

JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036

Vol. LVIII - 63rd Year

Wednesday, December 24, 1980

No. 265

TRIMMED DEFENSE BUDGET SEEN AS HARMING ISRAEL'S MILITARY INDUSTRIES, DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23 (JTA) — Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz's economic cabinet yesterday approved a defense budget for fiscal 1981-82 of 15.5 billion Shekels (\$2.04 billion), about 25 percent less than the 21 billion Shekels (\$2.76 billion) the Defense Ministry had asked for. The budget request was trimmed despite claims by Chief of Staff Gen. Raphael Eitan and other senior military officers that the reduced budget would seriously harm Israel's defense industries and its defense establishment generally.

The full Cabinet is expected to approve the economic ministers' decision at a later session. Two concessions were made to the Defense Ministry. The government will consider, by the middle of next year, whether to add another half billion Shekels to the defense budget "after a thorough review of the needs vis-a-vis the general economic situation." The government also agreed to defer all additional expenses caused by inflation to the following year's budget.

Viewed As Anti-Inflation Measure

The economic cabinet's decision, strongly pressed for by Hurwitz, is essentially an anti-inflation measure. It was taken unanimously after a heated six-hour debate attended by Premier Menachem Begin in his capacity of Defense Minister and the top army brass led by Eitan.

They warned that the cuts would force many career soldiers and officers to be discharged and would affect the training of recruits. But the ministers reportedly did not put much stock in those arguments. When the hearings ended, all experts, including Bank of Israel Governor Arnon Gafni, were asked to leave while the decision-making process proceeded.

Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori said afterwards, "Despite everything, we will be able to live with it. There will be no less security." Economic analysts observed that the decision does not guarantee an end to inflation. They said that would depend on parallel cuts in civilian spending.

Consequences of Budget Cut

Meanwhile, senior army officers, pondering the consequences of the cut in the military budget, said some 8000 soldiers and Defense Ministry officials will have to be dismissed and some 20,000 workers in the military industry will lose their jobs. The reduction in the budget will also mean delays in the development of the planned new Lavie combat jet, a reduction in the output of the present Kfir aircraft and a cutback in the manufacture of the Merkava battle tank, according to the army officers.

OVERLAND SHIPMENT OF GOODS BETWEEN EGYPT, ISRAEL BEGUN

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23 (JTA) — After several unexplained postponements, the overland shipment

of goods between Israel and Egypt, hailed as a major step in normalization of relations between the two countries, has finally become fact.

A 13-ton shipment of bananas had the honor of being the first Israeli goods sent to Egypt yesterday. The unripe fruit arrived at the Neot Sinai crossing point in a giant semi-trailer truck from Kibbutz Hakuk in lower Galilee and was transhipped into two smaller Egyptian vehicles for onward passage to Cairo. Some 20 tons of paper, produced by the Hadera Paper Mills, is due for shipment on Thursday.

Israeli officials now say the postponements of the shipments were not due to any political problems but to technical hitches in the transfer of money from Egypt to Israel.

AMERICAN GEOLOGIST PICKS TWO SITES IN ISRAEL WHERE HE IS CONFIDENT OIL WILL BE FOUND

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23 (JTA) — An American geologist who claims to have been right 22 times out of 22 when advising prospectors where to drill for oil has picked two sites in Israel where he is confident oil will be found.

Dr. Rex Peterson, 48, president of the Satellite Oil Research and Development Corporation and lecturer at the University of Nebraska, spent 12 years developing his method of interpreting satellite pictures of the earth's structure, mainly structural faults.

After extensive work in Israel, including ground work on the basis of his satellite data interpretation, he has now told the Haravi Investment and Development Company to drill at two spots in the Kiryat Gat area. The company, established by Dr. Robert Moses, of Ontario, has been granted a drilling concession for a 13,000 square mile area. It will be joined in the venture by the Overland Dome Petroleum Company and the Global Oil Company in searching for oil and gas in Israel.

Israel is the first country outside the U.S. where Peterson has used his new technique.

BLUM: DECISION TO LET 2 ARAB MAYORS STAGE HUNGER STRIKE IN THE UN IS 'AN UNFRIENDLY ACT TOWARD ISRAEL'

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 23 (JTA) — Ambassador Yehuda Blum of Israel, in a telephone conversation with Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, charged yesterday that the UN Secretariate decision to allow two West Bank mayors to stage a hunger strike inside the UN was "an unfriendly act toward Israel."

In a statement issued here by the Israel Mission to the UN, Blum was quoted as telling Waldheim: "To the best of our knowledge this is the first instance in which the Secretary General has authorized the holding of a demonstration inside the building and has thus broken with well established practice." Blum said that a precedent has now been set for "millions of individuals who have genuine grievances" to set similar demonstrations inside the UN. "Such persons include the relatives of the American hostages in Iran and the refugees from Afghanistan," Blum said.

The two mayors, Fahd Kawasme of Hebron and Mohammed Milhim of Halhoul, started their hunger strike inside the UN on Friday following the adoption by the Security Council of a resolution calling on Israel to permit their return to the West Bank.

Blum also told Waldheim that "it was astonishing that permission for the strike was given minutes after the mayors had announced their intention to hold it." Blum contended that the Council's resolution appealed to Israel to permit the mayors to return to their homes but did not give permission to hold demonstrations inside the UN.

The Israel Mission to the UN today circulated to the press a document detailing the "inflammatory statements" by the two mayors and the recent Israeli Supreme Court decision on their expulsion from Israel.

Clerics Ask Permission to Hold Hunger Strike

Meanwhile, a group of three rabbis and two nuns have asked Waldheim to permit them "to stage a hunger strike and prayer vigil in the United Nations on behalf of the Americans still held hostage in Iran, the four Catholic women slaughtered in El Salvador and victims of terrorism throughout the world." The request follows the permission granted by Waldheim to the two mayors to conduct their hunger strike.

The rabbis, Avraham Weiss of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, Kenneth Hain of Congregation Orach Chaim of Manhattan and Reuven Grodner of Young Israel of Scarsdale, and the nuns, Sister Rose Thering, professor of education at Seton Hall University in New Jersey, and Ann Patrick Ware, vice president of the National Coalition of American Nuns, made their request in a telegram sent to Waldheim.

In the telegram they charged that "inflammatory statements" by the two West Bank mayors caused the terrorist attack in which six yeshiva students were murdered in Hebron May 2.

Incensed At 'Unique Treatment'

Weiss, in a telephone interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, said the group is still awaiting a reply to their telegram from Waldheim or any of his aides. "We sent the telegram to Waldheim because we are incensed that the UN is granting a unique treatment to two men who have encouraged terrorism throughout the world," Weiss said. He stated that the telegram was sent on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee of Clergy Opposed to Terrorism Throughout the World, formed by the three rabbis and the two nuns.

Meanwhile, Kawasme and Milhim continued their hunger strike today outside the Security Council chamber. The two men were busy granting interviews to reporters. They said their hunger strike was aimed at drawing attention to their plight and trying to build pressure on Israel to abide by the Council resolution. They conceded, however, that they do not intend to starve themselves to death. They declined to say how long they would continue their strike.

COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION

OF YERIDA IS ESTABLISHED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23 (JTA) — The Council for the Prevention of Yerida was established here today following the publication of a report pre-

pared by the Jewish Agency that between 300,000 and 500,000 Israelis are now living in the United States.

The Council was formed by the Zionist Council in Israel and the founding session was attended by Absorption Minister David Levy, Jewish Agency Director General Shmuel Lahis, Knesset members and other public figures.

Ephraim Urboch, professor of Talmud and Midrash at Hebrew University, blamed the government and the Jewish Agency for having failed to take action to prevent yerida. He called for public action to implement the values and norms necessary to prevent yerida. But he warned, such action should be limited to Israel and not among yordim overseas.

The Jewish Agency Executive will discuss the Lahis report next week and once it discusses this report, which was made available to Executive members yesterday, its conclusions will be presented to the government and Agency coordinating body in mid-February.

Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executive, welcomed the public airing of the problem of yerida. He said the report was a clarion call to solve the problem and has already caused waves.

Rafael Kottowitz, head of the Agency's immigration and absorption department, questioned the accuracy of Lahis' figures. He said that according to the Central Bureau of Statistics there were some 300,000 yordim throughout the world. Therefore, he said he failed to understand where Lahis got the figure of up to 500,000 yordim in the U.S. alone.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA

JEWISH COMMUNITY IN TAIWAN

TOKYO, Dec. 23 (JTA) — The Jewish community of Taipei, Taiwan, recently celebrated its fifth anniversary. Founded in 1975 by former members of the Jewish community in Japan, the Taipei community consists of approximately 50 families, the great majority of whom are involved in business and trade. Located in a converted home in a fashionable Taipei suburb, the community schedules a full range of cultural and religious activities for its membership with careful provisions made for visitors.

Having no rabbi of its own, the lay leaders provide the membership with guidance. Y. S. Liberman, president and founder of the community, has directed its activities since its inception. The Jewish Center contains a synagogue, two classrooms for 15 children, a kitchen, pool, library, and social area.

A First For Taiwan

Recently, a prominent member of the community, Jeffrey Schwartz, married a local Chinese woman, the former Margaret Wu. Ms. Wu had converted previously to Judaism. The lavish ceremony was held in the splendor of the famous Grand Hotel built by Madame Chiang Kai Shek. This was the first recorded Jewish-Chinese wedding in Taiwanese history, and the event received extensive coverage both in the local newspapers and television.

Schwartz is president of the Four Star International Trading Co., one of the largest earners of foreign exchange for Taiwan. The banquet room of the hotel was filled with thousands of fresh flowers made into Chinese lucky characters and the Star of David, surrounding a beautiful chuppah and two large hand-made menorahs in honor of the Chanukah season.

Rabbi Jonathan Maltzman, spiritual leader of the Japan Jewish community, was invited to Taipei to officiate at the wedding and to promote ties between the local Jewish community and its counterpart in Tokyo.

KIRKPATRICK REGARDED AS STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF ISRAEL, FOE OF PLO

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (JTA) — Jeane Kirkpatrick, President-elect Reagan's nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, is regarded as both a strong supporter of Israel as an independent nation-state and an equally strong opponent of the Palestine Liberation Organization and its attempts to establish a state.

Kirkpatrick, who is 53 and a professor of political science at Georgetown University, said following her nomination yesterday that she has been "a Democrat all my life but that doesn't mean that I always agree with my party." Her nomination to the Cabinet level post in the incoming Republican Administration is subject to Senate confirmation but that is considered a foregone conclusion.

Kirkpatrick's major disagreement with President Carter has been in the realm of foreign policy and she has stated her views about that frequently in Commentary, the monthly magazine published by the American Jewish Committee. She is associated with the Coalition for a Democratic Majority, co-chaired by Sens. Henry Jackson (D. Wash.) and Daniel Moynihan (D. N.Y.) which has long been fighting for firm U.S. support for Israel and Soviet Jewry.

She is also a scholar of the American Enterprise Institute, an influential conservative research organization in Washington.

Praises Sadat, Begin For Peace Treaty

In her latest pronouncement on the Middle East, Kirkpatrick told the American Friends of Hebrew University last week in Miami that Carter merits praise for his work toward the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, but most of the credit belongs to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Premier Menachem Begin of Israel and their governments.

"It is they who transcended entrenched enmity, they who assumed the risks," she said of Sadat and Begin. She assured her Miami audience that Reagan is a "solid friend of Israel" and regards Israel as a "strategic asset." Those words are in keeping with Reagan's expressions since his gubernatorial days in California.

In her disavowal of Carter's foreign policy, including his views on the Middle East, Kirkpatrick was quoted in the American Spectator magazine as saying: "If the aim of American foreign policy is to reward our enemy and betray our friend, then the American Middle East policy undoubtedly ranks as a brilliant success for that is precisely what it has accomplished."

Kirkpatrick was born in Duncan, Okla., the daughter of an oil wildcatter. She was graduated from Barnard College in New York in 1948 and did post-graduate work at Columbia University and the Institute de Science Politique in Paris. She has been a specialist in Latin American affairs.

Her husband is Evron Kirkpatrick, also a political scientist and a Democrat. They were married in 1955 when he was teaching at the University of Minnesota. He managed the late Sen. Hubert Humphrey's campaign for Mayor of Minneapolis. For the past 20 years he has been executive director of the American Political Science Association.

ALLEN, APPOINTED NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL CHIEF, SAYS KISSINGER WILL ASSIST REAGAN ON FOREIGN POLICY

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (JTA) — Richard Allen, President-elect Reagan's appointee to head the National Security Council at the White House, said today that Reagan "accepts" the Camp David formula as "an adequate framework for continuation of the pursuit of peace" in the Middle East and that former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger will be assisting the President on foreign policy matters.

At a press conference following the formal announcement of his appointment Allen said, "Should modifications ever be required in the Camp David process, they would be made with the consent of those who participate." "This appeared to be an extension of his previous statement that changes would occur only with the consent of Egypt and Israel. However, since the Camp David formula itself envisions broadening the base of negotiations to include the West Bank/Gaza inhabitants and Jordan, Allen's statement is not regarded as a policy change.

Anticipates Kissinger's Range of Activities

Noting that he and Kissinger have been friends for nearly 20 years, Allen said that Kissinger "made important and valuable inputs and contributions in terms of advice and strategy" to Reagan's election campaign and that Reagan, his Secretary of State-designate Alexander Haig and Defense Secretary-designate Casper Weinberger "respect his views."

Allen added, "I anticipate he (Kissinger) will be called upon frequently for a range of undertakings, perhaps beginning with simple advice, perhaps undertaking travel on behalf of the Administration" at Reagan's "direction."

President Carter's special Ambassador to the Middle East, Sal Linowitz, said last week that he thought Kissinger should take over implementation of the Camp David formula when he retires upon Carter's departure from office.

Allen said he had "no recommendations at the present time" with regard to "permanent" U.S. bases in the Middle East. But he stressed that "It is clear" that Reagan has "indicated the U.S. is going to be increasingly concerned about its presence in the Middle East for the purpose of contributing to the security of the oil routes." He added that bases would be "among early options" to be pursued within the National Security Council system.

As successor to Zbigniew Brzezinski as National Security Council chief, Allen said he would keep a low profile and indicated he would not be in the public eye often. He said the Secretary of State would handle foreign affairs.

BONN, (JTA) — The longest war crimes trial ever held in West Germany may be nearing its end. The Duesseldorf court where nine former SS officials have been on trial for more than five years on charges of complicity in the murders of 250,000 inmates of the Maidanek death camp, is expected to hear the summations by prosecution and defense some time next month. But first, the judges and attorneys will fly to Warsaw on Jan. 5 to hear testimony from the final witnesses. Responsibility for prolonging the trial rests with the defense lawyers. Although it was to have wound up by the end of this month, they submitted a flood of new petitions and invited additional witnesses.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA NATIONAL ACTION CENTER PLANNED FOR JEWS WITH CONSERVATIVE VIEWS

By Ben Gallab

NEW YORK, Dec. 23 (JTA) — Prof. Seymour Siegel of New York, widely known among politically-sophisticated Jews as a staunch political conservative, said today that the recently-formed American Jewish Forum (AJF) hopes to become a national action center for Jews with conservative views.

Siegel, Ralph Simon Professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, in a telephone interview, that the initial meeting which led to formation and incorporation of the AJF as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, was held last June in Washington, at his initiative. The initial meeting was held at the headquarters of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think-tank, which made facilities available for that meeting.

Siegel said plans called for an office in Washington, a paid staff, sponsorship of conferences and seminars, and a campaign for a "substantial" membership. He said several fund-raising events were planned in an effort to raise a \$100,000 budget.

Citing the election victory of Ronald Reagan, Siegel said he hoped American Jews would realize that there is now "a new conservative reality" and that "they cannot continue to politically be tied to just one party," the Democrats, and to "the once fashionable 'liberal' view exclusively."

Younger Jews Attracted

He declared that "a nice group of younger Jews" had been attracted by the AJF in Washington, including some Congressional aides, adding that, even in its present "embryonic" form, the AJF members "have very good contacts" with the incoming Reagan Administration. This means, he said, that AJF members "can speak to key people in the Reagan Administration and in the new Congress."

Those present at the meeting included Siegel, Michael Rubinfeld of the Heritage Foundation, and David Meiselbaum, economics professor at Virginia Polytechnic. Siegel said Meiselbaum had been named acting chairman of the AJF Board of Trustees. He said he was acting president, adding that permanent officers would be named at the first formal conference of the AJF, scheduled for Washington sometime next spring. Elliott Abrams, a former aide to Sen. Henry Jackson (D. Wash.), had been named chairman of a committee to organize that conference.

Siegel said the AJF currently has about 50 members, most of them men. He said they include Maxwell Roab, former secretary of President Eisenhower's Cabinet and currently president of Temple Emanu-El of New York; Abrams and his recent bride, Naomi; and Gertrude Himmelfarb.

AJF Has Three Aims

He said the AJF had three aims: to investigate "in an academic way" the relationship between Jewish traditional thought and conservative political ideologies; to publish materials to disseminate findings to the Jewish community; and to serve as a political education center on conservative ideology for Jews.

Siegel said the AJF plans to sponsor academic conferences, at which papers will be presented and then published for dissemination to the general Jewish public. A regular periodical also is being planned, he said.

He told the JTA that while the AJF will be aligned philosophically with conservatives in both major parties, it will not endorse parties or candidates in order to protect its tax-exempt status and that similar constraints would apply to lobbying for conservative legislation.

Siegel commented that the recently-announced "New Jewish Agenda for the 1980s" (NJA) was a "good sign," because it meant that the Jewish community "is reconsidering its political status." He said he understood that Prof. Eugene Borowitz, a liberal Reform rabbi and editor of "Sh'ma," was associated with NJA.

New Jewish Agenda Sets Liberal Goals

Asked for comment, Borowitz told the JTA he was not formally associated with the NJA, but that he agreed with the liberal goals of the NJA and had sent "a bit of money and allowed them to use my name." The NJA is holding a four-day national conference at the 4H-Conference Center in Washington. Some 500 Jews from the U.S., Canada, Europe and Israel are expected to be in attendance.

Borowitz said he did not agree with descriptions of the emergence of the NJA as representing a liberal response to asserted evidence of growing conservatism among American Jews and Americans generally. He said that the NJA indicated that "the left in the Jewish community is not dead. On the other hand, it is quite clear that until now we have had very few efforts to think through what the conservative position is."

He said, as examples, "What is the position of conservative Jews on a constitutional amendment on abortion?" and where can Jews "go along with the Christian evangelical movement and where do we draw the line?"

Borowitz added that "now that the right is in power" as a result of the election of Reagan and a conservative-controlled Senate, "it is very important for the Jewish right to define what it stands for. They have told us what they are against; now let them tell us what they are for."

Hopes NJA Will Become National Group

Rabbi Gerald Serotta, associate director of the Hillel Foundation of Rutgers University, and NJA steering committee chairman, said there are thousands of Jews "seeking some way of identifying Jewishly" but who have not "found a place within existing structures." He said he hoped the NJA conference would result in a "new Jewish national grass roots organization that gives them such a place."

Serotta said one of the NJA "definite goals" was to involve "especially those who feel the politics of the American Jewish community have turned so rightward and inward that they no longer feel comfortable in that community."

Serotta brought together, at a May, 1979 meeting, held at the New York Havurah, some 100 politically active Jewish liberals who shared his views that there was an urgent need for a group open to all politically liberal Jews.

JERUSALEM, (JTA) — Some 5,500 United Jewish Appeal supporters from 340 Jewish communities in the United States visited Israel this year, the UJA Israel Office announced.