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COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONDEMNS ISRAEL'S SETTLEMENT POLICY

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 23 (JTA) — The Council of Europe, an assembly representing 21 West European national parliaments, today condemned Israel for its settlement policy, recognized Palestinian "right to self-determination" and called on West European governments to take joint action in order to "complete or replace" United Nations Security Council Resolution 242. The Council of Europe's resolution, which had been drafted by the Council's political commission, was approved by 170 votes with no opposition and only 10 abstentions.

The Council was traditionally considered the most pro-Israeli of all international organizations, a bastion of Israel's friends among West European parliaments. Israeli sources said last night they were surprised both by the resolution itself and by the overwhelming majority which approved it. Israeli observer, Micha Harish, said the resolution "will hurt peace in the Middle East and Western Europe itself."

Elements Of The Resolution

The Council resolution says that "Israel's refusal to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and independence is an obstacle to a peaceful settlement." It adds that the Palestine Liberation Organization refusal to recognize Israel's right to exist is also a stumbling block putting both sides, Israel and the PLO, on the same level.

The resolution condemns the Israel government's settlement policy, calling it illegal, and calls on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories. It also calls for a "special status" for Jerusalem without specifying what it should be.

The Council's political commission drafted the resolution after a study mission visited Israel, Jordan, Syria and Egypt. The Foreign Ministers of the four countries were also invited to address the Council's plenary assembly. The resolution itself was presented by French Gaullist Deputy Jacques Baumel and was reportedly approved by all of the commission's members, including its Swiss president.

Apparently, in order to obtain a large consensus, the commission included at the last moment an additional paragraph stressing that the PLO's recognition "will be contested for as long as this organization fails to recognize Israel and give up the use of violent methods."

The resolution condemns "all acts of terrorism from wherever they come," thus implicitly condemning Israel's military activities in south Lebanon and comparing them to Palestinian terrorist attacks.

Symbolic Of European Trend

Israeli sources in Strasbourg stressed that the resolution's main concrete point could be the call for joint West European action to change Resolution 242 in order to cancel out the words "Palestinian refugees" and replace them with a reference to Palestinian "self-determination and independence."

The Council only has an advisory role but has often served in the past as a launching pad for

West European political initiatives. Its resolutions are often later tabled in the European Parliament, which represents the nine member states of the European Economic Community, and in the various national assemblies.

Several Council members, known in the past for their pro-Israeli sympathies, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the resolution is "symbolic of the current European trend" and shows dissatisfaction with Israeli current policies.

HISTORICAL JOURNAL LAUNCHED AIMED AT DENYING HOLOCAUST TOOK PLACE

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, April 23 (JTA) — An historical journal has been launched in California aimed at denying that the Holocaust took place, according to the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies at Yeshiva University of Los Angeles.

Efraim Zuroff, director of the Wiesenthal Center, said that the Journal of Historical Review is being published by the Institute for Historical Review in Torrance, California. The Institute's "self-proclaimed goal is 'to bring history into accord with the facts,' but whose objective in reality is to deny the Holocaust and vilify the Jewish people," Zuroff said.

"The Institute, for example, published the infamous book, *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century*, by Arthur Butz, which seeks to prove that there were no mass murders in the gas chambers, 'only' a million Jews died during the war and that no plan existed for the 'Final Solution'."

Zuroff sent a letter to Stephen Horn, president of California State University, Long Beach, asking that Dr. Reinhard Buchner be dismissed or "censured by the academic authorities" for being listed on the editorial advisory board of the first issue of the Journal.

Zuroff's letter, copies of which were sent to Gov. Edmund Brown and the California Board of Regents, declared: "The thought that a man who would support such ideas is allowed access to hundreds of students yearly and that he has invoked his academic credentials to lend credence to this hateful ideology is extremely distressing."

Selling Biased History Books

The Journal lists for sale by the Institute many books denying the Holocaust as well as the accepted analyses of World War II. In addition to Butz's book, some others offered for sale are:

"Debunking the Genocide Myth, by Paul Rassinier," which is described as "A French Socialist who was interned at Buchenwald tells of his fruitless search for concrete evidence of the 'Holocaust'"; *The Myth of the Six Million*, by Anonymous, described as "the first-ever English language book to dispute the 'Holocaust'"; and *Hitler's War*, by David Irving, the book which claims that there was no evidence that Hitler ordered the extermination of the Jews.

Other members of the editorial advisory committee are: Dr. Austin App, who is retired from La Salle College, Philadelphia; Butz, who is a professor at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.; James Egoft, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, and Dr. James Martin, of the Institute.

PRESSURE EXPECTED OVER UNIFIL

By David London

JERUSALEM, April 23 (JTA) — Israel is bracing itself for a bout of diplomatic pressure over recent violent incidents between Maj. Saad Haddad's Christian militia and allied Shi'ite villagers in south Lebanon and units of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), especially its Irish contingent.

The Irish government has already launched a diplomatic initiative on three separate planes designed to bring Israel to loosen its ties with the Haddad militia which Ireland holds responsible for the recent murder of two of its soldiers by Shi'ite villagers.

Israel, for its part, has made it clear to the Irish government and to other interested parties that it does not propose to weaken its support for Haddad, who it considers a security asset because his border strip bars Palestinian terrorist infiltrators and because of Israel's longstanding commitment to the Lebanese Christians to prevent their destruction by the Syrians, the Palestine Liberation Organization or the indigenous Moslem majority.

Premier Menachem Begin made these points at yesterday's Cabinet meeting when he reported to the ministers on his meeting Sunday night with Irish Ambassador Sean Ronan. Ronan had conveyed to Begin the "deep personal concern" of Ireland's Premier and demanded that Israel take action to restrain Haddad's men. Begin told the Cabinet that he had promised Ronan that Israel would "do its best" to influence Haddad. "But we cannot give him orders," the Premier had noted.

Begin said he explained to the Irish envoy the nature of the "blood feud" tradition under which the Shi'ites, who lost a teenage boy to Irish gunfire two weeks earlier, saw themselves bound to hit back at the Irish battalion until a "sulha" (reconciliation) was arranged. Ronan told reporters here this week that he does not accept the distinction which Begin and other Israeli policymakers make between Haddad's militia and the Shi'ite villagers.

Three-Pronged Irish Initiative

The Irish diplomatic initiative is aimed in three directions:

* In Washington the Carter Administration is being asked to pressure Israel to cease supporting Haddad. Israel has long been careful not to supply Haddad with American weaponry which could be construed as breach of the terms of purchase.

* In Brussels the Irish Foreign Minister was to take up the question of a meeting of the European Economic Community (EEC) Council of Ministers, with a view to achieving a concerted EEC approach to Israel.

* Ireland is also seeking a conference, under UN aegis, of the defense ministers of 10 countries which contribute troops to UNIFIL. These are Fiji, Ghana, Ireland, France, Norway, Holland, Nigeria, Nepal, Senegal and Italy.

This three-pronged effort is designed, according to Ronan, to achieve the short-term goal of greater safety for Irish and other UNIFIL troops and the long-term goal of enabling UNIFIL to extend its area of control into the "enclaves" presently run by Haddad. The Irish unit in concert with UNIFIL has begun evacuating four outposts situated within Haddad-controlled territory in an effort to reduce tensions in the area at least to a

limited extent. Irish soldiers manning these positions were being replaced today by Norwegians and others.

Ronan says his government believes Haddad is not effective in stopping PLO incursions into Israel while UNIFIL has had a good record in this respect and would be even more effective if it did not have to worry itself about Haddad's constant harassment of its forces.

Israel's position — and there are no signs in Jerusalem that this basic position is undergoing review — is that Haddad has been effective in preventing PLO incursions and that UNIFIL's record in this respect is patchy at best. Israeli sources point out that some 30 or more Palestinian terrorist encampments are known to exist within the UNIFIL-controlled area.

AJ COMMITTEE'S WASHINGTON CHAPTER TO DEBATE ISRAELI SETTLEMENT POLICY

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 23 (JTA) — Officers of the Washington chapter of the American Jewish Committee who take issue with the Israeli government's policy of settlements on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, have scheduled a special meeting here on April 30 of the chapter's approximately 600 members to debate their stated views.

A letter signed by the chapter's president, Nancy Long, and circulated to the members, said "the results of our discussion" will be forwarded to the National Board of Governors which is meeting in New York on May 13, immediately prior to the annual meeting there on May 15 when "undoubtedly the plenary body of the American Jewish Committee will come to grips with this issue."

The letter, dated April 11, cautioned that the chapter's meeting "is for American Jewish Committee members only" and the "draft statement" attached to it is "confidential" for "internal use only." However, the contents of the letter and draft statement are now widely known and discussed in Washington and are known in Israel. A copy of the letter and draft was mailed by a recipient to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's Washington Bureau.

National AJ Committee Not Involved

Brant Coopersmith, director of the Washington chapter of the AJ Committee since 1964, confirmed the distribution of the letter. He told the JTA, "It is unusual for all members to discuss an issue but not unprecedented by any means. The American Jewish Committee is not a debating society but engages in a process to obtain more wisdom for ourselves."

Coopersmith said that "no one in New York" — AJ Committee headquarters — "told us to discuss this issue." He noted that Ms. Long and Dr. Lawrence Goldmontz, chapter vice president, are members of the National Board.

Bertram Gold, AJ Committee executive vice president, told JTA: "If they (the Washington chapter) are doing it, they are doing it on their own. They have no direction from the national office. At times we solicit chapter sentiment and at times we get chapter sentiment without solicitation. We haven't done that in this case. Foreign policy is made by the national organization, not local. At best, the chapter action will be a recommendation to the national organization."

Asked if other AJ Committee chapters are taking a critical position on settlements, Gold replied "I don't think so." He said he did not see it as a "general thing."

Top officials of the AJ Committee, including Gold and Richard Moass, president of the organization, remarked in Israel last February, when an

international furor arose over the possibility of Israel establishing a Jewish presence in the West Bank Arab town of Hebron, that they would not be able to defend such a move in the U.S.

The Washington chapter officers' action preceded by one week President Carter's appointment of Alfred Moses of Washington, a national vice president of the AJCommittee, as his unpaid advisor on matters of Jewish community concern. Contacted by the JTA today, Moses said "I was not consulted and I did not review it before my appointment. It is solely the work of the local office."

The "confidential draft" stated that "As a general proposition, American Jewish organizations should not meddle in what can be appropriately regarded as the internal affairs of the State of Israel. It should not, in particular, attempt to second guess Israel on what are purely issues of defense."

"On the other hand, where the government (of Israel) takes steps which can profoundly affect the future of the Jewish people, we believe it to be appropriate for American Jewish organizations to state their views of these steps. This is particularly true where policies by the government of Israel relate to international affairs."

Points In The Draft Statement

The first of the six points of the draft statement upholds United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 as "the foundation of Middle East peace." The second point states: "We do not believe that Israel should incorporate within its borders the predominantly Arab areas of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza districts."

The third point is: "We believe that Jews have a legal and moral right to make their homes in Judea and Samaria, acting as individuals or as groups of individuals. We reject as utterly disingenuous the protestations of the international community which closes its eyes to atrocities committed across the globe but violently opposes the action of a handful of Jews who decide to make their homes in Judea and Samaria. We also consider some of the statements made by our State Department on this issue legally and morally unsupportable."

Point four states: "Our observations on the moral and legal rights of Jews to settle in Judea and Samaria notwithstanding, we deem it highly unwise and contrary to the best interests of the State of Israel for the government of Israel to encourage and foster such settlements."

"We believe that the settlements policy of the present government of Israel has provided propaganda ammunition to those who wish Israel ill, has as a result alienated many persons who would otherwise tend to be more friendly to Israel, has resulted in the squandering of limited human and financial resources and, by scattering points to be defended in case of war, has been harmful to the security of the State of Israel."

The last two points of the draft statement are that the Israel Defense Force should remain in the West Bank area until the "final border arrangement" is made, that "the indigenous Arab population should be given the maximum opportunity for self-government compatible with Israel's security" and that Jerusalem "should remain undivided and a part of the State of Israel."

RESOLUTION ON JEWISH HERITAGE WEEK

WASHINGTON, April 23 (JTA) — The

Congress today was expected to transmit to President Carter a joint resolution authorizing and requesting him to issue a proclamation designating April 21-28 as "Jewish Heritage Week," beginning this year. The White House indicated that the resolution, co-sponsored by members of both parties, would be signed by the President.

The Senate late yesterday approved the resolution without dissent after Sens. Jacob Javits (R. NY) and Howard Metzenbaum (D. Ohio) asked that it clear the chamber without going through the usual committee procedure. On Monday, the House similarly approved the resolution without dissent.

The resolution was introduced last Jan. 22 by Rep. Joseph Addabbo (D. NY). It carried 225 co-sponsors when it was approved under the floor management of Rep. Herbert Harris (D. Va.). The resolution calls "upon the people of the United States, state and local government agencies and interested organizations to observe that week with appropriate ceremonies, activities and programs."

The resolution notes that "the Congress recognizes that an understanding of the heritage of all American ethnic groups contributes to the unity of our country" and that "inter-group understanding can be further fostered through an appreciation of the culture, history and traditions of the Jewish community and the contributions of Jews to our country and society."

Several speakers in both chambers noted, as the resolution did, that the month of April contains events of major significance in the Jewish calendar, such as Passover, the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, Israel Independence Day, Solidarity Sunday for Soviet Jewry and Jerusalem Day.

BEGIN URGES JEWISH SETTLERS TO END THEIR MONTH-OLD HUNGER STRIKE

JERUSALEM, April 23 (JTA) — A group of Jewish settlers from the West Bank and Gaza Strip who have been demanding that the government initiate legal measures to ensure the proliferation of settlements in those territories, were urged by Premier Menachem Begin yesterday to end their month-old hunger strike.

Begin met with representatives of the group — mostly Gush Emunim activists — but gave them no assurances as to when or how the status of the settlements will be protected from court challenges. He said the government was looking for ways to secure existing settlements and establish new ones. He explained, however, that under the Camp David accords there was no room for any far-reaching legal changes in the territories.

Reuven Rosenblatt, a member of the regional council of settlers in the Gaza Strip, conceded after the meeting with Begin that the hunger strike has failed to alter government policy. He has been living on a diet of fruit juice for the last 30 days. The strikers said they would consult with their constituents whether to accept Begin's request.

The Gush Emunim and their supporters insist that the government introduce legislation which would make it impossible for the Supreme Court to declare any settlement illegal. This was the case with Elon Moreh, a Gush emunim settlement near Nablus, which the high court ordered dismantled last year. The court found that the security arguments advanced for the seizure of Arab land to build the settlement were invalid.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Fuel prices rose by 36 percent Wednesday and electricity rates were hiked by 30 percent.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA **PLO SUCCEEDS IN HAVING ANTI-ISRAEL** **DOCUMENT PRESENTED TO WOMEN'S PARLEY** By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, April 23 (JTA) — An intensive campaign by Israel, which was aided by the United States, Holland, Norway, Britain, Nigeria and Uganda, to exclude an anti-Israel document from the World Conference of the UN Decade for Women in Copenhagen next July, failed here last week.

Ambassador Ovadia Soffer, head of the International Organization Division of the Israel Foreign Ministry, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in a special interview that he came here from Israel in an effort to have the Preparatory Committee for the Women's Conference reject a request by the Palestine Liberation Organization to include in the conference anti-Zionist measures linking the treatment of Palestinian women by Israel with apartheid.

He said that he "struggled here for four days" last week to thwart the PLO efforts -- but to no avail. "The PLO is ruining the show at the UN, and despite the support we received from the U.S. and some West European countries we could not defeat them," Soffer said.

According to Soffer, who represented Israel at the UN for a few years prior to assuming his new post in Jerusalem, the Preparatory Committee accepted a request by the PLO to include in the Copenhagen conference two documents adopted by the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) -- an anti-Israel body that accepted the PLO as a member but refused to accept Israel -- last December. One document, Soffer said, calls for measures to assist Palestinian women. The other ECWA document calls for a new review of the "political situation" of the Palestinian women.

Noting that the international conference in Copenhagen is an extremely important conclave that will be attended by such notables as Aliza Begin, Jihan Sadat and Rosalynn Carter, Soffer warned that unless "the Western world will mount a meaningful opposition to the politicization of the Copenhagen conference it will play into the hands of the PLO, which will drag it into the complexities of the Mideast conflict and hamper the tremendous work that was invested by the entire international community to work out modalities for the improvement of the status of women."

LILLIAN CARTER VISITS YAD VASHEM By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 23 (JTA) -- Mrs. Lillian Carter, President Carter's mother, left Israel for Egypt today, ending a five-day visit, her second to this country since she attended Golda Meir's funeral in 1978. After an escorted tour of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial yesterday, Mrs. Carter remarked that it would be good if every American could visit the site because people have so little information on the Holocaust.

She also visited the Western Wall where, according to custom, she wrote a wish on a small piece of paper and placed it between the ancient stones. She would not tell what her wish was but said "it was a good one." Reporters accompanying Mrs. Carter asked if she would want to meet Palestinians. She replied, "I wouldn't be able to tell between a Palestinian and an Israeli, they are all so friendly here."

Asked about her son Billy Carter's frequent

anti-Israel remarks, she replied, "Billy is friendly but he drinks too much."

Mrs. Carter attended a reception given in her honor last night by Premier Menachem Begin and his wife, Aliza and they exchanged gifts. Begin presented his guest with a leather-bound Hebrew-English Bible and Mrs. Begin gave her an Israel-made silver brooch. Mrs. Carter gave Begin a giant blow-up photograph of himself, Carter and President Anwar Sadat at the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty signing ceremony. The picture was signed by the President, "With thanks and admiration to my friend Menachem Begin."

CANADIAN OFFICIAL SAYS HIS COUNTRY **WILL NOT BOW TO ARAB PRESSURE** By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, April 23 (JTA) -- Canada's new Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mark MacGuigan, has made it clear that his country will not emulate the pro-Arab bias shown by West European countries dependent on Arab oil. Although 40 percent of its crude oil imports come from Saudi Arabia, MacGuigan declared in a recent interview that "Canada does not depend on the Middle East for its oil and therefore we shall not follow France and Austria in taking measures favorable to the Palestine Liberation Organization."

Apparently referring to moves by the European Economic Community (EEC) to alter United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 in a way that would change the status of Palestinians from refugees to a political entity, MacGuigan stressed that "Canada stands by the 242 and 338 resolutions of the United Nations."

He observed that the EEC countries "are acting under the pressure of their need of oil. It is not an entirely noble cause but this probably constitutes the basis of their policy."

MacGuigan, who took office after Premier Pierre Elliott Trudeau's Liberal Party defeated the Progressive Conservative Party of Prime Minister Joe Clark in the elections in February, said he favored "development of relations between Canada and Saudi Arabia." However, he noted that Canada does not exert much influence in the Middle East and consequently there was no need for it to seek stronger ties with such countries as Syria and Lebanon.

With respect to the adoption of a special law to combat the Arab boycott of Canadian firms that do business with Israel, MacGuigan said, "I shall fight against all attempts and abuses." He said he hoped to act by ministerial decisions rather than through an anti-boycott law because, in his view, administrative measures will avoid divisions within the Liberal Party which a special anti-boycott law might produce.

YERACHMIEL BLUMENFELD DEAD AT 52

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 23 (JTA) -- Yerachmiel Blumenfeld, Chief Rabbi of Rio's Orthodox Jewish community, has died here of a heart attack. He was 52 years old. Born in Poland, he was brought to Brazil by his parents. His education included studies in a college here and in rabbinical schools in Jerusalem and Brooklyn, New York. Among the hundreds of people who attended his funeral were representatives of the Governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro, the office of Mayor Israel Kalabin of Rio, and the offices of Rio's Cardinal and Archbishop.

BRUSSELS (JTA) -- Some 100 Jews began a 100-hour sit-in Wednesday in front of the Soviet Embassy to protest Soviet mistreatment of Jews.