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BEGIN WARNS THAT IRAQI ARMS PURCHASES ENDANGER ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 9 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin warned today of recent arms acquisitions by Iraq which, he said, were of major strategic significance. He referred particularly to Iraq's purchase of 1200 tank transporters, mainly from West Germany. This would enable Baghdad to deliver a powerful armored force, intact, to Israel's northeastern front in the event of a new war, the Premier noted.

There was every reason to expect Iraq to participate in such a war, he said. It had participated in all past encounters — and indeed had suffered because its tanks had had to make their way to the front on their treads. Regarding Iraq's nuclear program, Begin said Israel was doing "all we can" to thwart it, and would continue to do so. Israel was receiving "help from important friends" in this respect, Begin stated. He gave no further details.

Syria's Military Strength Increasing

Begin spoke of accretions to Syria's armed strength, too. He revealed that the number of Soviet advisors in Syria had recently doubled — to more than 5000. Syria could now field more than 3000 tanks, he said, and its pilots had begun to fly the Russian-supplied MIG 25 jets hitherto flown only by the Soviets themselves. Periodically Israel received "information" that the Syrians were planning to take hostile action — but denials always followed. Israel for its part remained on its guard.

Begin spoke with satisfaction of Israel's success "with the help of the Senate" in persuading the U.S. not to supply Saudi Arabia with auxiliary fuel tanks for its soon-to-be supplied F-15 jets. These tanks, Begin said, would have given the Saudis the capacity to bomb Israel's cities and return to bases deep inside the country.

But even without the auxiliary tanks, the Saudi planes could be moved up to the Tabuk base, close to Israel's southern tip, for sorties against Israel from there, Begin warned. He said he always pointed this out in conversations with U.S. officials who stress that the American-supplied F-15s are not to be stationed at Tabuk but at bases much farther off.

BEGIN: ISRAEL MAY RELEASE SECURITY PRISONERS AS A HUMANITARIAN MOVE, NOT AS A 'GESTURE' TO EGYPT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 9 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin today confirmed reports that Israel is considering the release of Palestinian security prisoners. But he insisted that this would be purely a "humanitarian" move, not a "gesture" to Egypt connected with the planned resumption of the autonomy talks.

Begin told Israeli diplomatic correspondents he had been approached regarding the release of prisoners some weeks ago by U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis. The approach had been unconnected to special envoy Sol Linowitz's mission to the area last week to seek a resumption of the long-

stalled negotiations.

Begin said he had told Linowitz and Lewis that he would personally favor prisoner releases provided they did not endanger or impair national security. He has not yet brought the issue before the Cabinet defense committee, but indicated that he intends to do so. Sources close to the Premier said a limited number of prisoners were involved — "individuals, rather than dozens or scores."

Though the Premier insisted that the prospective release of prisoners is not a "gesture to Egypt" ("politics is not gesticulation," he said), observers here immediately read it as part of a goodwill package. Both sides pledged, in the agreed statement issued by Linowitz at the end of his trip, to "strengthen the foundations of mutual trust and friendship," and this was widely interpreted as including such gestures by Israel as prisoner release and postponing moving the Premier's office to East Jerusalem.

Has Not Changed Mind On Moving Premier's Office

On this latter point, Begin firmly denied today that he had changed his intention to move the office. He was not responsible, he said, if Linowitz or others had come away from meetings with him having formed that impression: "I definitely intend to bring (the office move) before the Cabinet," Begin declared. Significantly, though, he declined to say when he would bring the matter to the Cabinet, saying vaguely that there were "considerations" to be borne in mind.

He noted that no minister had raised objections when he had first broached the issue at the Cabinet — but added immediately that that had been "a long time ago" and many developments had occurred since.

Several senior ministers have made no secret, in private conversations, of their hope that Begin will quietly let the proposed office move lapse — especially in view of the international drubbing Israel has taken in the wake of the Jerusalem law.

Says Sadat Committed To Normalization

Begin revealed that President Anwar Sadat has solemnly undertaken to "see to it" that the normalization process between the two countries proceeds with more vigor and speed. The Egyptian leader had given the commitment to Linowitz last week — and Israel's Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir is holding talks in Egypt today and tomorrow on how to translate this reiterated Egyptian commitment into action. Sadat, Begin said, had given "specific orders" to his Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Butros Ghali, to see to it that normalization ties "develop positively."

Begin cited commerce, tourism and culture as areas in which an immediate improvement was possible. In general, the Premier said, Egyptian businessmen were "very interested" in concluding deals with Israeli firms, and, once government-imposed restrictions are lifted, many such deals would develop. Sadat had now promised that the restrictions would indeed disappear.

There would soon be a delegation from Sadat's political party visiting Israel, and later a parliamentary delegation, Begin noted, and in the other direction, Israel's President Yitzhak Navon would visit Egypt and this would "be part of the normalization and bring honor to Israel." Begin said that Navon would not be addressing the Egyptian People's

Assembly. This was Navon's own decision, and he (Begin) had welcomed it.

Questioned on the aftermath of the Jerusalem law, the Premier refused to concede that the law had done Israel more political harm than good. The exit of 13 embassies from the city had not at all affected its status as Israel's capital, he declared. The definition of a capital was a city which a nation, through its parliaments, determines as its capital and places its head of State, Legislature, Executive and Supreme Court therein. "Even if 30 embassies had left and not 13 it would have made no difference," Begin said.

Begin noted with gratification President Carter's references to Jerusalem and its meaning to Jewry at his address to the B'nai B'rith International convention in Washington last week. This was the first time an American President had spoken in these terms, Begin said. Carter had linked the city to the "Jewish People" and had recalled how King David had proclaimed it Israel's capital. "In the last three years you have been hearing someone else speaking in those terms . . ." Begin joked.

The fact that it had been an election speech to a Jewish audience did not detract from its importance, the Premier noted. The Jewish political influence in the U.S. -- the fact of especial Jewish weight in key states -- was nothing to be ashamed of, he said. On the contrary, Israel was fortunate indeed to have the support of "this great Jewish community."

The Jewish people was united behind Israel and behind Jerusalem as Israel's capital, Begin declared. He cited the fact that Prof. Leonard Fein had gotten the support of 38 of the 56 signatories of his "Peace Now" letter for a new declaration endorsing Israel's stand on Jerusalem.

But there were two matters on which, Begin said, diaspora Jews had no right to interfere. One was Israel's defense needs, and the other the scheduling of the Knesset election which was purely a matter for the Israeli voters to determine.

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY SCIENTIST SEEKS RECOGNITION FOR ISRAEL'S STAR OF DAVID SOCIETY

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9 (JTA) -- A Russian-born scientist with a medical degree from the University of Berlin which he received during the bitter years when Hitler's onslaught was mounting against Jews, has taken up the long struggle to have the International Red Cross (IRC) recognize Israel's Magen David Adom.

Dr. Arieh Harell, now 68 and a professor of endocrinology at Tel Aviv University, is president of Israel's counterpart of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies in other countries. In the United States for a series of seminars and conferences in his medical field, he seeks with indefatigable zeal, as did his predecessors, to win support for Israel's membership in the international body.

The IRC holds its quadrennial meeting in Manila in November 1981 when Israel's membership will be proposed. In 1949, when it made its first application, it lost by one vote. At that time the East European bloc was split and some members abstained. Every four years since then Israel has unsuccessfully sought membership in the face of opposition from the Arabs and their allies.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of

Magen David Adom, which was established during the British Mandate in Palestine. Harell noted in an interview here that in the past 50 years Israel's society has supplied aid to more than 30 countries, including Moslem and African countries which now shun Israel. Ironically, among them is Bangladesh which in mid-August introduced the resolution in the United Nations Security Council aimed at depriving Israel of Jerusalem as its capital.

Last month, Harell said, "Magen David Adom sent 200 pounds of medicines and first-aid kits to the Red Cross in Nepal to help earthquake victims. Five medical teams, helped by the government of Israel and Israel's television network, went for aid refugees from Cambodia in Thailand. Israel's television raised 50 million Israeli Pounds for this purpose."

Harell noted that "most Red Cross societies recognize Israel's international cooperation. There are strong personal ties between our society and Red Cross societies abroad -- the West Europeans, Rumania's and especially with the American Red Cross." While in Washington, he was the guest of George Elsey, American Red Cross president.

Harell, who was in Washington with Rabbi Reuben Rubin of Miami Beach, a leader in the American effort in "Operation Recognition" for Magen David Adom, was Israel's minister to Rumania in 1957-58 and ambassador to the Soviet Union in 1958-62. Born in Kiev, he emigrated to Palestine in 1934, and then entered Berlin University where he received his medical degree in 1937.

While on his current U.S. visit, he is participating in conferences and seminars, including the Gordon Foundation Conference in Meriden, N.H., North Connecticut University, the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, George Washington University in St. Louis, and at Estes Park in Denver. He will return to Israel in October.

BEGIN TO ADDRESS C J F ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, Sept. 9 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin of Israel will address over 2500 leaders of North American Jewish Federations on Thursday, Nov. 13, at the Council of Jewish Federations' General Assembly in Detroit, it was announced here today. Speaking at a major plenary session, Begin will provide delegates with his views on "Israel-Diaspora Relations" -- the bond between American Jewry, the State of Israel and its people.

The General Assembly, Nov. 12-16, will bring together leadership from C J F's 200 constituent Federations in the United States and Canada. The Assembly is the largest single gathering held each year of North American Jewish leadership. Delegates will participate in sessions covering every major aspect of concern to the organized Jewish community.

Additional major sessions will be devoted to the implication of the results of the U.S. Presidential elections, strengthening the Jewish family through community support systems and programs, "The Struggle for Soviet Jewry"; "Serving the Aging in the 1980s," and "The Quest for Peace in the Middle East."

FOCUS ON ISSUES

THREE CANDIDATES WOO JEWISH VOTERS

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9 (JTA) -- In their appearances before the B'nai B'rith International convention last week, in the closest resemblance of a debate this election campaign, the three major Presidential candidates experienced even-handedness in respect, attention and cordiality.

The 1400 men and women from across America and Canada and also representing many of the Jewish service organization's branches in 40 other countries gave no indication of partiality towards Republican Ronald Reagan, Independent John Anderson and Democrat Jimmy Carter, who spoke in that order within 26 hours. Each received standing ovations before and after their speeches; each was praised from the podium; each received numerous bursts of applause during the course of their speeches.

In general appraisals, Reagan appeared to be talking directly to the American Jewish community and directly to the Soviets and the Arab enemies of Israel. Anderson's thesis was a warning to Americans in general and Jewish voters in particular "not to be taken in" this election year by his rival candidates. Carter seemed to address Jewish voters in particular but he also seemed to be telling the world he continues on the course they have come to know. "There will not be one policy for an election year and another after the election," he said.

All three candidates pledged they will not allow the imposition of a decision by outsiders on Israel; they oppose a Palestinian state; they will continue U.S. aid to Israel. None of them touched on Jewish settlements in the West Bank. Both Carter and Reagan spoke out strongly in support of Soviet Jewry.

While Reagan and Anderson hit hard at the U.S. abstention on anti-Israel resolutions in the UN Security Council, Carter did not attempt to rebut those challenges. Anderson's remarks were more general than substantive -- he had made his positions earlier in the campaign. Analysis of the candidates' statements, therefore, was mainly focused on what Reagan had said and Carter's expressions on the same subjects.

Israel Is Strategic Asset

In essence, Reagan said "Israel is a major strategic asset to America," while Carter reiterated his commitment to "a secure Israel." Reagan said the Palestine Liberation Organization must not only accept Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the PLO must also prove that it truly represents the Palestinians because, he said, "the PLO kills off its Arab opponents." Reagan called the PLO "terrorist." Carter reiterated he would not recognize the PLO until it accepts Security Council Resolution 242. He said "terrorism" must end but did not say who commits it.

Reagan said "Jerusalem is now and will continue to be one city, undivided." Carter said Jerusalem "should remain forever undivided." Carter did not mention Palestinian refugees. Reagan said they left Israel because they thought in 1948 that Israel would be wiped out in a few days by Arab forces. One solution for the refugees, Reagan suggested, would be their assimilation in Jordan.

While Carter spoke of Egypt and Israel negotiating autonomy for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Reagan said that Jordan and Israel should negotiate the settlement since they are "primary" to the West Bank. In this regard, he did not include Egypt although he acknowledged the virtue of the Camp David accords.

Power Of 'Political Oil'

Anderson warned against "the power of political oil," saying it "warps our principles" and "clouds our judgment." He cautioned that "too

many times" during this election "solemn promises will be issued" and "too many times those commitments will prove to be empty." In general, he leaned more heavily against Carter than Reagan, who, he intimated, "discovered Israel in 1980."

Carter alluded to U.S. aid given to Israel -- almost half of all of it during Israel's lifetime came during his Administration. Anderson had anticipated his statement and reminded him of the share in it by the Congress, including Republican members.

LOVE, NOT WAR By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Sept. 9 (JTA) -- A suspicious looking small boat making its way to Israeli waters from the direction of Lebanon was found by the Israeli navy patrol boat that intercepted it to be carrying not terrorists but a young Lebanese couple seeking sanctuary in Israel in order to marry. The eloping couple was taken to Haifa port where they told their story to reporters.

The young man and woman said they met a year ago and fell in love. But her father, a fisherman, refused to sanction their marriage after months of pleading, nor would her stepmother relent. The man, who worked as a tourist guide in Beirut, decided that flight was the only solution. On Sunday morning he and his fiance put to sea in his boat and were picked up 10 hours later by the Israeli sailors.

Their names were not published. They told reporters they decided to flee Lebanon because "it is not quiet there. We seek love, not war," they said.

LEAH PORAT DEAD AT 58

TEL AVIV, Sept. 9 (JTA) -- Leah Porat, a former senior official of the Education Ministry who exerted a strong influence on cultural life in Israel, died here at the age of 58 after a long illness. Burial services, held today at the Savion Cemetery, were attended by prominent figures in the theatrical arts, literature, music and broadcasting and by the Minister of Education and Culture.

Born in Czernowitz, Russia, Ms. Porat came to Palestine as a child. She began her career as an announcer on the British-controlled Voice of Jerusalem Radio, the Hebrew section of the Palestine Broadcasting Service in the Mandate period. Later she was a producer and director of various programs, mainly children's hours and programs of poetry and literary readings. In 1961 she was appointed director of programs of the Israel Broadcasting Service.

From 1968 to 1970 she served as Consul for Cultural Affairs at the Israel Consulate in Boston. After returning to Israel she joined the Education Ministry and was placed in charge of its cultural activities. In that capacity, Ms. Porat headed a public committee on art and culture which decided such matters as grants and allocations to various institutions of art and culture. She retired last year after completing 10 years in that post.

KEDAR'S ROSH HASHANAH MESSAGE

NEW YORK, Sept. 9 (JTA) -- Yosef Kedar, Israel's Consul General in New York, issued a Rosh Hashanah message today calling for commitment of "our resources, both material and human, to achieving these goals so near to our hearts; Jewish consciousness everywhere, a strong and secure Israel and a growing aliyah dedicated to the fulfillment of the dream of all the Jewish people. And this year more than ever before, the unity of the Jewish people and our common aspirations are symbolized by our devotion to Jerusalem the eternal capital of the State of Israel."

BEGIN'S ROSH HASHANAH MESSAGE

JERUSALEM—Sept. 9 (JTA) — The following is Israeli Premier-Menachem Begin's Rosh Hashanah message:

"We stand on the threshold of the New Year 5741 with hope and belief that our people's ancient great human values will endure and triumph over the transient material considerations provided by oil these days. We are a small nation and we know our place in the world. We know what we can offer mankind. We also know the role we can and do play in the Middle East.

"The region in which we live and its periphery is now in turmoil. In Iran we have seen civilization itself endangered by the emergence of dark forces that have trampled underfoot the time-honored customs and traditions of international cooperation. We have seen the power of petro-dollars reduce even some democratic states to subservience and capitulation.

"This is a disturbing development for the shrinking free democratic world. We must stand together in the face of the Soviet thrust into the four corners of the globe for control of strategic and material assets. After Angola and Mozambique, Ethiopia and South Yemen, Vietnam and Cambodia it would be foolhardy to ignore the implications of their operations in Afghanistan, as a result of which the Soviet army could reach the Indian Ocean through Baluchistan. The whole free world is in danger; liberty itself is in peril.

"For our part we have done all in our power to advance the cause of peace in our region. We faithfully carried into effect every commitment that we undertook in the peace treaty with Egypt. We have made great sacrifices for peace -- an ideal which is not easily obtainable and, therefore, we must pursue it with determination and patience.

Will Not Deviate From Camp David

"We have the profound satisfaction that it was we who originally proposed autonomy for the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza district. We have stated and reiterated our readiness to fulfill the letter and spirit of the second part of the Camp David agreement, dealing with this autonomy, and not to deviate from it by one iota. We are in no way responsible for the periodic interruptions and suspensions of the negotiations -- all of them caused by the Egyptian government, -- and earnestly call on our friends and partners likewise to abide by the original agreements.

"As usual, the world has overreacted to our reaffirmation of an existing truth -- that Jerusalem is united, the capital of our State, an indivisible city with complete freedom of access to the holy shrines of all religions guaranteed by law for all time. Any proposal which may either directly or indirectly bring about the redivision or repartition of Jerusalem will be rejected by all our people, for we stand by the unity of Jerusalem for ever and ever.

"From this city, eternal Yerushalayim, I send you, my dear brethren and sisters, greetings for a happy New Year 5741. With God's help may it be a year of continuing advance towards peace, a year of improvement in the economic situation of our country and its individual citizens, a year of growing aliya from the East and the West to the Land of our Forefathers. May this Rosh Hashanah usher in a year of happiness and freedom, strength, security and dignity for all the House

of Israel."

CDU LEADER IN WEST GERMANY DEFENDS CAMP DAVID ACCORDS, ACCUSES EEC OF HARMING CHANCES OF MIDEAST PEACE

By David Kantor

BONN, Sept. 9 (JTA) -- Franz-Joseph Strauss, the opposition candidate for Chancellor, has strongly defended the Camp David peace process in the Middle East and accused the heads of state of the nine European Economic Community (EEC) countries, including West Germany, of harming the chances of peace in the region.

Strauss, leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), spoke to foreign journalists during a campaign trip to Kassel over the weekend. He was sharply critical of the Middle East peace initiative launched by the EEC at its summit conference in Venice last June.

"Europe can only contribute to peace by supporting the American diplomatic efforts and not by launching a separate initiative. Playing the loud-mouth does not encourage moderate elements but rather helps extremists," Strauss said.

He urged the European countries to show more patience and understanding toward the current peace moves which, he said, will "ultimately bring a solution under one or another interpretation of the Camp David accords." He expressed reservations, however, over any settlement activity by Israel that was not absolutely essential to its security needs. He also appeared to be critical of the law passed by the Knesset declaring united Jerusalem Israel's capital.

The pro-Arab Middle East policies of Bonn's Social Democratic regime has not been a major issue in the election campaign to date. But differences of opinion on how to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute have surfaced from time to time.

82-YEAR-OLD SOLON HONORED FOR HER FRIENDSHIP FOR ISRAEL, JEWISH PEOPLE

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Sept. 9 (JTA) -- Some 300 members of the national Hadassah-WIZO and the Montreal Hadassah chapter honored Senator Therese Casgrain here for her services to humanity and for her staunch friendship for Israel and the Jewish

people. Mrs. Casgrain, who is 82, has participated in various international congresses for the rights of women and has visited Jerusalem several times where she struck up a personal friendship with the late Golda Meir and other leading Israeli personalities.

Yeshayahu Anug, Israel's Ambassador to Canada, praised the Senator and stressed the importance for old friends of Israel to fight the onslaught launched against Israel which is also an onslaught against the West and its permanent values.

Miriam Small, president of Hadassah-WIZO, presented Mrs. Casgrain with a scroll mentioning that her name has been inscribed on the pillar of gifts at a Hadassah-WIZO vocational high school in Israel. Thanking the Hadassah-WIZO membership for the honor, Mrs. Casgrain issued a strong appeal in favor of a united Canada. "I joined you and you join us," she said, to the applause of the audience.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Rosh Hashanah shoppers in Israel are finding markets and stores stocked with every conceivable type of food necessary for the High Holy Days. But many shoppers, while beguiled by the wide variety of food, are finding it hard to pay the prices, which have soared in recent days. Fish is replacing poultry as the holiday fare because it is cheaper, and expensive wines are bypassed for ordinary kiddush wine.