

KENNEDY, ATTACKING CARTER'S FOREIGN POLICY, SAYS MIDEAST MUST BE

STRENGTHENED AGAINST PLO SUBVERSION AND OTHER SOVIET 'SURROGATES'

By Joseph-Potakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (JTA) — Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass) characterized the Palestine Liberation Organization today as a "Soviet surrogate" and called for strengthening Middle East countries against "subversion" by the terrorist organization. He also characterized Israel as America's "most stable and dependable ally in the Middle East."

In an address at Georgetown University, Kennedy, a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination, launched a full dress attack on aspects of President Carter's foreign policy, particularly in the Middle East. "Nations in the area must be strengthened against subversion from the PLO and other Soviet surrogates," he said. He warned, however, that "We must not overreact to the present crisis in ways that undermine the security of Israel."

Discussing the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the situation in Iran, Kennedy said "That democracy (Israel) is our most stable and dependable ally in the Middle East. We must not barter the freedom and future of Israel for a barrel of oil or in a foolish effort to align the Moslem world with the U.S. whatever the cost. Indeed, Egypt and Israel together already constitute a bulwark against Soviet expansionism and the cornerstone of the wider alliance we must seek," Kennedy said.

Goes Further Than Other Candidates

In making these statements, Kennedy went further than any other candidate, Democrat or Republican, in condemning the PLO and in asserting that Egypt and Israel are "the cornerstones" of the U.S. position in the Middle East.

President Carter, in his State of the Union address last week, called the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty "a strategic asset for America" but did not refer to the PLO. Kennedy, who was scheduled to address the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organization in New York later today, appeared to have staked out a position that would put the Carter Administration on the defensive with respect to the Soviet Union and the PLO. When the Public Broadcasting Service television film "The Russian Connection" reflected Soviet support in the training of PLO terrorists, the State Department's response was that it had no evidence that the Soviet government "directly" supported PLO terrorism.

Kennedy also observed that "The Soviet Union now finds itself estranged from the Third World and said that the "reaction" to Soviet aggression "runs deep in the Moslem world where Arab nationalism and Moslem religious feeling can become a powerful force against Soviet ambitions." This issue is under discussion at the Moslem foreign ministers conference at Islamabad, Pakistan. Syria and the PLO are not attending.

Kennedy's condemnation of the PLO came as Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko was meeting in Damascus with PLO chief Yasser Arafat and Syrian President Hafez Assad. It has long been observed that some Middle East nations, notably Kuwait, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, have large numbers of Palestinians working in key positions and are influenced by them in certain matters, such as rejection of the Camp David accords.

EGYPT ASKS ISRAEL TO DELAY SENDING ITS DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO CAIRO; ISRAELI OFFICIALS REACT IN LOW KEY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 28 (JTA) — The vanguard of Israel's first diplomatic mission to Cairo has delayed its arrival there at the request of Egyptian authorities. Dr. Yosef Hadass, the Charge d'Affaires, and Zvi Gabai, First Secretary, were due in the Egyptian capital today to open the Israel Embassy. But a cable from Cairo, received at the Foreign Ministry here shortly before midnight last night, asked them to postpone their departure. No reason was given.

Israeli officials reacted in a low key to the delay, apparently anxious not to mar the normalization process with Egypt that began over the weekend by appearing disturbed. The technical team assigned to accompany the Israeli diplomats did go to Cairo today as planned. They will prepare the new Israeli Embassy located in a six flat apartment block in Cairo's Zamalek quarter. An Egyptian advance party is due in Tel Aviv next week to seek premises for the Egyptian Embassy and prepare them for diplomatic work.

Hadass and Gabai are now expected to go to Cairo when the Egyptians arrive in Tel Aviv. Israel's Ambassador to Egypt, Eliahu Ben-Elissar, is scheduled to present his credentials to President Anwar Sadat on Feb. 26 and the Israeli Embassy will start to function the following day.

Weizman In Charge Of Normalization Machinery

Meanwhile, the Cabinet yesterday put Defense Minister Ezer Weizman in charge of the normalization machinery. In reaction to response to Egypt's earlier announcement that Defense Minister Kamal Hassan Ali would oversee the normalization process on the Egyptian side.

The Cabinet's decision triggered complaints from the Foreign Ministry that it represented a further whittling away of its authority. Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan resigned last Oct. 21 and still has not been replaced. Premier Menachem Begin has been handling the functions of Foreign Minister in the interim.

Ben-Elissar made it clear last night that he would serve in Cairo under the aegis of the Foreign Ministry. However, since Sadat has appointed Ali to handle normalization, Ben-Elissar said he would deal with the Egyptian Defense Minister and his staff on those matters and would report back both to Weizman and the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

ITALIAN APEASEMENT OF TERROR GROUPS

ROME, Jan. 28 (JTA) — Seven year prison

sentences pronounced here last Friday on three former members of Parliament and a Jordanian businessman for collaborating with Palestine terrorists, officially closed a case that had been shrouded in mystery since the arrests were made last November.

But it opened to public scrutiny an unsavory record of Italian government appeasement of Palestinian terrorist groups since the early 1970s. Ironically, one of the chief authors of that policy was the late Aldo Moro, leader of the Christian Democratic Party, who was himself murdered by terrorists.

The relatively mild prison terms were given to Daniele Pifano, Sergio Baumgartner, Luciano Nieri and Abu Salgh Hanzek, the latter a Jordanian citizen of Palestinian origin. They were convicted on charges of "detention and transport of arms of war" when they agreed to act as go-betweens for George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). Their specific offense was the reception of two Strela ground-to-air missiles that were off-loaded from the freighter Sidon at the Adriatic coastal town of Ortona last November 7.

The vessel had arrived from a Middle Eastern port, presumably in Lebanon. The defendants were acquitted of the more serious charge of "importing arms of war." The court took into consideration a letter written by the PFLP to their lawyers attesting that the missiles were "in transit" and that their final destination was "not Italy." The missiles were of the same type used by Palestinian terrorists in an attempt to shoot down an El Al plane over Ostia, near Rome, in September, 1973.

Members Of Left-Wing Group

The three ex-Parliamentarians were all members of the left-wing "Autonomy" political group. Abu Salgh, a garment industry executive, had connections with the PFLP in Bologna. Baumgartner, an X-ray technician at the University of Rome Hospital, had been active in the past organizing the transportation of medical items to Palestinian refugee camps. His name was found in Abu Salgh's address book.

The connection of the Italian extremists with Habash's group was revealed only after the PFLP's letter was made public by their defense attorneys. This led to an expose in the Italian press of what had been an open secret in some circles — the Italian government's collaboration with Palestinian terrorists since 1972 — when a series of terrorist acts were occurring on Italian soil.

Gen. Vito Miceli, former chief of the Italian secret service (SID) revealed details of this collaboration in an interview published in the weekly L'Espresso. "At that time (1972) there was the danger of Palestinian terrorism, an exceptional situation that had to be met with exceptional means," Miceli said. "On the basis of precise orders by the government, of which all ministers were informed, we contacted the various Palestinian groups and made arrangements whose purpose was to avoid (terrorist) attempts that would involve Italy."

The person who represented the Italian authorities in these negotiations over the last eight years is Col. Stefano Giovannoni, a diplomat stationed in Beirut. Giovannoni was mentioned by Moro, in letters written during his captivity by the

Red Brigade terrorists, as the ideal man to bargain for his release.

Moro was the head of the Italian Foreign Ministry when "deals" with the Palestinian terrorists were made and it was under his direction that all Palestinians detained in Italian jails were eventually freed. These included two terrorists who had attempted to down the El Al plane. They were secretly flown out of the country on an Italian military aircraft which exploded mysteriously on its way back to Italy, killing its crew.

Similarly, five other terrorists arrested in possession of Strela missiles in 1973 were released on payment of 60 million lire bail and flown to Algiers accompanied by an official of the SID, presumably Antonio La Bruna.

In his letters from captivity, Moro pleaded with his own Christian Democrat Party to follow the example of past governments that compromised with Palestinian terrorists in order to save his own life. But the government and the Christian Democrats took a hard line in the Moro case which proved fatal to him.

Three Firsts Revealed

L'Espresso observed that the latest "missiles case" revealed three facts of prime importance: "This is the first time a Palestinian organization (PFLP) has officially admitted importing arms into Europe and having ties with Italian extremists; it is the first time that there has been no attempt by the Italian government to hide the fact that a non-aggression pact (probably verbal) exists between the Italian secret service and Palestinian groups, involving hands-off planes and Italian air space in return for benevolent assistance by Italy to the Palestinian cause; and this is the first time the Italian government has admitted some of these facts."

Observers here say the case must be viewed in terms of the closer official relationship of the Italian government with the Palestine Liberation Organization which "supposedly" does not include the PFLP, and the shifting oil power interests in the confused Middle East situation. (By Lisa Palmieri-Billig)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE SAYS NO TO PLO

By Edwin Eytan

STRASBOURG, Jan. 28 (JTA) — The Council of Europe, a parliamentary advisory body on which 24 member states are represented, refused today to extend an invitation to the Palestine Liberation Organization to address it. The Council decided to have the matter examined by the political commission, a discreet way to shelve it for the time being.

The decision not to invite a PLO representative was taken after a Swedish representative, Socialist Deputy Carl Lidbom, tabled a resolution calling on the Council to "hear all sides in the Middle East conflict, including the representatives of the Palestinian people." The decision to have the matter discussed in the commission was adopted by a relatively small majority.

The Council last year heard the Israeli and Egyptian Foreign Ministers and will hear this week the representatives of Syria and Jordan. It is due to present a proposal in April for solving the Middle East conflict. Israel is attending the sessions in an observer capacity.

U.S., ISRAEL TO SIGN

HEALTH COOPERATIVE ACCORD

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (JTA) — The United

States and Israel will sign a health cooperative agreement here tomorrow that incorporates services in seven areas, including research and direct assistance. The ceremony will be conducted in the conference room of Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Patricia Roberts Harris. She will sign for the United States and Health Minister Eliezer Shostak will sign for Israel. HEW officials said that while the two countries had been cooperating in various fields of health for many years, this will be their first formal agreement.

The areas of mutual interest incorporated in the agreement include planning health and manpower services; health economics and financing; health information; public health related to the environment; biomedical research; and research in the evolution of health services. In the United States programming for this agreement, officials said, each field will have an American specialist working with the Israelis. The cooperative effort will begin immediately after the signing of the agreement. Exchanges of specialists and seminars in both countries will be conducted to explore services and research to be undertaken.

KENNEDY CALLS FOR UNEQUIVOCAL

U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL; RAPS

U.S. FLIRTATION WITH THE PLO

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) called for unequivocal American support for Israel and sharply attacked the Carter Administration's policies toward the Soviet role in the Middle East, the status of Jerusalem and what he called its "on-again-off-again flirtation" with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Addressing the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, here this afternoon, Kennedy, who is seeking the Democratic Presidential nomination, declared that U.S. support for Israel rests not only on "a moral imperative" but on geo-political reasons and vital American interests. "Our alliance with Israel is an alliance based on common democratic ideals and mutual benefit," he said. "In the critical region of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East, Israel is a rock of strength and stability and friendship."

Kennedy, who was interrupted by applause many times during his 30-minute speech to the American Jewish leaders, recalled the Oct. 1, 1977 U.S.-Soviet joint communique calling for a Geneva peace conference to settle the Middle East conflict.

"Although President Carter's awakening to Moscow's global designs is quite recent, how could he have thought even then that it would be healthy and constructive to invite the Soviets to play a role in the peace process?" he asked. "A Middle East peace is the last thing Moscow wants. Only the outcry in Congress and President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem derailed the Administration's express to Geneva," Kennedy declared.

Vows Not To Deal With PLO

With respect to the Administration's attitude toward the PLO, the Presidential aspirant asked, "What lies behind President Carter's on-again-off-again flirtation with the PLO? What lies behind the support he has received from Crown Prince Fahd (of Saudi Arabia) for his re-election

and behind Arab expressions of approval for his pro-Palestinian positions?"

Kennedy vowed that "No member of a Kennedy Administration will ever negotiate or in any way deal with representatives of the PLO committed to the destruction of Israel." He claimed that "This (Carter) Administration is obsessed with the notion that the solution of the problems of the Middle East and southeast Asia depends on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This facile panacea proved wrong in the past and remains wrong in today's turbulent world. The presence of a Soviet-dependent PLO state would undermine even further the stability of the region and the security of Israel."

He also criticized the Carter Administration's "insistence" on calling the Old City of Jerusalem occupied territory. He said he recognized "The millennial Jewish identification with the City of David and I am committed to both an undivided Jerusalem and an Israel within secure, defensible and recognized borders."

Importance Of Alliance With Israel

Kennedy said that "As America prepares to defend its interests in the Persian Gulf region, the importance of our alliance with Israel grows." He said the Carter Administration's inability "to put together an effective energy conservation program and energy alternative program hurts America and hurts Israel."

In that connection, he said one measure is gasoline rationing to reduce America's dependence on Persian Gulf oil. "Cutting oil imports from the Arab countries frees American policy from the threat of blackmail and is the best assurance that America will do what is right for Israel and what is in our long term national self-interest," he said.

Kennedy's speech was in large measure a reiteration of the points made with respect to the Middle East in his address at Georgetown University in Washington this morning. (See story Page 1) His appearance before the President's Conference here was one of a series of appearances by 1980 Presidential hopefuls and his fourth appearance before that body since 1967.

Jewish leaders attending the meeting expressed satisfaction with his remarks. They told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that they hoped that Kennedy will continue his staunch support of Israel whether he succeeds to the Presidency or remains a Senator.

ANATOLIO LANDMANN DEAD AT 69

Buenos Aires, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Anatolio Landmann, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's correspondent in Argentina and editor of the Spanish-language JTA Daily News Bulletin here, died Saturday at the age of 69 after a long illness. Landmann, who was the JTA correspondent here from 1945 until 1951, rejoined it last September when JTA correspondent Asher Mibashan made aliya to Israel. He was also a long-time contributor to the Yiddish press in Argentina and was active in various cultural organizations.

BUDAPEST (JTA) -- The Hungarian paper, "Magyar Nemzet" has published a detailed interview with Simon Wiesenthal, the first time in recent years that an important Hungarian paper interviewed a prominent Jewish personality living abroad.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: A HAVEN
FOR JEWISH REFUGEES FROM NAZISM

By Simeon Baker

(First Part Of A Two-Part Series)

NEW YORK, Jan. 28 (JTA) — The Dominican Republic which occupies two-thirds of the Hispaniola Island and is surrounded by the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, is a relatively small country in the Latin American area, with a population of five million. Over a million of the Republic's inhabitants reside in the capital city of Santo Domingo which has become, due to its all year-round summer-like climate, a flourishing tourist center.

In July of 1938, during the Evian Conference, called by 30 nations to deliberate the fate of the Jews in Hitler Germany, the "strongman" and at that time dictator of the Dominican Republic, Rafael Trujillo, came forth with an offer to permit immigration, resettlement and absorption of 100,000 Jews into his Republic. His declaration was met with great enthusiasm, in view of the fact that none of the other nations — large and small — including the United States, at whose initiation the conference was convened, was ready to admit them and had their borders tightly shut to all the unfortunate.

As a result of the Trujillo offer, the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) formed a special agency, in New York, to deal with the resettlement of the Jewish refugees in the Dominican Republic and named it the Dominican Republic Settlement Association, for short — D.O.R.S.A.

In January 1940, D.O.R.S.A. and the Trujillo government signed a contract to admit the first group of refugees. Trujillo was very proud of his deed and immediately assigned a special area in his country where these new immigrants would engage in farming. At the same time, he managed to procure shares in the undertaking, thus becoming a partner in the project.

Jewish Colony Developed

The tract of land was bought for \$50,000 in the then wilderness of the village of Sosua, near the town of Puerto Plata, in the northern region of the country. The first group of refugees, all of them skilled workers, arrived directly from Germany in May of 1940 and consisted of some 35 persons. The latter groups came, via Portugal, in September and December of the same year from Switzerland where they were kept in special refugee camps under the auspices of the JDC.

On a recent visit to the Dominican Republic, this reporter spent three days in the area of Sosua and had the opportunity to become more closely acquainted with the life and problems of the remaining Jewish colonists. I also met with many leaders and members of the tiny Jewish community of Santo Domingo.

Of the 100,000 refugees Trujillo promised to admit only 700 or 800 actually came. At the beginning, most of these arrivals settled in Sosua and started their agricultural experiment, patterned after the kibbutz system of Israel, and failed. "The reason for this failure," explained Judith Kibel, who was a kitchen worker in the Sosuan settlement, "was our lack of idealism and the overabundance of materialism."

Later, they turned to private farming, following the example of the Israeli moshav, and started to sell their meat and dairy products to factories. Today, these colonists own a dairy factory which produces many kinds of cheese, butter, yogurt and chocolate drinks. They also have a meat factory where they make various sorts of sausage, hot dogs and ham.

Sosua, which now has a population of 10,000 and can be reached in only three-and-a-half hours by automobile from Santo Domingo, is famous for its beautiful beaches and picturesque landscape.

Well-Known Throughout The Country

The meat and dairy factories of Sosua belong to 49 farmers, 75 percent of whom are the Jewish colonists. This information was related to me by Herman Strauss, president of the Board of Directors of the Sosua Company, well-known throughout the country. He proudly stated that their sale of meat and dairy products amounts to \$7 million annually and that over 4000 people are employed in the factories built by the Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria. He also stressed that the original shares in this enterprise were sold at 10 pesos each. The current price is 15,000 pesos per share. The official price of each peso today is one dollar.

There is speculation, to this very day, as to what prompted Trujillo, who was assassinated in 1961, to welcome these Jews into the Dominican Republic. But regardless of his motive, his was the only country to welcome the Jewish refugees during that period, even though not quite 1000 of the projected 100,000 came.

Of the first group of 35 who reached Sosua from Germany and Austria, only three remain. A number of them died and others migrated to a number of cities in the United States. A similar fate befell the members of the other groups who settled in Sosua in the course of 1940. Of these groups there are at present only 36 Jewish families. It is, of course, no simple matter to account statistically for these families. Actually, there are in all of Sosua but six or seven all-Jewish families, with the rest of them intermarried to non-Jews.

I was also told that most of the 1940 newcomers were young men who were married to Dominican Catholic women. Also — that the children of the survivors who came to Sosua after World War II, via Shanghai and Israel, married non-Jews. In my conversations with the colonists, I gathered that to them intermarriage is a very "natural" phenomenon, justifiable by the fact that "also the non-Jews attend the synagogue."

(Tomorrow: Part 2)

2 TERRORISTS GET LIFE IMPRISONMENT

JERUSALEM, Jan. 28 (JTA) — Two Arab terrorists were sentenced today to life imprisonment by the Haifa district court for killing three Israelis during a raid on Nahariya last April. The terrorists entered an apartment building and shot Dan Hagar, his infant daughter Einat, and Police Sgt. Eli Shohar. The terrorists surrendered after a battle with Israeli forces during which two other terrorists were killed.

The judges, in handing down the sentence against Samir Qunotar, a Lebanese, and Ahmed Abres, a Syrian, said the two intended to kill any Jew who would have gotten in their way and committed horrendous crimes such as the cold-blooded murder of the infant. The sentence, the judges said, could not fully match the brutality of the crime.