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GOOD CHANCES SEEN FOR IMPROVED ISRAELI-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL-AVIV, Dec. 30 (JTA) — Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori is hopeful that the present visit to Israel of Colombian Defense Minister Gen. Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva and that of the Mexican Defense Minister Felix Gatun next month will strengthen commercial relations between Israel and Latin America.

Both ministers will be inspecting the production line for manufacture of the Israeli-designed and produced Kfir fighter aircraft, exports of which have now been halted by problems involving the use of the U.S. made engines.

Several countries have expressed interest in the high-performance Israeli plane, but sales have not been effected because of the American attitude which some officials here say is due to fears of competition by American aircraft manufacturers.

Zipori said after a tour with Leyva that "there are good chances for better relations with Latin America, including the sale of the Kfir. We have sophisticated electronics and other industries here, for both defense and civilian purposes. We have a great potential and there are good chances for improved economic and other relations. The Latin American countries are strong enough to withstand Arab pressure."

Production of the Kfir fighter is continuing despite uncertainties about the future of defense establishment industries following cuts in the defense budget. The Colombian Defense Minister met with Premier Menachem Begin last Sunday. He is continuing his tour of Israel, which includes visits to army units and military industries.

HIGH COURT ISSUES TEMPORARY INJUNCTION BARRING GOVERNMENT FROM TAKING OVER ARAB-OWNED FIRM

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30 (JTA) — The Supreme Court issued a temporary injunction today barring the government from taking over the Arab-owned East Jerusalem Electric Co. The injunction will be in force pending the outcome of legal action initiated by the company's directors to prevent the take-over.

The utility, headquartered in East Jerusalem, provides power there and on the West Bank. It has long been accused of inefficiency because of the obsolescence of its equipment and the fact that it continues to burn oil at a time when Israel is shifting to coal-burning power plants.

The government's case, however, rests on Clause 39 of the original concession which, according to its attorney, Yoram Bar-Sella, allows the government to assume control of the plant at any time without stating a reason. The original concession was signed in 1914 when Palestine was still under Ottoman rule. It was adopted successively by the British Mandate, the Jordanian authorities and the Israeli government.

Shlomo Tussia-Cohen, attorney for the company, claimed it was now operating efficiently. He admitted that most of its current was not pro-

duced in its own plant but purchased from the Israel Electric Corp. He said the latter does not limit its supplies to the Arab company and there was no reason why the situation should not continue. He stressed that the company is improving its service to Arab and Jewish customers alike and is seeking to import new generators.

Anwar Nusseibeh, a former Jordanian Foreign Minister who is chairman of the utility's board of directors, said he was pleased with the Supreme Court's ruling today. "I have been trained in the legal tradition. I have tremendous faith in the integrity and the essential dignity of the legal tradition," he said.

NEW DEVELOPMENT IN ABU-HATZEIRA CASE; POLICE SPOKESMAN LEAKED FALSE INFORMATION TO THE PRESS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30 (JTA) — The Inspector General of Police, Herzl Shafir, admitted to the Knesset Interior Committee today that a police spokesman had deliberately leaked false information to the press during the investigation of bribe-taking charges against Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzeira.

Shafir said that the spokesman, Arye Arad, planted a story in the press that the State had six witnesses against Abu-Hatzeira when, at the time it had in fact only one, former Bnei Brak Mayor Yisrael Gottlieb. He said the spokesman passed on that information after discussing it with other police officers but without their consent. Arad has been punished and will leave the force Jan. 1, Shafir said.

Interior Minister Yosef Burg, whose Ministry controls the police, said Shafir's disclosure was "very grave." He said he had no idea such things went on. Abu-Hatzeira was indicted last month on three counts of bribe-taking based on police evidence. But the Knesset House Committee has yet to decide whether to strip him of his immunity as an MK so that he may stand trial.

The decision was delayed after Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir told the Committee Dec. 22 that he had learned that the police "used trickery" to convince Gottlieb to testify against the minister.

The Interior Committee's discussion today was devoted to the poor relations between the police and the Interior Ministry's police division. Shafir complained that an angry exchange he had with the division's head was leaked word-for-word to the press. He said he was sure the police were not responsible for the leak.

FOUR U.S. COMPANIES ACCUSED UNDER ARAB BOYCOTT LAWS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (JTA) — The Department of Commerce has announced that two more American companies have been fined for alleged violation of the Export Administration Act's anti-boycott provisions concerned with discrimination by Arab governments against Israel and Jewish-managed companies in the United States. The other companies have been charged with violations, the Department said.

The MEM company, manufacturer of men's toiletries in Northvale, N.J., paid a civil penalty of \$2,000 for two alleged violations. One was for \$1,500 for allegedly furnishing information about its business relationships with Israel when it sought to re-register its English Leather trademark in Saudi Arabia. The company also paid \$500 for allegedly failing to report receipt of a boycott request contained in a letter from an Arab customer involved in the Arab League boycott against Israel.

The Air Guide Corporation of Hialeah, Fla., has agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$6,000 for allegedly failing to report 12 boycott requests received during the three years 1977-1979. Nine were from Kuwait and one each for Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Qatar. The Department agreed to suspend half of the penalty and will waive payment of this amount at the end of one year provided that Air Guide neither violates the regulations nor fails to meet any of the conditions set by the Department in its compliance program. The Air Guide firm is a wholly owned subsidiary of Pioneer Metals Inc. doing business in Hialeah. The Department's charging letter was addressed to Wayne Hegamy, vice president of Air Guide.

LaPine Scientific Company, Inc., of Chicago, has been accused of having failed on four separate occasions between Dec. 31, 1977, and Nov. 21, 1978, to report receipt of requests to engage in a restrictive practice. LaPine, according to the charging letter addressed to Robert LaPine, president of the company, entered into transactions with organizations located in Iraq and Kuwait and responded to an invitation to bid from the Universal Pharma Agencies Ltd., of Safat, Kuwait, which contained the condition "the manufacturer's and supplier's name must not appear on the list of companies banned under the (Arab) boycott of Israel Regulations."

California Farms and Cannery, Inc. of San Francisco, allegedly received eight letters of credit in connection with the sale, purchase or transfer of goods produced inside the U.S. from Saudi Arabian banks -- Arab Bank Ltd., Riyad Bank Ltd., National Commercial Bank. The letters bore such "special instructions" as "invoice must show that goods are not bearing the Israeli flag or other symbol signifying Israel" and that it would use a "carrying steamer" that "is not blacklisted and will not call at Israeli ports on her voyage to Saudi Arabia." The charges were addressed to Bishara Lawrence, president of the California company.

VICTIMS OF NAZI PERSECUTION. WHO COULD NOT APPLY UNDER GERMAN INDemnIFICATION LAWS HAVE UNTIL DEC. 31, 1981 TO APPLY FOR GRANT

NEW YORK, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany announced that Jewish victims of Nazi persecution who were in no position to file claims under German indemnification laws may apply for a grant from a Hardship Fund established with German Federal Government appropriations.

According to the Guidelines issued by the German Government, grants will be made to such Jewish persecutees who suffered damage to their health and are in straightened financial circumstances. The Guidelines limit individual payments to DM 5,000 (five thousand) per person.

It is the intention of the German Government, within its budgetary limitation, to make available up to DM 400 million for this purpose in the

coming years. The Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany will distribute the funds subject to the German Government Guidelines.

The Hardship Fund is intended primarily to handle applications from such Jewish victims of Nazi persecution who left Eastern Europe after 1965 when the deadline for filing claims under the German indemnification laws expired. Other persecutees who failed for very valid reasons to file timely indemnification claims in past years may also apply to the Hardship Fund.

Where And How To Apply.

Interested individuals should register by writing to:

Conference on Jewish Material Claims
Against Germany
Grüneburgweg 119
6000 Frankfurt, Germany

no later than December 31, 1981. Applicants should state their full name, current address, date and place of birth and the date and country from which they emigrated.

Individuals residing in Israel may register by writing to:

Conference on Jewish Material Claims
Against Germany
POB 29254
Tel Aviv, Israel

RESCUE, RESETTLEMENT NETWORK IN EUROPE PLANNED BY AGUDATH ISRAEL

ZURICH, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- An Orthodox Jewish network for the rescue and resettlement of Jews from lands of peril will be established throughout Europe by the Agudath Israel World Organization, it was decided here at the close of the recent meeting of its international executive. The Agudath Israel network will cooperate with other agencies in this field, placing major emphasis on filling religious needs.

The all-day deliberations, chaired by Rabbi Moshe Sherer of New York, Executive President of Agudath Israel of America and recently elected chairman of the executive of the Agudath Israel World Organization, was attended by delegates from England, Belgium, Switzerland, France, Austria, Denmark, and Italy.

The conference of the European members of the Agudath world executive also mapped plans to strengthen Torah education and lift the levels of Jewish observance in France, the largest center of Jews on the continent, and in Scandinavia. The conference also decided that Agudath Israel organizations throughout Europe will be mobilized for a concentrated effort to influence uncommitted Jews to engage in Torah study as the first step towards their becoming fully observant, in an effort to stem the tide of assimilation which is sweeping many countries.

At a citywide reception for Sherer, sponsored by the Zurich chapter of Agudath Israel, he said in an address that the 1980s "require a new agenda to meet the new challenges."

The Agudath Israel leader declared that, "While in the past decades Orthodox Jewry struggled on the defensive to prevent the flood waters of deviationism from overwhelming the traditional Jewish home and its values, today the situation has drastically changed." Informed, dedicated Torah activists the world over, are now "powerful enough to go on the offensive to wean away large masses of Jews from the purveyors of a false Judaism who are leading them down the road of spiritual oblivion," Sherer said.

KISSINGER DISCUSSES JORDANIAN OPTION IN MEETING WITH SADAT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's six-day Middle East visit, using a private plane and without public sanction of President-elect Ronald Reagan, is shrouded in mystery and speculation about its abounds.

Kissinger's first stop was Egypt where he conferred with top Egyptian officials, including President Anwar Sadat at his residence in the Nile delta village of Mit Kaeul-Kom 50 miles north of Cairo. They met privately to discuss Jordan's possible entry into the Middle East peace process based on the Camp David formulas.

According to reports, Kissinger was said to have set forth the thesis of Jordan entering the negotiating process with U.S. encouragement possibly to establish a federation between Jordan and most of the West Bank and Gaza. Jordan's entry has been espoused by Reagan and his chief foreign policy advisor, Richard Allen, who has been named National Security Advisor by the President-elect.

Reportedly, Sadat feels Jordan should not be allowed to enter on terms it seeks -- including control over East Jerusalem, and he doesn't appreciate Jordanian King Hussein's maneuvers since the Camp David agreements in 1978. According to reports from Cairo, Sadat said yesterday that he does not see a role for Jordan in the peace talks at this time. He told reporters he opposed a Jordanian role until after Egypt and Israel conclude their autonomy talks.

Kissinger's trip will include visits to Morocco and Oman, both of which are facing internal strife from allegedly Soviet-backed rebels and neighbors, Saudi Arabia and Israel. He isn't going to Jordan, presumably because Hussein isn't in the country.

Rules Out Linowitz-Type Role

Kissinger was reported in Cairo as saying he would be willing to serve the Reagan Administration in an advisory capacity but ruled out accepting the role now held by Sal Linowitz, President Carter's envoy who sought an Egyptian-Israeli agreement on the West Bank and Gaza.

Knowledgeable sources here say Kissinger received Reagan's blessing for his journey but that the President-elect did not wish at this time to give any impression that before his inauguration Jan. 20 he is intruding in the peace process, one report quoted Reagan as saying. When Kissinger told him about the trip, Reagan replied he thought that was "fine" and that he would be interested in his findings.

These sources noted that Kissinger's motivation is that he has been given assurances of an advisory role in the Reagan Administration and that he is now establishing himself as the prime expert on the Arab Middle East by updating his knowledge of the prevailing circumstances in key countries with which the U.S. must deal in the Arab world and on bringing about progress in settling the Arab-Israeli situation. Rather than being another Linowitz -- an emissary for Egyptian-Israeli matters -- Kissinger would be reportedly the over-all Arab expert.

That Kissinger went to the Middle East privately is not unprecedented. Former Texas Governor John Connally went out there two months ago, before the presidential election, and without fanfare. The guessing is that Con-

nolly also wants to be a super-specialist on the area, with leanings towards Saudi Arabia's perceptions.

An undetermined aspect of Kissinger's future role is to whom he would be responsible in the Reagan government. The guessing is that he would not be subordinate to Allen or Secretary of State-designate Alexander Haig, both of whom were his subordinates in the Nixon-Ford years. Rather, he would report directly to the President.

MICHAEL BERNSTEIN DEAD AT 65

NEW YORK, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- Rabbi Michael Bernstein, a Yeshiva University professor for 33 years and professor emeritus of Bible and Semitic languages at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University, died yesterday at Mt. Sinai Hospital. He was 65 years old. He had been hospitalized for pneumonia.

Bernstein was a recognized authority in Semitic languages and literature, achieving expertise in many different Semitic languages and dialects, specializing in Hebrew, Aramaic and Syriac.

Bernstein, who was ordained as a rabbi in 1938, began his teaching career at Yeshiva University in 1947 as an instructor of Talmud in the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. He became an associate professor in the department of Semitic languages and literature at the Bernard Revel Graduate School in 1949, shortly after receiving his Doctor of Hebrew Literature degree at the school, and was promoted to full professor at Bernard Revel in 1972.

Before coming to teach at Yeshiva University, he held rabbinic positions in Lynn, Mass., at the Inwood Jewish Center, Manhattan, and at Mercaz HaTorah Yeshiva in Montreal, Canada. He earned his B.A. degree in 1936 from Yeshiva College.

Bernstein will be flown to Israel and buried in Eretz HaChayim Cemetery in Jerusalem following funeral services here today.

His widow, Adina Bernstein of Manhattan, has announced plans to remember her late husband with a suitable memorial at his alma mater and school. Contributions may be made to Dr. Michael Bernstein Memorial Fund, c/o Yeshiva University.

TEL AVIV, (JTA) -- Ten soldiers were sentenced by a military court here Tuesday to prison sentences of from nine months to three years for wilfully damaging tank engines they were supposed to repair. All were reduced in rank to private. The 10, who pleaded guilty, admitted they had damaged the engines in order to have them transferred to bigger repair installations because of the pressure of work. They said their intention was not sabotage but merely to ease their work load. Seven other soldiers who pleaded not guilty are still on trial.

ROME, (JTA) -- The Union of Italian Jewish Communities has received a favorable reply from the government to its request that the authorities facilitate the acquisition of Italian citizenship by Jewish refugees from Libya living in Italy. The community was informed that the refugees would have an automatic right to citizenship if they were living in Italy at the time that Libya, a former Italian colony, became independent. In other cases, they can attain citizenship by filling out the forms required by Italian law. The refugees presently have no national status.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency wishes all its readers a very happy New Year.

FOCUS ON ISSUES THE URGENT PROBLEM OF YORDIM

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30 (JTA) — The joint coordinating committee of the government and the World Zionist Organization Executive is expected to meet in about two weeks to discuss the continuing problem of yordim — Israelis who emigrate to live permanently abroad.

Although hardly a new phenomenon, it became a matter of some urgency this month with the publication of a report by Shmuel Lahis, Director General of the Jewish Agency, which estimated the number of yordim living in the United States at between 300,000-500,000.

Those figures were promptly assailed by Rafael Kottowitz, head of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department, as a gross exaggeration. At the WZO Executive's regular weekly meeting yesterday, Kottowitz cited reports by the Central Bureau of Statistics that only 337,000 Israelis left the country since the State was founded 32 years ago, including non-Jews. He charged that Lahis' report was based on "gossip and slander" and caused considerable damage because it created an atmosphere of pessimism in the country.

Lahis Defends His Report

Lahis defended his report. He said the estimated number of yordim was based on "responsible and careful consideration." He prepared the report, at the request of Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich, following a 10-day visit to the U.S. where he talked with a number of expatriate Israelis.

"We should be aware of the fact that young people who were born in the country, among them those who came from the kibbutzim and are considered the best in the country, are among the yordim," Lahis said.

The accuracy of Lahis' figures was also questioned by the director of the Central Bureau of Statistics who said the U.S. immigration authorities had informed him that there were only about 100,000 Israelis living in the U.S. He acknowledged, however, that a record 30,000 Israelis left the country permanently this year compared to fewer than 7000 in each of the two preceding years.

Differing Opinions On Needed Measures

But the dispute over numbers was overshadowed by the divergency of opinion within the WZO Executive over what measures should be taken to induce the yordim to return to Israel or whether they should be written off as "deserters."

Lahis warned that "Cutting ties with them or boycotting them will cause a great damage and we shall lose them completely." He repeated his proposals that army veterans be granted special privileges, such as tax exemptions, and that returning Israelis be given the same rights as those extended to new immigrants.

Kottowitz said "The yordim are not a fall-out of weaklings," a term once used by the former Premier, Yitzhak Rabin, to describe them. He said "they should not be boycotted but neither should they be given legitimacy." He suggested that yordim be invited to Independence Day festivities. "We must concentrate on those who wish to return, especially among their children, including organized tours to Israel," he said.

Avraham Katz, head of the Youth and Hechalutz Department, proposed direct efforts to educate the children of yordim, noting that the WZO is the only body involved in Jewish education in the diaspora. He charged that Zionist education in the country has failed. He also called for an improved absorption process for new immigrants.

Dr. Yisrael Peled agreed that the core of the yordim problem was the failure of Zionist education. "This generation does not understand the meaning of anti-Semitism and does not understand what Zionism was created to solve," he declared. "Our children are not aware of the dangers of assimilation and the yordim do not understand the meaning of desertion and weakening the Jewish stand. A yordim is a deserter."

Faye Schenk, head of the WZO's Organization Department, said the number of yordim was not the issue, but rather how to stop the flow of yordim. She suggested limiting the amount of currency emigrants are allowed to take out of the country.

Akiva Levinsky, WZO Treasurer, said he had opposed Lahis' mission because no one could submit a serious report on the basis of a 10-day tour. He said there was a link between aliya and yerida. "We are so eager to receive aliya that we have created a situation where it is easy to come and go. Not everybody who comes here for two years is an immigrant," he said. "A poor country should not do it this way."

Raya Yaglom, President of WZO, chided Kottowitz for worrying about figures. "It hurts if there are only 100,000 yordim," she said, and proposed the establishment of special schools in Israel for the children of yordim. Rabbi Yehuda Elinsoph said it was not fair to claim that most of the yordim came from the poverty strata of society. He suggested that any Israeli who lives abroad for 15 years should have his passport revoked.

SOUTHERN ISRAEL RETURNING TO NORMAL AFTER TORRENTIAL RAINS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 30 (JTA) — Roads throughout southern Israel are slowly being reopened for traffic after the heaviest rains for 20 years ripped out roadways and left towns and settlements stranded last weekend. The flash floods filling formerly dry riverbeds within seconds caused two deaths last weekend, including a 22-year-old French tourist and a two-year-old child snatched from its father's arms when their truck overturned and was swept away.

Police had warned motorists to keep off the roads, but many drivers disregarded their instructions and had to be rescued by army half-track vehicles and helicopters.

The Arkia Inland Airline flew special flights to and from Eilat to rescue tourists stranded at the country's southern beach resort area, cut off from road communications.

The meteorological service said that over an inch-and-a-half of rain which fell in Eilat during 24 hours was 150 percent of the annual average. It said the downpour fell from dense clouds brought from tropical Africa by a high-level 200-mile an hour jet stream.

TEL AVIV, (JTA) — Bank Leumi, the largest banking group in Israel, has reached a working agreement with the prominent Egyptian Suez Canal Bank whereby they became each other's correspondents, Bank Leumi announced this week. It was the first arrangement between an Israeli and an Egyptian bank since the signing of the peace treaty.