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BEGIN WARNS THAT SYRIA MAY TRY TO ATTACK ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin said today that Syria may try to attack Israel because of internal problems in Damascus. However, he told a group of Conservative members of the British Parliament meeting with him in the Knesset, that Israel was watching the situation closely and was ready for any eventualities.

Begin said that following President Hafez Assad's recent visit to Moscow, Syria received "gigantic" amounts of weapons from the Soviet Union. He said that thousands of Russians have arrived in Syria, ostensibly as advisors. The arm shipments, he said, included MIG-25 fighters and T-72 tanks. "We are prepared," the Israeli Premier said. "We are not frightened by such threats but we would like to have complete peace on all borders."

Similar comments were exchanged over the weekend between the British visitors and senior army officers of the northern command. One of the latter suggested that a possible motive for Syria engaging in war with Israel was Assad's desire to jeopardize the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. The officer said that as the time approached for the two countries to exchange ambassadors, Syria's wish to impede the relations between them increased.

He observed that the eastern front -- Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia -- was not organized at present. But Iraq might pour forces close to the Israeli border. In that case, he said, Israel will not be able to permit herself "the luxury" of allowing Iraqi divisions on her border.

The British delegation of 20 members of Parliament began their second week in Israel today. They have already toured the West Bank and Gaza Strip and visited one of the airfields in Sinai that Israel is slated to evacuate next year. They also toured the Golan Heights. The delegates brought a message from Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher "to the people of Israel" expressing her wishes for peace and prosperity.

ISRAEL CONDEMNS SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 14 (JTA) — Israel sharply condemned the Soviet invasion and occupation of Afghanistan and declared that it shared "the apprehensions" of the international community over Russia's military intervention in a neighboring state.

In remarks prepared for delivery to the General Assembly late this afternoon, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Yehuda Blum, declared that "This massive and naked aggression has far-reaching implications which threaten the fundamental balance of the international system. Beyond that," he said, "Israel's concerns are even more immediate, specific and concrete. We are part of the geographical region into which the Soviet Union has marched so rudely and brutally."

The Israeli envoy noted that Israel is part of a region which has been "vulnerable for dec-

ades to the expansionist designs of the Soviet Union. Our region has withstood the brutality and callousness of the Soviet Union as it seeks to further its expansionist aims."

Continuing, Blum declared: "Experience shows that when it suits the Soviet Union, it does not hesitate to violate the most elementary norms of conduct among nations or to place twisted and arbitrary constructions on the Charter of the United Nations and its Purposes and Principles. When the Soviet Union's imperialistic and hegemonistic ambitions are concerned, it is prepared to ride shamelessly and rough-shod over any state which is in its way."

Israel's condemnation of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was one of many by member states since the debate on the Afghanistan crisis began in the General Assembly last Thursday. The General Assembly is expected to vote this afternoon and adopt a resolution condemning the Soviet incursion into Afghanistan.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA TOP PRESIDENTIAL AIDE SAYS ISRAEL, EGYPT ARE IMPORTANT PARTNERS TO U.S. DUE TO EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN, IRAN

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 14 (JTA) — A top aide to President Carter praised Israel for returning the Sinai oilfields to Egypt, calling it "an act of statesmanship that has been given too little recognition in an oil-starved world."

David Aaron, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, told the annual assembly of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) here yesterday that as a result of the revolution in Iran and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Israel and Egypt have become "important new partners to America's efforts to stabilize the Middle East."

Aaron noted that "Israel is now -- and long will be -- a close friend and partner in the Middle East. It is politically, strategically and morally important to us and that will continue to be true." The White House official, who is a key aide to National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, cautioned, however, that Israel faced "especially difficult" choices in the West Bank-Gaza negotiations with Egypt.

But, he said, he was confident that the autonomy talks between Cairo and Jerusalem would succeed. He disclosed that Sol Linowitz, President Carter's special Ambassador to the Middle East, would fly to the region later this month to follow up on the Begin-Sadat summit and urge the negotiations on to new progress.

U.S. Will Not Negotiate With PLO

Aaron deplored the fact that the Camp David process was "rejected by virtually all Arab countries in the Middle East" and that the "threat to Israel continues." He said the U.S. would "neither negotiate with or recognize the PLO until and unless it takes two specific steps: it must recognize the right of Israel to exist and it must accept UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the basis for all Middle East peace efforts."

Moreover, the Presidential aide said, "acceptance by the PLO of 242 and 338 should be regarded as only a stepping-off point with respect to negotiations. It should not be regarded as the 'ultimate' PLO concession." He added, "It is time -- past time -- for the PLO to cease all acts of terrorism against

Israel."

Aaron said "We also believe that the creation of an independent Palestinian state would not contribute to peace in the Middle East." With respect to military support for "moderate" Arab states such as Saudi Arabia and Jordan, he said U.S. arms sales should continue "because we don't want them turning to the Soviet Union." However, he added, "we will not in any way jeopardize Israel's security with our arms policy."

Future Of Israel's Security

At another session yesterday, Theodore Mann, president of the NJCRAC, discussed the status of the Jewish community in America and abroad in the context of events in the Middle East. Mann observed, in his presidential address to the 400 delegates, that "Israel's security and future depend as much on what occurs in Iran and the rest of the Islamic world in the years ahead as on the outcome of the current peace negotiations. Soviet Jewry's future depends as much or more on the nature of the relationship between the two great superpowers than on what we or Israel can do for them or they can do for themselves."

Mann said "Our own future as an American Jewish community depends as much on America's future and its ability to influence the course of events in Islam and in that entire chaotic section of the globe as on our ability to transmit successfully our heritage."

The American Jewish leader praised the Administration's policies in the current crises in Iran and Afghanistan. "If our nation's friends and adversaries alike conclude that there are virtually no circumstances in which America will use its might, we will have moved a step backward, not forward, in our efforts to bring peace and freedom to this battered world," he said. "That is why the two-track approach of our government -- uncommon restraint on the use of power in Iran and the escalating use of power in the Afghanistan crisis -- is an approach that commends itself to Americans."

POLITICAL OVERTONES SEEN IN JORDAN'S MOVE TO REACTIVATE ITS PASSPORT OFFICES ON WEST BANK, EAST JERUSALEM

By Barbie Zelizer

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- The Jordanian government has reactivated its passport offices on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem that have been closed for the last 12 years. The action is the latest in a series of small moves that are technical in nature but have political implications. One senior official here has interpreted them as "an attempt to strengthen Jordan's position" in the Israel-administered territories.

So far, Israeli authorities have turned "a blind eye" to these developments. It was learned, however, that a senior government body -- apparently the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem -- discussed the passport office plan and decided not to oppose it.

In practical terms, the Jordanian move means that a regular "diplomatic mail route" will be opened between the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Amman. Residents of those areas will be able to send their passports to the Jordanian capital for renewal by the Interior Ministry there. Until now, they have had to make the journey to Amman themselves or pay a courier.

The passport offices will begin to function within the next few weeks. They will operate out

of the chambers of commerce or municipality offices in West Bank towns and the Chamber of Commerce in East Jerusalem. Officials there will be authorized to handle the passports of any resident. This will make it easier for West Bankers to maintain their Jordanian credentials, a service that has political implications.

The passport officials who have been on the Jordanian payroll since 1967, although they ceased to function after the Israeli occupation, seem to agree that some political motivation is involved. One official said that while he and his colleagues would not defy their employers in Amman, they would resume their work only if West Bank leaders agreed. He said it was up to the mayors and other acknowledged leaders to decide.

The Jordanian government recently instructed customs officers and lawyers in its employ on the West Bank to resume their work which was suspended in 1967. It was not clear what duties the customs officers are expected to perform.

SAUL HAYES DEAD AT 73

MONTREAL, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- A funeral service for Saul Hayes, the former executive vice president of the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) and a leader of Canadian Jewry for some 40 years, will be held at the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue here Wednesday. He died last Saturday night at his home in Saint Adele, Quebec, at the age of 73.

Hayes' direction of the CJC coincided in time with the late Samuel Bronfman's presidency of the organization and the two worked closely together. Hayes left a law practice in 1938 to become director of the Jewish Refugee Committee which later became the United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies, the Canadian agency for the Joint Distribution Committee and other international relief agencies. In 1942, he also became CJC executive director, a title that was later changed to executive vice president.

Before his retirement as CJC executive vice president in 1974, Hayes led every major effort of the Jewish community in Canada. This included the war effort and the relief work afterwards. He was the sole representative of Canadian Jewry at the peace conference in Paris in 1946.

A Fighter For Many Causes

Hayes directed the fight against anti-Semitism in Canada. He helped reverse the Canadian government's anti-Semitic policy in the 1930s and was instrumental in having the government adopt laws against racial and religious discrimination both on a national and provincial level.

Hayes fought against the Canadian government's closed-door policy toward Jewish immigration and organized the largest Jewish immigration to Canada with the result that some 30,000 Jews came here between 1947 and 1952. He helped to develop Jewish education in Quebec, where all schools are operated along religious lines, to the point where the provincial government today bears most of the financial burden for the Jewish schools.

Hayes organized the Israel Bond Organization in Canada, Canadian investment in Israel and the fight against Arab propaganda in Canada. After his retirement he continued as legal counsel to the CJC and remained active with the CJC's Archives which he had helped organize.

Born in Montreal on May 28, 1906, he received his bachelor's, master's and law degrees from McGill University which has also awarded him an honorary degree. He was appointed to the Order of Canada, the country's highest distinction, in 1974.

Alan Rose, who succeeded Hayes as executive vice president, said that the death of Hayes "was a great loss, not just to Montreal but to the nation. Hayes had led an active life right up to his death. He was a consultant and statesman for all of us, drawing on his vast experiences in the national and international affairs to give advice when needed."

MOFFETT DESCRIBES CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VISIT TO THE MIDEAST

Says Meeting With Arafat Had Been 'Unscheduled' By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 (JTA) — Rep. Toby Moffett (D. Conn.) said today that he hoped Lebanon could be salvaged with the help of the U.S., but that "You can't begin to put Lebanon together again until there is some solution to the Palestinian problem, at least addressing the Palestinian problem in a serious way."

Moffett spoke at a press conference about his recent visit to the Middle East as the head of a Congressional delegation "to look at the situation in Lebanon in light of what has happened there in the last 5-6 years." The group met with leaders of Israel and Syria as well as Lebanon and with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat.

Moffett stressed that the meeting with Arafat had been unscheduled and was not approved by House Speaker Thomas O'Neill (D. Mass.), who had authorized the visit or by the State Department. But Moffett remarked, in the course of his press conference, "I have always thought the policy of not talking to the PLO is ill-advised."

The delegation consisted of Moffett and Reps. Nick Joe Rahall (D. W. Va.) and Mary Rose Oakar (D. Ohio), all of whom are of Lebanese descent. They were accompanied by three other members of the House. Moffett indicated he would make a more detailed report on his mission to Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Two-Hour Meeting With Arafat

He said that in his group's two-hour meeting with Arafat, "we were very adamant about violence and non-violence and trying to make him understand not only the obvious, terrible aspects of violence and terrorism but implications with regard to U.S. policy and the effect that has upon American politicians here and what stands they are willing to take."

He said the group reminded Arafat that he had made a promise at an Arab summit meeting in Tunis that he would not launch raids on Israel from Lebanese soil. "We urged him to keep that promise and Arafat said 'we will,'" Moffett reported. He said the group also urged the PLO chief not to launch attacks on Israel from any other country and quoted Arafat as saying, "We don't intend to." Moffett added, however, "There are many people who are skeptical of these promises."

He reported an exchange with Arafat on recognition of Israel. He said Arafat asked, "Which Israel do you want me to accept, 1948 Israel, 1967 Israel or 1973 Israel?" Moffett said, "Why don't we start with 1967 Israel," to which Arafat replied, according to the Congressman, "If I do that then they will throw me crumbs as in the Camp David accords as far as Palestinian autonomy is concerned." Moffett said his group met with Arafat at a secret headquarters to which they were escorted by armed guards.

Moffett said he favored expanding the area

of Lebanon under the control of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) which would bring it to the Lebanese-Israeli border, thereby eliminating the Christian militia headed by Maj. Saad Haddad. "The Israelis are somewhat skeptical if not paranoid about that plan," he said. He said Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman told him that Israel approved strengthening President Elias Sarkis and the Lebanese central government.

Moffett said he saw a contradiction in this "coming from the same people who are aiding Haddad." He said the Israelis arranged a meeting for him with Haddad which was also held in a secret place and which, like the one with Arafat, was not approved by O'Neill or the State Department. He said he did not want to confer any legitimacy on the Christian militia leader but thought it was important to meet with him. He said Weizman assured him, "If there are no terrorist attacks from Lebanon you won't find us bombing."

The group also visited the Golan Heights and the West Bank. Moffett said with respect to the former, "I don't see any way Israel could give that back. Perhaps some international area can be made there. That might be a possibility." He said he had warned Israelis that "their settlement policy (on the West Bank) is a disaster in terms of public relations in the U.S." He deplored the "total gap" between West Bank intellectuals who he met and the Israelis. "They are not communicating with each other in any way," he said.

Moffett emphasized that he was relating "tentative conclusions" gleaned from his mission and thought that some good was accomplished by it.

BAKER: ISRAEL IS RELIABLE SOURCE OF STRENGTH FOR THE U.S. IN THE MIDEAST

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 14 (JTA) — Sen. Howard Baker (R. Tenn.), who is seeking the Republican Presidential nomination, told a group of Jewish leaders here today that Israel is "the one reliable source of strength" for the United States in the Middle East and it is essential, for reasons of national security, that America continue its support of Israel.

Reiterating his dedication to a secure and strong Jewish State, Baker, the Senate minority leader, who addressed a meeting sponsored by the American Jewish Committee at A.J. Committee headquarters, said that in his view the crises in Iran and Afghanistan underline "the importance of Israel to vital American national interests." He added: "The relationship of necessity between Israel and America is now greater than ever."

Declaring that the United States should "convince" the world that it is willing to protect its vital interests in the Mideast, Baker said Israel should become the "linchpin" of American strategy in the Mideast.

After the meeting was over Baker was asked by reporters if he favors the transfer of the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He said that although he recognizes Jerusalem to be Israel's capital he is not prepared to call for the transfer of the Embassy because the move "will create complications for both the United States and Israel."

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Theodore Maimon, the Los Angeles physicist who built and operated the world's first laser machine in 1960; believes that he is a descendant of the Rambam, the 12th Century Jewish sage Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon, also known as Maimonides. He confided this to the town clerk in Tiberias who escorted him on a tour of the town, site of the Rambam's tomb.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW NEW TASKS FOR AGUDAT ISRAEL

By Barbie Zelizer

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- The world movement of Agudat Israel intends to assume a more central position in Jewish life and cultivate the response it feels exists among the grass roots population, an American leader of the Orthodox movement said here: Rabbi Menachem Lubinsky, director of government and public affairs of Agudat Israel of America, also believes the Aguda will seek to further ties with the secular Jewish community.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Lubinsky, who was here attending the Sixth World Congress of Agudat Israel which ended last night, said the conference was "more color than substance." But, he believes the participants will return home from the conference with an enhanced sense of the growing strength of Agudat Israel. Some 30,000 persons attended the congress which began last Monday. Some 2000 delegates came from abroad, including 1000 from 20 cities in the United States.

"Orthodox Jewry is strong and is on the upward trend," Lubinsky said. "We have a responsive ear among the grass roots population. We only have to reach them." Declaring that Aguda members now want to create bridges with the secular community, he stressed that it is imperative that the movement show secular Jews "it is possible to be both Orthodox and human at the same time."

Adopt A Series Of Resolutions

In that light, following 12 different committee meetings, the congress passed a series of resolutions designed to decrease the gap between the Orthodox and secular communities. These included: a call to curb lavish spending, especially for weddings, so that the less affluent do not feel the pressure to emulate such extravagance, support for a fund to help impoverished large families and a request that the Israel government and the community at large undertake new social welfare programs on their behalf, and a call for new philanthropic support by the Jewish community for Jewish education.

The congress also voted to fight new efforts by the Reform and Conservative movements to gain recognition in Israel; intensify programs against assimilation and intermarriage; work for legislation to amend the Law of Return which would recognize only those conversions performed according to halacha; and rejected the suggestion by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations president Rabbi Alexander Schindler that a child from a Jewish father also be recognized as Jewish even if the mother is not Jewish, since this is contrary to halacha.

In its resolution to "reach out to the Jewish masses," the conference also announced a new "adopt a family" scheme in which Orthodox Jews would be required to introduce an uncommitted Jewish family to Orthodox Judaism. Based on a pilot program which proved successful in the United States, movement members hope it will result in stronger ties between the two groups and in the return of many secular Jews to "authentic Judaism," Lubinsky noted.

The task, however, he conceded, will not be an easy one. For the most part, Agudat Israel is little understood by the public, a large segment of which regards its aloofness and in-fighting

with little care or interest. This situation, conceded Lubinsky, is in part the fault of the movement itself, in that it is often reluctant to explain its case to the press.

Explaining Position To Secular Jews

In order to correct the misunderstandings rife among the general public, the Aguda movement pledged to intensify its efforts to explain its stand to secular Jews. Lubinsky added that efforts will also be made to counteract the aura of aloofness which has accompanied the movement for so long.

The question, however, is whether the movement can unite itself sufficiently beyond the differing factions to coherently being its case to secular Jewry. Lubinsky, for one, is optimistic.

"Not all Orthodox are alike," he noted. "Although I expected the politicizing to undermine this conference, it failed to do so. And this is a positive sign. What people fail to understand is that the only place where the Orthodox find common ground is within the ranks of Agudat Israel." This, he contended, is what the general public must be shown.

Resolutions On Political Situation

The congress also adopted a series of resolutions dealing with political issues. These expressed concern that the new open borders between Israel and Egypt would stimulate assimilation and intermarriage for Israeli Jews; urged the Soviet Union to respect the Helsinki agreement with respect to the reunification of families; and called on the USSR to release Prisoners of Conscience, particularly Yosef Mendelovich who is an Orthodox Jew.

One resolution reaffirmed "Jewish sovereignty over all of Eretz Yisrael as is outlined in the Bible," and added: "The Jewish people's right to the Land of Israel is based on the Torah which fully delineates its borders. There is no force in the world that can deny us of this right." The Council of Torah Sages, however, decided not to take up the question of the return of the West Bank "at this delicate juncture in the peace process." The Council decided to take up the issue at some future time, presumably when the fate of the West Bank would be decided in the autonomy talks between Israel and Egypt.

The conclave elected Rabbi Moshe Sherer from New York as a co-chairman of the International Agudat Israel movement. Sherer is the president of Agudath Israel of America. Rabbi Yehuda Meir Abramowitz, a member of the Knesset and deputy chairman of the Knesset, was also elected co-chairman.

Meanwhile, the congress ended without Premier Menachem Begin addressing the delegates as he was expected to do. He wrote a letter to the congress warmly greeting Agudat Israel and explained that he could not come because of his heavy Cabinet schedule. However, according to some sources, Begin stayed away from the congress in a silent protest against the failure of the Aguda leaders to invite President Yitzhak Navon.

Aguda spokesmen lambasted what they claimed was the distorted coverage of their convention by the Israeli press. However, a spokesman admitted that neither Aguda nor the press here had done much to cultivate the other. For example, Aguda barred women reporters from the convention hall, although they were allowed to view the proceedings via closed circuit television. However, not all women reporters could get tickets even for this. The spokesmen also denied that the failure to invite Navon was intended as a snub. Rising before the President, they noted, would be against the principles of the Aguda movement.