifty million Semites."

In the time of Israeli Premier Moshe Sharett and his Lebanese counterpart, President Charles Habib Malik, talk was heard of Israel joining the Arab League via a regional defense pact. Yet the Middle East, being the region it is, took the unexpected turn in the form of the Israeli-Egyptian peace process.

From a regional point of view, Zion is at the apogee of peace-making with her neighbors. The potential for disintegration may be a more powerful factor in international relations than is the integrative impulse, but cooperation also with Arab Asia cannot be excluded forever.

Hope dare not be lost for Zion to draw the full circle — to reactivate the abiding terms of the Weizmann-Feisal pact of 60 years ago. Whether Israel ultimately joins the Arab League or, with also non-Arab neighbors gets drawn together with the

region by way of the European Economic Community's Mediterranean policy, or in the shape of an entirely new Mideastern regional organization -- it is regionalism which remains the overriding, the weightiest of priorities.

Whatever the tactics of peacemaking, the regional strategy is unquestionably more salient than spending political time on Arafat's terrorists. After all, West European leaders did not build the EEC by first waiting for the Bader-Meinhoff terrorist question to be resolved. Afghanistan is a terrible reminder of the real issues involved.

B'NAI B'RITH LODGE AWARDS TO BEGIN AND SADAT FOR PEACE MOVES

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- The John F. Kennedy Lodge of B'nai B'rith awarded plaques to President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin in recognition of their achievements, for peace in the Middle East. They were the first non-American recipients since the awards were established in 1965, a year after the JFK Lodge was founded in memory of President Kennedy by members of his administration.

The plaques were accepted on behalf of the two leaders by Egyptian Ambassador Ashraf Ghorbal and Israel Ambassador Ephraim Evron at a program Tuesday night at Or Kodesh Congregation in suburban Maryland, attended by 700 people. Former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg was the principal speaker. A telegram of congratulations was received from Sen. Edward Kennedy (D.Mass.), brother of the late President.

Sees Beginning Of New Era

Ghorbal referred in his remarks to the impending exchange of Ambassadors between Egypt and Israel next month. "We thus witness the ushering in of a new era of real peace as well as peaceful relations between Egypt and Israel," he said. He called the exchange of Ambassadors "the culminating point so far" in Egyptian-Israeli relations. "Let it be a point of departure for a better and more profound understanding of each other, let it be the beginning of a new effort to achieve peace between Israel and all of its neighbors," Ghorbal said.

However, he added, "No peace can be readily achieved in the Middle East without satisfying the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. They have, as any other people in the world -- as Israel, as Egypt, as others -- the right to enjoy freedom, independence and a bright future. Let us help them exercise a full and genuine autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza as a first step toward realization of their ultimate objective -- self-determination."

A Turning Point In Mideast History

Responding, Evron expressed confidence that the Egyptian-Israeli Treaty has opened the door to a new era in the Middle East. He said he had no doubt that the treaty is only the beginning of a process to which other Arab countries will adhere. He called it a turning point in the history of the region which has been torn by war for decades.

Apparently in reference to Ghorbal's statement about self-determination for the Palestinians, Evron observed that one of the most important elements of the peace-making is to scrupulously observe all the clauses of the Egyptian-

Israeli treaty. Evron said that "self-determination" is not an issue and is not mentioned in the peace treaty. He said that what is an issue is the formulation of the autonomy arrangements for the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza.

JEWISH EDITORS ON ISRAEL STUDY MISSION

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- More than 40 American Jewish newspaper publishers and editors will participate in a one-week "Israel '80" study mission whose primary purpose is to examine "the impact of peace on Israel," it was announced by Frank Wundohl, editor of the Jewish Exponent and president of the American Jewish Press Association (AJPA), who will lead the mission. The mission will leave from Kennedy Airport in New York Jan. 14.

"This is the largest and most important contingent of American Jewish journalists ever to participate as an AJPA unit in an Israel study mission," Wundohl said. "It represents 24 of the 70-member AJPA newspapers and magazines which have a combined circulation of three million. The mission will also be joined by Joseph Polakoff, the Washington bureau chief of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency which serves the American Jewish press." In Israel the mission will be joined by English, Australian, Canadian and South African Jewish journalists.

During the week-long program at its base, the Jerusalem Plaza Hotel, and in its tours of the country, the study mission members will engage in seminar discussions and hold press conferences devoted to Israel's defense and economic needs and problems and will also concern itself with the important issues of aliyah, settlement, politics, world Jewry, West Bank autonomy and the Palestinians, Wundohl said. The mission will also discuss and plan the formation of the English language section of the World Federation of Jewish Journalists, Wundohl added.

The mission, which will be addressed by Premier Menachem Begin and other prominent government, Zionist and political personalities, resulted from a direct invitation to Wundohl by Moshe Ron, Secretary General of the World Federation of Jewish Journalists whose headquarters is at Beit Sokolov in Tel Aviv. The Federation will be the host to the AJPA mission members.

UJA 1979 COLLECTIONS TOP \$280 MILLION

NEW YORK, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- Final figures released by the United Jewish Appeal indicate that total cash collected during the calendar year 1979 was \$280,058,162, it was announced by UJA national cash chairman Edgar Cadden. This figure represents an increase of almost \$3 million over 1978 totals.

Cadden praised all communities for their contribution to this "remarkable achievement in a most difficult year," but noted that, "unfortunately, this increased amount falls short of meeting current needs. Actual cash transmitted to the Jewish Agency in Israel was less than in the previous year, because of increased allocations to JDC (Joint Distribution Committee), HIAS, and NYANA (New York Association for New Americans) necessitated by our increased rescue efforts on behalf of Soviet Jews, and the Jews of North Africa and the Middle East. The combined effects of increased immigration and the devaluation of the dollar at home and in Israel have been devastating."

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres Wednesday denied a report in the Washington Star alleging that he was invited by King Hussein of Jordan to discuss a possible settlement of the West Bank issue.