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WEIZMAN OUSTED FROM HERUT

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Nov. 24 (JTA) -- Former Defense Minister Ezer Weizman was ousted from the Herut Party last night by a 12-1 vote of its Secretariate. Two members abstained. The vote followed five hours of intensive debate after Weizman himself appeared before the Secretariate for 90 minutes to explain why he had supported a no-confidence motion against the Likud-led government in the Knesset last Wednesday.

The Secretariate's decision deprived Premier Menachem Begin's coalition of its shrunken majority in the Knesset. With Weizman out, Likud and its partners control 60 seats, just half the membership of Israel's parliament. Weizman ignored Herut's demand that he give up his Knesset mandate. He said he would continue to serve as an independent MK.

Begin did not attend the Secretariate meeting last night but he reportedly exerted pressure to expel Weizman, long his most outspoken critic in Likud ranks. Ironically, the action places Begin's government in greater jeopardy. Political observers believe the Labor Party, the largest opposition faction, will lose no time presenting new no-confidence motions which may topple the government and force early elections.

There is further irony in the fact that Weizman, who managed Likud's election campaign in 1977, is credited as the man most responsible for its stunning victory. Some Likud members were wary of drumming him out of Herut ranks. Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, who has differed sharply with Weizman on many issues, warned the Herut Secretariate before last night's meeting that the expulsion of Weizman could have grave consequences.

HUSSEIN SEES NEW OPPORTUNITIES

FOR ARAB WORLD UNDER THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IN THE U.S.

JERUSALEM, Nov. 24 (JTA) -- King Hussein of Jordan believes the change of Administration in Washington provides "a suitable opportunity" for the U.S. to adopt a new approach in its dealings with the Arab world and says he "would be delighted" to meet with President Reagan after he takes office, according to an interview with the Jordanian monarch published in the Beirut weekly *Al Nahar* yesterday.

Hussein was asked if he believes the Camp David peace process has run its course with Reagan's election. The periodical quoted him as replying, "I believe it is a suitable opportunity for the President and the new Administration to reconsider the affairs of the region and start a new page in its dealings with the Arab world." He said he would agree to a federation with a Palestinian entity if the Palestinians accepted it. The future relationship between Jordan and the Palestinians depends on what the Palestinians wanted, he said.

Meanwhile, according to reports from Amman, there seems to be a general sentiment in some Arab

circles that the Arab League should once again set forth its position on the Palestinian question before the Reagan Administration takes office and that an informal delegation of Arabs should meet with President-elect Reagan before he is inaugurated. There is a feeling among some "moderate" Arabs that such a meeting would serve to make a good impression on Reagan.

ISRAELIS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN EURO-EGYPTIAN BUSINESS PARLEY

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Nov. 24 (JTA) -- An economic conference initiated by Egypt, to which Israeli Knesset members and leading industrialists have been invited, will be held here tomorrow through Thursday. Farouk al-Thebawi, the Egyptian businessman who initiated this conference, termed the gathering known as "Congress Egypt '80." Egypt's answer to the Arab boycott against his country.

Among those participating will be 25 members of Egypt's Parliament and the Parliament's President, six Cabinet ministers, the president of Egypt's Chamber of Commerce; and 200 investors, bankers and businessmen from England, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, France, the United States and South Africa, according to al-Thebawi.

Al-Thebawi, often referred to as the "Egyptian Abbie Nathan," for the Israeli campaigner for peace between Israel and Egypt, expressed confidence that the conference will stimulate business contacts for joint European-Israeli-Egyptian business ventures. Among those supporting this conference are the Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, the Israeli Ambassador to Switzerland and the Israeli Consulate in Zurich. Israel's Bank Leumi is also participating.

The Arab Chamber of Commerce in Geneva, however, is unhappy about this venture and is trying to discourage Swiss participation. Several Jewish firms and Jewish community leaders in Geneva are supporting the conference and the local press is giving it extensive coverage. One Israeli diplomat observed: "Maybe through Geneva, normalization between Egypt and Israel will finally be on its way."

AID OFFERED TO QUAKE VICTIMS

TEL AVIV, Nov. 24 (JTA) -- Israel's Red Magen David has advised the Italian Red Cross that Israel is prepared to send medical crews and equipment to aid the victims of yesterday's earthquakes in southern Italy where an estimated 400 people were killed and some 800 were injured. Italian authorities reported damage in 29 cities and towns. The Red Magen David said the medical aid can reach the stricken area within two days and that a number of medical teams have been alerted to go to Italy on short notice.

LINK FOUND BETWEEN THE PLO AND THE 'ARMENIAN LIBERATION FRONT'

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Nov. 24 (JTA) -- A link between an "Armenian Liberation Front" and the Palestine Liberation Organization has surfaced in connection with the arrests of Syrian terrorists of Armenian origin who apparently were planning to bomb the main synagogue here.

Both were injured when explosives they were handling in their hotel room near the synagogue detonated prematurely. They are being held in prison pending trial. The suspects were described as a student who lived in Beirut and a 24-year-old woman who lived in the U.S. They admitted to having been recruited by the PLO in Beirut.

The so-called "Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia" in Beirut published a warning that if the two were not released immediately, the group would strike at Swiss and Zionist targets around the world. The communique charged that the pair were being tortured in the Geneva jail by the CIA and the Mossad, Israel's external intelligence agency, and that they had gone on a hunger strike. The suspects have denied being tortured and are not on a hunger strike.

USSR SLASHING JEWISH EMIGRATION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 24 (JTA) -- Only 524 Jews arrived in Vienna from the Soviet Union during the first three weeks of November, indicating another cutback in Soviet Jewish emigration. If this rate continues the total for the month will be only 800, the lowest since last August when the Soviet passport offices were reportedly too busy with the Olympic Games in Moscow to issue emigration visas.

In September 1300 Jews emigrated and in October the figure was 1400. The decline in the November figures and the arrest Nov. 13 of Dr. Victor Brailovsky, the Moscow Jewish activist, has increased the fear of Soviet immigrants in Israel that the USSR might be shutting the door on emigration.

Link Between Emigration and Detente

Ruth Bar-On, an official of the Israel Public Council for Soviet Jewry, said today that there was a direct link between emigration and the state of detente. "Somehow the Jews are always a thermometer of the relations between East and West," she said. "I feel that they (the Soviets) intend to give a big blow to the whole emigration movement."

She said that the hope that the review conference on the Helsinki accords in Madrid would result in increased emigration has proven false. This might be a way of telling the West that the Soviets do not care at all about their human rights grievances," she said.

Meanwhile, of the 524 Jews who reached Vienna this month only a quarter came to Israel. Activists here blame the high dropout rate for the weakening pressure on the Soviet Union.

BLUM: USSR CONTINUES TO FAN THE FLAMES OF ANTI-JEWISH HATRED

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 24 (JTA) -- Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, charged that the Soviet Union, "is still fanning the flames of anti-Jewish hatred."

In a sharply worded statement to the General Assembly Third Committee, (Social and Cultural Committee) the Israeli envoy said that the Soviets are encouraging anti-Semitism under the guise of "anti-Zionism." He cited recent anti-Semitic books published in the USSR "under the cloak of an attack on Zionism." One of these books is "Israel: The Reality Behind the Myths,"

by the "well known anti-Semite, Lev Korneyev," Blum said, claiming the Soviet authorities selected the book "for distribution (in English) in such places as the international airport at Moscow."

Blum also charged that the more than two million Jews in the USSR are deprived of basic human rights. "Jewish culture (in the USSR) has been systematically suppressed, as has been Jewish religion, to the extent that there is no Hebrew or Yiddish theater in the country and only a few dozen synagogues remain open," Blum said. He added, "Millions of copies of anti-Semitic books, pamphlets and magazines circulate under official Soviet auspices. The attacks come from all quarters."

Cites Curtailment of Emigration

The right of Jews to emigrate, Blum claimed, has been drastically curtailed over the last year by the Soviet authorities by severely restricting the eligibility of applicants. Only 18,000 Jews were allowed to leave the Soviet Union in the first nine months of 1980, Blum said, less than half the number leaving during the corresponding period in 1979.

Blum also cited in his statement the plight of Syrian and Iranian Jews. He said that the 4500 remaining Syrian Jews are deprived of their basic human rights. "They live as second class citizens," Blum said. He appealed to the Syrian government "to respect their basic human rights" and allow them to emigrate. Blum also appealed to Iran to let its Jewish citizens emigrate "if they should so wish."

MONROE GOLDWATER DEAD AT 95

NEW YORK, Nov. 24 (JTA) -- Monroe Goldwater, honorary vice president of the Joint Distribution Committee and a man active in New York State politics, died Friday, 10 days after observing his 95th birthday. A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

Born in the Yorkville section of Manhattan, and a graduate of the New York University School of Law, Goldwater was a law partner of the late Edward Flynn, onetime Democratic National Chairman. Goldwater was an advisor to political figures and was a delegate to Democratic National Conventions since 1924.

In the 1930s he became increasingly active in the campaigns of the Jewish Federation of Greater New York. During World War II he served as Special Assistant to the U.S. Attorney General in the cases of conscientious objectors.

Goldwater became chairman of the JDC's Reconstruction Committee in 1947 helping survivors of the Holocaust rebuild their lives. He later became the JDC's vice president and then honorary vice president while continuing on the board of directors. He was president of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York for many years starting in 1944.

Several of his friends recognized his devotion to Jewish causes by establishing the Monroe Goldwater High School in Eilat, Israel.

LABOR PARTY MEMBERS TO SELECT DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONCLAVE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Nov. 24 (JTA) -- About 260,000 eligible Labor Party members will go to the polls all over Israel tomorrow to select the 2701 delegates to the party's national convention early next year. The election has generated almost as much suspense and excitement as a national election because of the intense rivalry between party chairman Shimon Peres and former Premier Yitzhak Rabin for leadership.

The convention will decide which of the two men will head Labor's list in next year's Knesset elections.

If current polls giving Labor a strong edge over Likud are correct, the winner of tomorrow's contest is very likely to become Israel's next Prime Minister.

Peres and Rabin have been campaigning furiously as have their respective supporters. Peres is believed to have an advantage within the party's institutions but Rabin is believed to be the favorite among the rank and file. Special election headquarters have been established in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem, Beersheba and other large cities.

Allegation Causes Tension

Tension was heightened over the weekend by an unsigned report in the French weekly L'Express alleging an association between Rabin and one of Israel's top underworld figures, Bezalel Mizrahi. According to the allegation, Mizrahi paid the \$37,400 fine levied against Mrs. Rabin in 1977 for maintaining a bank account in the U.S. in violation of Israel's currency regulations. According to L'Express, Mizrahi's check is in Peres' possession.

The report backfired against Peres who was accused in some quarters of inspiring the anonymous allegation to discredit his rival on the eve of the party elections. Peres himself denounced the report as calumny. But he was reluctant to provide a written statement that it was untrue and that he had nothing to do with it. Later, Peres said he was willing to provide Rabin with an affidavit if he needed it for a libel action against L'Express.

Rabin said he wanted the statement not for legal reasons but to "purify the atmosphere" within the party. Peres said he would give it if Rabin asked him "nicely." But Rabin demanded a sworn affidavit to be prepared by himself, that Peres had no check from Mizrahi. He said such a document would be an important component of his suit against L'Express.

The matter stood at an impasse during the day, as party officials attempted to ease tensions to ensure that tomorrow's balloting will be conducted in an orderly manner.

GROWING NEO-NAZI ACTIVITY REPORTED IN GERMANY ALONG WITH INCREASED WILLINGNESS TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 24 (JTA) — The Interior Ministry warned today of growing activity and cooperation among neo-Nazi organizations and their increased willingness to resort to violence.

The Ministry's concern was expressed in a report, released in Kiel, of right-wing activity in the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein in northeast Germany. The report said that of 150 neo-Nazis registered in Kiel, 35 indicated they were prepared to engage in terrorist activities and other forms of violence. The number of neo-Nazis according to a broader criterion was placed at 700.

Alarmed over Cooperation

The Ministry report said it was "alarming" that cooperation has increased between neo-Nazi organizations at home and abroad. It described a Frankfurt-based group called "Help Organization for National Prisoners" as the "possible roof organization for all neo-Nazi groups."

The report said that compared to the past, neo-Nazi groups and individuals have dropped many restraints on the use of fire arms. There is more readiness among their sympathizers and supporters to supply moral and political help to extremists, the report said.

It defined the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NDP), however, only as a right-wing political body. Some 12,000 people demonstrated in Augsburg today against the NDP's convention there. A trade union leader urged the government to ban all neo-Nazi organizations in the country. The anti-Nazi rally in Augsburg included public hearings on the worldwide connections of right-wing groups.

Meanwhile, the weekly Der Spiegel disclosed that at least one federal state allows taxpayers to deduct private donations to neo-Nazi bodies.

SINAI RESETTLEMENT PLAN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 24 (JTA) — Racnan Weitz, head of the Jewish Agency's Settlement Department, proposed today that the government transplant all settlements in northern Sinai across the border into Israel as an alternative to building new settlements for the settlers who must evacuate Sinai by the end of next year in compliance with the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

Weitz brought his plan to the World Zionist Organization Executive which authorized him to present it to the Ministerial Settlement Committee. He argued that it was feasible to physically transport houses, yards, trees and green houses to new locations in the Shalom salient where the soil and climate are the same as in the Yamit and Raffiah regions of Sinai. By so doing, he said the government would avoid the phenomenon of paying "ransom" money to the settlers in compensation for their property and avoid the cost of building new settlements from scratch.

So far no official body had endorsed Weitz's plan. It has encountered opposition from the Sinai settlers who are negotiating with the government for compensation. Representatives of Sadot, the oldest settlement, told Weitz he came too late. They said many settlers have already committed themselves to other projects after they evacuate the area.

Weitz drafted his proposal about two months ago and asked a team of experts, headed by Prof. Haim Finkel, to study the possibility of dismantling the settlements and reassembling them across the border. The experts reported that it was not only possible but could be done at 80 percent of the cost of building new settlements.

Weitz estimated the cost of moving Sadot at 20 million Shekels. But even as he outlined his plan to the WZO Executive, the Likud Knesset faction was discussing compensation for the farmers of the Yamit region. The Cabinet has already approved guidelines for compensation. Only Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz was opposed on grounds that the sums were far too generous and out of line with what the government could afford.

The Knesset Finance Committee is expected to discuss the matter tomorrow. Meanwhile, the Cabinet appointed Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, chairman of the Ministerial Settlement Committee, to work out the details of compensation. Hurwitz refused the job.

WASHINGTON, (JTA) — Rep. Robert Drinan (D. Mass.) said here Monday that he will urge former U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell, head of the U.S. delegation to the conference in Madrid reviewing the 1975 Helsinki accords, to urge the USSR to immediately release Anatoly Shcharansky. Drinan will be at the conclave during the congressional Thanksgiving recess.

SPECIAL BACKGROUND REPORT THE NEW CHRISTIAN RIGHT

By Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum

(Second Part of A Three Part Series)

NEW YORK, Nov. 24 (JTA) — The Three Great Awakenings in America — the first, in the 13 colonies from 1725-1770; the second, west of the Alleghenies, 1770-1830; the third, 1865-1899, with the rise of city evangelism — were all responses to the widespread decline of religion and the degenerated moral conditions of the times. We may well be in the midst of the Fourth Great Awakening today.

The point is that there are more people affiliated with our churches and synagogues today than any time in the past. And while we face real and serious moral issues in contemporary America and in the troubled world, it serves no useful purpose to imply that we are a generation of moral pygmies when confronted with our forebears who were supposedly moral giants.

Precisely because there are more Americans who are religiously committed today than in the past we are in a far better position to mobilize conscience and moral will to cope constructively and realistically with our many problems. That means that religious and civic leadership needs to speak to our better selves rather than evoke paralyzing images of our worst selves.

A Vital Lesson

A vital lesson that should be derived from our past is that when confronted with the massive moral challenges of the frontier societies, evangelical leaders — to their everlasting credit — launched a wide range of moral reform movements as voluntary expressions of the churches. Organized benevolence ("The Benevolence Empire" these efforts were called) were created for the poor and downtrodden, anti-slavery groups, temperance societies, aid to youth, and the military.

With the exception of the Prohibition legislation calling for total abstinence from alcoholic beverages adopted as the 18th amendment in 1920, the anti-evolution law, and the Puritan Sabbath — all of which subsequently collapsed and resulted in general disillusionment and loss of morale — all of the great moral reform movements were effected through internal, voluntary church resources, rather than through legislative means of dominating the government or the nation's political machinery.

3) Several "New Christian Right" spokesmen have asserted or implied that "the Founding Fathers" of our nation perceived America as "a Christian Republic." If you check your writings, you will find that such assertions contradict everything Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and others stood and fought for.

Thus, Thomas Jefferson wrote in his Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom — which became the basis for the First Amendment — "Almighty God hath created the mind free, and all attempts to influence it by tempt or punishments or burrs or by civil incapacitations tend only to beget habits of hypocrisy and meanness, and are a departure from the plan of the Holy Author of our religion."

The exercise of religion, Jefferson added, is "a natural right" which has been infringed

by "the impious presumption of legislators and rulers" to set up their "own modes of thinking as the only true and infallible," and "to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves," which is "sinful and tyrannical."

In his "Notes on Virginia," Jefferson stated, "The rights of conscience we never submitted, we could not submit. We are answerable for them to our God... Subject opinion to coercion; whom will you make your inquisitors? Fallible men; men governed by bad passions, by private as well as public reasons. And why subject it to coercion? To produce uniformity. But is uniformity of opinion desirable? No more than of face and stature."

Presumptuous and Offensive

I would commend such writings of our Founding Fathers to the Rev. Bailey Smith and others who share his views about uniformity of conscience and religion. Smith's utterance about "God not hearing the prayer of a Jew" is not only religiously presumptuous and morally offensive; it is dangerous to the future of our democratic pluralistic society.

He is saying not only that the Jewish people have been living a religious lie for 4,000 years across 30 civilizations; he is also saying that because they are religiously invalid there is no place for them at Presidential inaugurations or political conventions, and ultimately, no legitimate place for them in American democratic society. Some evangelical pastors spoke such theological obscenities about the Jews in Nazi Germany.

It is encouraging to us that literally hundreds of Baptist pastors, Christian seminary faculties and lay people have issued statements repudiating his narrow views as un-Christian and un-American.

(Tomorrow: Part Three)

RENEWED VIOLENCE ON THE WEST BANK

JERUSALEM, Nov. 24 (JTA) — Bir Zeit College on the West Bank reopened today with a new outbreak of violence by students protesting its week-long closure by the Military Government.

Youths took to the streets, stoning Israeli vehicles. Security forces, rushed to the scene, fired into the air and forced them back into the buildings. Soldiers surrounded the campus. By early afternoon, the Military Governor reportedly agreed to let the students leave but the name of each was taken down by the army.

The college was closed a week ago to enforce a ban on "Palestine Week," an annual campus event which the Israeli authorities considered nationalistic and provocative. The closure sparked a wave of unrest on the West Bank. Last week Israeli troops opened fire on demonstrators in Ramallah and El Bireh, wounding 41.

NEW YORK (JTA) — More than 100 youths — members of Masada — youth movement of the Zionist Organization of America — will participate in the Zionist Organization of America Chanukah torch relay from Kennedy Airport to City Hall here. The youths will carry a torch kindled at the tomb of the Maccabees near Jerusalem and present it to Mayor Edward Koch. The event is sponsored by Masada of ZOA. The torch will be flown from Ben Gurion Airport in Israel to JFK by El Al Israel Airlines on Dec. 2, and will be accompanied by Ronit Batson, 18, who was elected by the Maccabi Tzair movement in Israel to be the representative to the U.S. for the torch relay.