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BEGIN, LEWIS-MEETING ON ISSUE OF OLYMPICS IN MOSCOW; U.S. BOYCOTT PROPOSAL CREATES DILEMMA FOR ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin will meet with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis in Jerusalem tonight, at the envoy's request, to discuss the Olympic Games in Moscow next summer. The U.S. is apparently trying to persuade Israel to join its boycott of the Games. President Carter announced yesterday that he had informed the U.S. Olympic Committee that he would not support sending the American team to Moscow unless the Soviets pull their forces out of Afghanistan in one month.

The situation has created a dilemma for Israel and opinion here is sharply divided between those who would boycott the Games as a matter of principle and others who warn that such a move could leave Israel isolated and out of the Games should a world-wide boycott fail to materialize.

The Knesset's Sports Committee will take up the issue tomorrow, beginning what is expected to be a long and bitter debate. Two members of the committee have already taken diametrically opposing views. Roni Milo of Likud wants Israel to proclaim its boycott forthwith. He maintained that it is inconceivable that Israeli sportsmen will participate in the Moscow events while Jews are imprisoned and persecuted in the Soviet Union, not to mention the Soviets' disregard of international law and international covenants.

But Yossi Sarid of the Labor Alignment cautioned Israel to take a careful approach lest it be the only country left out of the 1980 Olympics. Sports officials here also seem to favor caution and insist that there must be a distinct dividing line between sports and politics.

World Reaction Awaited

Yitzhak Ofek, chairman of the Israel Olympic Committee, said it would see how the U.S. Olympic Committee acts before making a decision. Ofek said that only sports institutions can decide. Technically, the decision whether or not to boycott the Games rests with the Olympic Committees in the various countries, not with governments. The Prime Minister's Office indicated today that Israel's decision would have to await world reaction to Carter's call for a boycott.

Some sections of the media are demanding that Israel pull out of the Games immediately. They recalled the Berlin Olympics in 1936 when sports officials drew a line between politics and the Games. The result was that while the killing and persecution of Jews went on in Germany, the Nazis scored what was probably their greatest world-wide propaganda coup. One newspaper stated that holding the Olympics in Moscow was unacceptable after the Soviet Union violated the independence of a small country, Afghanistan. In this case, the paper said, "the show must not go on."

ISRAEL, EGYPT ACCEPT ENVOYS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 21 (JTA) — Egypt has formally accepted the appointment of Dr. Eliahu Ben-Elissar as Israel's first Ambassador to that

country. The Egyptian acceptance was forwarded to Israel's Foreign Ministry. Israel also announced its acceptance of Saad Mortada as Egypt's Ambassador to Israel.

An Israeli advance team will leave for Cairo next week to begin preparations for the Israeli Embassy activities there. No site has yet been found for the Israeli Embassy building. It seems that for the time being the Israeli diplomats will stay at a temporary headquarters.

ISRAEL MOVING TO NEW SINAI LINE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA) — The largest logistic operation ever conducted by the Israeli army was completed today as Israel is scheduled to move to a new line in the Sinai Wednesday. The new defense line will run from Ras Mohammed to El Arish.

While the area will be turned back to Egypt Wednesday, the Refidim military base and airfield, the largest in the Sinai, will be given back to the Egyptians at a ceremony Friday. Defense Minister Ezer Weizman today visited the base which was the logistic center for the army in the Sinai. The only construction left at the base is that found when Israel captured it in 1967. However, water, telephone and electrical lines were left intact.

The latest Israeli withdrawal involved dismantling and removing 3500 buildings and other structures, 250 kilometers of water pipes and 87,000 tons of equipment. Convoys of trucks had crisscrossed the Sinai bringing this heavy load either to the Negev or the new line which will now cut the Sinai in half.

EGYPT, ISRAEL REACH OIL SUPPLY ACCORD

By Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, Jan. 21 (JTA) — Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai reported to the Cabinet yesterday that Egypt has agreed to give Israel a \$5 per barrel discount on the two million tons of Sinai oil it will sell to Israel this year. Egypt is currently marketing its oil at \$40 per barrel of heavy oil and \$33 per barrel of light oil. But the price will be adjusted every three months to reflect the changes in the world market price.

Israel will pay the going market price but will be reimbursed by Egypt in the amount of the discount, Modai explained. He said that according to the agreement reached in Cairo, the Sinai oil will be purchased by three Israeli companies — Sonol, Paz and Delek — which will deal directly with the Egyptian government. Negotiations for a new agreement for 1981 will begin near the end of this year, Modai said.

Telecommunications, Postal Links Begin Jan. 27

The minister, whose responsibilities also include communications, elaborated on the opening of telecommunications and postal links between Egypt and Israel beginning next Sunday, Jan. 27. He said the postal service will handle special delivery and ordinary mail, air mail and packages of up to 15 kilograms. Provisions have also been made for regular and urgent telegrams between the two countries but not night letter service which is not furnished in Egypt.

As of next Sunday, telephone service to and from Egypt will be available through the international exchange. There is no direct dialing system in Egypt but direct phones to Israel could be put into use if

the Egyptians agree to buy the telephone lines Israel has left in Sinai. Modai said that telephone telegraph and telex services will be in operation on a 24-hour basis. The International Postal Union and the International Telecommunications Union will be informed this week of the opening of service between Israel and Egypt.

PERES VOTED TO BE PARTY STANDARD BEARER IN NEXT GENERAL ELECTION

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- The intense rivalry within the Labor Party between Shimon Peres, Yitzhak Rabin and Yigal Allon as to which of them would head the party's list in the next national election for Premier ended last night when the party's central committee voted overwhelmingly for Peres to head the list.

In a jubilant speech after the vote, Peres, who is the party's chairman, said he was imbued with a renewed confidence. "There is no longer any internal (party) rivalry. Our rival is the Likud and only the Likud." The 721 central committee members who participated in the weekend conference; the largest number in attendance in the party's history, cast 457 votes for Peres, 224 against and 40 abstained. The surprise in the vote was not that Peres, who ran uncontested, received approval to head the list but the number that voted against him.

Rabin is bitterly opposed to Peres and has stated on various occasions that he does not regard Peres as suitable to be Premier. Rabin had expressed support for Allon who, after yesterday's election, declared again that he would campaign for the leadership of the party at the party's convention next June. Allon claimed that those who voted against Peres had, in effect, registered support for him. During the weekend enclave all the speakers, including Rabin and Allon, stressed the need for a unified party in order to win the voters' confidence and to achieve an electoral victory over the Likud.

AMERICAN JEWISH JOURNALISTS FIND ISRAEL CAUGHT UP IN INTERNATIONAL CRISIS ENVELOPING THE MIDDLE EAST

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- A group of American Jewish journalists, ending a six-day visit today, said they would convey to their readers at home Israel's feeling of being caught up in the new international crises enveloping the Middle East. Referring to the situation in Iran and Afghanistan, Frank Wundohl, editor of the Jewish Exponent of Philadelphia, said his colleagues were imbued with the mounting concern in Israel over recent developments in the region.

Wundohl is also president of the American Jewish Press Association (AJPA), an organization of 70 American Jewish newspapers and magazines which held its study mission here last week. The more than 40 publishers and editors and other journalists conferred with top Israeli officials and were taken on extensive tours of Israel and the West Bank.

Wundohl noted that Israel finds itself at the crossroads between Europe and Asia, between East and West and the concern for Israel's special needs in view of the developments in the Middle East, especially against the background of mounting East-West tension, must be relayed to diaspora Jews.

The AJPA meeting, which was also attended by editors and journalists for Israeli newspapers

and Jewish papers in other countries, was held under the auspices of the World Federation of Jewish Journalists. One proposal discussed at the meeting was to set up a subsection within the Federation to include Jewish journalists writing in English-language newspapers. This would cover the U.S., Australia, South Africa, England and other countries where an English-Jewish press exists.

The meeting held in Jerusalem was addressed, among others, by Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, and Interior Minister Yosef Burg, who heads the Israeli ministerial negotiating team in the autonomy talks with Egypt. Another speaker was Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives.

JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL FROM RUMANIA IS TERMED A SUCCESS

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- David Rohr, staff member of the Trade Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the recent Congressional trip to Rumania, led by Rep. Charles Vanik (D. Ohio), "was rather successful, particularly in terms of immigration to Israel" by Rumanian Jews who wish to immigrate.

Rohr, who accompanied the delegation, said "It was determined that the Rumanian government is living up to the commitments it made last summer [to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations] as far as registrations and relaxing procedures for those Jews who wish to immigrate to Israel. We had a lengthy meeting with Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen and determined from that meeting that the Rumanians are complying with their 1979 agreement," he said.

Rohr told the JTA that the delegation will submit several reports on its trip, including one being sent to President Carter today. His report of the situation and similar reports last week by Jack Spitzer, president of B'nai B'rith International, and Alfred Moses, vice president of the American Jewish Committee, indicate that the renewal of most-favored-nation trade status for Rumania will be recommended to the U.S. government.

Spitzer and Moses were in Rumania as representatives of the Presidents Conference. Spitzer said that if the Rumanian government's compliance with the 1979 agreement continues, he would recommend that the Presidents Conference favor renewal of MFN status for another year. It was renewed on a year-to-year basis as a result of the agreement although President Nicolae Ceausescu of Rumania has been pressing for an unlimited extension.

Jewish Population Of Rumania

Meanwhile, Spitzer released a demographic study of the Jewish population of Rumania prepared by Chief Rabbi Rosen which apparently settles once and for all the controversy over how many Jews reside in that country. According to the data, the Jewish population in Rumania numbers 34,663. Previous estimates had ranged from 26,000 to 40,000. Approximately 400,000 Jews lived in Rumania before World War II.

About half the current Jewish population -- 17,129 -- lives in Bucharest and the remainder is scattered among 69 different communities. Spitzer observed that "it is an aging and shrinking community. Almost 52 percent are over 60 years old. Only 7.4 percent are 20 or under."

He noted in that connection that Bucharest, for centuries the hub of a thriving Jewish culture

in Rumania, now has only 445 Jewish children 10 years old or younger in contrast to 940 Jews 60 years of age or older. There are 14 Jewish communities elsewhere in Rumania that have no one under 20, and in four there is no one under 40. Another 29 communities have only a dozen or fewer youngsters and 25 have a dozen or fewer Jews between the ages of 21 and 40, Spitzer said.

Of the 70 communities that list Jewish residents, 32 have a combined population of only 1454. Apart from Bucharest, only two communities have Jewish populations exceeding 1000. "The figures tell a dramatic story, one that every Jew will look upon with mixed feelings," the B'nai B'rith official said. "Although it is reassuring on the one hand to know that several hundred thousand Jews, survivors of the Holocaust, were able to emigrate to Israel, it is also important to realize that the future appears dim indeed for a limited yet viable Jewish community in Rumania," he said.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES PLOTTING THE ROLE OF SHARON'S FARM By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- The government is in a quandry over how to deal with a conflict of interest involving Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon and the 1000-acre farm he owns in the northern Negev. Three committees set up to deal with the matter recommended that Sharon either give up the farm or resign from the Cabinet. But the hawkish Yom Kippur War hero has nobody to assign the property to.

His children are too young and so far no one has offered to buy or lease the acreage. Premier Menachem Begin wants Sharon to stay in the Cabinet and so does Sharon. Other Cabinet members, including the two Deputy Premiers, Yigael Yadin and Simcha Ehrlich, have expressed sympathy with their colleague and believe that to implement the committees' recommendations in this case would be unfair.

But the government takes seriously even the appearance of conflict of interest with respect to any of its members. The new Finance Minister, Yigal Hurwitz, divested himself of his prosperous dairy products industry when he took office last year. But Hurwitz was able to hand over the business to his two adult sons. Other ministers have acted similarly, relinquishing law practices or business interests, even those that had no bearing on their Cabinet duties.

For the Agriculture Minister to own one of Israel's largest and most prosperous farms raises suspicions. He is in charge of the Israel Land Authority from which he originally bought the farm. He is in charge of water distribution for agriculture and there have been charges that his farm consumes more than its legal quota. He is in charge of produce exports and Sharon's farm is one of the largest exporters of melons and other products to the European market. He is in charge of agricultural prices, of fertilizer and numerous other items related to agriculture.

In short, he is vulnerable to charges -- fair or unfair -- of using his position to improve his private holdings.

Recently, Sharon was accused of spending public money on security equipment for his farm. The minister denied this, noting that the security fence and floodlights installed around his residence were the kind of measures taken to protect every Cabinet member. Friends of Sharon claim he is being hounded by political foes because of his

hardline views and his advocacy of massive Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and the seizure of Arab-owned lands for that purpose if necessary.

History Of Sharon's Farm

Sharon's farm, which is called Shikmim, has a long history that dates back to the early days of the State of Israel when the government was trying to attract settlers to the Negev. The 1000-acre plot, earmarked for grazing, was leased to an Australian Jewish family who joined Israeli investors in an attempt to establish a sheep ranch. But the enterprise was a failure and eventually the 1000 acres and adjacent lands reverted to the Israel Land Authority and were distributed among various kibbutzim and moshavim.

When Sharon retired from the army after the Yom Kippur War, he entered politics. But, as the sabra son of Russian Jewish immigrants who had been farm workers at Kfar Mallol, he had ambitions to own a farm. With his personal savings and loans from two wealthy American Jews, the late Sam Sacks of Chicago, and Meshulam Riklis of Los Angeles, he bought the failed sheep ranch and began to cultivate crops for export.

The farm prospered. Its "baby super watermelons" are popular throughout Western Europe. It also raises wheat, lemons and animal fodder, grazes about 1000 head of sheep and has a stable of horses. It employs anywhere from several score to several hundred workers, the latter during the harvesting and packing season.

The government now finds itself in a position where to reject the recommendations of three committees -- one headed by a distinguished retired judge -- would tarnish its image. On the other hand, Begin and other ministers do not want to force Sharon to resign. One minister has suggested that Sharon relinquish the Agriculture Ministry portfolio to become Minister of Settlements, a Cabinet post that does not now exist, or Minister-Without-Portfolio. But this has not been formally presented to Begin.

While the government ponders the matter, Sharon keeps his farm and his Cabinet seat. Some observers believe that the situation will be resolved by accepting the committees' recommendations but not implementing them.

SHELI PARTY SUFFERS A SPLIT

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- The small, leftist Sheli Party was split Saturday night when its Black Panther faction broke away in an angry dispute over a Knesset seat. Fist fights erupted after the party's convention voted 66-56 to reject the demand by Black Panther leader Saadia Marciano that he replace Meir Payil in one of the party's two Knesset seats.

Marciano claimed later that the issue was not the seat but rather that Payil and Sheli's other MK, Uri Avneri, played politics and ignored burning social problems. Marciano claimed the seat on the basis of a vaguely drafted agreement made before the 1977 elections which provided for a rotation among Sheli members. Arye Eliav relinquished his seat in favor of Avneri. Marciano contended that he was now entitled to replace Payil. The fistcuffs were allegedly started by Marciano's supporters.

PARIS (JTA) -- The universities of Haifa and Nice have signed an agreement providing for far-reaching scientific and research cooperation. The University of Haifa was represented by its president, Gershon Avner, and the agreement was signed in the presence of Israel's Ambassador to France, Meir Rosene. Nice University has similar agreements with six Arab universities, including those of Algiers, Morocco and Tunis.

SHCHARANSKY'S 32ND BIRTHDAY MARKED

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- About 300 people, many of them youngsters, gathered outside the Soviet Embassy shortly after noon yesterday to mark the 32nd birthday of Anatoly Shcharansky and to protest his continued confinement in a Soviet prison.

The demonstration, sponsored by the Soviet Jewry Committee of the Greater Washington Jewish Community Council, was addressed by Rabbi Rubin Landman of Congregation Har Tzion-Agudath Achim and Rev. John Steinbruch of the Luther Place Memorial Church. Landman, Steinbruch and Norman Goldstein, chairman of the Soviet Jewry Committee, attempted to deliver birthday cards for Shcharansky to the Embassy. An Embassy employe came to the gate but refused to accept the cards on grounds that he was authorized only to receive mail-in diplomatic pouches.

The cards, addressed to Shcharansky at Chistopol Prison in Moscow, will be mailed. A shofar was blown to mark the occasion. Landman said, "We blow the shofar as a symbol of protest and outrage at the callousness and cruelty of a government which directs its power to crush the Jewish spirit. We appeal to the soul and conscience of the Soviet Union for compassion and justice." Steinbruch told the assembled group, "We must keep the promise alive for Anatoly Shcharansky. We are his tie to the future. We must not be weakened."

The protestors distributed leaflets to passers by urging that Shcharansky and other "prisoners of conscience" be freed and allowed to emigrate. Shcharansky was arrested in March 1977 and sentenced in July 1978 to 13 years' imprisonment for alleged treason and anti-Soviet activities. He is reportedly in ill health.

Urges Mailing Birthday Cards

In New York, Burton Levinson, president of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, announced a campaign to "make certain that Anatoly knows that he has not been forgotten." He said birthday greetings should be sent in the form of cards, letters or cables to: Anatoly Shcharansky, UCHR 51110/1, Moscow, RSFSR, USSR.

In addition, noted Levinson, March 15 will mark Shcharansky's third year of imprisonment, at which time he is expected to be transferred from the rigors of Chistopol Prison to an undesignated labor camp to carry out the rest of his sentence. He noted that messages and appeals should be sent to Soviet authorities urging that Shcharansky be released and allowed to emigrate to Israel rather than transferred as scheduled, to a labor camp.

Also in New York, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry staged a march yesterday to the Soviet Mission to the United Nations where protestors chanted "Unhappy birthday, Anatoly Shcharansky -- Let my people go." Earlier, the group demonstrated outside the new million-dollar Palestine Liberation Organization headquarters three blocks away where they shouted "Hell no PLO -- PLO has to go," and carried placards stating "New York's newest bomb factory," and "Murder Inc. on East 65th Street."

Shcharansky's Father Suffers Fatal Heart Attack

Meanwhile, Genya Intrator, vice president of the Canadian Committee on Soviet Jewry, re-

ported today from Toronto that Boris Shcharansky, Anatoly's father, died yesterday while on his way to the apartment of Prof. Alexander Lerner where a ceremony was to be held for Anatoly's birthday. Mrs. Intrator said the elder Shcharansky, 75, suffered a heart attack while on a trolley bus en route from Istra, the Moscow suburb where he resides. His wife, Ida Milgram, was at Lerner's apartment at the time.

Mrs. Intrator said the activists continued with the program since they considered it important. She said they plan to ask Soviet authorities to allow Anatoly to attend his father's funeral, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday.

DOV BIEGUN DEAD AT 66

NEW YORK, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Dr. Dov Biegun, a prominent Labor Zionist and leading Israeli manufacturer and economist, died here Saturday at the age of 66 while on a business trip to the United States. A funeral service will be held here Wednesday.

Biegun was national secretary of the National Committee for Labor Israel and vice president of AMPAL for three years in the U.S. before he immigrated to Israel in 1965. There he published a private newsletter that was circulated among a select group, was a consultant for international investments and was a manufacturer. He was in the U.S. to seek new markets for one of his factories that had formerly sold its products in Iran.

Born in Poland, Biegun earned a doctorate in economics from the University of Prague. He was the Jewish National Fund's representative in Czechoslovakia during the 1930s and then transferred to London where he directed the JNF there and was a member of the Executive of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland. When World War II began he joined the British Army and served in intelligence operations in France, Holland and Norway where he tracked down Nazi officials.

After the war, Biegun was a delegate to the World Zionist Congress in 1951 and helped arrange major loans for the JNF and the Jewish Agency. He was fluent in 14 languages and was in the midst of writing his memoirs at the time of his death.

SUSPECTED TERRORIST KILLER SLAIN

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- A suspected terrorist killed by an Israeli patrol near the Lebanese border last Friday night may have been the murderer of Yosef Rosenfeld, the security chief at Metullah who was shot to death last November. A pistol that belonged to Rosenfeld was found on the body of the suspect, identified as a resident of Gaza.

He was gunned down by the patrol while attempting to cross the border into Lebanon near Margalit in the Kiryat Shmona region. He also carried a bus ticket from Gaza and a large sum of money in Israeli and Jordanian currencies. The slaying of Rosenfeld was unsolved until now. The killers who stole his jeep and abandoned it near Netanya were originally believed to have been smugglers who were surprised by the security guard. Further investigation indicated, however, that they were terrorists.

PARIS (JTA) -- Mayor Jacques Chirac last week unveiled a plaque to the memory of the 12,000 Jewish children deported from Paris by the Nazis during the occupation of France. He said the children's sacrifice "will not have been in vain. The world remembers what happened and will not allow such things to happen again."