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PERCY, NEXT FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, SAYS THERE CAN BE NO MIDEAST PEACE WITHOUT A SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM

Says Palestinians Misperceived In The U.S.

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- Sen. Charles Percy (R. Ill.), who will be chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in the next Congress, stressed the view today that there can be no peace in the Middle East without a solution of the Palestinian problem and that the U.S. must take a "very serious" intermediary role to find one.

He also reiterated his long standing opposition to Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's settlement policies which, he said, have not "been conducive to the peace process."

Percy offered his views in a statement and in response to questions at a press conference at the Capitol in which he covered such subjects as U.S. weapons to Saudi Arabia, the role of human rights in foreign policy and future peace efforts in the Middle East.

"Obviously, Middle East peace is essential to the security of our country and many, many other countries," Percy said. He predicted that the Reagan Administration will give it "a very high order of priority."

No Definitive Position by Reagan's Aides

Asked if Reagan aides have indicated their views to him on Middle East matters, Percy said "I have not had a definitive position taken by them as to the next step. I think that will all come after the confirmation hearings for Secretary of State, when we have that team in place. The Secretary for Middle East Affairs must also be confirmed so we're not down the road far enough to start that process." He added, "I don't have any insight as to what their next step will be other than it is a matter of very high priority."

Expressing his own views in response to questions, Percy said the Palestinians were misperceived in this country with respect to their numbers and who they are. "An unlikely perception in some quarters, even in this country, is that the Palestinians are a relatively small group, terrorists and so forth," Percy said.

"But the Palestinians are scattered all over the Middle East -- three-and-a-half million people; they are highly educated. They are professionals, they are doctors, lawyers, diplomats. But they yearn for a resolution of this problem. We cannot and will not have peace in the Middle East until we recognize that it must be solved," he said.

At another point, Percy remarked, "I have always known that some solution must be found to the Palestinian problem. I have taken the position against the settlement policy of the Begin administration and I made it very clear to them. I have not felt that this has been conducive to the peace process. But I think there have been things on both sides that have not been helpful."

Percy added, "It is hoped now that the new Administration can really focus in on this problem... We will have to act as we have acted in the last four years as an intermediary group that would take a very serious role in trying to resolve this problem because it does involve our own vital interests."

The PLO, Arms to Saudi Arabia

Asked if he saw any resolution of the Palestinian problem without recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Percy replied: "All I would say is what I said when I left the Middle East five years ago that there would be no real peace in the Middle East unless we recognize that a solution must be found to that problem."

Asked if he favored the supply of enhanced weapons to Saudi Arabia in view of the Soviet presence in the Middle East, Percy recalled that he had supported weapons sales in the last Congress with the appropriate restrictions. "In this case, the Administration should take the initiative. The initiative should not be taken by Congress," he said. "I would like for the new Administration to take a look at it and send the legislation down."

Questioned about the weight the new Congress will place on human rights in foreign policy, Percy said "I think it appropriate and right in an international forum... But I don't think it (human rights) ought to be a preoccupation. It is not the sole foreign policy objective and it must take its place with higher priorities."

1-BEGIN'S GOVERNMENT BARELY SURVIVES

JERUSALEM, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- The government of Premier Menachem Begin barely survived no-confidence motions on the government's economic policies today in the Knesset by a vote of 57-54 with two abstentions, the narrowest margin of victory since the government was elected in 1977. Among those voting with the opposition were former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and former Defense Minister Ezer Weizman.

The tense vote came after a seven-hour debate which was climaxed by a speech by Weizman who urged early elections "at this time of emergency." The no-confidence motions by the Labor Party, Rukah and Tehiya followed an announcement last week that Israel's inflation had jumped 11 percent in October to an annual rate of 138 percent, the highest in the world. (See full story P. 3)

SHAMIR HOPES GERMANY WILL ACT AGAINST PLO-NEO-NAZI LINKS

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, of Israel, said today in a press conference here that he hopes West Germany will take steps against the increased cooperation between the neo-Nazi movement in this country and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Culminating his visit to West Germany Shamir said, that in long conversations with German foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher the issue of continued anti-Semitic violence and its ties to Palestinian terrorist organizations were thoroughly discussed.

Asked whether he detected a reevaluation of West Germany's position on the Middle East due to the war between Iraq and Iran, Shamir observed, that he could not respond positively. But, he added, "maybe some things have moved, let us wait and see."

Shamir, who met here with President Karl Carstens, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Genscher, described his talks as "friendly and cordial." But he noted that many differences have emerged. While Bonn continues to adhere to the Venice declaration accepted last June by the European Economic Community (EEC), Israel totally rejects this document.

DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED RULINGS BY SUPREME COURT ON SCHOOL PRAYERS

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Nov. 19 (JTA) — The conviction among many pundits that the U.S. Supreme Court reads election returns has been put into question by two post-election U.S. Supreme Court rulings on religious observances in public schools which are almost diametrically opposed.

In a case earlier this month, the Supreme Court let stand on Nov. 10 rulings by a federal district court and by a court of appeals which held it constitutionally permissible for a South Dakota public school to use guidelines for Christmas and other religious holiday observance in those schools.

In the other case, which the Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional on Monday, the issue involved a Kentucky state law requiring the posting of a copy of the Ten Commandments in every public school classroom in the state.

In the first case, *Florey vs. Sioux Falls (S.D.) School District*, the American Jewish Congress and the American Civil Liberties Union filed a joint friend of the court brief for the hearing in the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals which upheld the lower court ruling.

Meaning of Sioux Falls Decision

Nathan Dershowitz, director of the AJ Congress Commission on Law and Social Action, said that the court action letting the practice in Sioux Falls schools continue did not mean that the Supreme Court had approved the Sioux Falls school practice. However, he added, the Supreme Court's failure to review the case "will undoubtedly encourage other school districts to adopt these and similar rules."

Jewish organizations have consistently fought all religious observances in the public schools. Some political experts have suggested that most rightwing elements, who contributed to Ronald Reagan's election victory strongly support prayer in public schools.

Although the ruling against the Kentucky law was a 5-4 decision, the language of the majority was unequivocal. Kentucky officials had sought to avoid constitutional conflicts by two actions.

Issue in Kentucky

In one, the officials had added to the law a requirement that the Ten Commandments be listed as serving as "the fundamental legal code of Western civilization and the common law of the United States." The Supreme Court held that the Ten Commandments is undeniably a sacred text of the Jewish and Christian

faiths "and no legislative recitation of a supposed secular purpose can blind us to that fact." The ruling declared that "such an avowed secular purpose is not sufficient to avoid conflict with the First Amendment."

Kentucky officials also tried to avoid constitutional problems by requiring that copies of the Ten Commandments be paid for not with tax funds but with voluntary contributions to the state treasury. A group named the Kentucky Heritage Foundation collected more than \$250,000 to buy 15,000 copies.

The Supreme Court held that arrangement did not matter because the posting of the copies was to take place "under the auspices" of the Kentucky Legislature. The high court decision on *Stone vs. Graham* reversed a lower state court in Kentucky upholding the Ten Commandments posting law. The Kentucky Supreme Court divided 3-3 on the appeal. The effect of the even split legally was to affirm the lower court ruling.

The law had been challenged by a group of foes of various religious beliefs, including a Quaker, a rabbi and a non-believer, represented by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Response by Local School Boards

If the proposition is dubious that the Supreme Court responds to election returns, the evidence was more persuasive that local school boards respond to court rulings.

One example was a decision by the Board of Education in Waldwick, N.J., which on Monday diluted considerably an earlier policy of holding religious holiday observances in the schools. More than 100 people jammed the Waldwick High School, most of them to assail the revised policy and to threaten reprisals.

The issue has divided the mainly Christian residents of the Bergen County community, pitting Christians against Jews, Moslems and other residents, who believe religious themes have been overstressed in some Waldwick school programs.

Provisions of Revised Policy

The policy was adopted 6-1 after more than four hours of heated debate. It contains a provision that if it is not reaffirmed by the education board at its March meeting, it will be void. The revised policy holds that holidays should be recognized for their educational value and that teachers should be aware of and sensitive to the diverse religious backgrounds of Waldwick residents.

The revised policy permits religious art, music and literature through the school year "if presented as part of an educational program but may not be used to advance or inhibit any religious point of view" and that religious holiday decorations may be displayed but only "as part of a broad cultural study appropriate to the season and should be limited to a reasonable time period."

Opponents of the revised policy declared in the debate that the education board should abide by the wishes of the "majority" of residents who, they said, were opposed to any change in religious holiday observances in the schools.

Jewish human rights organizations in recent years have made successful efforts to have all religious holiday observances eliminated from public school programs.

UN UNIT URGES ISRAEL TO ALLOW EXPELLED MAYORS, JUDGE TO RETURN

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 19 (JTA) — The General Assembly's Political Committee voted 117-1 yesterday to urge Israel to permit the return of two

mayors and a Moslem religious judge who were expelled from the West Bank last May. Israel cast the sole vote against the resolution. The United States and Malawi abstained on the measure which is virtually assured of adoption by the General Assembly.

The resolution stated that the deportation orders against Mayor Fahd Kawasme of Hebron, Mayor Mohammed Milhim of Halhoul and Kadi (judge) Rajab Al-Tamimi of Hebron were illegal. They were expelled from the territory in the wake of the ambush slaying of six yeshiva students in Hebron May 2. The two mayors were permitted to return to the West Bank last month to file an appeal with the Israeli Supreme Court. They are confined to Ramle jail pending the outcome.

In other actions involving Israel, the Political Committee voted 91-2 with 22 abstentions to continue the investigation of Israel's treatment of political prisoners in the occupied territories. Israel and the U.S. cast the negative votes. The U.S. abstained on another resolution that accused Israel of trying to change the status of the populations of the occupied territories in contravention of international law governing the treatment of populations under military occupation.

BEGIN'S GOVERNMENT WINS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE BY NARROWEST MARGIN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM Nov. 18 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin's Likud-led coalition government, mustering all of its resources, barely survived a no-confidence vote in the Knesset today over the rapidly deteriorating economy. The tally was 57-54 against motions submitted separately by three opposition factions -- Labor Alignment, Communist Party and the ultra-nationalist Tehiya -- but voted on as a single motion. There were two abstentions.

The three vote margin was the narrowest by which Begin's coalition has averted defeat since it took office in May, 1977. Former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and former Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, both of whom had served in Begin's Cabinet, voted for the first time with the opposition.

Weizman, who delivered what some observers described as the most moving speech of the grueling seven-hour debate, urged his Likud colleagues to bring down the government and go to the electorate for a new mandate. His defection could cost him membership in Likud. Dayan, a former Laborite, is an independent MK.

Soaring Inflation Prompts Motions

The no-confidence motions and the debate were prompted by the release of economic statistics last Friday which showed the cost of living up 11 percent in October, the second highest monthly increase in Israel's history, and inflation running at an annual rate of 138 percent, the highest in the world.

The crisis forced Begin to cut short by one day his 10-day visit to the U.S. Begin returned to Israel last night to marshal coalition forces for the crucial test in the Knesset.

He did not speak during the debate. But he managed to align Likud, the National Religious Party and the Aguda bloc against

the opposition. At one point today, it appeared that the coalition would defeat the motion by five votes. But two splinter faction MKs, former members of the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) decided to vote against the government. Begin's survival was attributed to a decision by two wavering independent MKs to abstain rather than vote with the opposition.

Cites Period of Emergency

In his speech, Weizman said that Israel was passing through a period of emergency. "If Likud doesn't do something extraordinary and fast, not only will the State suffer but Likud. In such a period we must change the ones who stand at the helm," he said.

Weizman recalled that exactly three years ago tomorrow, President Anwar Sadat came to Jerusalem launching the peace process. This, he said, was one of the major turning points in Israel's history. But, the former defense chief accused the government of souring the people on the peace agreement by blaming all of Israel's economic problems on "the price of peace."

Reactions to Weizman's speech were mixed. Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich called it "sincere and patriotic." But Haim Corfu, chairman of the coalition and a member of Herut, said Weizman had pronounced his own sentence.

MAURICE BOUKSTEIN DEAD AT 75

NEW YORK, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- Maurice Boukstein, a distinguished American Zionist leader and New York attorney died today in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. at the age of 75.

Since 1946 he served as legal advisor to the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization. In that capacity, in 1952, he negotiated with Premier David Ben Gurion the enactment by the Knesset of the Law of Status of the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency which he brought up to date in 1979.

Boukstein was actively involved in developing the legal framework of the leading organizations assisting in the development of Israel: the United Jewish Appeal and the United Palestine Appeal-United Israel Appeal which he served as legal advisor for four decades. He was also the general counsel to Hadassah.

Boukstein drafted the agreement which resulted in the Reconstitution of the Jewish Agency for Israel in 1971. He was directly involved in, and made major contributions to the negotiations with the Federal Republic of Germany for compensation and indemnification for victims of Nazi persecution. He was chairman of the Board and president of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization and the founder and for three decades the counsel of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. He was also a former JTA Board member.

Active in Zionist Affairs

Actively engaged in Zionist affairs since 1932, Boukstein was a member of the Board of Governors and in 1970-1971 served as chairman of the Executive Council of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovoth, Israel. He was also legal advisor and one of the founders of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute. The Institute awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1976.

He served on numerous Zionist bodies, including the American Zionist Emergency Council, the Zionist Organization of America and Jewish National Fund.

JCRC URGES LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM

NEW YORK, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- Representatives of the Jewish community in the metropolitan area called on Attorney General Robert Abrams to convene a special meeting of the District Attorneys, police officials, and others responsible for law enforcement in the metropolitan area to deal with the growing number of anti-Semitic acts of vandalism and harassment.

Laurence Tisch, president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCRC) and Peggy Tishman, Chairman of the JCRC Commission on Jewish Security and Police Liaison, expressed the hope that such a meeting would result in a comprehensive regional approach that would provide for greater security for institutions, communities and individuals, and lead to a sharing of resources, information and ideas.

Some months ago the JCRC established a special monitoring unit to keep track of anti-Semitic incidents. It has noted that incidents, aside from those that are economically motivated, are occurring with greater frequency. Swastika daubings, cross burnings, synagogue desecration and other hostile acts are being evidenced throughout the metropolitan area.

Mrs. Tishman noted, "we have received excellent cooperation from the police departments but recognize that they are limited in their resources, manpower and mandate. Steps have been taken by officials in New York City and some of the suburban areas, but we feel that more is called for and have asked Attorney General Abrams to mobilize all those responsible for law enforcement. We believe that the meeting will be important in making clear the severity with which these actions are viewed and the determination of law enforcement agencies to stop them." Tisch added: "It is essential that there be a comprehensive approach to assure that those responsible for these crimes are apprehended, that Klan or Nazi activity be properly monitored and that there be maximum cooperation and communication among all enforcement agencies."

PROTEST BRAILOVSKY'S ARREST

NEW YORK, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- Five former editors of the underground Soviet journal, "Jews in the USSR," who now live in Israel, have issued a statement protesting the arrest of the current editor, Viktor Brailovsky, for "defaming the Soviet State and public order," it was announced here by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Brailovsky was arrested Nov. 13 after leading a protest of Soviet Jews against the government's refusal to grant them exit visas. The protest was held in conjunction with the opening in Madrid of the conference reviewing the Helsinki Agreements. If officially charged, he could face up to three years of confinement in a labor camp.

The former editors -- Mark Azbel, Aleksandr Voronel, Vladimir Lazaris, Raphael Nudelman and Emma Sotnikova -- stressed that the magazine "was founded as an organ of self-expression of the two million strong

Jewish minority in the Soviet Union and because of its very nature it could not have, and did not, contain any material of political character."

They charged that the "repression" against "Jews in the USSR" started when the magazine began in 1973, and continues. "All the past editors of the magazine had been subjected to searches and interrogations accompanied with threats of arrest," they said.

The former editors declared they believe the magazine will continue publishing and that Brailovsky, a 45-year-old cyberneticist, will also continue conducting the Sunday scientific seminar in his apartment.

Meanwhile, the Committee of Concerned Scientists has sent a cable to Griffin Bell and Max Kampelman, who head the U.S. delegation in Madrid, urging them to raise Brailovsky's arrest at the conference. "Because he courageously championed the right to choose one's country of residence, guaranteed in the Helsinki accords, on behalf of thousands of Jews who seek to emigrate," he was arrested, the Committee's cable said. "Dr. Brailovsky, like Andrei Sakharov, symbolizes the harassed, the oppressed and the abused within the Soviet scientific community."

SAUDI FAMILY INVOLVED IN REAL ESTATE DEALS IN GA., FLA.

ATLANTA, Nov. 17 (JTA) -- A Saudi Arabian family has purchased the 29-story Life of Georgia Tower and the four-story Life of Georgia Center garage in downtown Atlanta for an estimated \$26 million recently, according to a recent story by Vida Goldgar, editor of The Southern Israelite.

Ms. Goldgar reported that the purchase here is only one of many real estate developments by Abdul Latif Jameel and his sons, Youssef and Mohammed. The Southern Israelite learned about the family and the Netherlands Antilles corporation they own, Jameel Holdings (Bermuda) Ltd., through the local office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Jameel also plans to build a \$24 million office tower in Orlando, Florida, and also recently bought Miami's tallest tower, One Biscayne Tower, for more than \$49 million; Ms. Goldgar reported.

Jameel's American representative, Lewis Harmon, was quoted by the Miami News as saying Youssef Jameel told him he had no "restraints" against investing in an area in which many Jews are involved as long as "they had no restraints against him." Harmon also said that Jameel's Miami law firm has a number of Jewish partners and that in Los Angeles they are represented by a firm that is predominately Jewish.

OCTOBER IMMIGRATION FIGURES

JERUSALEM, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- Some 1,687 new immigrants arrived in Israel last month, compared to 1,525 in September, the Jewish Agency spokesman reported Monday. The largest group of immigrants, 394, came from the Soviet Union, and 267 came from the United States.

In the first 10 months of this year some 18,869 immigrants arrived in Israel, a drop of 40 percent from the same period last year when 31,666 immigrants arrived. The decrease was among Soviet immigrants -- 7,160 compared to 14,654 in the first 10 months of 1979, a decrease of more than 50 percent. A slight increase was recorded in the number of immigrants from Rumania: some 889 in January-October, 1980, compared to 717 in the same period last year.