

JTA daily news bulletin

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Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036

Vol. LVIII - 63rd Year

Tuesday, April 22, 1980

No. 77

CONTROVERSY OVER MEETING BETWEEN PLO OFFICIALS AND BUNDESTAG MEMBERS

By David Kantor

BONN, April 21 (JTA) — The first meeting of a Palestine Liberation Organization delegation with members of the Bundestag representing all three parliamentary factions last week has generated an angry controversy here. The meeting was condemned by pro-Israel members of the three factions, but government officials and leaders of the coalition parties signaled their approval of further contacts with the PLO.

A spokesman for the ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD) said that the PLO group and SPD deputies were in full accord that a final settlement of the Middle East conflict implies the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. That statement gave an official stamp to the meeting which was originally described as a private initiative on the part of some members of the Bundestag.

On the other hand, a group of prominent SPD members who sympathize with Israel warned that contacts with the PLO were useless. They noted that the SPD's parliamentary faction had not approved the meeting.

Deputy Foreign Minister Guenther Van Well reiterated the Bonn government's support for Palestinian self-determination in the toast he delivered at a dinner here in honor of Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem, the first West Bank Arab leader ever invited to West Germany by the government. Freij, known as a moderate, urged Europeans to support the moderates on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He met with a score of members of parliament of all parties.

Contacts To Be Strengthened With All Parties

Meanwhile, officials here said the government intends to strengthen contacts with all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict pending the new Middle East initiative planned by the European Economic Community (EEC) member states. This is understood to apply mainly to the PLO which is not recognized officially but is increasingly presented here as a legitimate partner to any future solution of the Palestinian question.

Officials also noted that the Secretary General of the Arab League — which ousted Egypt after it signed its peace treaty with Israel — will visit Bonn on May 7. The upcoming EEC initiative is expected to be the main topic of his talks with West German leaders.

WEIZMAN, BROWN TO DISCUSS U.S. USE OF ISRAELI MILITARY FACILITIES

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 21 (JTA) — Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman is to meet with Defense Secretary Harold Brown at the Pentagon April 29, reportedly to discuss U.S. use of Israeli military facilities in defense of American interests in the Middle East. Announcement of Weizman's visit followed Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's comments yesterday in an interview on ABC-TV's "Issues and Answers" that the U.S. should station ground forces in the Middle East and in every region where there is a possibility of

Soviet expansion.

In the interview, which was conducted last Thursday before Begin left Washington, the Premier was asked if the U.S. could station troops in Israel. "Well I said always to our American friends, we are allies, and if you want facilities in our country, we shall put them at your disposal," Begin replied. "I would recommend it to the government. I can only speak on my own behalf."

Weizman is also expected to discuss arms purchases with the U.S., including the Israeli request for co-production of the U.S. F-18 jet warplane. Before coming to Washington, Weizman is due to go to Minneapolis for an award by the Jewish National Fund.

Meanwhile, Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres, who is scheduled to meet at the White House with President Carter Thursday morning, is now also due to see Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. No time has been set as yet.

CANADA TO MOVE AGAINST EX-NAZIS

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, April 21 (JTA) — Canada's new Solicitor General Robert Kaplan said today that he was satisfied that war crimes charges can be proven against some Canadian residents and that he will seek legal frameworks for such action.

Kaplan spoke to reporters after a meeting in Washington yesterday with Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal, director of the war crimes documentation center in Vienna, and with U.S. government officials. Wiesenthal refused to come to Canada because of alleged government inaction against war criminals living there. Kaplan said he promised that the government would be more cooperative in the future. "I am satisfied there are witnesses and war crimes could be proved," he said.

He would not estimate the number of suspected war criminals in Canada and admitted that he has not yet discussed the problem with Premier Pierre Elliott Trudeau. But, according to Kaplan, an agreement exists among all parties for some action.

He stressed that he wanted to avoid witch-hunts, and thought that an investigation by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police would be premature. He said the Canadian War Crimes Act could conceivably be invoked but that it poses problems of a technical nature. Asked what other legislation could be employed, Kaplan replied, "ask me in about three months."

LEGISLATION PENDING TO HELP HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS QUALIFY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 21 (JTA) — Legislation has been introduced in both houses of Congress to help Holocaust survivors qualify for Social Security benefits they are unable to receive now because the records of their naturalization as U.S. citizens contain errors with respect to their birth dates.

The legislation was introduced by Rep. William Hughes (D.-N.J.) and Sen. Richard Schweiker (R.-Pa.). Schweiker pointed out that "women prisoners in Nazi camps above the age of 30 were often put to death and many prisoners understated their ages to avoid execution."

He said that after World War II "250,000 concentration camp survivors were admitted into our

country and up to 10,000 may have understated their true ages to authorities," Schweiker explained, "but since those who survived were fearful that contradictory concentration camp records would jeopardize their chances to enter the U.S. and that they would be sent to hostile countries for relocation, liberated women prisoners repeated their misstatements to the naturalization authorities."

"After 35 years of freedom, their true ages (of men and women) exceed 65, yet official records list ages below this figure. Social Security benefits are now denied them because of this anomaly," Schweiker said. He said the proposed legislation would enable the Attorney General to correct documents "when conclusive evidence is presented" that the age of survivors living in the U.S. is erroneous and "the errors can be traced back to fears of persecution if admission to the U.S. were denied."

Rep. Henry Waxman (D. Calif.), a co-sponsor of the legislation in the House, said the correction of age errors would apply only to those survivors who entered the U.S. between Dec. 22, 1945 and Nov. 1, 1954.

ISRAELI SOLDIERS ATTACKED

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 21 (JTA) -- Three Israeli soldiers were attacked today by several hundred villagers in Dir el Asad village in the Judean region of the West Bank and were forced to open fire to protect themselves. Two of the soldiers were injured and three of the villagers were wounded, one of them seriously. Police and army reinforcements searched the village afterwards and arrested 20 Arabs suspected of participating in the attack.

According to eye-witness accounts, the soldiers were riding in a car with civilian license plates which suddenly came under a barrage of stones and chunks of wood. A bus, parked on a downward slope on the main road, had its brakes released and careened into the soldiers' car.

As the soldiers tried to extricate themselves, they were besieged by hundreds of villagers. At that point, they fired their weapons and managed to keep the mob off until reinforcements arrived. There was no indication of what precipitated the incident. An official investigation is being conducted.

ISRAEL AT 32 MARKED IN WASHINGTON

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, April 21 (JTA) -- Israel's 32nd anniversary was marked by the largest turnout perhaps in history at the Israeli Embassy today. Some 500 persons celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut with champagne as guests of Israeli Ambassador and Mrs. Ephraim Evron.

Among those attending were representatives of most West European and Latin American countries, Egypt, Kenya and the Ivory Coast. Special Middle East Ambassador Sol Linowitz, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Harold Saunders, and U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis were among those who attended.

In observances yesterday of Israel's Memorial Day, more than 1600 persons walked 10 miles in the hallowed areas of Washington. They gathered in the Ellipse and walked past the Washington Monument, the memorials to Lincoln and Jefferson, past the Capitol, the White House and back to the Ellipse.

To enable the elderly and youngsters unable to walk the long distance, a half-mile walk was arranged at the Ellipse. The United Jewish Appeal sponsored the Yom Ha'zikaron program, which included a kosher international meal for more than 2500 persons on the Ellipse.

4 ITALIAN SENATORS, INCLUDING A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, SIGN AN APPEAL ON BEHALF OF SOVIET JEWS

By Lisa Palmieri Billig

ROME, April 21 (JTA) -- Four members of the Italian Senate, including Umberto Terracini of the Communist Party, were the first to put their signatures today on an appeal on behalf of Soviet Jews and their right to emigrate. The other legislators are Giovanni Spadolini, Leo Valiani and Bruno Visentini. The appeal stated:

"We have learned from highly reliable sources that the already difficult situation of Jews within the Soviet Union, and in particular of those awaiting permission to emigrate, has worsened. People who were waiting to receive visas were again refused. Discrimination against students wanting to register at universities has become more severe and personal persecutions have increased. We denounce with concern the worsening of this situation which violates the elementary rights of security and personal safety...."

The statement called on "those militants and heads of parties who are always sensitive to violations of the rights of man ... to make their influence felt on public opinion and on governmental authorities so that the fundamental liberties envisioned by the Universal Declaration and the Helsinki Accords may be reinstated."

JOSEPH BREUER DEAD: AT 98

NEW YORK, April 21 (JTA) -- An estimated 4000 to 7000 persons attended the funeral yesterday of Rabbi Joseph Breuer, an Orthodox rabbi who fled Nazi Germany and was spiritual leader of Congregation K'hal Adath Jeshurun in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan since 1939. He died Saturday at the age of 98.

Breuer, a sixth or seventh generation rabbi, was born in Papa, Hungary. He was the grandson of Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch of Frankfurt who in the mid-19th Century founded neo-Orthodoxy in response to the growth of the Reform movement. Neo-Orthodoxy sought to fuse Western culture with rigorous observance of traditional Judaism.

Breuer was rabbi of a congregation in Frankfurt where his father had been the rabbi before him when, in 1938, the SS assembled all Jews in the area sending those over the age of 60 back home and the rest to concentration camps. The rabbi was only 56, but an SS man allowed him to return home which he always regarded as an act of God.

Five years after he became rabbi of the Washington Heights congregation, Breuer founded the Yeshiva Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch which now has 800 students from kindergarten through graduate level. He taught classes in the Talmud at his home twice a week until his death and supervised the kosher at restaurants, hotels, butcher shops, bakeries and groceries.

PARIS (JTA) -- Over 2000 guests, including three French government members, attended an Independence Day reception Monday given by Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne. The Egyptian Ambassador did not attend.

FOCUS ON ISSUES**NO ISRAELI WATERLOO AT 32**

By Sally Press

JOHANNESBURG, April 21 (JTA) — In Israel's joyous 32nd year an irony has become apparent: that just when the Jewish State is making a breakthrough towards regional cooperation, it is precisely at this moment that the West appears to be doing its utmost to undo that incipient, incremental process. Is this truly a new variation of Europe's old maxim, "divide et impera" — to divide and rule?

Is the West afraid that, should the warring, Balkanized Mideast states move towards real regional cooperation, such as the European Economic Community (EEC), that the lands of the silken curtain might comprise a new power bloc on the world scene — more powerful than the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) grouping with their one-crop economies? Do they fear some new "olive peril" which seems still to haunt Western chancelleries with visions of Hannibal's elephants and Mohammed's horsemen?

The Shadow Of Irony

On the surface at least, the shadow of irony falling over the Mideast bears a striking similarity to the World War I era, when Britain's Sir Mark Sykes and France's Charles Pictot together with the Russian Czar and the Italian government agreed in 1915-16 to divide and rule the Ottoman Middle East for Europe's benefit.

Both the pan-Jewish (Zionist) and pan-Arab (then Hashemite) leaders objected that the Sykes-Picot agreement was inconsistent with Western assurances to their movements.

Even when the Bolsheviks led by Leon Trotsky and Vladimir Lenin opened the Czar's foreign office archives in 1917 and made the Sykes-Picot agreement public, the Western powers went ahead anyway to divide and rule the Middle East from Sinai to Iraq. Later, suitable noises aside, the West acquiesced in Benito Mussolini's conquest of all Ethiopia, almost a model for their behavior over Afghanistan.

A Possible Mystical Link

The words of Christopher Sykes, son of Sir Mark Sykes, on that imperial period speak for themselves: "So far as the British government were concerned, they could not welcome a Feisal-Weizmann agreement " It is hard not to think of those days of Chaim Weizmann and the Emir Feisal two generations ago, when witnessing the current disdain that Western Europe appears to be displaying towards the Anwar Sadat-Menachem Begin accord.

Sykes and Picot; Ernest Bevin and Adolf Hitler; Valery Giscard d'Estaing and Helmut Schmidt — is there somehow a mystical link between them? Far from looking for hidden motives or "conspiracies" against Jewry in particular and Semites in general on the part of the West, and rather than searching for morality in international affairs as practiced by the powers, Israel and her supporters are simply facing the reassertion of Euro-interest.

European Self-Interest

European self-interest — some would call it opportunism — is simply returning to the world scene after its post-war lapse. It is surely not imperialism. It is not the ancient hatred of Judaea or sudden love for Falastin that motivates them

now. It is merely their need for oil that makes those democracies pander to the whims of feudal, reactionary sheikhs.

And it is not a real concern for the Afghans that underlies the noises from the West about the Soviet invasion. It is the sensing of an opportunity to embarrass the Russians in the eyes of the resource-rich Afro-Asian world. If Western scientists developed an alternate means of energy tonight, their politicians would drop OPEC tomorrow. And if the West had really been concerned about "Soviet imperialism" they'd also have made noises about the Tadzhiks, Uzbeks, et al. Nor did the West go to war over Czechoslovakia.

Basis Of Israel's Resilience

Thanks to her founding fathers, Israel's resilience is still rooted in her diversified economy and in her lively democratic system. The current diplomatic pressures may cause many Israelis to feel again the pangs of international isolation. Does she become a fortress — what the proud British called "splendid isolation"? Should she take comfort in the fact that even within her own region she is not the only "odd man out"? Must she accept as permanent Sen. Patrick Moynihan's cutting description of the bulk of the UN membership as creating "a theater of the absurd?"

In certain quarters, proposals of forming a kind of commonwealth of the world's pariah states into a "fifth world" alliance have been mooted. Does Israel's future lie in that direction? Yet Israel is by no means alone on the global scene. And in her 32nd year she has a rare opportunity to influence events in her own region.

Not only is Israel trying hard to consolidate her accord with Egypt and, hopefully through Cairo, putting out feelers to other African states; she also has an opportunity to do something constructive about the Palestinians and, possibly, with Arab Asia.

Building A Regional Peace

To speculate for a moment: If, as former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan suggested, Israel might make a unilateral gesture in respect of the West Bank and Gaza, might not such a step be made conditional on, among other things, Israel's admission to the Arab League? If a non-Arab country like Somalia can become a League member, then why not Israel, Ethiopia, Malta, Cyprus, Turkey, Chad and several others?

By thus ending the exclusivist Arab nature of a potentially broader-based regional organization, all the countries of the Middle East — from the Sahara to Pakistan — would be taking a major step in building regional peace in the center of the Eastern Hemisphere.

Yet there are fears of the Soviet Union establishing yet another surrogate in the Middle East if Yasir Arafat gets his state, fears fanned also by the oil states in the region. There are suspicions that the Palestinians will serve as proxies for North Africa, almost as if the old Fatimid Empire was again seeking to penetrate West Asia's fertile crescent, and as if the Khedive Mehemet Ali and Gamal Nasser were again seeking to control Araby across the Jordan Valley.

There is speculation as to what Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia might do if Arafat succeeds. And might his success be taken as a model for secessionism elsewhere, from Baluchistan to the Basque country, from the IRA to the Bader-Meinhoff element, from Corsica to Sicily, and from Bosnia to Pakhtunistan? While Israel's future is being discussed by Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and Arafat, by

Giscard and Morocco's King Hassan, and by the U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and the new EEC head Gaston Thorn, the political kaleidoscope does not remain stationary.

Only recently Davar, Israel's Labor daily, quoted British Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jacobovitz as mentioning a Soviet suggestion for improving relations with Israel. Given the changing permutations in international and regional relations, Israel is far from facing her Waterloo as prophets of doom would have it. Indeed, the Jewish State's 32nd year may mark a watershed in the ongoing progress of the Mideast's gutsiest country.

BEGIN REITERATES BASIC POSITIONS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 21 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin took the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of Israel's independence to reiterate his positions on Jerusalem, the right of Jewish settlement on the West Bank and security, in a television address to the nation last night. He emphasized several times that he made those positions clear to President Carter in their two days of talks on the autonomy negotiations in Washington last week.

Begin said he told Carter there would be "no concessions" on the right to settle, that Jerusalem would never again be divided geographically, administratively or with respect to sovereignty and that Israel intends to retain exclusive control of internal security on the West Bank and Gaza even after autonomy is established in those territories. "Otherwise, innocent people would be killed by terrorists and so would the peace itself," Begin said.

He said that friends of Israel in the U.S. had told him that the security motivations for settlements on the West Bank were better understood by Americans than the nationalist-historical motivations. However, Begin said, while he stressed the security argument in his statements in the U.S., Israelis have to realize that both aspects, security and heritage, are interwoven.

Begin was backed by Israel's top military man, Chief of Staff Gen. Raphael Eytan, who claimed on another television interview last night that all settlements on the West Bank have security importance, direct or indirect. He defined indirect security as "the upbuilding of the Jewish yishuv in Eretz Israel."

Noble Qualities In Israel

Begin referred only briefly to domestic issues in his Independence Day speech. He claimed that the March inflation figure of 5.1 percent was evidence of a downward trend and credited the Likud government with achieving it. He noted that when Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz took office at the end of last year, the monthly inflation rate was nearly 10 percent.

President Yitzhak Navon stressed values and ethics in his Independence Day address. He said that while there were serious social and economic problems and it was unwise to hide or ignore them, it was equally wrong to ignore or be unaware of the fine and noble qualities that permeated so many areas of life in Israel. "How, otherwise, can we hope to attract young Jews from the diaspora?" he asked.

Leon Dulzain, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, released an Independence Day message in which he said "Israel is the heart of the Jewish people and the heart is the universal symbol of love. Our love

for Zion has sustained us as a people and given us the vision of redemption that we have begun to realize in our day." He added: "May the coming year be one in which the centrality of Israel is further secured in our hearts and by our deeds for Israel and the Jewish people."

CELEBRATIONS MARK ISRAEL AT 32

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 21 (JTA) — Israel's 32nd anniversary was celebrated here last night and today with private parties, official ceremonies, gatherings and receptions.

The major Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration by the New York Jewish community was held at the Bjer Auditorium on Manhattan's East Side where some 700 people gathered last night to pay homage to those who fell in Israel's wars and to celebrate Israel's anniversary. The event was sponsored by the American Zionist Federation. Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, brought Israel's greetings to the audience and delivered the major speech of the evening.

The Israeli Consulate in New York organized Yom Ha'atzmaut parties for Israelis in the five boroughs, where glasses of wine were raised in toasts to the Jewish State. Blum and the Consul General of Israel in New York, Yoseph Kedat, are hosting a reception tonight at the United Nations to mark Israel's 32nd anniversary.

Pride And Satisfaction

In his speech last night Blum described Israel's achievements of the past 32 years, declaring that "we are entitled to look back with pride and satisfaction." But he said that Israel still faces "great and formidable challenges." Those challenges, he said, include the oppression of Soviet Jewry and Jews in Arab lands and the assimilation of Jews in the free world.

"In the countries of the free world, where parents are free to provide a thorough Jewish education for their children, only a negligible fraction of our young people is given this opportunity," Blum said. "Intermarriage -- this sure and clear symptom of assimilation -- is rampant and has reached alarming proportions, thus sapping our national vitality. There is of course a clear connection between these two phenomena -- the lack of adequate Jewish educational framework and the rise of intermarriage."

As for the situation in the Mideast, the Israeli envoy declared that Israel is determined to prevent any departure from the formula agreed upon at Camp David. "We are determined to prevent a situation in which the autonomy regime (in Judea, Samaria and Gaza) could become the nucleus of a PLO state."

PITTSBURGH (JTA) — In a telephone call to Premier Menachem Begin at Blair House just before Begin boarded a plane for Israel Thursday afternoon, Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) voiced "concern about one-sided pressures which hindered the peace process" and said he "especially deplored the U.S. support for the United Nations vote against Israel." Kennedy, campaigning here for the Democratic Presidential nomination, expressed the hope that "the current talks on the future of the West Bank and Gaza would succeed, adding that "our two countries have a vital relationship. We share major strategic interests in an increasingly unstable Middle East." Kennedy also raised the issue of Soviet Jewry "particularly the brave and dissident Ida Nudel. I want you to know that I will be tireless in my efforts on these and any other cases you bring to my attention."