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BEGIN SAYS ISRAEL WILL ACT IF LEBANESE CHRISTIANS ARE ATTACKED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin told a foreign press luncheon here today that "If the Christian minority in Lebanon is attacked, either in the south or in the north, Israel will not remain passive." He did not elaborate. He reiterated that Israel was carefully watching the movements of the Syrian army in Lebanon which is in the process of being replaced by the Palestine Liberation Army, a paramilitary organization which Syria has armed with tanks and artillery. Both Israel and the Christian enclaves in south Lebanon are concerned that this move could lead to a resumption of the civil war.

On Egyptian-Israeli relations, Begin said Israel would submit an official protest to Egypt about the anti-Israel remarks reportedly made by Deputy Premier Hassan Taha in an interview published in the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Siyassa. He was quoted as saying that the "semi-state, Israel," is on the verge of collapsing, and that Jews were "traitors and hypocrites and had been portrayed as such in history books."

Begin said "It is almost impossible to understand Taha's comments. They are completely contradictory to the nature of the relations developing between the two countries." Taha is a Moslem fundamentalist who has been close to President Anwar Sadat since the pre-revolutionary days in Egypt. He was the No. 2 man in the Egyptian delegation to the Camp David conference in September, 1978.

It was reported from Cairo, meanwhile, that the Egyptian Parliament approved a law last night ending Egypt's participation in the Arab League boycott of Israel. No formal vote count was recorded. Five members of the opposition Socialist Labor Party and one independent member abstained. The official end of the boycott was to have come on Jan. 26, the day normal relations were established between Egypt and Israel under the terms of their peace treaty. But the government requested a delay pending formal approval by Parliament.

ISRAELI PATROL, TERRORISTS CLASH

TEL AVIV, Feb. 7 (JTA) — An Israeli patrol entered south Lebanon last night in pursuit of a terrorist gang after a clash along the border in which one Israeli soldier was wounded by a hand grenade. The Israelis advanced as far as the lines held by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and then withdrew.

According to military sources, four terrorists had crossed the UNIFIL zone and were attempting to break through the security fence on the Israel-Lebanon border when they were intercepted by the Israeli patrol. After a brief exchange of fire and grenades, they retreated into Lebanon with the patrol in pursuit. The terrorists left behind rifles, submachineguns, explosives and other equipment which indicated that they were on a terrorist mission inside Israel.

LEADER OF CAPE TOWN'S MUSLIMS CALLS FOR MUSLEM-JEWISH AMITY

By Sally Press

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 7 (JTA) — Sheikh Abubakar Najaar, a distinguished Islamic scholar and leader of Cape Town's large Moslem community, has issued a call for Moslem-Jewish amity and urged both faiths to work together, and with Christians, to help solve the problems of South Africa and the world in general and to fight Communism.

Najaar, just returned from a visit to Cairo, spoke from a Zionist platform. He addressed a meeting sponsored by the Western Province Zionist Council, attended by several hundred local Moslems as well as Jewish leaders. It was the first Moslem-Jewish gathering in Cape Town's 300-year history. The time has come for the Judaeo-Moslem night — more of the past 50 years to end so that cousins could come together in harmony, Najaar declared.

He praised Jewry and Israelis for carrying the torch of monotheism despite persecution. He recalled the Prophet Mohammed's treaty with the Jews as a basis for a special relationship and alluded to the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. "The peace process is better than war. We can only pray and give moral support that the forces of peace must go forward," he said.

The Sheikh chose his words carefully so as not to embarrass those of his co-religionists who have doubts about President Anwar Sadat's peace moves toward Israel. Nevertheless, he was criticized by more radical Moslem elements in Cape Town for his moderation and his appearance at a Zionist-sponsored meeting.

Rabbi Welcomes Call

But Rabbi E. J. Duchinsky, head of the Cape Town Beth Din, described Najaar as a "prince among his people." The Sheikh is a member of the Cape Town Council of Moslems, Christians and Jews, founded by Duchinsky. He heads Cape Town's Moslem Judicial Council. The city's Moslem community is mainly of Malay (Indonesian) origin but Najaar is believed to be of Arab ancestry. He studied at Egyptian and Saudi Arabian universities where he specialized in Islamic studies and has published scholarly works on the subject. He visited Cairo twice this year. There are over 500,000 Moslems in South Africa, mostly of Indo-Pakistani origin, compared to about 118,000 Jews.

Duchinsky welcomed Najaar's remarks. "We should find that which unites us. There is one indivisible God, truth, humanity and justice," he said. "Sheikh Najaar's message strengthened us in South Africa and in the Middle East and will find its beautiful emergence in brothers who can sit down together in peace."

DAYAN AND KOLLEK MEET WITH FORMER JORDANIAN DEFENSE MINISTER

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 (JTA) — Former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, accompanied by Mayor Teddy Kollek, visited yesterday with Anwar Nusseibeh, the former Defense Minister of Jordan.

who is regarded as King Hussein's unofficial representative in Jerusalem. Nusseibeh insisted afterward that there was no special significance in their 30-minute "chat over coffee" at his East Jerusalem home.

He acknowledged, however, that "We talked about problems which are uppermost in our minds, namely the Palestinian issue in general and the future of Jerusalem." He said there was nothing new in his positions as he presented them to his guests, namely that he rejects the Camp David accords as a basis for resolving the Palestinian issue and supports a re-division of sovereignty over Jerusalem.

Nusseibeh stressed, however, that he did not want to see Jerusalem divided physically again. "There would have to be two separate sovereignties. But I certainly do not advocate the setting of barbed wires in the Mandelbaum Gate. I never did. Barbed wire is a very bad thing, especially in a city such as Jerusalem," he said. Nusseibeh stressed that he was in no position to make offers and that he conveyed no messages. He pointed out that he and Dayan "are both private citizens now."

Dayan is an independent member of the Knesset. Nusseibeh is chairman of the East Jerusalem Electric Corp. and recently led a protest against the Israeli government's declared intention to take control of that company at the end of this year. He said that this issue was raised in his conversation with Dayan and Kollek, "but only incidentally." The meeting was Dayan's first with a leading Palestinian personality since he resigned the office of Foreign Minister last Oct. 21.

HEBRON CURFEW LIFTED FOR 8 HOURS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 (JTA) — The curfew imposed on Hebron following the murder of yeshiva student Yehoshua Sloma there last Thursday, was lifted for eight hours today to allow the residents to do their weekend shopping. It was suspended from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. instead of for only 90 minutes at midday as has been the case for the past week.

But the authorities re-imposed the curfew. Mayor Fahed Kawasme complained bitterly that the entire population was being made to suffer for a crime committed apparently by one man. He is understood to have been informed by the Military Governor that the curfew will remain in force at least until next Monday. The Israeli authorities insist that it is not collective punishment but a measure needed to facilitate the investigation of the murder and to prevent clashes between local Arabs and Jewish militants from neighboring Kiryat Arba.

Kawasme reacted angrily to statements by Defense Minister Ezer Weizman in the Knesset yesterday supporting Jewish re-settlement of Hebron. The mayors of the nearby towns of Bethlehem, Beit Sahur and Halhoul met with Kawasme today to express their solidarity with the people of Hebron. A group of Hebron residents announced that they will appeal to the Supreme Court Monday for the return of the land seized for the building of Kiryat Arba shortly after the Six-Day War.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

THE DUTCH ROYAL FAMILY AND ISRAEL

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 7 (JTA) — Crown Prince

Beatrix, who will become Queen of The Netherlands on April 30, and her husband, Prince Claus, have quietly manifested a sympathetic interest in Jewish affairs and in Israel over the years. They have done so inconspicuously within the restrictions imposed by protocol.

It is not customary in Holland, as it is in Great Britain, for members of the Royal Family to attend Jewish or other fund-raising functions. But Princess Beatrix and Prince Claus have shown a strong sensitivity to Jewish concerns. In 1972 they cancelled their official visit to the Olympic Games in Munich as a gesture of protest over the murder of Israeli athletes by Palestinian terrorists although the Dutch Olympics Committee did not withdraw from the Games.

They visited Israel several years ago, not officially because the Dutch government would not approve such a visit for political reasons. But they impressed many Israelis with their sincerity and interest, especially by the manner in which they had prepared themselves for the visit. They paid an official visit to Jordan at the time.

Princess Beatrix's marriage to the German-born Claus von Amberg aroused furious opposition in Holland where memories of the Nazi occupation are still strong. Prior to their wedding, the couple met with the then Mayor of Amsterdam, Gysbert van Hall, who had been a prominent member of the Dutch resistance and with members of the Dutch Jewish community who were present at the Mayor's residence. The latter were impressed by the couple's wish to have good relations with them.

Cordial Relations With Jews

Prince Claus, who studied law in Hamburg, as a young man, worked for a time in the offices of a Jewish lawyer. Later, as a junior diplomat of West Germany stationed in the Dominican Republic, he maintained cordial relations with Jewish families there. Similarly, in Ivory Coast, he and Princess Beatrix were friendly with the family of a men junior Israeli diplomat, Avraham Primor.

When the Six-Day War broke out and many African countries severed diplomatic relations with Israel, Princess Beatrix and Prince Claus offered to take the Primors' young children into their home for protection. The Israelis declined the offer, for obvious reasons. Princess Beatrix, who is 42, will succeed her mother, Queen Juliana. The Queen announced that she will step down from the throne on her 72nd birthday April 30. (By Henriette Boas)

CORRECTION: The story from Jerusalem in Wednesday's Bulletin dealing with Israel Bonds should have stated that the record sales during the Yam Kippur War was \$515 million.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin reiterated Thursday that the Israeli government would not interfere in any way with the democratic election process in the United States. Begin made that statement in response to a question after he addressed a foreign press corps luncheon. The questioner referred to Defense Minister Ezer Weizman's recent remarks in favor of President Carter's reelection. Begin did not take issue directly with Weizman.

PARIS (JTA) — The son of former Moroccan Chief Rabbi Haim Pinto was killed last week in Casablanca, apparently by muggers.

U.S. AID TO EGYPT ASSESSED

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 (JTA) — The Carter Administration's optimistic reports of Egypt's economic condition that encourages continuing U.S. assistance at record levels and its justification to provide the Cairo government with the latest models of aircraft and tanks in America's arsenal, were vigorously challenged today by members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on the Middle East.

Testifying at a subcommittee hearing, two of the Administration's chief Middle East specialists, Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders and Joseph C. Wheeler, assistant administrator of the Agency for International Development (AID), asked that Congress approve the AID's "largest and most critical development undertaking."

The testimony also brought out that the U.S. has agreed "in principle" to provide an unspecified number of F-16 aircraft and M-60 tanks to Egypt. In addition, a Defense Department official, Richard Violeto, of its Security Assistance Agency, acknowledged that the U.S. has agreed to support weapons production in Egypt by an Arab consortium. A detailed list will be provided to Congress.

Fuel For Planned Nuclear Plant

Saunders said the U.S. has agreed to provide fuel for a planned Egyptian nuclear power plant but has not yet decided whether to finance the plant. Wheeler testified that AID programs for Egypt in the coming fiscal year that begins October 1 will be \$750 million in economic supporting assistance and \$274 million in Food for Peace, and a final \$100 million in supplemental economic assistance under the Camp David accords. Comparatively, Israel is earmarked for \$785 million in supporting assistance funds and only \$1 million in Food for Peace, or \$340 million less than Egypt is to get in economic aid.

In addition, Egypt is to get an extra \$350 million to complement the \$1.5 billion in credits for military equipment agreed to after Camp David. "Other donors who participate with us in the Egyptian Consultative Group are providing about \$1 billion in additional development assistance each year," Wheeler said. The other donors include institutions such as the World Bank.

Wheeler, who told Congress a year ago that "a major success story was shaping up in Egypt," testified today that on his recent visit to that country "a sense of progress is evident from discussions with both government officials and rural villagers." He said that "Today, the evidence of recovery is substantial."

Saunders testified that "The top leadership in Egypt is relieving Egypt of the burdens of war and turning attention to economic problems." He said that was why Egypt "turned away from the Soviet Union" to make peace with Israel. "We are now seeing these things come together," he said, adding that it was "a profound historic shift in Egypt's economic, social, political and military fields."

But the subcommittee, led by its chairman, Rep. Lee Hamilton (D.Ind.), challenged the tenor of the assertions by the Administration officials

that provided the basis for the more than \$3.5 billion in U.S. assistance for Egypt during this year alone.

Tracing Egypt's agricultural problems and rapid population growth, Hamilton reminded Wheeler that he had said last week that there was no malnutrition and hunger in Egypt. "What then is the policy basis of providing Egypt with 40 percent of the total U.S. Food for Peace program when the need across the world is so desperate?" he asked. When Wheeler acknowledged that "political requirements" is the basis, Hamilton retorted, "When you make decisions like that you are denying food to people who need it more." Wheeler replied, "I appreciate that."

With respect to U.S. military aid to Egypt, Rep. Stephen Solarz (D.N.Y.) asked Saunders "What is the relationship of the character of the threat and the sophistication of the weapons" the U.S. is committed to providing. When Saunders demurred, saying that he had told the Senate in closed session, Hamilton said "It should be addressed in open session" and asked for a "general response."

Saunders said "Egypt may be potentially encircled by Soviet-armed Libya and subversion." He did not name any other country that may threaten Egypt. When Solarz asked if "The grave threat" to Egypt was "external invasion or internal upheaval," Saunders replied that "Like Israel, Egypt has a tremendous economic burden," but required a military program.

OPPOSITION TO DRAFTING OF WOMEN

NEW YORK, Feb. 7 (JTA) — Eleven American Orthodox Jewish organizations have written to President Carter, expressing opposition to the inclusion of women in any national registration for re-activation of the draft. The groups have formed an Orthodox Jewish Coalition on Registration of Women for the Selective Service System, claiming to represent the entire spectrum of American Orthodox Judaism.

The President was told that "the highest rabbinic authorities have ruled that Jewish Law prohibits Jewish women from responding to any form of conscription," which would place them in an "irreconcilable and unprecedented conflict between the requirements of their faith and the law of the land."

Calling the idea one signalling "a fundamental and profound upheaval in the role of women in our society," the coalition urged that, at the very least, such an issue "should not be considered in an emotionally-charged atmosphere of dramatic and fast-moving foreign developments."

The coalition which addressed Carter consists of: Agudath Israel of America, Central Rabbinical Congress of the United States, National Council of Young Israel, National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs, National Society for Hebrew Day Schools, Rabbinical Alliance of America, Rabbinical Council of America, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, United Lubavitch Organization, and United Samar Community.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) — A proposal to raise the salaries of Knesset members was rejected Thursday.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA**JEWISH INVOLVEMENT WITH THE
BOAT PEOPLE, VIETNAMESE REFUGEES**

By Ben Frank

(Part Three Of A Three-Part Series)

HONG KONG, Feb. 7 (JTA) — Here in Hong Kong, in this Far East jewel where East and West are compacted into districts of up to 400,000 per square mile, living in cramped high-rise housing, the letters "HIAS" would naturally catch my eye. They were imprinted alongside the name "Tran Thach Kien." Inside the plastic bag he carried were the identification papers of this 37-year-old photographer, one of the 55,000 boat people waiting here in this doorstep to China.

Nearly a year ago, he and his wife, fleeing Vietnam, spent three days and four nights on a small, unsafe riverine boat that somehow crossed the South China Sea to freedom.

Now, 12 months later, the scene was Hong Kong's Kai Tak Airport where airplanes of 30 companies land on the runways extending into Kowloon Bay. Last week I was returning to America, and Tran Thach Kien, one of 6000 Indochinese refugees assisted by HIAS to resettle in the U.S., was about to board a jet liner that would bring him and his family to a new life, in a new land.

We talked both at the airport gate and on the plane. His case in many ways is typical of the tragedy that is occurring here.

The Plight Of The Vietnamese

In recent years the Vietnamese have been opening the flood gates to push out their Chinese minority. Engaging in commerce has become official justification for expelling ethnic Chinese into jungle and mountain areas or for making them leave in small boats. Thousands of Vietnamese find life so unbearable that they want to flee their homeland. The crunch usually comes when the government tells them to resettle in the "new economic areas."

When the Vietnamese government confiscates businesses, the compensation is a mere fraction of the worth of the establishment. Faced with relocation, most Vietnamese of Chinese descent decide to brave the turbulent waves of the South China Sea, waves which have a habit of swallowing up the fleeing. And if the waves don't get them, the pirates who prey on these defenseless boats may. It is no wonder then, that many don't make it into Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong or the Philippines. Still, there may be a million ethnic Chinese in Vietnam who would opt for freedom.

Tran Thach Kien contacted HIAS because his niece and sister, sponsored by that organization, had already been resettled in the U.S. It was unclear whether he knew that HIAS was a Jewish organization, but he knew about Jews and he had heard on the Voice of America and the BBC that they were a "very intelligent people." He also volunteered the name "Moshe Dayan," and said that he was "a good, brave and intelligent man."

He was aware that Israel was taking in Vietnamese refugees. In fact, some of his neighbors in the refugee camp had applied to Israel for visas. Throughout our interview, he and his wife,

Tu Luc Lanh, realized that in fleeing Vietnam, they were risking their lives. They had to "chance it," they related, adding sadly that they, too, had to leave relatives behind.

Ready For Resettlement

Throughout the journey across the Pacific to San Francisco and to New York, Tran Thach Kien, who had spent a year waiting in a refugee camp, would often look at a small scrap of paper. It was from his niece, and the message reminded me of what probably every new immigrant receives from relatives: morsels of good advice on little pieces of paper. This note pointed out that in a photo which Tran Thach Kien had sent to America, he was wearing a short sleeve shirt. His niece warned him to remember that in January it is very cold in New York and he should wear a long sleeve shirt and a sweater.

In my discussions with Rabbi Steven Jacobs of Temple Judea, Torrance, California, and Elmer Winter, past president of the American Jewish Committee, who were here in South East Asia, they often recalled the world's treatment of Jews in the late 1930's when Jews were the then boat people.

"We are determined not to let it happen again," they stated repeatedly, adding they were going to call on American Jews to speed up the resettlement process. To quote the words of Vice President Walter Mondale: "History will not forgive us if we fail. History will not forget us if we succeed."

**'FOOD FOR PEACE' FOR ISRAEL
URGED TO HELP U.S. FARMERS**

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 (JTA) — Rep. Jonathan Bingham (D-NY) has suggested to President Carter that his embargo against U.S. exports of 17 million tons of grain and other agricultural commodities to the Soviet Union "presents an opportunity to reinforce the Middle East peace process" by "significantly increasing" Food for Peace assistance to Israel and Egypt.

"I urge you to seize this opportunity to protect American farmers and shore up our important regional interests by moving decisively to help our only dependable friends in this area of chaos," Bingham wrote the President last month. The White House has not responded to his suggestion.

Saying that "The American farmer cannot be asked to bear the brunt alone" of the \$2.75 billions lost to the U.S. by the embargo, Bingham noted "Israel and Egypt can provide much of that added absorptive capacity to ensure that international markets remain undisturbed and none of the surplus will be indirectly diverted to the Soviets."

Bingham pointed out that the Carter Administration's recently promised one-time \$200 million increase in loan guarantees at commercial rates of interest for arms purchases "will not do much to address Israel's balance of payments deficit." He noted the deficit has soared from \$2.56 billion in 1977 to over \$4 billion in 1979. "Under these circumstances, now that we have to distribute whatever part of the 17-million ton grain purchases that cannot be stored or used for gasoline, failure to increase the Israeli program to the full extent that they can absorb it would have to be viewed as punitive."