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BEGIN 'AYS EVENTS' IN AFGHANISTAN SHOW DANGER OF USSR IN THE MIDEAST

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16 (JTA) — The lesson of Afghanistan for Israel is that a Palestinian state would lead to a direct Soviet presence in the Middle East, Premier Menachem Begin told the Knesset today. Begin also reported to the Knesset on his meetings last week with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Aswan. He said Israel and Egypt were agreed regarding the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, which he termed as "one of the most serious events of the area." (See related analysis P. 4.)

On the relations with Egypt, Begin said normalization was proceeding satisfactorily. The Israeli-Egyptian military committee would decide this week on the crossing points between the two countries, and next week the matter of air and communications contacts would be worked out, he said.

The link between the events in Afghanistan and Iran and the negotiations in the Mideast were also discussed today by Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin. Referring to recent comments by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance that Israel could help the U.S. by speeding up the solution of the Palestinian problem, Yadin criticized him for linking the two issues which, Yadin said, were completely separate.

"To connect that with the Israeli-Egyptian bilateral problems is a wrong way to exert pressure," Yadin told the Voice of Israel. "We should continue our negotiations with Egypt as if nothing happens in the region. We should try to help wherever we can, as if we have no problems in the negotiations with Egypt."

750,000 ISRAELIS URGE, IN EFFECT, THAT THE GOLAN HEIGHTS BE ANNEXED

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin reacted cautiously today to a petition signed by 750,000 Israelis, including 70 Knesset members, calling in effect for the annexation of the Golan Heights. He told a delegation of Golan settlers who brought the petition to him that it would have to be taken into account by any Israeli government.

But Begin stopped short of making any commitment to implement the petition which claims that the Golan Heights is an integral part of Israel. However, he said it was an "historic event" that such a large number of citizens and Knesset members had signed it. In recent days, the Premier has warned several times that Syria may be preparing for war with Israel.

Some of the delegates demanded the immediate annexation of the Golan Heights which have been occupied by Israel since 1967. A Druze MK, Kamal Nasser A-Din of Likud, claimed it would be impossible to defend Israel if even one meter of the Golan was returned to Syria. A small portion of the Heights, including its largest city, Kuneitra, was returned to Syria under the 1975 disengagement agreement.

RABIN ASSESSES RECENT MIDEAST EVENTS

PARIS, Jan. 16 (JTA) — Former Israeli

Premier Yitzhak Rabin warned here that the Middle East and the adjacent area have become a focal point in the East-West struggle. He said that the Soviet Union is using local conflicts and social unrest to try and topple a number of regimes and eventually control the flow of oil to West Europe, Japan and the United States.

The former Premier told a press conference yesterday that the ultimate Soviet aim might be setting up pro-Soviet regimes in Saudi Arabia and Iran. Rabin said America's main task now should be to increase its political credibility and create a political environment which would bar the way to Communist subversion and a possible takeover in Saudi Arabia.

He said that Jordan is also potentially endangered and called on Israel and the United States to change their policies and enable King Hussein to join the current peace-making process.

Rabin, who is on a three-day fund-raising tour of France, said that what the Middle East needs is "a political answer to its problems." He said that America and Israel can supply part of the solution. "Washington should look to Jordan as a key partner in the (peace) negotiations and we, Israel, should give back (to Jordan) parts of the West Bank in the context of a peace agreement." Such a change of policy, Rabin said, would enable Hussein to join the peace talks.

The former Premier stressed that the solution to the Palestinian problem passes through an autonomy status for the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. He ruled out, however, an Israeli withdrawal to the pre-1967 armistice lines and a partition of Jerusalem. He also ruled out the creation of a Palestinian state and negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization which he described as "a Kremlin stooge."

Rabin, who is the guest of the French United Jewish Appeal, will address meetings in Paris and confer with local community leaders. He is due to leave Friday for Geneva. (By Edwin Eytan)

AFL-CIO LEADER SAYS AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO PREVENT EROSION OF SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 16 (JTA) — Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO, said here last night that his organization would do "all in its power to prevent any erosion of support for the only democratic state in the Middle East — Israel — not only for Israel's sake but our own." He also denounced "repeated suggestions from high places that America's interests would be served by abandoning opposition to dealing with the PLO and to the establishment of a Palestinian state."

Kirkland, who succeeded the late George Meany as head of the country's largest labor federation three months ago, addressed a dinner of the Philadelphia Jewish Community Relations Council where he accepted the Jules Cohen Memorial Award for "outstanding contributions to man's struggle for human rights."

The dinner, held in association with the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) annual assembly, also honored Theodore Mann of Philadelphia, outgoing chairman of NJCRAC. The occasion was Kirkland's first public address since he succeeded Meany.

— He called for "a stronger overall American for-

ign policy and the defense efforts required to back it up." He warned that "the Soviet Union has demonstrated that it is prepared to project the global power it has acquired in the last decade. Our response must be of the same character," Kirkland said.

The AFL-CIO leader asserted that "A Palestinian state -- a PLO state -- would be a direct threat to the economic, political and strategic interests of the U.S., and the entire Western alliance.... We have seen what a Palestinian state would look like. It would look like the Iran of Ayatollah Khomeini."

Kirkland maintained that it was "no accident that the Ayatollah's gunmen received their training from the PLO and that Yasir Arafat has offered material and political support to Khomeini's campaign to humiliate the U.S.," Kirkland also claimed, "A Palestinian state would, like Iran, be a terrorist state that employs assassins, kidnappers and bomb-throwers as a matter of official policy. How can it be in the interests of the U.S., to facilitate the creation of such a state even if Israel did not exist?"

A Palestinian state, he continued, "would also be a pro-Soviet state in the energy heartland of the world. To permit the establishment of such an entity in the wake of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the continuing threat to Iran would be a geo-political disaster for the U.S. Unless suicide has become our foreign policy, the U.S. must not let this happen. Our country should be utterly intransigent in opposing the emplacement of such a knife at the throat of human decency."

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SETS YEAR'S DEADLINE TO DEAL WITH CASES PENDING AGAINST 250 NAZIS LIVING IN THE U.S.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- The Justice Department has set a one-year deadline for disposal of the cases pending against 250 alleged Nazi war criminals living in the United States. That goal was announced by Philip Heymann, an Assistant Attorney General, in a letter to several American Jewish leaders who had expressed concern that the Justice Department was dragging its feet in pursuing these cases, some of which have been in its files for more than 30 years. "Our goal for the immediate future is to reach the end of 1980 with all files in one of two statuses: either having been filed with the court or having been closed entirely for lack of substance," Heymann wrote.

He is in charge of the Justice Department's criminal division that oversees the Office of Special Investigation (OSI), which is directly handling the cases. His letter was apparently intended to reassure Jewish leaders and others troubled by the recent transfer of Martin Mendelsohn, who established the OSI and was its deputy director, to other duties.

Suspicion was voiced in some quarters that Mendelsohn was removed from the key unit because he pursued the cases of the alleged Nazis too vigorously. He was said to be the most knowledgeable official in this area and fear was expressed that with his departure, the prosecution of these cases would lag. The matter was raised last week at a meeting between Jewish leaders and Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti in which Heymann participated.

Heymann promised in his letter, "We are going to bring this chapter to a close without by-

passing any case that has promise." Walter Rockler, who has directed the OSI since it was transferred from the Immigration and Naturalization Service to the Justice Department's criminal division last May and was Mendelsohn's immediate superior, said new cases and any others that may be added in the future would not be bound by the one-year deadline.

Rockler described some of the cases on file as "junk" and observed that "the sooner we get rid of these, the better." However, Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D.N.Y.), chairperson of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and International Law, expressed some reservations over the deadline. Holtzman, who has been a leader in efforts to bring alleged Nazi war criminals to justice, said "It is a very ambitious goal and I hope it can be met in a way that meets professional standards." However, she said, "I don't want to see meritorious cases closed down to meet a goal."

Will Seek New Sources Of Information

Heymann stated in his letter that he was not content with focussing exclusively on the information transferred from the INS. He said: "The office will actually seek out new sources of information wherever it appears and those sources can identify additional Nazi war criminals who may be residing in this country:

"For example, recently we have begun to seek master lists of Nazi officers and collaborators for the purpose of cross-checking them against immigration rolls held at the INS. The Berlin Documentation Center furnished us with a list of 6000 SS officers who were assigned to concentration camps. A preliminary check against INS lists has indicated that several of them may well be in the U.S.

"Similarly, the Dutch government furnished us with the names of 400 people who they were seeking for prosecution. A cross check of that list has indicated that two of them have been in the U.S. but are now in Europe. As a result of this procedure, The Netherlands may now be able to locate and extradite them." Heymann stated that five new cases are now ready for trial and that his division anticipates filing additional cases in the next 60 days.

Examples Of Cooperation

Other examples of cooperation with foreign governments by the criminal division included three investigators who have been working in West Germany; one who has just returned from Austria where he collected data at eight different archives; another investigator has been working with East German officials for the first time and gave the State Prosecutors there a list of 200 subjects on whom they seek more information. In addition, an archivist and an attorney have gone to Poland to interview potential witnesses and cooperation with Rumania is improving, Heymann said.

He also disclosed that the Attorney General has met with a high level representative of the Soviet Union and secured a pledge of cooperation from him.

Meanwhile, Sen. Edward Kennedy (D.Mass.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, charged today that the cases were not being pursued effectively. He said he was "deeply concerned over the sudden transfer of Martin Mendelsohn. It signals this office is still not functioning smoothly nor effectively enough to accomplish the mission for which it was established." He said his committee "will not abide half efforts." (By Helen Silver)

TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA ASSAILED

LONDON, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- A proposed tour

of South Africa by the London Jewish male voice choir is under fire from the British anti-apartheid movement, which campaigns against cultural, sporting and economic links with South Africa.

Peter Hain, leader of the anti-apartheid movement, has claimed that the choir's visit would give comfort to South Africa's white rulers and even if their performances were not segregated, the hotels or homes they stayed in and restaurants they ate in would be.

The choir's conductor, Dr. Julian Schindler, has said that the choir accepted it would be performing only within the Jewish community. Hayim Pinner, general secretary of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, to whom the anti-apartheid movement has protested, said the Board is strongly opposed to racism but that the question of segregated concerts did not arise as there are no Black Jews in South Africa.

This is believed to be the first time that the Jewish community has been attacked for its links with South African Jewry, and it has caused some irritation among Anglo-Jewry, not least because Hain is known for his sympathies with the Palestine Liberation Organization and with the claim that Israel, like South Africa, is racist.

Had the attack on the London choir's proposed tour of South Africa come from inside the Jewish community, or from its friends, it may have been studied more sympathetically. Even so, since much of the choir's repertoire is liturgical music, it could also be argued that since this would be a religious rather than a cultural event, it would be outside the scope of sanctions against South Africa. (By Maurice Samuelson)

AZF LENDS ITS SUPPORT TO BEGIN'S 'COMPROMISE FORMULA' ON DROP-OUTS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- The American Zionist Federation (AZF) announced today that it decided to lend its support to Premier Menachem Begin's "compromise proposal" regarding Soviet-Jewish nashim, or dropouts, Jews who leave the Soviet Union on Israeli exit visas but once out of the Soviet Union settle in the United States and other Western countries.

Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president of the AZF, in a statement at a press conference here, declared: "The American Zionist Federation calls for the adoption of the three-point program for the rescue and resettlement of Soviet Jews. It is only through the implementation of this program that we can both preserve the Soviet Jewry movement and further develop the State of Israel."

The "compromise proposal," as outlined by Sternstein, offers financial assistance only to those Soviet Jews who opt to go to Israel or those Soviet Jews with immediate family already in America who opt for resettlement in the United States.

Presently, all Soviet Jews who leave the Soviet Union and settle in the West receive assistance and financial aid from Jewish organizations. This assistance, Sternstein pointed out, has helped to dramatically increase the number of nashim to a staggering 60 percent of all Jews who left the Soviet Union in the last year.

"The growing number of Soviet Jews who relinquish their Israel entrance visa in Vienna, and declare their intention to resettle in the West, casts a foreboding shadow over the future of the movement (of Soviet Jews to the free world). The latest evidence strongly supports the view that the

Soviet authorities will use this situation to end or severely curtail Jewish emigration," Sternstein said.

Warns Of Danger Of Dropouts

Noting that the issue of nashim and the assistance to them is controversial among American Jews and Jewish leaders, and underscoring the view that Jewish emigration from the USSR will be stopped altogether if the dropout rate continues at its present pace, Sternstein said the AZF is about to launch an "educational campaign" in Jewish communities around the country to win their support for Begin's "compromise proposal."

Sternstein also said that the masses of Soviet Jews resettling in the United States has brought about a situation "in which millions of dollars raised expressly for use in Israel have been diverted to pay for their absorption in America. This situation constitutes a double loss: the trend shows that many Soviet immigrants are rapidly assimilated into American society and therefore lost to the Jewish people; and funds intended for Israel never reach their proper destination."

The AZF leader added: "While we profoundly recognize the inalienable right of every individual to freely select his country of residence, we submit nevertheless that the financial burden of resettling Soviet immigrants outside Israel should not continue to rest with Jewish communal agencies and that Jewish communal funds raised for Israel should not be used for this purpose."

NEW GALILEE MOSHAV TO BE ESTABLISHED

By Barbie Zelizer

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- The first Galilee moshav since the State's establishment will house some 850 families in the Galilee's Segov area, Likud MK Pessach Grupper announced here. The proposed village of Gilon, one of seven villages slated to be built by the farmers' federation, is expected to be established along lines which markedly differ those guiding existing moshavim.

Firstly, most of its members will not work in agriculture. Instead, most will commute to work outside the village, in either the Israel Arms Development Authority (Rafael) or other surrounding enterprises. The moshav will also differ from other villages by virtue of its size. While other villages usually limit their population to 50 to 70 families, Gilon is expected to house five times that number.

Grupper noted that the Knesset Finance Committee has pledged some IL 50 million for developing Gilon's infrastructure, adding that construction plans have already been approved by the Interior Ministry's regional committee. No target date for the village's completion has yet been announced.

Grupper has been involved in the project for nearly two years. It was also reported that former Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich has also been actively advocating government support of the seven proposed moshavim.

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- Morris Amitay, director of the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee, for nearly six years, has tendered his resignation, effective next May, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned. He will pursue private endeavors, the JTA was told.

PARIS (JTA) -- The French University Center for Jewish Studies and a local committee for the Yiddish language have organized a two-week series of lectures, films and theater performances beginning next week. The number of Yiddish-speaking Jews in France is believed to amount to less than 40,000 people.

SPECIAL ANALYSIS THE AFGHAN LESSON

By Sally Press

JOHANNESBURG, Jan. 16 (JTA) — What is being termed the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is in reality an increased Russian presence in that landlocked Indo-Iranian republic. Two years ago the Russians supported the successful coup by Afghanistan's Khalq (Communist) Party. At the time the Americans played the wait-and-see game, wondering how Marx and Muhammed would fare in such close proximity.

Yet neither the Christian West nor the Moslem East had as much as glanced at how the Communist north had long subdued — but mainly Indo-Iranian land — Tadzhikistan, SSR and its several million souls. Then their top priority in the Middle East appeared to be the legitimization of the Palestine Liberation Organization and idle discussions of "Zionism is racism." Small wonder that Israel was then still aiding the Mengistu government of Ethiopia against the Somalia-Egypt axis, on the side in effect of the Warsaw Pact.

Now the Russians' southernmost bases in Afghanistan are a mere missile's throw from the strategic Strait of Hormuz, which guards the entrance to the Persian Gulf oil states. And Russia is closer than it has ever been to the shores of the Indian Ocean, whose waters beckon beyond a very restive Baluchistan spread from southeast Iran to southwest Pakistan.

Hence the excitement among the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, not to mention the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). For President Carter the hostage drama in Teheran has become a case of 20 million Afghan hostages and billions of oil barrels. For the moment Iran's fascist Shiite Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini is caught between the two superpowers. And feudal Saudi Arabia is trying desperately to muster support in the Islamic world, beyond the ineffectual Arab League numbering among its members friends of the Soviet Union.

Several Salient Views

As far as Israel is concerned, a couple of recently expressed views appear salient. Prof. Ralf Dahrendorf of the London School of Economics says that the latest events in Afghanistan have not directly harmed Israel's security and, indeed, might even bolster the Jewish State politically. He feels that the U.S. might now recognize Israel as among its true allies in the region, and expects the Afghan crisis to help other Middle East states identify their real enemies in the right places — and to improve their understanding of Israel in international deliberations.

Another opinion was expressed by Israel's former Foreign Minister, Moshe Dayan, who feels that it has become vital for Israel to now help defuse its conflict with the Moslem world. "One way of doing this," he suggests, is to make progress on the subject of Palestinian autonomy.

To be sure, it can do Israel no harm to add its voice to those troubled by the loss, it seems, of independence of a fellow west Asian country, be it Moslem, secular, or whatever. And if the mainly Arab rejectionist front is far now looking eastward, that also reduces the danger to an extent.

But Israel cannot be satisfied with recogniz-

ing such changing factors passively. Indeed, Premier Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat joined at Aswan last week in expressing an identity of outlook on events in Afghanistan. Here may be sensed the beginning of a regional process, modestly perhaps for the subregions between the Nile and the Euphrates, yet hopefully also for the Middle East region as a whole.

Possibility Of Mideast Regionalism

It is premature — though by no means unrealistic — to speak of Middle East regionalism along the lines of the European Economic Community (EEC). North Africa — larbary — is split between the Maghreb and the Nile valley states. The Semitic subregion is quite Balkanized among republicans and royalists and other divisions.

Turkistan is for the most part under Communist rule. The Indo-Iranians of Tadzhikistan and now Afghanistan suffer the same fate, and Iran and Pakistan are having great internal difficulties with Baluchistan, Kurdistan and Pakhtunistan. And there are those who would regard Mediterranean Europe as part of the Middle East, too.

Whether one takes the agreement between Chaim Weizmann and the Emir Feisal bin Hussein of two generations ago as the point of departure, or the recent Sadat-Begin agreement, the Middle East appears in dire need of a Jean Monnet-Walter Hallstein-Robert Schuman team, the co-founders of the EEC. Regional cooperation will prove to be the best guarantee of true independence, economically and even in terms of self-defense against powers for the moment stronger than the divided house of the Middle East.

True — the Middle East is a long way from that Arabian Nights vision. "Each portion of her charms we see, seems of the whole a simile." Yet the Afghanistan crisis has brought a glimmer of regional understanding to at least some Middle Easterners. If so, the price of the lesson has still been very high — over 20 million Afghans, among them some 100 Afghan Jews.

A BRITH IN KABUL

— PARIS, Jan. 16 (JTA) — A brith was performed last week in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, where some 15 Jewish families are left, according to Western correspondents who just returned from that city. Some 40 people, practically the entire Jewish community of Kabul, were present at the ceremony which took place on the first floor of the building where the Jewish community center is located. The boy, named Raphael, was born to a local family named Cohen.

The reporters said that less than 100 Jews seem to be left in the entire country and that many of them hope to leave. As far as could be ascertained, there are no anti-Jewish measures in effect nor any harassment.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Black Panther movement, a group representing poverty neighborhoods, said Wednesday it will fight the Treasury's intentions to cut children's allowances for a family's first three children. Both factions of the movement — the one linked with the Communist Party and the one which is part of Sheli — held a joint press conference here promising "not to keep quiet." Spokesman Manny Cohen said the movement would take some "radical action" because any cuts in children's allowances would particularly hurt the poor people. Communist Party MK Charlie Bifon estimated that some 40,000 families would be hurt by the cuts.