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NORMALIZATION TALKS IN GEAR

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Israel and Egypt announced yesterday that they have agreed in principle to open the El Arish border crossing point in northern Sinai to the movement of commercial traffic between the two countries. The joint announcement followed a six-hour meeting between Israeli and Egyptian officials at El Arish on ways to improve the "normalization" process. The communique stressed that both sides desired to "enhance the process of normalization."

The announcement said a "standing committee of experts" will meet Oct. 12 to make the "practical" arrangements for the transit of goods at El Arish. Israeli authorities believe that the overland shipment of freight will reduce costs and thereby stimulate the import-export trade between Israel and Egypt.

Until now, El Arish has served as a crossing point only for tourists and others traveling between the two countries. Goods are either air-freighted or carried by sea via Alexandria which is less direct than overland trucking.

Follows Many Israeli Complaints

Yesterday's meeting was the outcome of numerous Israeli complaints in recent weeks that the Egyptians were dragging their feet in the normalization process. The Cairo authorities were accused of actively discouraging Egyptian companies and individuals who want to do business with Israelis and of deterring Egyptians from applying for Israeli entry visas.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir reportedly brought these points home forcefully to President Anwar Sadat when they met in Cairo last week, just before Shamir's departure for New York to attend the UN General Assembly session. The El Arish meeting was a direct consequence of Shamir's talks with Sadat and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butros Ghali.

As a token of good faith, the Egyptians have also agreed to speed up procedures for granting visas to Israeli tourists. Israel will reciprocate by waiving the need for formal travel documents for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip who wish to visit Egypt.

The Israeli delegation to the El Arish meeting was headed by Yosef Hadass who is in charge of the Egyptian Desk at the Foreign Ministry. They noted the warm and friendly atmosphere that prevailed during the talks.

JORDAN ASSURES ISRAEL THAT IRAQI TRANSPORT PLANES WHICH LANDED NEAR AMMAN ARE NOT A THREAT TO ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- The landing of several Iraqi transport planes at an airfield near Amman yesterday brought prompt assurances from Jordan that they were not intended as a threat to Israel's security. Israel has accepted the explanation which U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis conveyed to Premier Menachem Begin at the request of the Jordanian authorities.

The Jordanians, who granted landing per-

mission to the Iraqi transports, said the planes were flown to Jordan as a precautionary measure, lest they become targets of Iranian air attacks. Iraq is currently engaged in bitter land, sea and air battles with Iran.

Israelis apparently are less concerned with the presence of the non-combat aircraft near Amman than with the growing rapprochement between Jordan and Iraq. This has also caused some concern in Syria whose ruling Baath Party has long been at odds with the Baath Party that governs Iraq. There has been tension between the two countries although Israel regards both as potential threats on its eastern flank.

Now the Syrians see possible military cooperation between Jordan and Iraq as a threat to their own southeastern borders. According to some Israeli observers, Damascus would not remain idle in face of a Jordan-Iraq military buildup.

Meanwhile, Begin told a youth group at Beit Shemer today that Israel was carefully watching the Iraqi-Iranian situation. "We are not happy about this conflict even though both Iraq and Iran are our enemies," he said. "It is easy to say where a war begins but much harder to predict how it could develop and what it could lead to." He noted that both Iran and Iraq have links to countries bordering Israel.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

A NAZI SERPENT IN FRANCE

By Edwin Eytan

NICE, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Early in September the French newspapers and television reported that 67 Jews living in Nice and the French Riviera had received death threats from a neo-Nazi organization.

The following day, Sept. 4, the French government announced that it has decided to outlaw the extreme-rightwing movement, the Federation for National and European Action (FANE), prevent it from holding public demonstrations and arrest its members should they try to reorganize themselves in another form.

For three days, French public opinion, the news media and various political figures denounced FANE. Then, as suddenly as it had flared up, every thing died down. If the threat was real, the reaction seemed too placid and the outlawing of FANE insufficient unless it was to be followed by arrests and legal proceedings.

It seemed worthwhile to this correspondent to investigate what had really happened in this Mediterranean city more generally associated with luxury villas, pleasure boats and casinos than with murder threats and racist attacks.

The Jews Of Nice

There are about 25,000 Jews living in Nice. Most settled here in the early 1960s when France evacuated Algeria. It was the closest to the North African climate they had known and life on the Riviera had, and still has, a certain ranchalant ease which reminded them of the "old days." They assimilated quickly and thoroughly.

According to local communal organizations, there are several hundred Jewish doctors, lawyers and pharmacists, though the majority are shop keepers or retired pensioners. There are no "big" Jewish

names, large fortunes or individuals heading businesses which could provoke resentments or personal hatreds.

The city of Nice has a special relationship with Italy, to which it belonged until 1860 when Napoleon III won it and during World War II when it was under Italian occupation. In the war days, it was one of the safest places for a Jew to be in France, although even here more than 100 Jews were arrested and deported.

The rise of the neo-fascist movements in Italy in recent years was felt in Nice as well. One of the suspects in the Bologna railway station explosion in August which killed 88 people, Ario Affatigato, hid in Nice until he was arrested and extradited to Italy. Other Italian rightwing activists are also known to have arrived in Nice to organize in rightwing elements along neo-fascist lines.

Anti-Semitic Developments

For the last couple of months, various slogans, often anti-Semitic have appeared on the city's walls. I saw over 100 emblems of FANE, a circle pierced by three arrows, daubed on walls.

Several local Jews also told me that they had received insulting and sometimes threatening telephone calls. The synagogues in two adjacent cities, Cannes and Antibes, were attacked earlier this year and had their windows broken. The vandals were not arrested but the FANE emblem was daubed on the walls. These anti-Semitic acts, despicable as they were, seemed rather mild compared to the death threats reported by the media.

After an on-the-spot investigation, I discovered that none of the 67 Jews had received a direct death threat or even, in most cases, any letter or phone call from any anti-Semitic or neo-fascist organization.

Early last July, a leftwing civil liberties organization based in Paris, M.R.A.P., the Movement Against Racism and for Friendship Among Nations, received in the mail a three-page typewritten note containing the names of the 67 presidents or leaders of local Jewish organizations.

At the bottom were scribbled the FANE emblem and several slogans such as "Only One God: Adolf Hitler" and "Come What May -- the Blood Will Run." It later turned out that the list was an exact copy of a brochure printed by the French Central Welfare Organization (FSJU) for delegates who attended a conference it sponsored in Nice earlier this year.

Several thousand brochures were printed at the time and only some 400 were distributed. Most were left lying around in the conference hall and could have been stolen by practically anyone.

Government Urged To Act

Several weeks after the MRAP received the note, one of its representatives contacted the Chief Rabbi of Nice, Jean Kling. Kling, in turn, informed other communal leaders and it was from there that the ball started rolling. Central Jewish organizations in Paris were contacted in their turn. The representative Council of Major Jewish Organizations in France (CRIF) and its president, called on various government officials, including the Interior Minister.

The local and national French police investigated the case and reported to Paris that FANE's activities in Nice were limited to about 20 youngsters known to the authorities who apparently had managed to thoroughly infiltrate their ranks. The

police believed at the time, and say they still do, that the group was definitely not dangerous and far easier to keep under surveillance while legal than underground.

The Jewish organizations' proddings and pressures were such that in early September the story broke in the press. The general tone of the reports was that "67 Jews in Nice had received death threats." Several additional reports in the daily press even described "panic and fear" among the Jews on the French Riviera.

On Sept. 5, I attended services at Nice's Central Synagogue. Practically none of the people present, several hundred, had heard anything about the threats and the panic when the rabbi reported to them. The local press and television station, which had to have a story with a local story, had simply avoided carrying it while the rest of France was in a frenzy for several days.

While the French had carried out, it is believed, several violent operations during the last few months, there has never been any bloodshed or physical violence. Slogans were daubed, phone calls made and a small plastic bomb shattered a few windows in front of a Jewish-owned shop in Paris.

French Psyche Psyched Out

The fact that fifty million Frenchmen, including some 700,000 Jews were prepared to believe, immediately and without checking, that Jewish lives were threatened and in danger, seems to indicate that something is definitely wrong with the French psyche.

Every anti-Semitic report is automatically inflated, and while American Jewish organizations invariably claim that everything is for the best in the world's best democracy, French Jewish organizations just as invariably discern anti-Semitism and sinister plottings in many innocuous events.

Not a week goes by without a French publication, dailies and weeklies, devoting its front page to a "Jewish subject." Editors and publishers privately admit that "Jews sell well." One French editor said bluntly: "The Jew titillates the French subconscious."

What is to be deplored, many here say, is that Jewish organizations and leaders seem to be encouraging this trend, which mainly goes to show that 40 years after the end of the war, France has still not overcome its guilt complex stemming from five years of Nazi occupation and intensive collaboration.

FINAL RESULT PENDING ON BARRING THE PLO FROM WORLD BANK AND IMF

By Joseph Polekoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- The World Bank was expected late today to announce the results of the vote by the Reconstruction and Finance Corporation and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the bank's two main branches, on whether the Palestine Liberation Organization would have observer status at the bank's annual meeting here next week.

Sources at the bank told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that while the voting took place last Friday, certain procedural matters remain to be completed. The voting of the 140-member countries in the IMF and the 135 in the World Bank are weighted depending on the size of their country's quotas in financing the institution.

The vote on the PLO is technically on a United States resolution which states that the observers for the annual meeting Sept. 30-Oct. 3 should remain the same as that of last year. The PLO was not an observer then.

For this year, however, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait,

two of the largest contributors to the IMF and the bank, have demanded the PLO's entry as an observer and they have threatened that unless their request is granted, they will withdraw their funds and refuse to endorse loans, even though the bank's credits are required by the poorer countries of the world to buy food for their people in times of stress.

Should the vote favor observer status, then the decision will be up to the chairmen of the boards of governors of the two institutions on whether to invite the PLO to be an observer. The chairman, Amir Jamal, Finance Minister of Tanzania who will preside over the annual joint meeting, reportedly has said that he will invite the PLO on his own authority as chairman.

Both the U.S. Senate and House have warned the bank that the U.S. would look gravely upon allowing the PLO, which is neither a state nor a government and is considered by many as a terrorist organization, to be officially recognized by the bank. The House last week by a resolution, with only two dissenting votes, declared that the U.S. government should decrease its support to the bank if the PLO is granted observer status.

Should the executive boards reject observer status today, the Arab countries are expected to press for it at the annual meeting next week.

SOVIET UNION SCORES CAMP DAVID ACCORDS AS 'ANTI-ARAB DEAL'

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- The Soviet Union today denounced the Camp David accords as an "anti-Arab deal" and said that their direct consequence is "unabated tension in the Middle East where the situation is fraught with perilous, unforeseen developments."

Addressing the General Assembly, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko reiterated the Soviet position that the Camp David agreements are intended only "to satisfy Israel's annexation claims and to establish an American military presence in the Middle East." The Soviet diplomat's remarks were part of a major foreign policy speech in the Assembly's general debate.

Declaring that the Soviet Union supports the "inalienable national rights of the Arab people of Palestine whose only legitimate representative is the Palestine Liberation Organization," Gromyko charged that since the Camp David agreements, peace in the Middle East has proven to be far more elusive. "It is for this reason that Camp David is rejected by the Arab states and denounced by all those who are interested in a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, not in a settlement dictated by imperialist interests," Gromyko said.

Thorn Urges Role For PLO In Mideast Talks

Foreign Minister Gaston Thorn of Luxembourg, speaking for the European Economic Community (EEC), told the Assembly that the Palestinian people and the PLO should be involved in global negotiations concerning the Middle East and be obliged to adhere to a settlement which would arise from those negotiations, as would all other parties.

Thorn referred to his recent Middle East mission on behalf of the EEC. He said that he observed that not only Israel but other states in the region as well, considered the security of all states to be an urgent matter.

He said that all of the Arab states continue to view Israeli withdrawal from the occupied ter-

ritories as a must. He said that in the view of the EEC's nine member states, Israel should refrain from establishing any new settlements in the territories and the Arab nations should "explicitly" recognize Israel's right to exist.

Thorn reiterated the position of the EEC that a Middle East solution has to be based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He said the time has come to assure the security of all states in the region, including Israel, and to recognize the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

Thorn called on Israel to end its occupation of the lands seized since 1967. He termed Israeli settlements in those territories illegal and declared that freedom of access to holy places must be guaranteed.

Britain Committed To Venice Declaration

Another speaker, British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, in brief remarks on the Middle East, said that his government, together with the other members of the EEC, is committed to the principle set up at the EEC summit conference of heads of government in Venice last June and that he believes this principle can be the basis for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

"The Middle East conflict is one which cries out for negotiations leading to a peaceful solution," Carrington said. He said the British government welcomed the resumption of the autonomy talks between Egypt, Israel and the U.S.

Committee Approves Israel's Credentials

Meanwhile, the General Assembly's credentials committee last night approved Israel's credentials to participate in the current session of the General Assembly. The credentials of scores of other countries were approved at the same time. But the committee's decision must be brought to a vote in the plenary. This procedure raises the possibility that, in theory, Israel's credentials could be suspended.

However, UN officials said today that this was not likely to happen. They said the Arab states probably would not challenge Israel's credentials this year.

REFUSNIK SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR

NEW YORK, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Dmitri Shchiglik, 53, has been found guilty of "parasitism" and "malicious evasion of payment for support or maintenance" of his first wife and sentenced to one year in a labor camp. It was reported by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), Shchiglik, who has been applying for an exit visa since 1973, was sentenced to one year on the charge of parasitism and six months on the charge of non-support, but is serving the two sentences concurrently.

The NCSJ said that his lawyer was unsuccessful in proving that Shchiglik, who was employed as a maritime engineer for 36 years, was living off the salary he had earned working for the Hydro Meteorological Service.

As to the second charge, Shchiglik's former spouse claimed that he had pressured her to sign a contract releasing him of all monetary obligations and responsibilities. This claim came six years after their divorce and despite a statement she signed in his emigration file that she did not object to his desire to emigrate and that all alimony and child support payments have been made in full.

Shchiglik was arrested July 16 and detained in prison while Soviet authorities investigate his case. He left his job in April to protest against being denied permission to emigrate and not receiving notification about his last visa application in 1979.

CONCERN EXPRESSED BY COURT RULING ON PAYMENT OF CETA FUNDS FOR JOBS IN RELIGIOUSLY-SPONSORED SCHOOLS

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Deep concern was expressed here today by a Jewish legal expert over a Federal Appeals Court ruling upholding a lower court decision which banned payment of funds under the Comprehensive Training and Employment Act (CETA) for full or part-time jobs in religiously-sponsored schools, including Jewish day schools.

Howard Zuckerman, president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA), indicated that concern in reference to the ruling Sept. 15 by the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit which sustained a ruling by Federal District Court Judge John Reynolds in Milwaukee.

Reynolds ruled last Feb. 12 that such participation in programs funded under Title II of CETA violated the First Amendment ban against government involvement in religion. Zuckerman said COLPA had filed a friend of the court brief in the Appeals Court on June 6 for itself and four other Orthodox Jewish organizations. The brief was prepared by Nathan Lewin of Washington, a COLPA vice president.

On June 3, final appeals had been filed in the Appeals Court, which sits in Chicago and has jurisdiction over Wisconsin, by Milwaukee County, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and the Federal Department of Labor, which distributes CETA funds.

Zuckerman said the exact number of CETA II trainees in Jewish elementary and secondary day schools was not certain but that the five Jewish organizations were "deeply disturbed" by the ruling because of its impact on CETA programs "which have provided many useful job training sites for the jobless" in the religious schools.

Another Step Toward Total Exclusion

Zuckerman added: "We are also concerned that this decision is another step along the road that may ultimately lead to the total exclusion of religious institutions from significant efforts to alleviate social ills which affect the Jewish community and other religious communities."

The four other Jewish groups joining with COLPA in the brief were Agudath Israel of America, the National Council of Young Israel, Torah Umesorah, and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

In reporting on the background of the case, Zuckerman said that Congress had enacted a public service employment section in CETA in 1978 to provide jobless economically disadvantaged persons transitional employment in public service areas to enable them to develop job skills to make it possible for them to become gainfully employed by the private sector.

Zuckerman said that at issue were such job positions as providing remedial educational services, instruction in summer or recreational programs, instruction in adult education programs, custodial child care for after school hours, diagnostic or therapeutic speech and hearing services, services related to student health and safety, grading state-prepared examinations, and general food service work.

The legal battle began when a taxpayers'

suit was filed in Milwaukee Federal Court on Oct. 3, 1978 (Decker v. U.S. Department of Labor), contending that the use of religious schools as federally-funded job training sites violated the First Amendment because the services were provided within the context of the operation of the parochial schools.

In the brief prepared for the five Jewish organizations, Lewin argued that the First Amendment "establishment" clause did not require disqualification from a totally secular program created to help solve the pressing nationwide jobless problem of a large number of useful and available openings for training which served no religious function, only because the services were provided in parochial schools.

In two orders, dated July 11, 1979 and last Feb. 12, Judge Reynolds generally barred placement of workers, with CETA Title II funds, in religious schools on the grounds that such placements would create a potential for excessive entanglement between church and state, excessive governmental interference in religious affairs, and the likelihood of excessive political lobbying over allocation of tax funds involving predominantly religious considerations, all resulting in a violation of the "establishment" clause of the First Amendment.

In response to Reynolds' rulings, the Labor Department sent telegrams on April 28, notifying prime sponsors of CETA II programs that, as of 10 days after that date, all persons assigned to such schools under CETA II funding were to be terminated. Zuckerman said today he assumed that all such trainees had been dismissed.

RAMAZ HIGH SCHOOL DEFACED

NEW YORK, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- The new seven-story Ramaz high school, an Orthodox Jewish day school on Manhattan's Upper East Side, was defaced Saturday night after Yom Kippur, apparently by supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Rabbi Hoskel Lookstein, principal of Ramaz, said today that Sunday morning he discovered one-foot-high red slogans spray-painted on the Joseph H. Lookstein Upper School of Ramaz. He said the slogans read, "Begin Assassin," and "PLO Lives."

Lookstein noted that the vandals may have chosen the school because it is a "Jewish-looking building." He said it has windows on which are depicted scenes of Jerusalem and Torah Scrolls.

The new high school opened last week and has some 450 students. It is on East 78th Street several blocks away from Ramaz's main building on East 85th Street. The slogans were removed by machine, Lookstein said.

ANOTHER ABU HATZEIRA AIDE REMANDED

JERUSALEM, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- A second senior aide to Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu Hatzeira has been remanded in custody by a magistrate in connection with the extensive graft investigation now being conducted by police. He is David Knaffu of the National Religious Party, Deputy Mayor of Lod, a key aide to the minister and related to Abu Hatzeira by marriage. He was remanded for 15 days and the judge gave instructions to ensure that he would have Knaffu available.

Police allegations are that Knaffu was involved in pre-election bribery in Lod and also that he received money by false pretenses. While the allegations arise out of the Abu Hatzeira investigation, they do not seem to involve the minister directly. Last week, another close personal aide to the minister, Moshe Gabbai, was also remanded in custody for 15 days. He is suspected of receiving bribes on behalf of the minister.